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#MeToo Movement: Global Civil Society in Fighting Sexual Harassment in South Korea

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Abstract

This study discusses the problem of sexual harassment that occurs in South Korea, where it is often discussed but the culture in South Korea is an obstacle to resolving or reducing the crime of sexual harassment. So in 2018 South Korea adopted a movement that fights for victims of sexual harassment, the #MeToo movement. The objective of study then discusses the role of the #MeToo movement in fighting for the rights of victims of sexual harassment. The concept used is the Global Civil Society, Patriarchy Culture and Sexual Harassment. The research method is qualitative-descriptive, with data collection through literature study such as journals, books, article and other literature. The data analysis involved four stages there are data collection, data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusion. The results of the study found that the #MeToo movement helps or builds confidence and security for victims so that victims can report their sexual harassment acts, help victims to get legal justice, and then form solidarity between victims, the communities and the government to stand on the side of the victims.

Keywords: #MeToo Movement, Global Civil Society, Sexual Harassment, South Korea

Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas permasalahan pelecehan seksual yang terjadi di Korea Selatan, di mana hal ini sering diperbincangkan akan tetapi budaya di Korea Selatan yang menghambat untuk penyelesaian atau mengurangi tindakan kejahatan pelecehan seksual ini. Sehingga pada tahun 2018 di Korea Selatan diadopsi sebuah gerakan yang memperjuangkan korban pelecehan seksual yakni gerakan #MeToo. Penelitian ini selanjutnya mendiskusikan mengenai peran gerakan #MeToo dalam upaya memperjuangkan hak-hak korban pelecehan seksual. Konsep yang

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digunakan adalah Global Civil Society, budaya patriarki, dan pelecehan seksual. Adapun metode penelitian ini adalah kualitatif-deskriptif, dengan pengumpulan data melalui studi kepustakaan, seperti jurnal, buku, artikel, dan sumber lainnya. Analisis data melibatkan empat tahapan, yaitu pengumpulan data, reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menemukan bahwa gerakan #MeToo membantu atau membangun rasa percaya diri dan aman bagi korban sehingga korban dapat melaporkan tindakan pelecehan seksual yang dialaminya, membantu korban untuk mendapat keadilan hukum, dan kemudian membentuk solidaritas antara korban, masyarakat hingga pemerintah untuk berdiri di pihak para korban.

Kata Kunci: Gerakan #MeToo, Masyarakat Sipil Global, Pelecehan Seksual, Korea Selatan

INTRODUCTION

This study discusses the role of the #MeToo movement in fighting for and advocating for the rights of victims of sexual harassment in South Korea. The #MeToo movement itself was first introduced by a female activist named Tarana Burke in 2006. This movement was then buzzing again after the confession made by Hollywood actress Alyssa Milano (Dewi, 2019; Dwi, 2022).

Milano admitted to having experienced sexual harassment by Harvey Weinstein, a well-known film producer. In addition to telling about the unpleasant treatment he received, Milano also asked all women who had experienced acts of violence or sexual harassment to be brave enough to speak out. A few days after Milano wrote a tweet on his Twitter account, about 6.8 thousand people have replied to Alyssa Milano's Twitter posts, so the hashtag #MeToo has become the number one trending topic in various continents such as America, Europe, and even Asia (Fox, 2017; Thenagarepublic, 2017).

Essentially, this movement fights against gender inequality, sexual harassment, and sexual violence in the school, work, and home which aims to influence the legislature and society in their own country of origin (Park et al., 2013). This movement uses the facts and testimonies of victims, which are then framed as a serious issue in the context of the truth which is then used to persuade and stimulate the public to act and provide their support for this movement (Dewi, 2019). Furthermore, the #MeToo movement then spread to several countries, one of which was South Korea (Dwi, 2022). This movement first entered South Korea because of a confession made by a prosecutor named Seo Ji Hyun who revealed that he had received sexual harassment by his superiors. According to Meilanesia (2021), South Korea is a sexist and misogynist country. This is due to their culture which still adheres to Neo-Confucianism, resulting in a patriarchal culture that places men above women (Meilanesia, 2021).

