

# Psychometrics of social norm and beliefs on gender-based violence in Indonesia



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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Gender-based violence (GBV) is an important issue, especially violence experienced by women in the household. Social norms and beliefs (SNB) held by a person in society also affect the occurrence of violence. The purpose of this study was to examine the construct validity and reliability of SNB on the GBV scale in Indonesia.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional research was used in this study. A questionnaire on gender-based SNB was used to gather data. It had two domains-injunctive social norms and personal beliefs-each with three subscales: the husband's right to use violence, preserving family honor, and responding to sexual violence. By using a random sampling technique, data were obtained from 234 people consisting of 197 women and 37 men aged over 18 years. Data were analyzed using SmartPLS.

**Results:** The item which was strong on social norms with Cronbach's alpha 0.844 was protecting family honor. All items were above 0.5 so it can be stated that the gender-based SNB scale was valid and reliable to be used in measuring gender-based violence in Indonesia.

**Conclusions:** Psychometrics of SNB about GBV scale in the Indonesian version is valid and reliable.

**Keywords:** belief, gender, social norms, violence.

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## INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a social phenomenon that occurs with some support from the social order such as; socio-religious morals, cultural perspectives, socioeconomic and ideological background conflicts, and social order emergencies that place women and girls at high risk of becoming victims of gender-based violence.<sup>1,2</sup> Inter-Agency Standing The Committee (IASC) stated that the form of gender violence in question could occur to women or men in the form of physical, mental, or sexual violence, threats, coercion, and other deprivation of freedom.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the 2021 annual records in Indonesia, there was an increase of 83% in cases of gender-based violence, with most cases including psychological violence by 36%, sexual violence by 33%, physical violence by 18%, and economic violence by 13% and placing East Java as the Province in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rank with the most cases of gender-based violence with 54,507 cases.<sup>4</sup> In intimate partner relationships, physical violence is defined as any type

of physical aggression, such as shoving or throwing objects, or significant acts that could cause serious physical harm, such as the use of a weapon or tool or hitting by a spouse or partner toward his or her intimate partner.<sup>5</sup>

SNB held by a person in society also affect the occurrence of violence, for example, women must take care of all household affairs and work for themselves without having to be assisted by their husbands, women were not allowed to express opinions or take decisions because decision makers were men's territory, and when the violence took place, women should be silent as a form of obedience to their husbands and married women were vulnerable to domestic violence.<sup>6</sup> The purpose of this study was to examine the construct validity and reliability of SNB on gender-based violence scale in Indonesia.

## METHODS

### Study Design

This study was a cross-sectional study, with the population being men and women aged over 18 years.

### Data Collection

Data were collected through an online survey using Google form and included informed consent. The questionnaire link was distributed via WhatsApp and managed to obtain 234 people filled out the questionnaire. The instrument used was the SNB on gender base violence scale developed by Perrin (2019) and has been translated into Indonesian.<sup>7</sup> The scale consisted of 2 domains, namely injunctive social norms and personal beliefs. Each domain consisted of 3 subscales; husband's right to use violence, protecting family honor, and response to sexual violence. The injunctive social norms area consisted of 15 question items with the answer choice of none of them with a score of 1, a few of them with a score of 2, about of them with a score of 3, most of them with a score of 4 and all of them with a score of 5. In the personal beliefs area there were 15 question items with answer choices agree with this statement with a score of 1, not sure if I agree or disagree with a score of 2, I disagree but am not ready to tell others with a score of 3, I disagree and am telling others with the score.

## Data Analysis

The univariate analysis was used to describe the demographic data of respondents, such as age, sex, education level, and marital status. Validity and reliability were analyzed using smartPLS.

## RESULTS

The characteristics of the respondents in this study were mostly female (84.2%) with a relatively young age range of 18-25 years (52.6%) and 113 of the respondents were married. The respondent's latest education is mostly from university (85.9%). The characteristics of respondents are shown in Table 1.

