

# ***FEMINISM: Today's Gender Inequality***

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**Abstractt:** *This article aims to elaborate on feminism and gender inequality today. The method used is the literature review method. The findings show that gender equality is part of human rights. Gender discrimination in different regions varies in degree. Today, the issue often rests on the problem of the disparity in circumstances and positions between men and women. The inequality indicator consists of four dimensions, namely; opportunities for education, health, economic participation, and political empowerment.*

**Keywords:** *Feminism; Gender Inequality; Today*

**Abstrak:** *Artikel ini bertujuan untuk menguraikan feminisme dan ketidaksetaraan gender saat ini. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode tinjauan literatur. Temuannya menunjukkan bahwa kesetaraan gender merupakan bagian dari hak asasi manusia. Diskriminasi gender di berbagai daerah berbeda-beda tingkatnya. Saat ini, persoalannya seringkali bertumpu pada persoalan disparitas keadaan dan kedudukan antara laki-laki dan perempuan. Indikator ketimpangan terdiri dari empat dimensi yaitu; peluang pendidikan, kesehatan, partisipasi ekonomi, dan pemberdayaan politik..*

**Kata kunci:** *Feminisme; Ketidaksetaraan jenis kelamin; Hari ini*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Gender equality has become an issue that is often discussed in academic and everyday contexts. As if there is no end, gender-related problems still occur in many communities. Discussing this, Mataharikecil Indonesia, a non-profit community that moves to accommodate the young generation of Indonesia to spread goodness in the fields of economy and education, together with Jurnal Perempuan held a Samacil (One Hour with the Little Sun) discussion. The discussion was held on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 via Instagram Live. Gender equality refers to a condition of equality between

men and women in terms of fulfilling human rights and opportunities to participate in the political, economic, social, cultural, educational, development, and defense and security fields [1].

The millennial era is synonymous with rapid technological development. This era also requires women to further develop themselves, both their quality and ability to master information technology. This ability is necessary so that women can be equal to men [2]. Education becomes a need for each individual, the need is not distinguished from any perception but is holistic. But in reality, in the midst of people's lives there is a division with the differentiation and distribution of educational needs. Call it gender is still a "tool" that is considered effective in marginalizing women in accessing education. The existence of gender differences has encouraged the birth of social movements among women, which aim to defend and expand women's rights. This social movement is referred to as the Feminism movement. As a result of such inequality of opportunity, in many societies there can be inequality in the rate of participation in formal education [3]. Gender inequality is still an unresolved problem in Indonesia. Studies in other countries show that reducing gender inequality increases a country's productivity [4].

Gender inequality is one of the priorities of all countries in the world in their respective development goals, but so far there has not been found a significant level of gender equality in all social aspects and this is the great wall of women in enjoying the fruits of development [5]. Gender inequality can

be interpreted as a condition where women and men have unequal or unequal conditions to be able to realize their rights as whole human beings and to be able to contribute, and benefit from development [6].

Eitzen suggests that there are 2 causes of gender inequality: (a) gender inequality as an outcome of how women and men are tied to the economy of society. (b) The differentiation of the domestic scope from the public from activities results in women being restricted from their movements [7]. Gender inequality has a negative and insignificant effect on poverty in Indonesia, which states that gender inequality has a negative and insignificant effect on poverty in Indonesia is rejected. because the level of gender inequality in each region is different, both rural and urban [8].

This article was written to introduce the issue of gender inequality in education. The given research problem in this study is as follows: where do gender inequalities in education become apparent? The aim of the study is to overview the current state of knowledge. Exploring this topic is crucial because this phenomenon has many negative consequences. This article aims to present the initial characteristics of the problem and draw attention to the issue. The method used is a literature review [9].

## II. METHOD

The method and type of research used is a literature review by referring to several cases and surveys that have been conducted. This research uses a qualitative approach which is contextual research by trying to emphasize the meaning of a phenomenon of human behavior interaction in certain situations and conditions. Please ensure that you use this Proceedings template for presenting the methods section, which can be divided into subsections.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Some feminists and non-feminists are asking 'what is feminism?'. The content of terms like 'feminism' and 'feminist' seems to be self-evident, something that can be taken for granted. Feminism is a series of social, political, and ideological movements that aim to build and achieve gender equality in various aspects, namely political, economic, personal, to social aspects. Feminism's interest in women is also an easy condition for slipping from 'feminist' to 'woman' and vice versa: feminists become representations of 'women', just as 'feminist history' becomes the same as 'women's history' and so on. Feminists hold that history is written from a male point of view and do not voice the role of women in making history and shaping the structure of society. History written by men has created biases in concepts of human nature, gender potential and ability, and in societal settings. Feminist theory is based on the need to understand the causes of women's oppression with the aim of reversing a male-dominated social order. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the movement experienced tremendous development and in this period is also known as the second wave of feminism revival [10].

Feminism appears in two basic assumptions. First, as already mentioned above, that truth is formed on the basis of male domination. Second, that because truth is a form of socio-cultural construction, the truth in the first assumption should also be 'corrected'. That women have the ability and role to shape the truth, starting with themselves [11].