South Korea is one of the countries with a high number of sexual harassment cases. Data released by Nation Master states that South Korea is ranked 20th out of countries in the world in terms of sexual harassment cases (Nationmaster, 2014). According to data, 86% of the victims are women and 98% of the perpetrators are men (dis.hanyang.ac.kr, 2022). Korean Film Council and The Women in Film Korea surveyed 749 South Korean entertainment industry workers including actresses, writers, crew and other staff. This survey revealed that as many as 62% or six out of 10 workers of female actresses and staff in South Korea have received sexual harassment treatment (Anjani, 2018). Painfully, there has been many cases where victims of this sexual harassment committed suicide. Even cases of suicide account for as much as 20% of suicide cases that occur in South Korea (Brent, David A., 2008; Melhem et al., 2022). One of which was the suicide of a

South Korean actress named Jang Ja Yeon, which occurred in 2009 due to depression after receiving sexual harassment (TheKoreanTimes, 2019).

Cases of sexual harassment in the world of education also have a fairly high number of cases. In 2014, there has been as many as 385 cases of sexual harassment occurred in school. The case is up about 74.1% from 221 cases in 2013 (Yonhap, 2018b). The experts then stated that the number of cases may be higher than the data collected because the data collected only includes cases reported by victims of sexual harassment or other people (witnesses) and followed by formal investigations. Meanwhile, according to national data records, there was an increase in cases of sexual assault that occurred in schools by around 171.9% to 2,387 cases in 2016. Apart from being experienced by students, this crime of sexual harassment was also experienced by academic staff (Yonhap, 2018).

This sexual harassment has an impact on the victim, usually, the victim will be silent for a long time because the victim feels ashamed and is afraid that she will be the target of sexual harassment again if she tells her experience. In addition, the victims were threatened by the perpetrators not to reveal what happened to them. They are afraid to tell this because instead of arresting or judging the perpetrators, public will put the blame to the victim. Victims who are pregnant will find it difficult to live their lives in the future because there is still a culture where getting pregnant out of wedlock is a dishonorable act. In addition, if in this case the victim is still in his education period, she will be forced to leave school and will be ostracized by his environment. This also applies to teenagers who are prepared to become actresses or idols in South Korea. So this will further affect the psychological condition of victims who experience stress and even severe depression (Wardhani & Lestari, 2007).

Seo Jihyeon's confession then aroused sympathy and courage for other victims to do the same. Many officials, directors, actors and education personnel were then dragged into this case of sexual harassment and violence (Hasunuma & Shin, 2019; Zhang, Sun & Hu, 2022). In line with the explanation above, the purpose of this research is to find out the role of the #MeToo Movement in fighting for the rights of victims of sexual harassment in South Korea.

Furthermore, several studies on #MeToo in South Korea have been conducted before, but there has been no research that specifically examines the role of #MeToo as a global civil society actor. Hosterman, et al. and Lee studied the existence of #MeToo in South Korea through social media (Heckman, 2021; Hosterman et al., 2018; Misook, 2019). As for Choo and Sukla, et.al. the impact of #MeToo's existence in South Korea socially and politically (Choo & Formations, 2021; Shukla & Singh, 2020). Meanwhile, Shin views #MeToo in South Korea as a new generation of feminism (Shin, 2021). Meanwhile, Mizoroki and Kim specifically compared the existence of #MeToo in South Korea and Japan through Twitter social media analysis (Mizoroki & Kim, 2021). Although some of the previous studies mentioned above did not specifically discuss global civil society, these studies contributed to providing an understanding of the existence and development of #MeToo in South Korea.

To deepen the discussion, the author uses the concept of Global Civil Society (GCS) as the basic lens for discussion this paper. This theory predominantly using by many contemporary global issues where the interests of humanity are universally at stake such as environmental issues and climate change, human rights, international peace, global poverty, and other global issues (Rijal & Widiatmojo, 2021). GCS encourages changes in the international system with bottom-up activities, such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Transnational Advocacy Networks (TAN),

Global Social Movements to a New Multilateralism. This GCS concept as a liaison between social spaces, organizations, movements to groups with many actors across national borders which then produces relationships with local and global dimensions.

The roles of global civil society are as watchdog, advocate, service provider, expert, capacity builder, incubator, representative, citizen champion, solidarity supporter, and definer of standards (*The Future Role of Civil Society World Scenario Series In Collaboration with KPMG International Contents Preface*, 2013). Some of these roles will then be used in this study to show the various roles played by #MeToo in South Korea in fighting for the rights of women victims of sexual violence.