The Chi-Square analysis showed a value of 310,520 and the Normed Fit Index (NFI) of 0.810 ( $<0.9$ ), it can be interpreted that the assessment of the model meets the criteria of marginal fit. While the Standardized Root Mean Residual (SRMR) or the overall standardized residuals' average value was 0.076 ( $<0.10$ ), it can be said that the model fitted the data. The analysis is shown in Figure 1.

For factor loading from the first domain, namely injunctive social norms, it showed a number above 0.5 so that the data was declared valid. The mean value was in the number 1-2 so it can be seen that other people's opinions about social norms about gender-based violence were not important to them (Table 2).

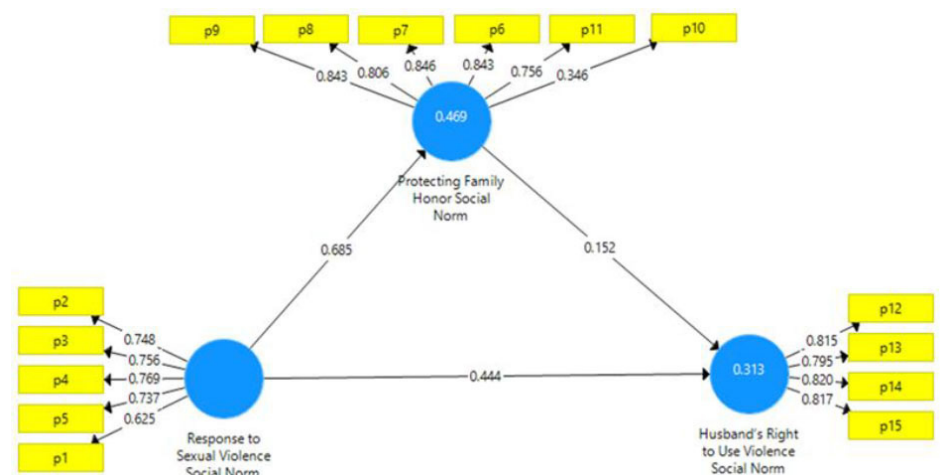
The chi-square analysis showed a value of 394,656 and the Normed Fit Index (NFI) of 0.742 ( $<0.9$ ), it can be interpreted that the assessment of the model meets the marginal fit criteria. While the SRMR or the overall standardized residuals' average value was 0.076 ( $<0.10$ ), it can be said that the model fitted the data. The analysis is shown in Figure 2.

The loading factor in the personal belief domain was the number 0.307 on item no 25, it can be concluded that the item was not valid. While other items get numbers above 0.5 which means they are valid. The mean value of personal belief about gender-based violence was at number 3 that they did not agree with the statement of belief about gender violence but they kept the opinion to themselves without revealing it to others (Table 3).

The construct reliability and validity are shown in Table 4. All of the injunctive

**Table 1.** Characteristics of respondents.

Variable	f	%
<b>Age</b>		
18-25	123	52.6
26-33	36	15.4
34-41	49	20.9
42-52	26	11.1
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	37	15.8
Female	197	84.2
<b>Education</b>		
High school	33	14.1
University	201	85.9
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	113	48.3
Single	78	33.3
In relationship	39	16.7
Widow/Widower	4	1.7



