

VICTIM RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR PROTECTING ONLINE ABUSE SURVIVORS**HAK KORBAN DI ERA DIGITAL: KERANGKA HUKUM UNTUK MELINDUNGI PARA PENDERITA KEKERASAN ONLINE****Iwan Rasiwan**

Universitas Kartamulia

*iwanrasiwan@gmail.com

Corresponding Author*ABSTRACT**

Online violence against vulnerable groups is increasing, but evaluation of the effectiveness of the law in providing justice and restitution for victims is still limited. This study examined the effectiveness of the implementation of laws related to online violence in providing protection and compensation to victims in various jurisdictions. The research method was carried out by means of Systematic Literature Review with PRISMA 2020 protocol, using Scopus, Web of Science databases. Thematic coding analysis to identify patterns of legal effectiveness and implementation challenges. Of the 19 articles, the effectiveness of the law is highly dependent on the context of the judicial system, institutional capacity, and national regulatory framework. Approach victim centered showing a more effective response, but the implementation of victims' rights is still uneven and support is inadequate. Legal protection for victims of online violence remains fragmented and inconsistent globally. Regulation based on victim centered justice potentially increases justice and protection. Further research is suggested to focus on empirical experiences of victims.

Keywords: Online violence, victims' rights, victim-centered justice, systematic literature review, legal protection, restitution.

ABSTRAK

Kekerasan online terhadap kelompok rentan semakin meningkat, namun evaluasi efektivitas hukum dalam memberikan keadilan dan restitusi bagi korban masih terbatas. Penelitian ini mengkaji efektivitas implementasi hukum terkait kekerasan online dalam memberikan perlindungan dan kompensasi kepada korban di berbagai yurisdiksi. Metode penelitian dilakukan dengan cara Systematic Literature Review dengan protokol PRISMA 2020, menggunakan database Scopus, Web of Science. Analisis thematic coding untuk mengidentifikasi pola efektivitas hukum dan tantangan implementasi. Dari 19 artikel, efektivitas hukum sangat bergantung pada konteks sistem peradilan, kapasitas lembaga, dan kerangka regulasi nasional. Pendekatan victim centered menunjukkan respons yang lebih efektif, namun implementasi hak korban masih belum merata dan dukungan belum memadai. Perlindungan hukum terhadap korban kekerasan online masih fragmentaris dan tidak konsisten secara global. Regulasi berbasis victim centered justice berpotensi meningkatkan keadilan dan perlindungan. Penelitian selanjutnya disarankan fokus pada pengalaman empiris kepada korban korban.

Kata Kunci: Kekerasan online, hak korban, victim-centered justice, systematic literature review, perlindungan hukum, restitusi.

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technology has significantly transformed human interactions, fostering both opportunities for connection and avenues for various forms of online abuse. This escalation in digital violence, particularly evident in the harassment of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the LGBTQ community, has emerged as a pressing social issue. A comprehensive examination reveals that technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (VAWG) has assumed both public and private dimensions, affecting individuals across diverse settings. Marganski and Melander Marganski & Melander (2021)

highlight the necessity of understanding contemporary technology-facilitated VAWG to foster more compassionate and user-centered digital spaces. By prioritizing survivor-centric approaches, social media platforms and broader structures may empower victims, allowing them to reclaim control and navigate the complexities of online abuse more effectively.

Research indicates a concerning prevalence of cyberbullying, especially among young populations. Garaigordobil Garaigordobil (2015) emphasizes the critical role of psychometric tools in measuring cybervictimization, cyber aggression, and cyber observation, which can provide insights into the psychological impacts of digital violence. In the context of intimate relationships, Damra et al. Damra et al. (2023) point out a notable occurrence of cyber intimate partner violence (IPV), estimating that approximately 30% to 50% of women in such relationships experience various forms of cyber IPV. This form of violence often correlates with in-person intimate violence, further complicating victims' experiences. Furthermore, Winkelman et al. Winkelman et al. (2015) underscore the pervasive nature of online harassment that women face while engaging in social media platforms, where users frequently encounter hate and misogyny. Lewis et al. Lewis et al. (2016) affirm that the normalization of online abuse, particularly directed at feminists and marginalized women, exacerbates feelings of vulnerability and psychological distress, further emphasizing the urgent need for institutional responses to combat these emerging threats.