The author also uses the concept of sexual harassment in describing the phenomenon of sexual harassment that occurred in South Korea. Sexual harassment is divided into several conceptualizations, namely, gender harassment, unwanted sexual harassment, and sexual coercion. Sexual harassment does not only occur through physical actions it can also occur through words or verbally. Sexual harassment occurs without knowing the place, situation or status, it can occur in the office area, school, public transportation (Rusyidi et al., 2019). One of the factors of sexual harassment that occurs in South Korea is the still inherent patriarchal culture. Patriarchal culture is a culture where the position of women is under the position of men in all aspects of society. So, in this study the author uses the concept of Patriarchal culture in explaining how sexual harassment can occur in South Korea (Meilanesia, 2021).

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative-descriptive research method (Creswell & Poth, 2016). According to Miles et al., (2018), descriptive research is a form of research that has the aim of describing phenomena that occur both in natural and man-made forms which then include changes, relationships, similarities, characteristics to activities (Miles, Huberman & Saldaña, 2018). The data collection technique uses library research, where the data collected comes from journals, books, articles, and other literature. The data analysis involves the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Meanwhile, the object of study in this research is the role of the #MeToo movement in South Korea as a global actor of civil society. The author then uses the concept of Global Civil Society as a framework to describe the various roles played by #MeToo in South Korea.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#MeToo Movement: An Overview

The #MeToo movement is a part of the Global Civil Society which then focuses on issues related to gender equality and sexual violence. This movement has been around since 2006 when it was first introduced by a female activist named Tarana Burke which was then discussed again in 2017. This movement was initiated by Tarana Burke as a response to acts of sexual harassment that have been received by those around her.

At first, Tarana Burke ran this movement with her friend, a black woman. This movement then began to provide education related to sexual harassment, where we as women must know how to prevent and fight acts of sexual harassment that often occur in society. In addition, Burke is also trying to make social changes that aim to direct the public to pay more attention to victims of sexual harassment and change their perception of victims if acts of sexual harassment occur because of mistakes made by the victim (Burke, 2017).

In 2017, this movement became the main topic of conversation after the hashtag #MeToo was used by a Hollywood actress named Alyssa Milano to reveal the acts of sexual harassment she had received. Then, 80 cases of sexual harassment were discovered by a famous Hollywood film producer, Harvey Weinstein. This movement then began to spread to various countries. The #MeToo movement which was reintroduced by Alyssa Milano has received so many positive responses that Twitter itself received as many as 40 thousand comments and then spread to other social media such as Facebook and Instagram (Borgerding, 2017).

As of October 2017, 2.3 million links were uploaded related to this movement from about 85 countries in 24 hours containing reactions to confessions of other victims of sexual harassment, including in South Korea (Borgerding, 2017). The #MeToo movement then became a topic of discussion regarding sexual harassment not only in the national sphere but in the international sphere, so this movement later became a source of solidarity between victims and women to fight acts of sexual harassment that often target women (Chandra, 2018; Zalpa, 2019).

The Problem of Sexual Harassment in South Korea

The issues related to the crime of sexual harassment have become a widely discussed topic in South Korea. These crimes of sexual harassment include acts of coercion or rape to acts of sexual harassment and sexual violence by strangers to those closest to the victims (Kumalasari & Rosyida, 2022). Data released by the Democratic Party of South Korea in October 2019 stated that there were 1,310 cases reported from 2014 to 2017 (Suh-Yoon, 2019). In 2013, there were as many as 22,932 cases of sexual harassment crimes that occurred in South Korea, so if you calculate the average, you will find the results that every 23 minutes there has been an act of sexual harassment in South Korea (seoulsolution.kr, 2016).

In addition to acts of coercion or rape, in South Korea, there is also an emergency regarding stalking cases where women are victims. According to data in 2016, there were around 555 cases which then increased in 2017 which amounted to 297 cases (Yonhap, 2018), of this figure only about 2.5% of victims dare to report (United Nations, 2018). Table 1 below shows data on the number of sexual harassment that occurred in South Korea and were reported.

Table 1. Data on Cases of Sexual Harassment

Data on Sexual Harassment Cases in South Korea	
Year	Amount
2010	18,220
2011	19,491
2012	19,619
2013	22,210
2014	21,055
2015	21,286
2016	22,200
2017	24.110

Sources: (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), n.d.)

The data in Table 1 above shows that every year there is an increase in the number of cases of sexual crimes in South Korea. Although this figure had dropped in 2014, it increased again in 2015 and then jumped in 2017 to 24,110 cases of sexual crimes.

