Catcalling Settlement Design as Verbal Harassment on Campus in Terms of Ethics and Law

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Abstract
The crime of sexual violence that has been regulated in the Criminal Code has been placed in a more specific regulation, namely in Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence. One of the criminal acts of sexual violence is catcalling. Sexual harassment in the form of catcalling is an inappropriate act in the form of comments, teasing, or whistling usually directed at a person, often a woman, with sexual or seductive intent. The campus as an institution of Higher Education also functions as a center of education and research that provides an environment for students, lecturers, and education personnel. As a means to learn, work, and interact with each other. Campus has the potential for the occurrence of criminal acts of sexual violence, especially catcalling. Catcalling that occurs on campus can occur between students, students and lecturers, lecturers and education personnel or employees and employees. In accordance with Number 30 of 2021 concerning Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence in the Higher Education Environment, which is expected to make the campus safe and comfortable for the academic community. The approach method used includes theoretical analysis, empirical studies, and evaluation of the gap between existing norms and their implementation. In the end, a design for resolving catcalling as verbal harassment on campus will be found in terms of ethics and law..

I. Introduction

Catcalling is a form of verbal harassment that often occurs in various environments, including on campus (Del Gobbo, 2021). This practice not only dehumanizes the victim but also creates an unsafe and uncomfortable environment (Cutajar & Vassallo, 2024). Despite many efforts to tackle this issue, catcalling remains a serious problem that requires more attention (Dominguez, 2024). Catcalling is one of the acts that goes against decency that often goes unnoticed. People do not realize that they are victims or even perpetrators of catcalling (Obinna, 2024). The most important thing to distinguish whether an act is harassment or not is the matter of consent (Asha et al., 2024). The rise of catcalling has a negative impact on victims because victims prefer to remain silent out of fear (Dominguez, 2024). "In this digital era, catcalling is increasingly widespread, therefore it is necessary to review the regulation of catcalling in the Indonesian legal system and update it to take firm action against the act". The Criminal Code has previously regulated the crime of sexual harassment using the term obscene acts (Valenti, 2021). However, it is still general in nature and has not been specifically mentioned. With the enactment of the Sexual Violence Crime Law Number 12 of 2022, sexual harassment has been mentioned (Bellini, 2024). The Law on Sexual Violence is expected to protect the rights of victims of sexual harassment, including verbal harassment, such as catcalling. In addition to the Sexual Violence Law, catcalling can be considered a violation of the Pornography Law Number 44 of 2008 if it fulfills the elements in Article 1 number 1, namely Pornography is images, sketches, illustrations, photographs, writings, sounds, moving images, animations, cartoons, conversations, gestures, or other forms of messages through various forms of communication media and/or public performances, which contain obscenity or sexual exploitation that violate the norms of decency in society (Asha et al., 2024; Cutajar & Vassallo, 2024; Shams, 2024). The means used in catcalling are Whatsapp, Instagram, Face book etc (Ceccato & Loukaitou-Sideris, 2021).

II. Research Method

To Understand the academic community's perception of catcalling as an act of verbal harassment from an ethical and juridical aspect, a holistic and multidimensional approach is required (Obinna, 2024). This approach includes theoretical analysis, empirical study, and evaluation of the gap between existing norms and their implementation. Juridical Aspect : Examines the legal basis governing verbal harassment, such as the Criminal Code, the Law on Sexual Violence, as well as internal university regulations (Ilahiah, 2024). It focuses on how catcalling is identified and categorized as a violation of the law. In terms of ethical aspects, this research focuses on analyzing the moral and ethical values that apply in the campus environment. This study includes the principles of respect for individual dignity, social responsibility, and the importance of building and inclusive and safe academic ulture (Melati, 2024).

Empirical approach using surveys and questionnaires that took a sample of 32 respondents. This research adopts a multidisciplinary approach by integrating juridical (legal),

ethical (moral and social), and legal (campus regulations) analysis to address catcalling in higher education (Pebrianti & Pura, 2023; Rorie, 2025). The following is a detailed description of the research methods used as well as a flow chart illustrating the stages of research implementation over three years (Mughni & Faridah, 2023). Qualitative approach, used to explore the views, experiences, and perceptions of the academic community (students, lectures, staff) about catcalling, as well as analyzing existing policies through questionnaires (Polii, 2022). Based on the findings, a resolution model will be designed by integrating legal (juridical), ethical (social and moral), and legal (campus regulations) aspects (Afrian & Susanti, 2022; Rorie, 2025). This model will include recommendations for better and more effectives policies to deal with catcalling in higher education (Ilahiah, 2024; Mughni & Faridah, 2023; Pebrianti & Pura, 2023).