**Figure 1.** The output of outer model test for Injunctive social norms.

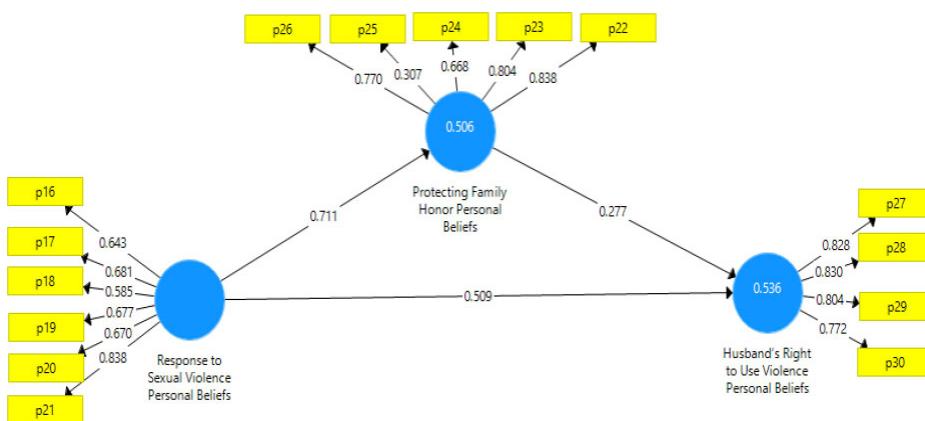
social norms and personal beliefs indicator is considered reliable and valid. In this study, we translated SNB on gender base violence scale into Indonesian and examined the reliability and validity of a sample of people over the age of 18. The result indicated that the language version of SNB on gender base violence scale was a valid and reliable instrument with Cronbach alpha and reliability  $> 0.8$ . This showed that all aspects and indicators can describe injunctive social norms and personal beliefs well. The dominant factor able to reflect social norms was the protecting family honor factor with a loading factor of 0.844 for the dominant factor in personal belief, was a loading factor of 0.827 that determined the husband's right to employ force. A high score was also obtained on the response to sexual violence, both in injunctive social norms and in personal belief.

## DISCUSSION

GBV is when someone is physically harmed because of their gender or sex. This includes behaviors that cause injury or suffering to one's body, mind, or sexual organs; threats against such actions; compulsion; and the removal of one's freedom.<sup>8</sup> In Indonesia, the dominant factor of injunctive social norms and personal beliefs was related to values and culture which tended not to report violence experienced to the police because it protected the honor and good name of the family, and was accompanied by the belief that violence by husbands was a natural.<sup>9,10</sup> Indonesian people still consider that sexual violence experienced by a woman was normal, if there was a case of sexual violence or harassment or rape, the first to blame was the victim, in this case, the woman. Women were demanded to arrange the clothes to be worn and

**Table 2. Factor loading of injunctive social norms.**

No	Item	Factor Loading	Mean	SD
P1	Expect a husband to abandon his wife if she reports that she has been raped	0.625	2.111	1.263
P2	Expect the family to ignore/reject a daughter if she reports that she has been raped	0.748	1.786	1.161
P3	Accept sexual violence against women and girls as a normal part of life	0.756	1.427	0.885
P4	Blame women/girls when they are raped	0.769	1.957	1.190
P5	Think that a man should have the right to demand sex from a woman or girl even if he is not married to her	0.737	1.521	0.883
P6	Expect women/girls to not report rape to protect the family's dignity	0.843	1.902	1.171
P7	Expect that a woman/girl's reputation will be damaged if she reports sexual violence to the authorities or elders	0.846	2.210	1.309
P8	Fear stigma if they were to report sexual violence	0.806	2.564	1.423
P9	Expect sexual violence to be handled within the family and not reported to authorities	0.843	2.150	1.151
P10	Expect a husband or father to retaliate against the alleged perpetrators	0.346	3.103	1.401
P11	Expect women and girls to only report sexual violence if they have serious physical injuries	0.756	2.218	1.317
P12	Think that when a man beats his wife, he is showing his love for her	0.815	1.380	1.793
P13	Think that a man has the right to beat/punish his wife	0.795	1.474	0.888
P14	Think it is okay for a husband to beat his wife to discipline her	0.820	1.560	0.905
P15	Expect a husband to force his wife to have sex when she does not want to	0.817	1.791	0.926



**Figure 2.** The output of outer model test personal beliefs.

maintain attitudes and behavior when in public spaces.<sup>11</sup>

Throughout the last two decades, violence against women has also become a serious problem in Indonesia. Around 65% and 23%, respectively, reported having experienced psychological and physical abuse. There were 72% of physical abuse, according to the victims, was committed by husbands. A third of the 9000 female respondents, aged 15 to 64, who lived in 24 of the 34 provinces in the most recent national survey on women's experiences reported having experienced at least one act of physical or sexual abuse from a partner, whether intimate or not.<sup>5</sup>