The work environment is one of the major contributors to sexual harassment cases, accounting for 65% of all reported sexual harassment acts (Bureau of Democracy, 2018). In this work environment, there is a phenomenon of intense competition between individuals with one so that an individual will maintain their position well. In addition, South Korea's work environment still adheres to a patriarchal culture where this has more or less influence, namely where high positions or positions are still mostly filled by a man. This is then often used as an opportunity to commit acts of sexual harassment against women who have lower positions, by threatening the careers of the victims (Mislawaty et al., 2022; Sholihin et al., 2022).

In this case of sexual harassment in the work environment, only 22% of victims dared to report and 78% chose to remain silent because of threats to their careers or jobs (See-Yung, 2019). A survey conducted by the Ministry of Gender and Family in 2016 stated that as many as 8 out of 10 correspondents had experienced a crime of sexual harassment in their work environment (Yon, 2017). Data recorded in 2017 shows that if there were 532 cases of sexual harassment crimes that occurred in the work environment in South Korea, this number has increased about 8 times from the data recorded in 2012 (Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF), 2017).

South Korea's entertainment industry, which is famous for the sparkling lives of artists does not rule out the possibility of sexual harassment crimes against workers in this industry. On April 1, 2015, an artist from the South Korean entertainment industry named Amber (a member of Girl Band F(X)) revealed that the South Korean entertainment industry also has a dark side, where these artists often receive sexual harassment by many owners sponsorship company (Bicker, 2018). The Korean Film Council (KOFIC) surveyed to find out how many crimes of sexual harassment occurred in the film industry in South Korea (Sun-hui, 2018). As a result, as many as 10% of South Korean film industry workers were forced to perform sexual acts they did not expect and as many as 20% of workers were forced to have sexual contact they did not want (Sepriansyah et al., 2021; Sirozi & Yenrizal, 2020). Half of the correspondents admitted to having experienced acts of sexual harassment but chose not to report it. Meanwhile, as many as 40% of workers choose to pretend not to know about the acts of sexual harassment they have received in the film industry in South Korea (Gyu-lee, 2021).

Meanwhile, schools and colleges have been assessed as safe environments. However, according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family among 1,414 respondents taken from undergraduate and postgraduate students in 20 universities in South Korea, it was stated that 39.2% of students had experienced acts of sexual harassment while they were there in their university (Lee, 2020). The National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) also conducted a survey of 814 female students at the high school level in South Korea and found that 40.9% said they believed sexual harassment had occurred in the school environment. Meanwhile, 27.7% stated that they were victims of sexual harassment crimes in their school (National Human Rights Commission of Korea, 2018).

Furthermore, the Korean Institute of Criminology conducted a survey using a random sample of 4,000 women in South Korea which resulted in 71.7% of the sample stating that they felt they had been controlled by their partner in sexual matters, then 37.9% said that they experienced acts of sexual harassment, and 17.5% experienced acts of sexual violence in general.

So from this survey, it can be concluded that acts of harassment do not look at how the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim is established. Violence and sexual harassment can occur anytime, anywhere, under any conditions, even in marriage or dating relationships (Kim & Garcia, 2022). Data released by the South Korean Police in 2019 stated that nearly 10,000 cases of sexual harassment were reported as crimes of sexual harassment that occurred in dating and marriage relationships. So that this case accounts for 98% of cases in reports of acts of sexual harassment in South Korea (Schieber, 2020).

Sexual harassment is a very serious crime. However, perpetrators of this crime in South Korea have protections where perpetrators can apply for leniency for their actions by using a drunken state or in an unconscious state for consuming alcoholic beverages. Protection is based on The South Korean Criminal Code Article 10 Paragraph 2, which in this article contains a reduction in punishment for people who have mental disorders because they cannot distinguish objects, people, and the environment so that if the perpetrators of the crime of harassment sexually using excuses in an unconscious state then the perpetrators will receive a reduced sentence (Nam & Melody, 2019).

In addition, South Korean culture still teaches that women are sexual objects where women are defined as individuals who must be careful because they can be used as pornographic content anywhere and anytime. So that men are justified in thinking that women are absolute and unchangeable sexual objects. For this reason, the existence of the #MeToo movement is a means for women to reveal the sexual harassment they have received as well as to fight for and voice their rights.