III. Results and Discussion

The university environment should ideally be a safe and inclusive place for intellectual development, character, and a culture of mutual respect (Rorie, 2025). However, cases of catcalling as a form of verbal harassment are increasingly being reported on campuses (Afrian & Susanti, 2022). Catcalling not only violates social and moral norms, but also potentially violates the law, as stated in the regulations on respect for human rights and protection of women. This harassment has a significant impact on the victim, including insecurity, psychological distress, and disruption to the learning process and productivity (Valenti, 2021). Unfortunately, the handling of catcalling cases in higher education is often not optimal, either due to a lack of understanding of its impact, weak implementation of regulations, or unclear resolution mechanisms (Ceccato & Loukaitou-Sideris, 2021)

This research is important because of the need for clear regulations. Many universities do not have specific internal rules regarding verbal harassment, including catcalling. This creates a gap between policy and reality. Ethical perspectives are often overlooked: The resolution of cases often focuses only on the legal aspects, without considering the importance of an ethical approach to prevent harassment from occurring in the first place (Asha et al., 2024; Valenti, 2021). Lack of awareness in the campus community: Many perpetrators do not realize that catcalling is a form of harassment, while victims are often reluctant to report for fear of being ignored or blamed. Through juridical, ethical and legal studies, this research seeks to provide a holistic and comprehensive solution to catcalling in higher education (Mughni & Faridah, 2023). This study also encourages universities to take a proactive role in creating an academic environment that respects individual rights, upholds justice, and instills ethical values. Thus, the campus can become a truly safe space that supports the development of all academicians without fear or pressure (Rorie, 2025).

The various backgrounds that concern this research, provide an overview of specific problems including:

1. Are the norms and codes of conduct implemented in higher education sufficient to prevent and handle catcalling cases?
2. What is the perception of the academic community about catclling as an act of verbal harassment, both from the ethical and juridical aspects?

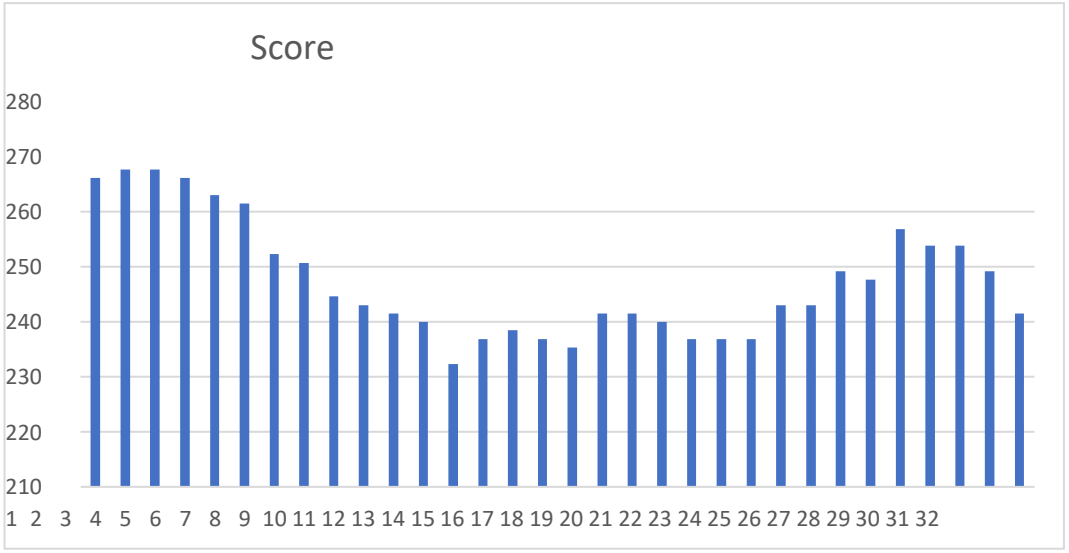
Catcalling as a form of verbal harassment is often underestimated or even unnoticed by most people, including academicians in higher education. These actions, which include harassing comments, whistles, or expressions, actually have a serious impact on individuals' comfort, sense of security, and psychological well-being (Pebrianti & Pura, 2023).

While catcalling is an act that violates social norms and can be categorized as harassment under the law, perceptions of this act tend to vary. Some people view it as a form of "joke" or "compliment," while others consider it a degrading act. This lack of awareness indicates a gap in ethical and juridical understanding among the academic community (Bellini, 2024). The university environment, as a center of education and character building, should be a pioneer in raising awareness about behaviors that respect human rights and uphold ethical values (Dominguez, 2024; Obinna, 2024). Based on the findings, a resolution model will be designed by integrating legal (juridical), ethical (social and moral), and legal (campus regulations) aspects. This model will include recommendations for better and more effective policies to deal with catcalling in higher education.

Furthermore, figure 1 shows the stages of data analysis research by conducting a data collection process through a questionnaire (https://forms.gle/azEmrMetsVbtq7WA7) starting from October 25, 2024 to November 25, 2024) involving students, lecturers, and Educators at Dr. Soetomo University to understand respondents' views on catcalling. With the following results :

Respondent Name	Total
Lecturer	11
Student	13
Education Personnel	8

With Question scores as follows



The higher the score the more it proves that the level of understanding about catcalling is high. The 32 respondents illustrated that the understanding of catcalling has not reached the highest score. But there is also no very low understanding. So that if made on average, the understanding of catcalling is quite good. Identifying gaps between existing policies (both laws and campus codes of conduct) that evaluate the extent to which campus regulations have been designed to address verbal harassment and how academics perceive the effectiveness of these policies. This research also uses the technique of analyzing social and cultural factors that influence academicians' perceptions of catcalling, such as the influence of gender stereotypes, patriarchal norms, or the normalization of harassment in society. With this integrated approach, this research is expected to be able to serve as material for taking strategic steps in preventing and dealing with verbalharassment on campus.