Conditions that describe social norms

and personal beliefs in Indonesia were similar to those in Mogadishu, Somalia, and Sudan with a Cronbach alpha above 0.7 for the injunctive social norms and personal beliefs domain.<sup>7</sup> Gender-based violence was related to dominance, and abuse of authority from the power holders, in this case, men, because the patriarchal system allowed men to have more power over women.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, it will affect the quality of life (QoL). QoL is a person's sense of their place in the society and system of values in which they live. It is influenced by their aspirations, expectations, moral standards, and worries. For their QoL to improve, they need the support of their family and the community.<sup>13</sup>

Gender, religious affiliation, and gender roles have all been utilized as predictors of patriarchal attitudes and attitudes regarding violence against women. Research from many cultural backgrounds has often discovered a link between increased adherence to conventional gender norms and approval of beating wives. It has been discovered that gender is less reliable in predicting whether violence will be contextually accepted. Many studies across cultures have found that women are more likely to voice their disapproval of wife abuse than men are.<sup>14-16</sup> The research among the general community in several African countries was the exception, showing that women were substantially more likely than men to justify wife abuse.<sup>17</sup> The limitation of this study was that it cannot examine and measure the responses of respondents so self-censoring was likely to affect the results.

## CONCLUSIONS

Psychometrics of SNB about GBV Scale in the Indonesian version is valid and reliable, this instrument was appropriate to use. We recommend for further research to conduct in places with different values and cultures and review the factorial structure of the scale.

**Table 3. Factor loading of personal beliefs.**

No	Item	Factor Loading	Mean	SD
P16	Husbands should abandon/reject/divorce their wife if she reports that she has been raped	0.643	3.440	0.767
P17	A man should have the right to demand sex from a woman or girl even if he is not married to her	0.681	3.697	0.632
P18	A woman/girl would be stigmatized if she were to report sexual violence	0.585	3.175	1.066
P19	A woman/girl should be blamed when she has been raped	0.677	3.679	0.637
P20	Sexual violence against women and girls should be accepted as a normal part of life	0.670	3.709	0.686
P21	Families should ignore/reject a daughter if she reports that she has been raped	0.838	3.744	0.549
P22	Women/girls should not report rape to protect the family's dignity	0.838	3.744	0.557
P23	A woman/girl's reputation will be damaged if she reports sexual violence to the authorities	0.804	3.449	0.877
P24	Sexual violence should be handled within the family and not reported to authorities	0.668	3.530	0.843
P25	A husband or father should retaliate against the alleged perpetrators	0.307	2.551	1.154
P26	Women and girls should only report sexual violence if they have serious physical injuries	0.770	3.590	0.781
P27	When a man beats his wife, he is showing his love for her	0.828	3.829	0.458
P28	A man has the right to beat/punish his wife	0.830	3.731	0.613
P29	It is okay for a husband to beat his wife to discipline her	0.804	3.692	0.685
P30	A husband should force his wife to have sex when she does not want to	0.772	3.594	0.655

**Table 4. Construct reliability and validity.**

	Cronbach's Alpha	Rho A	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted
<b>Injunctive Social Norms</b>				
Response to sexual violence	0.829	0.839	0.885	0.659
Protecting family honor	0.844	0.888	0.887	0.580
Husband's Right to use violence	0.779	0.789	0.849	0.531
<b>Personal Beliefs</b>				
Response to sexual violence	0.771	0.787	0.883	0.654
Protecting family honor	0.731	0.805	0.820	0.496
Husband's Right to use violence	0.827	0.837	0.841	0.471

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## ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study has obtained ethical clearance from the ethics committee of Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Surabaya (No. 079/EC/KEPK/UNUSA/2022)

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that there is no conflict of interest.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors contributed equally in conducting research and writing manuscripts.

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