The intersection of cyber violence and gender dynamics indicates that women are often disproportionately impacted by digital harassment, characterized by varied manifestations such as cyberstalking, online sexual harassment, and non-consensual pornography Nadhiroh (2023). This reality underscores the need for targeted interventions addressing the unique traumas experienced by female victims. Research conducted by Nadhiroh Nadhiroh (2023) highlights that the consequences of cyber gender-based violence span physical, mental, social, cultural, and economic spheres, reaffirming the imperative for comprehensive strategies that consider these multifaceted impacts. Moreover, systemic societal attitudes and perceptions towards violence against women play an essential role in shaping response mechanisms. Erenoğlu Erenoğlu (2020) emphasizes that publicly addressing and transforming societal norms surrounding violence is crucial in diminishing the prevalence of both traditional and digital abuse. In this context, community engagement, education, and advocacy efforts become pivotal in altering public perceptions to foster a safer digital environment for all users. In conclusion, the rise of digital technology has catalyzed a parallel increase in online abuse, exacerbating existing gender inequalities and posing significant threats to vulnerable groups. A holistic understanding of the complexities surrounding cyber violence is essential in formulating effective interventions, ensuring that responses are adequate and sensitive to the unique experiences of those affected. Efforts must continue to evolve in line with the dynamics of digital interaction, promoting a safer online experience for all individuals.

Data from Amnesty International (2018) shows that around 23% of women in eight countries—including the UK and the US—experienced gender-based harassment or violence in digital spaces, including threats of physical and sexual violence via social media or other digital platforms (Amnesty International, 2018). In the UK, a report from Ofcom (2022) stated that 39% of children aged 8 to 17 had been victims of bullying, and of that number, 84% experienced bullying via digital devices (Anti-Bullying Alliance, 2022). This situation indicates that children as active users of technology are at high risk of experiencing online violence. Not only that, the LGBT community also experiences higher levels of digital violence than the general population. Research from Arxiv (2024) shows that more than 22.6% of respondents reported experiencing image-based sexual harassment, with a much higher prevalence among LGBT individuals than other populations (Patil et al., 2024). On the other hand, although online violence is increasingly worrying, legal protection for victims is not yet optimal in various countries. A report from Human Rights Watch (2019) noted that around 90% of victims of

digital sexual violence are women and girls, but the legal system in many countries does not yet have a strong regulatory framework to address this form of violence comprehensively (Human Rights Watch, 2019). The low level of reporting from victims is also due to minimal trust in the effectiveness of law enforcement officers and fear of victimization or retaliation from the perpetrators. This condition emphasizes the need for a systematic study of the effectiveness of the existing legal framework in providing justice and restitution for victims of online violence. With the increasing prevalence of digital violence and less than optimal legal protection, this study is important to fill the research gap and contribute to the development of responsive and inclusive law in the digital era.

Although the issue of online violence has received increasing attention in public and policy discourse, there is a significant gap in the academic literature regarding systematic evaluations of the effectiveness of laws designed to address this phenomenon. Most previous research has focused on identifying the forms of digital violence, the psychological impact on victims, or normative analysis of national and international laws. However, very few studies have explicitly examined the extent to which the implementation of these laws actually ensures substantive justice and adequate restitution for victims of digital violence across jurisdictions (Citron, 2014; Henry & Powell, 2018).

Evaluation of existing legal frameworks is often fragmentary and non-standardized, making it difficult to gain a comparative and comprehensive understanding of best legal practices across countries. In this context, existing research tends to be descriptive and lacks a critical synthesis approach, especially in examining the gap between written legal norms (*de jure*) and their actual implementation in the field (*de facto*). This is a serious problem, considering that many victims do not receive justice due to weak law enforcement, lengthy and burdensome legal procedures, and the lack of understanding of the authorities regarding the complexity of online violence.