4 The Role of the #MeToo Movement in South Korea

#MeToo as Advocate

This movement has a role to gather or form the courage of victims by protecting their voices and defending their voices so that they are more courageous to speak about the crimes of sexual harassment that have happened to them, by providing a sense of security and comfort. The beginning of the entry of the #MeToo movement in South Korea itself was marked by the confession of a prosecutor named Seo Jihyeon who said he had experienced sexual harassment in 2010 but only dared to speak in 2018. This is because he was motivated by the courage of victims from other countries and then feel the comfort and safety of this movement. Then encourage her courage to reveal the acts of sexual harassment that she has received so far.

Prosecutor Seo Jihyeon's confession stated that she took a very long time to get up the courage because he is in a patriarchal environment and leans towards the perpetrator because the perpetrator himself is someone with a high position. So when she started to venture up to report it, she didn't get a good response. Instead of getting sympathy, she received a negative response that affected his career as a prosecutor, and was later transferred to a less prominent position. However, her views changed when the #MeToo Movement was widely discussed. In her writing, Seo Jihyeon mentioned that the #MeToo Movement gave her the courage to express herself and with this movement, she later realized that she was not guilty of the act of sexual harassment that she had received (Hasunuma & Shin, 2019).

Furthermore, after Seo Jihyeon's confession, many victims of sexual harassment began to dare to tell their experiences to the public. One of them was a woman named Kim Ji-Eun, a staff member of the Provincial Governors' in South Chung Cheong, An Hee-Jung. Kim Ji-Eun

confessed on JTBC TV Station that Governor An Hee Jung had abused her power to sexually harass her. At first, she didn't dare to report this because An Hee Jung himself held a high position. However, the confession made by Prosecutor Seo Jihyeon changed her perspective so that she then mustered up his courage despite betting on his mental state and career.

#MeToo as Citizen Champion

The #MeToo movement acts as a forum for gathering victims and the masses to support justice for the victims and legal action for the perpetrators. This is then used to convey the victim's voice, which is often done by holding demonstrations or using online petitions. Hundreds of women who came from or joined the Confederation of Trade Unions of South Korea came forward to demonstrate carrying the name of the #MeToo Movement. This activity was carried out to show that these women from the Confederation of Trade Unions are giving their support to women out there so that they can stand strong. This demonstration was held on March 4, 2018, in Seoul (Soo Hyun, 2018). On March 15 2018 a women's group called "Citizen's Action to Support The MeToo Movement" undertook a mission to provide support to the #MeToo Movement. This is done to increase public and government interest in their awareness of sexual harassment cases that occurred in South Korea. In addition, to encourage reforms to the law related to sexual harassment, then to prevent an increase in sexual harassment cases, and finally seek justice for victims of sexual harassment.

Ladies and gentlemen who are members of the #MeToo Movement conduct an event or activity that aims as a place for victims to express their bad experiences. This activity was carried out from March 22 to 23 within 2018 minutes as a symbol of this movement entering South Korea in 2018. In this activity many women participated, they told how they received acts of harassment to sexual violence. Apart from being a place for victims to share their experiences, this activity was held to give each other strength and support to victims and women who support taking action against cases of sexual harassment in South Korea.

Activities to fight sexual harassment cases did not only stop on March 23, 5 further activities were still discussing the issue of sexual harassment and violence in South Korea. This activity was held on April 7, then continued on April 21, and the fourth activity was held on May 17. While the next activity was carried out two months later, on August 18. This activity was attended by more than 20,000 people and the sixth or last activity was held on December 1, 2018 (So-Bum, 2018).

#MeToo as Watchdog

This movement has a role to provide supervision and criticism in cases of sexual harassment, one of which is the supervision of cases of sexual harassment crimes committed by An Hee Jung, a Governor of the Province of South ChungCheong. An Hee Jung was reported to have committed a crime against a female staff member, Kim Ji-Eun. This case was brought up on March 5, 2018 but on August 14, 2018, An Hee Jung was found not guilty so this gave rise to a mass movement that protested the verdict given to An Hee Jung. This mass movement was then followed by approximately 20,000 people (Shin, 2021). On the demands of the masses, An Hee Jung was ultimately found guilty and then given a prison sentence of three years and eight months, as well as resigning from his position as Governor of South ChungCheong Province.