Legal Regulation of Catcalling on Campus

Based on the Criminal Code as a general provision, the crime of catcalling is considered an indecent act regulated in Article 406 of the Criminal Code which carries a maximum penalty of 1 year and a maximum fine of 10 million. In particular, catcalling is also considered as a criminal offense of sexual harassment under the Law on Sexual Violence. Before being brought to the realm of law, efforts to handle catcalling must first be resolved through the campus (Ceccato & Loukaitou-Sideris, 2021). Guidelines for the prevention and handling of sexual violence are contained in the Ministry of Education and Culture Regulation Number 30 of 2021 which requires each university to have a Task Force for the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence (Shams, 2024; Valenti, 2021). In addition, the campus must also have Guidelines for the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence in the campus environment which applies to the Academic Community and also applies to the community on campus.

B. Application of Ethics in Campus Environment to Prevent Catcalling

The application of ethics in the campus environment to prevent catcalling is a very rare stage in creating a comfortable, inclusive and safe academic environment for all campus residents (Polii, 2022). Catcalling is an act of sexual harassment that often occurs in forms ranging from comments, utterances, even to actions that are dismissive or demeaning in nature that are psychologically disturbing. Efforts to overcome this, the application of ethical principles can be done through various approaches, through regulation, education, even awareness, and support for victims. The form of activities in preventing Catcalling can be done by :

a. Counseling through Ethics Education which can be done by :
   - Integration in the Curriculum: Incorporate materials on gender equality and sexual harassment into character education courses or programs.
   - Educational Activities: Conducting counseling activities and workshops on the definition of catcalling, its impact, and how to prevent it.
   - Raising Awareness: Students and campus staff need to understand that catcalling is inappropriate and negatively impacts the victim.

b. Building a Culture of Respect and Inclusiveness
   - Positive Social Norms: Encourage a culture of mutual respect and courteous behavior among all campus members.
   - Social Awareness Campaign: Conduct a campaign to remind the entire campus community about the importance of building a safe environment without harassment.
   - Examples from Campus Leaders: Campus leaders should lead by example in demonstrating courteous and ethical behavior.

c. Make and Enforce Firm Rules
   - Easy Report Mechanism: Open safe and unburdening lines of communication for victims to report catcalling incidents.
   - Fair Sanctions: Impose strict sanctions for offenders who are proven to have committed catcalling so that there is a deterrent effect.
   - Anti-Catcalling Rules: Develop clear and binding regulations to prohibit all forms of catcalling on campus.

d. Providing Support to Victims
   - Counseling and Mentoring Services: Provides counseling services for victims of catcalling to help with mental and emotional recovery.
   - Psychological Training and Support: Provides assistance to victims to overcome trauma and build self-confidence.

e. Collaboration of All Parties
- Active Participation of Students and Academic Staff: Involve all elements of the campus to play an active role in creating an environment free from sexual harassment.
- Collaboration with Student Organizations and Other Campus Units: Involve various parties in building awareness and implementing anti- catcalling policies.

f. Promoting a Responsive and Transparent Environment
- Fair Investigation: In the event of a catcalling report, the campus should respond quickly and fairly.
- Periodic Policy Evaluation: Evaluate the policy to ensure its effectiveness in preventing catcalling.
- Transparency of the Handling Process: Ensure that reports and handling are carried out with openness so that victims have confidence in the existing system.

By applying this approach, campuses can play an important role in shaping a safe environment, respecting individual rights, and preventing demeaning behaviors such as catcalling (Afrian & Susanti, 2022; Melati, 2024; Rorie, 2025). Ethics should not only be the norm, but also a daily practice that builds respectful and supportive relationships.

C. Design effective remedies to address catcalling from an ethical and legal perspective

The design that can be offered to effectively resolve the handling of catcalling is the involvement of all academicians who are jointly committed to making the campus a safe and comfortable zone. This can be done through

1. Making selected lecturers, education staff and students become role models in ethical behavior.
2. Provide awards or appreciation for the academic community who are active in implementing ethics on campus.
3. A complaint mechanism for victims that is safe and comfortable and provides strict sanctions for perpetrators of sexual harassment such as reprimand, suspension or other disciplinary action.

IV. Conclusion

Catcalling is a form of sexual violence that is especially harmful to the victim's mental state. Catcalling can negatively impact the victim's mental well-being, academic productivity, and campus safety. Understanding the perception of catcalling in the campus academic community is necessary to find a design to prevent catcalling both ethically and legally.

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