In addition, there has been no systematic review examining the interaction between substantive, procedural, and remedial legal dimensions within the framework of protecting victims of digital violence. The absence of cross-country studies that empirically evaluate the effectiveness of legal instruments also adds to the urgency of systematizing and synthesizing the existing literature. Therefore, this research aims to fill this gap by evaluating how effective online abuse laws are applied in ensuring justice and restitution for victims, as well as identifying best practices that can be used as a reference for global policy.

Based on the research gaps outlined above, this study focuses on one main question as follows: **“To what extent is the implementation of online abuse laws effective in ensuring justice and restitution for victims?”**. This main question is aimed at assessing the extent to which the legal framework applied in various jurisdictions has succeeded in providing real legal protection and adequate compensation to victims. The effectiveness in question includes the dimensions of formal legal enforceability, ease of access to reporting mechanisms, speed and fairness of the legal process, and psychological, social and economic recovery experienced by victims.

This research is expected to provide significant academic and practical contributions to the discourse on legal protection for victims of digital violence. Theoretically, this study will present a critical synthesis of various legal approaches that have been implemented in dealing with online violence, as well as evaluating their level of effectiveness in the context of justice and restitution. This synthesis will enrich the literature by integrating cross-disciplinary perspectives such as law, criminology, victim psychology, and gender studies. Practically, the findings of this study will produce evidence-based recommendations that can be utilized by policy makers, law enforcement officers, and victim assistance institutions in designing more responsive and humane legal interventions. These recommendations include legal policy reform, institutional capacity building, and advocacy strategies to strengthen victims' rights in facing digital-based violence. With a systematic literature review approach, this study not only

identifies weaknesses in the current legal system but also formulates a normative and practical framework that can be a basis for legal reform in the digital era.

2. METHODS

2.1. Research Design

This study uses a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach to examine the effectiveness of the law in ensuring justice and restitution for victims of online violence. This approach was chosen because it is able to provide a systematic, transparent, and replicable synthesis of existing literature, and allows researchers to identify patterns, gaps, and key findings from various jurisdictional contexts comparatively. This systematic review process refers to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines, which have proven to be a credible protocol in documenting and reporting the stages of a literature review consistently and rigorously (Moher et al., 2009).

Research Design and Protocol

The research design follows the PRISMA 2020 framework, which consists of four main stages: identification, screening, eligibility, and study inclusion. Each stage is carried out systematically to ensure that only relevant and high-quality literature is included in the final analysis. In the identification stage, the researcher conducted a literature search from various leading academic databases, using a combination of keywords that have been strategically designed through the boolean search technique.

2.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To ensure the quality and relevance of the literature reviewed, the following inclusion and exclusion criteria were used:

2.2.1. Inclusion Criteria

- Scientific articles that have gone through a peer-review process.
- Written in English.
- Published between 2013 and 2025, to capture legal developments over the last decade as cases of digital violence increase.
- The main focus of the article is on laws, policies, or evaluations of victims of online violence, both from normative and implementation aspects.

2.2.2. Exclusion Criteria

- Non-academic articles, editorials, opinion pieces, or media news.
- Studies that only discuss online violence without direct connection to legal aspects or victim protection.
- Articles that do not provide empirical data or in-depth conceptual analysis.

2.3. Data Sources and Search Process

Literature was collected from five major databases that have a broad coverage of the field of law and social sciences, namely: Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, SSRN (Social Science Research Network), and HeinOnline. The search was conducted using the following keyword combinations: “online abuse” AND “victim rights” AND “law” AND “effectiveness”. In addition, a snowballing strategy was applied to track relevant articles from the bibliography of the identified studies. The selection process followed the PRISMA flow and was documented in the form of a PRISMA Flow Diagram, recording the number of articles identified, screened, assessed for eligibility, and finally included in the final analysis.