#MeToo as Representative

Culture patriarchy is still very much embedded in everyday life in South Korea. This culture is at the root of the problem of sexual harassment crimes in South Korea. So that this becomes an issue that is often discussed by women activists and victims where they question their rights in education, work, and others (Hasunuma & Shin, 2019). The #MeToo movement then came as a movement to represent women that they can stand alone and fight for their rights, which are the same as the rights that men in South Korea have had.

#MeToo as Define of Standard

The government responded to this movement by being represented by Prime Minister Lee Nak-Yon who issued the Rules for the Establishment and Operation of a Comprehensive Government Inspection Team in Prime Minister Regulation No. 713 on March 30, 2018 (Chang, 2018). South Korea's Ministry of Manpower also gave theirs responded to this movement by amending the Law on sexual harassment. On May 29, 2018, the Ministry has made amendments that contain providing equal employment opportunities for women and men and the Equal Employment Opportunity and Work-Family Balance Assistance Act (EEO Act). This includes penalties that will be given to employers who fail to investigate or are inconsistent with investigations related to sexual harassment cases (Jumabhoy & Lauren, 2018). South Korea's National Assembly on April 29 2020 passed a law regarding sexual harassment. This aims to provide convenience for victims to provide demands to perpetrators of sexual crimes committed digitally. This law states that if a person owns, buys, stores, and watches sexual content that is the result of illegally recorded recordings then they will be sentenced to a maximum of 3 years in prison or be fined 30 million won or this amount is equivalent to \$24,660 (Kasulis, 2020).

#MeToo as Solidarity Supporter

This movement has a role to unite victims, the community, and the government to unite and support each other to eradicate the crime of sexual harassment. For example, the public is more aware of victims and acts of attempted sexual harassment that occur around them by creating a safe public space for victims and even people in the neighborhood, starting with the provision of CCTV at every street corner and conducting regular checks on public toilets to keep them safe from hidden cameras. Then the government is more aware of the applicable laws so that they are more partial or more supportive of victims of sexual harassment and violence. In addition, the government is also making further plans to revise the law with related issues, such as efforts to extend the law regarding the limitation of sexual assault cases from 7 years to 10 years and sexual harassment from 5 years to 7 years (KBS World Indonesia, 2018). According to a survey conducted by the Korean Women's Development Institute, about 7 out of 10 South Koreans stated that their level of interest in the issue of sexual harassment and violence in South Korea increased after the #MeToo Movement (Bicker, 2018). As many as 79.8% of the 1,013 residents stated that they supported this movement regarding the issue of sexual violence against women in South Korea (So-hyun, 2018).

CONCLUSION

Culture Patriarchy is still very much embedded in South Korean society. Cases of sexual harassment and violence often place women as the cause of harassment, when they should be victims. Women are forced to accept and let this happen so as not to disturb the dynamics of their community environment. This #MeToo movement then acts as an advocate for the victims to be more courageous in voicing their voices without fear of pressure or threats that they will receive from the perpetrators. With #MeToo, women are more courageous to speak up without fear of

receiving gossip from society. #MeToo serves to further highlight the persistent inequalities women face in the workplace, society, and politics.

This movement with their role as representative also provides the view that women who appear in public without having to hide their identity have helped inspire more women to speak up and expand the movement in South Korea. Therefore, in South Korea women are becoming more courageous to talk about it in public because receiving support from people who are already aware of the sexual harassment that has occurred in South Korea, this cannot be separated from the role of the #MeToo Movement, namely Solidarity Support. This movement then with their role as a citizen champion inspires or encourages women in South Korea to have the courage to stand up for themselves, act and not remain silent when they are subjected to violence or sexual harassment so that they dare to express their opinions towards their people who often receive unfair treatment and then expect reforms the law that they hope to defend and side with them.

The #MeToo Movement also used their role as a watchdog to watch the ongoing trial of a sexual harassment case. In addition to overseeing the legal process for sexual harassment cases, the #MeToo Movement also uses their role to define the standard of the legal process for sexual harassment cases in South Korea, one of which is influencing changes to the law related to sexual harassment cases. This is inseparable from the role of the #MeToo Movement for fighting for the rights of victims of sexual harassment in South Korea.

The results of this study further contribute to the study of Global Civil Society related to the role and contribution of a movement in the struggle for the public interest. In addition, this research contributes to studies related to sexual harassment as a contemporary global phenomenon that occurs in many countries. In addition, this research provides a different perspective on the paradoxical side of South Korea which has been studied in terms of economic progress, technological development, and popular culture.

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