Freedom should be an absolute thing for all individuals to have regardless of gender. However, since the creation of society, women's freedom has always been restricted. Men's rights and opportunities are still not equal to women's. Indonesian women have long

started fighting for equality. Driven by the development of the times and globalization, Indonesian women's struggle for equality is growing. The feminism movement aims to help women fight for women's rights and freedoms in Indonesian society which is still predominantly patriarchal [12].

In exploring the evolving discourse of feminism, it is important to understand and distinguish the so-called three waves of feminism. The first wave was the feminist movement concerned with the demand for equal access and opportunity for women in the early 19th to early 20th centuries. The demands for equality include the right to vote, the right to education, the right to get decent working conditions ([11], 2023).

The reasons behind this gender ratio imbalance are complex and multifaceted. One factor is social stereotypes about gender roles that can discourage men from pursuing careers in teaching in kindergarten and elementary school. There are cultural and societal norms that associate teaching with parenting and nurturing roles traditionally associated with women [13].

Feminism is a movement and consciousness that arises from the assumption that women experience discrimination and efforts to stop that discrimination. This issue arises when they try to answer the question why women are discriminated against or treated unfairly? If indeed injustice occurs, then the answer to that question distinguishes feminists into four groups: First, liberal feminists.

For them, why women are backward is their own fault, because they cannot compete with men. Second, radical feminists. For them, the basis of women's oppression from the beginning of male domination. The physical mastery of women by men is considered a basic form of oppression. In patriarchy, the ideology

of maleness as the owner of superior power and economic privilege is a matter of women. Hence they fight against all forms of sexual power including pornography and sexual tourism. Third, is Marxist feminism. They reject the radical idea of biology as the basis of distinction.

The specificity of Islamic feminism is an analytical tool in the form of intensive dialogue between the principles of justice and equality that exist in religious texts, such as the Qur'an and hadith and religious traditions by looking at the treatment of women who exist or live in Muslim societies.

### **Gender Inequality in Education**

So far, gender inequality in education has been considered in the context of women's access to technical specialization, the impact of education on religious, cultural, socio-economic values and also on women's education levels [14].

Gender inequality in education is a very important issue because this phenomenon has many negative consequences [15]. Today, many see and feel the strategic role of a woman in the field of education. In the past, the parable of education for women was like a special item, even gender inequality often occurred, so that getting a good and quality education was not the essence of their needs.

Gender equality in various fields is a central theme in several countries, including in Indonesia. One of the gender problems is the gap in educational participation between men and women. This has become one of the concerns among gender activists, and gave birth to various gender movements that fight for the fate of women who are seen as marginalized in the context of social, political, cultural, economic and of course educational life [16].

The huge disparity between the goals and the reality of equal rights to education

is a condition for some Indonesian women. The unfavorable position of Indonesian women and the ongoing national education system mean that Indonesia has a long way to go to meet the UN millennium goals on gender equality and education sustainability [17].

### **Gender Inequality in Health**

Currently, there is one field that is in special spotlight due to the occurrence of gender gap cases, namely in the health sector. Gender gaps often occur in various aspects of the health sector, from the inhibition of opportunities for women to become medical workers to the injustice of accessing health care facilities that are usually public and open to access by everyone.

Currently, the main focus of health services still rests on medical aspects that pay very little attention to social issues including gender which is the main cause of health disparities in our society. Tuberculosis is a disease that causes death worldwide. Gender acts as one of the determinants of tuberculosis including case discovery, diagnosis, and treatment process [18].

### **Gender Inequality in the Field of Employment**

The occurrence of gender inequality, especially in Indonesia in the world of labor, can be proven by the low participation of women in the labor market. To support economic improvement, it is necessary to have the widest possible opportunities in the field of employment to women and also to men. There are several factors that are used as the basis for why women are always marginalized and subordinated, namely because women are always constrained in dogmas created by society.

Finally, it can affect other fields, for example in the realm of education. The construction of a society that adheres to the patriarchal system and the paradigm that is formed is the duty of women to

educate children and take care of the family makes parents think about sending their daughters to school because if they are schooled in the end they are also at home, this is the assumption of society that is indoctrinated by patriarchal culture.

Based on some research results, it is clear that what keeps women where they are today is none other than patriarchy. Patriarchy is a major obstacle to women's economic progress and development. Despite differences in the degree of dominance, the broad principles remain the same, i.e. men are in control [19].

### **CONCLUSION**

Gender inequality is a condition with unfair treatment and actions against certain sexes so that it becomes a gender inequality that sometimes occurs against women. The inequality is related to education, economics, politics, and science and technology. It is recognized that gender inequality in women is still common today. Therefore, gender equality needs to be improved so that there is no inequality between women and men. Therefore, care is needed so that inequality does not occur in the future. Gender equality is part of human rights. Gender discrimination in different regions varies in degree. Today, the issue often rests on the problem of the disparity in circumstances and positions between men and women.

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