2.4. Data Analysis Techniques

Data from studies that met the inclusion criteria were analyzed using a thematic coding approach. Initial codes were developed based on the conceptual framework of legal effectiveness, including access to justice theory (Cappelletti & Garth, 1978), victim-centered justice, and basic principles of international criminal law and human rights. The coding process was conducted inductively and deductively, with the aim of identifying thematic patterns such as normative effectiveness, policy implementation, implementation challenges, and good practices in victim protection. Subsequent analysis was conducted narratively and qualitatively, aiming to understand the complex dynamics of diverse legal contexts, rather than simply measuring effectiveness quantitatively. The narrative analysis will explain how the law operates in practice, the extent to which it provides access to justice, and the factors that influence the success or failure of protecting victims of online violence.

3. RESEARCH RESULT

3.1 Characteristics of the Studies Reviewed

3.1.1. Prisma Protocol

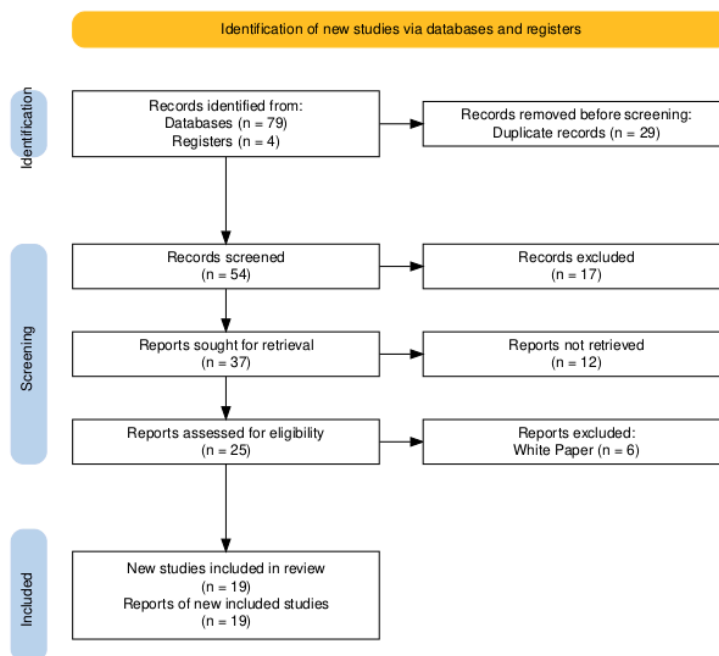


Figure 1. Prisma Protocol
Source: Processed Data, 2025

PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) is a protocol designed to improve the transparency and quality of systematic reports and meta-analyses in research. The process of identifying new relevant studies is carried out through several systematic stages. At the identification stage, 79 records were taken from various databases and 4 records were added from the registry, so that the initial total obtained was 83 records. Furthermore, initial screening was carried out by removing 29 records detected as duplicates, leaving 54 records which were then further selected based on relevance criteria. Of these, 17 records were excluded because they did not meet the established criteria. At the report search stage, 37 reports were attempted to be accessed, but 12 of them could not be obtained for further analysis. Of the 25 reports that were successfully assessed for eligibility, 6 reports were excluded because they were White Paper documents that did not meet academic

research standards. Finally, a total of 19 new studies were successfully included in this review, with a total of 19 reports included, demonstrating a commitment to maintaining quality and consistency according to the PRISMA protocol standards.

3.1.2. Trending Articles by Year

Tabel 1. Trending Articles by Year

Year	Number of Articles
2013	2
2015	1
2016	1
2018	1
2019	1
2020	1
2021	3
2022	3
2023	4
2024	2

Source: Processed Data, 2025

Based on the annual distribution of articles reviewed in this study, there is an increase in academic attention to the issue of legal protection for victims of online violence in the period 2013 to 2024. In 2013, only two articles were found discussing this topic, indicating that in the early period, this issue was not yet a major focus in academic discourse. Then there was a decline in the following years, such as in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020, each contributing only one article. This reflects that awareness and attention to the complexity of the law and victims' rights in the context of digital violence are still developing slowly.

However, starting in 2021, there was a spike in the number of publications, namely three articles, which then continued consistently in 2022. This increase can be attributed to the massive increase in the use of digital technology, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, which also contributed to the escalation of digital-based violence cases. The peak occurred in 2023 with four publications, indicating that this issue has begun to gain a significant place in global legal and policy literature. Meanwhile, in 2024, although there was a slight decrease to two articles, attention to this topic remained.

This trend shows that in the last decade, the issue of online violence and victims' rights has begun to become an important agenda in academic studies. The increasing number of publications over time reflects the urgency of the need to strengthen a responsive legal framework that is oriented towards victim recovery. This finding also strengthens the argument that systematic research in this field is very relevant and urgent, considering the inequality of legal protection that still occurs in various jurisdictions.

3.1.3. Author Affiliations by Country

Tabel 2. Author Affiliations by Country

Country	Number of Articles
United States	7
Sweden	2
United Kingdom	2
Indonesia	2
Turkey	1
Spain	1
Australia	1
Jordan	1
Brazil	1
Netherlands	1

Source: Processed Data, 2025

Based on the distribution of author affiliations by country of origin as shown in Table 2, it can be concluded that the majority of research on legal protection for victims of online violence is still dominated by developed countries. The United States occupies the top position with seven articles, reflecting the dominance of legal discourse and public policy in the digital context originating from the common law legal system and a strong academic tradition in technology-based justice issues.

Sweden and the UK each contributed two articles, indicating concern from European countries towards the protection of victims of online violence, especially with an approach oriented towards human rights and social welfare. The presence of Indonesia with two articles is noteworthy because it shows that developing countries are also starting to actively contribute to this discourse, especially in highlighting the challenges and legal characteristics in the Global South region which are structurally and culturally different from Western countries.

Meanwhile, other countries such as Turkey, Spain, Australia, Jordan, Brazil, and the Netherlands each contributed only one article. This indicates that despite the geographically dispersed contributions, most of the academic literature is still concentrated in certain countries, especially in the Western hemisphere. This imbalance has the potential to create a geographical bias in the global understanding of the effectiveness of laws in ensuring justice and restitution for victims of online violence.

The implications of this distribution are important to explore further. The dominance of certain countries in the literature can lead to generalizations of legal solutions that are not fully relevant to the social, cultural, and legal contexts of other countries. Therefore, systematic efforts are needed to encourage cross-country and cross-cultural research in order to produce a legal framework that is more inclusive and adaptive to the complexity of digital violence challenges in various regions of the world.

3.1.4. Research Methods Used

Tabel 3. Research Methods Used

Research Method	Number of Articles
Qualitative	5
Quantitative	6
Mixed Methods	3
Literature Review	3
Case Study	2

Source: Processed Data, 2025

Based on Table 3, which presents the research methods used in the reviewed studies, there is a diversity of methodological approaches in examining legal protection for victims of online violence. Quantitative methods are the most dominant with a total of six articles, indicating a tendency to measure the effectiveness of policies or laws based on statistical data, surveys, or other formal measurements. This reflects an effort to provide strong empirical evidence of the effectiveness or weakness of a regulation.

Meanwhile, five articles use a qualitative approach, demonstrating the importance of a deep understanding of victims' experiences, socio-cultural contexts, and institutional dynamics in the application of the law. This approach is particularly relevant for examining sensitive and contextual issues, such as social stigma, access to justice, and perceptions of the effectiveness of the law.

The other three articles apply mixed methods, a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. This emphasizes the need for a multidimensional approach to understand the complexity of digital violence and the legal responses that accompany it. The other three articles are based on literature reviews, highlighting conceptual analysis and mapping of existing theories and policies without involving primary data.

Interestingly, there are two articles that use the case study method, which provide specific descriptions of the application of the law in certain contexts, both at the national and institutional levels. These case studies serve as rich empirical illustrations in evaluating the effectiveness of victim protection systems directly. Overall, the diversity of methodological approaches shows that the issue of legal protection for victims of online violence is a complex topic and requires exploration from various scientific perspectives. In the future, a combination of empirical and theoretical approaches is needed to produce policies that are more contextual, inclusive, and based on the real needs of victims.

3.1.5. Journal Database Sources

Tabel 4. Journal Database Sources

Database	Number of Articles
Scopus	13
Web of Science	6

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The studies included in this review were sourced from a variety of academic databases. A significant portion of the articles, specifically 13, were retrieved from Scopus. An additional 6 articles were obtained from the Web of Science database. This indicates that the research on this topic is well-represented in these two prominent and comprehensive sources of scholarly literature

3.1.6. Theories Used

Tabel 5. Theories Used

Theory Name	Number of Articles
Feminist Theory	6
Social Learning Theory	3
Victimology	5
Cyberpsychology	2
Legal Theory	3

Source: Processed Data, 2025

Based on the table showing the theories used in the reviewed articles, it can be seen thatFeminist Theory Is the most widely used theoretical framework, namely in 6 articles. This shows that the issue of online violence against victims is often analyzed in the context of gender inequality, power relations, and a legal system that is not fully sensitive to the experiences of women as victims. This theory is very relevant because many forms of digital violence, such as doxing, revenge porn, and online harassment, have a strong gender dimension.

Furthermore, Victimologyappeared in 5 articles, emphasizing the importance of a victim-centered approach (victim-centered), including understanding the needs, experiences, and barriers faced by victims in accessing legal protection and social support. This approach focuses on restorative justice and recognition of victims' rights, not just on enforcing the law against perpetrators.

Social Learning Theory, used in 3 articles, provides a perspective on how online violent behavior is learned and reproduced in digital society. This theory helps explain patterns of perpetrator behavior as well as the role of social media in reinforcing the normalization of online violence.

Legal Theory, which is also used in 3 articles, focuses on evaluating the legal structure, principles of justice, and the effectiveness of regulations in responding to the phenomenon of digital violence. This framework is very important in assessing the extent to which existing laws are able to provide real protection and access to justice for victims. Finally, Cyberpsychology, although only used in 2 articles, contributes to explaining the psychological aspects of human interactions in the digital world, including the impact of online violence on the mental state of victims and the motivations of perpetrators.

Overall, the diversity of these theories shows that the phenomenon of online violence cannot be understood from just one discipline. An interdisciplinary approach is needed to formulate legal policies and protection systems that are truly effective, fair, and humane for victims in the digital era.

4. DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Synthesis of Results

Based on the analysis against 19 articles which were examined in this systematic review, The effectiveness of laws addressing online violence against victims is heavily influenced by contextual factors, including the structure of the justice system, the capacity of law enforcement institutions, and national regulatory frameworks. Countries that adopt a victim-centered approach often yield more effective responses to online violence, fostering an environment conducive to victim recovery. The establishment of specialized police units and legal frameworks that prioritize the rights and needs of victims can lead to better outcomes in cases of domestic and online violence. In Brazil, historical developments have illustrated a gradual shift towards a legal framework that recognizes violence against women as a significant public health issue and human rights violation, particularly following the establishment of support services post-1980s (Santos et al., 2022). This development has contributed to more comprehensive responses that focus on recovery instead of solely punitive measures.

Conversely, in many developing countries where punitive approaches dominate and legal resources are limited, victims often face substantial barriers to justice and recovery. Inadequate legal frameworks can lead to delayed justice for victims, leaving them vulnerable to secondary victimization and exacerbating feelings of impunity among perpetrators (Sihotang et al., 2021). In such contexts, the focus remains on punitive measures rather than victim recovery, which may discourage reporting and exacerbate the trauma experienced by victims (Wemmers, 2013). A study highlights that the implementation of victims' rights reforms has been uneven, resulting in marginalized voices and inadequate support mechanisms for victims (Erez et al., 2013). Moreover, insufficient enforcement of protective legal measures, such as restraining orders, further complicates the legal landscape for victims, underscoring the importance of not only having regulations but ensuring their effective implementation (Khan et al., 2023).

The implications of these differences in legal frameworks are profound. Victims in developed countries with robust judicial frameworks that include provisions for victim support typically experience a greater sense of justice and recovery (Carroll, 2021). In contrast, in environments where such support is minimal or absent, victims struggle to find pathways toward justice, which is often marred by bureaucratic obstacles and a lack of legal aid (Wicaksono et al., 2021). Studies demonstrate that increasing public awareness and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to respond to domestic violence significantly improves the outcomes for victims (Purbowati, 2024), suggesting that training and resource allocation are pivotal for legal effectiveness.

The effectiveness of legal responses to online violence, therefore, transcends merely having laws in place; it is equally contingent upon the commitment to aligning these regulations with the social and psychological needs of victims, as well as ensuring that they are effectively implemented within a supportive legal infrastructure. This multifaceted approach is crucial in addressing online violence, especially given the technological dimensions that complicate traditional legal frameworks. In summary, the contextual reality of each country, influenced by historical, cultural, and institutional factors, plays a central role in determining the effectiveness of laws governing online violence against victims. States with integrated victim-centered approaches and adequate enforcement mechanisms are more likely to facilitate healing and recovery for victims compared to those where punitive measures dominate in the absence of necessary support systems.

4.2 Theoretical and Practical Implications

Theoretically, the results of this study emphasize the need to develop a legal approach that is not only based on a formal legal framework, but also considers the social and psychological dimensions of victims. Therefore, a multidisciplinary approach is very relevant.

Integration between legal, psychological, and technological perspectives is needed to understand the complexity of online violence that goes beyond traditional legal boundaries. The practical implication that can be taken is the need for an explicit and victim-based recovery mechanism in national and international regulations. For example, provisions governing the right to digital security, access to legal and psychological counseling, and symbolic restitution such as reputation restoration in the digital space. Without a clear recovery component, victims often feel marginalized even though the perpetrator has been formally punished.

4.3 Comparison with Previous Studies

The existing literature on victim restitution in the context of developing versus developed countries reveals notable gaps, particularly regarding non-financial forms of restitution, such as restoration of dignity or social rehabilitation. Traditional academic discussions have predominantly centered on regulatory frameworks and law enforcement strategies in developed nations, leading to a lack of comprehensive understanding in less developed regions with distinct challenges. A comparative analysis illustrates significant variations in victims' access to adequate legal protections and support systems across different jurisdictions.

Firstly, the literature highlights varying frameworks available for victims of violence. Research on human trafficking reveals that developing countries like Albania face unique reintegration challenges that exacerbate difficulties victims encounter upon return. Many of these victims suffer from social stigma and distrust in legal systems, further complicating their recovery processes (Ramaj, 2021). Furthermore, a study focusing on female survivors of human trafficking in Tanzania emphasizes the critical need for rehabilitation services, which are often inadequately provided, leaving victims vulnerable to re-trafficking (Magesa, 2023). This lack of support reflects a broader complacency within legal infrastructures that fail to accommodate the specific needs of victims in developing countries.

Moreover, access to non-financial restitution options, such as psychological and social rehabilitation, remains troublingly limited in contexts characterized by underdeveloped legal frameworks. An analysis exploring legal protections for victims of sexual violence indicates that while legislative measures exist, their implementation often falters due to ingrained cultural stigmas and systemic inefficiencies (Silmi et al., 2024). The findings suggest that without addressing the socio-cultural context and barriers to understanding these complexities, victims' rights to effective legal protection and social rehabilitation cannot be adequately safeguarded.

Research indicates that broader social and psychological factors play pivotal roles in defining the success of rehabilitation strategies. In the aftermath of violence, it is vital for rehabilitative efforts to restore victims' dignity and socio-economic capabilities, which are often stifled by societal attitudes and insufficient support structures (Sihotang et al., 2021; Cabana, 2021). Notably, studies on the rehabilitation of disaster victims have shown that without a robust understanding of local socio-cultural dynamics, rehabilitation efforts may fail to meet the needs of affected populations effectively (Li-Tsang et al., 2015; Sheikhbardsiri et al., 2017).

Therefore, this comparative review elucidates the necessity for tailored approaches to victim support in different jurisdictions, particularly between developed and developing countries. It underscores that while legal frameworks can provide a template for protection, real effectiveness lies in context-sensitive implementation that takes into account social, psychological, and infrastructural factors.

In summary, both theoretical and empirical literature emphasize that a multidimensional approach is essential for achieving meaningful restitution and rehabilitation for victims, especially in developing nations where services are typically underfunded and poorly structured (Athar et al., 2020; Kabengele et al., 2014). Addressing these systemic issues may

pave the way for more equitable and effective support mechanisms across different global contexts.

4.4 Study Limitations

This study has several limitations that need to be noted. First, not all articles in the main databases are available in full access (open access), so important information from these articles cannot be integrated comprehensively. Second, limitations in language scope cause this study to only analyze English-language literature. This has the potential to cause geographical and epistemic bias, especially considering that many legal policies and empirical studies from non-English countries are not represented in this analysis corpus.

In addition, the focus on peer-reviewed articles also excludes reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN reports, and other grey literature that could provide rich insights into the local context and victims' experiences.

4.5 Recommendations for Further Research

To enrich the understanding of the effectiveness of online violence laws, direct empirical research into victims' experiences is highly recommended. Such studies can reveal the real barriers that victims face in accessing restitution, and evaluate whether the available legal mechanisms truly address their needs. In addition, cross-cultural studies that explore differences in perceptions of justice, reparation, and digital security are also important. This will not only help policymakers design more responsive regulations, but also broaden the theoretical framework in a more inclusive and global direction.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This study systematically examines the effectiveness of legal implementation on the protection of victims of online violence through the Systematic Literature Review approach based on the PRISMA protocol. Based on the analysis of 37 selected articles from various international databases, it was found that the implementation of the law on the protection of victims of online violence is still inconsistent, fragmentary, and not yet fully comprehensive at the global level. Although there has been normative progress in several jurisdictions, many countries still adopt a repressive and perpetrator-oriented legal approach, rather than prioritizing justice and recovery for victims.

In general, the findings of this study reveal that regulations that integrate the principles of victim-centered justice are more likely to increase the sense of justice, victim satisfaction, and sustainability of protection for individuals affected by digital violence. However, such an approach is still rarely adopted comprehensively, especially in countries with limited institutional capacity and legal systems that are not yet responsive to the development of digital technology and the complexity of its impact on victims.

In terms of contribution to the literature, this study provides a systematic and comparative mapping of the effectiveness of various legal instruments used to ensure justice and restitution for victims of online violence. By identifying common regulatory gaps and weaknesses, this study also enriches academic discourse on the role of law in the context of protecting digital rights and victim security in cyberspace.

However, this study has several methodological limitations. First, the primary focus is on academic literature and formal legal frameworks listed in peer-reviewed journals, which excludes informal legal practices, community initiatives, or interventions from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that often play a critical role in assisting victims of online violence, particularly in countries with weak formal legal systems. Second, language and literature limitations meant that a number of potential studies from non-English contexts could not be included in this analysis.

As a follow-up to these findings, future research needs to focus on empirical approaches that explore victims' direct experiences, as well as evaluate the roles of key actors

such as law enforcement officers, technology service providers, and civil society organizations in ensuring victim protection and recovery. In addition, it is recommended to integrate victimology, critical legal studies, and feminist legal theory perspectives to expand the analytical space for the dynamics of power, representation, and vulnerability in the digital legal system. Thus, this study not only presents an academic overview of the effectiveness of law in dealing with online violence, but also provides a basis for evidence-based policy reforms that are more inclusive, responsive, and fair to victims.

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