

Women's Involvement in Policy Formation Regarding Covid-19 in Indonesia

Diryo Suparto*, Oemi Hartati, Ike Desi Florina

Communication Science Program, Universitas Pancasakti Tegal, Indonesia

*Corresponding author. Email: suparto.diryo@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Pandemic covid 19 is an outbreak that changes the order of life of people around the world. This paper attempts to look at the involvement of women in the Establishment of policies regarding covid-19. This becomes important because the issue of gender mainstreaming and women's leadership is getting louder. The establishment of policies regarding covid-19 in Indonesia involves elements of the government and the community. In this case, especially the involvement of women in the formation of policies, especially covid-19, is still experiencing various obstacles. In this case, the role of women (generally) is still considered low or not maximal. The government has given the opportunity, but women still do not get their rights to the fullest. Women's roles are present, but functions in the form of input have not been maximal. In general, the obstacles that arise in the involvement of women in local rule-making come from the mindset of society about women, culture, and the quality of human resources. This research uses qualitative methods with a descriptive approach, data analysis using literature studies. Women's political involvement must meet quotas and how the representation can result.

Keywords: *Involvement of women, Policy, Covid-19*

1. INTRODUCTION

Although the demographical majority of Indonesia's population is female, they are nothing more than the silent majority of politically, socially, culturally, and economically marginalized large groups that are almost always absent from decision-making processes. For example, the representation of women in the House of Representatives had decreased from 12% in 1992 to 9.2% in 1999. [1] This situation resulted in the ratification and application of various legal products (laws and regulations) and the determination of priorities of development programs at the national and local levels that in no way reflect political equality, social justice or the interests of women. [2]

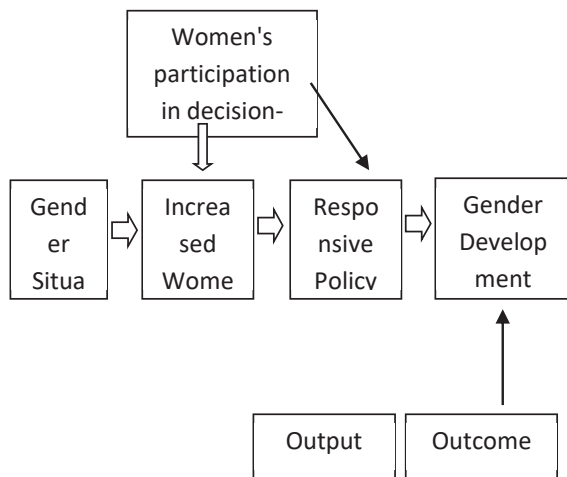
Indonesia has already passed Law No. 68 of 1958 on ratifying the Convention on Women's Political Rights. Among them, it provides the realization of equality of status (non-discrimination), the guarantee of equal voting and voting rights, the security of participation in policy formulation, the opportunity to hold bureaucratic positions, and the protection of the involvement in social and political organizations. However, the increase in the representation of women occurred after the enactment of changes to the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945 (UUD 1945), namely Article 28 H paragraph (2), which states that "Everyone deserves convenience and

special treatment to obtain equal opportunities and benefits to achieve equality and justice." [2]

Conceptually public policy focuses on the public and its problems. The public policy addresses how these issues and issues are constructed and defined and how they are all placed in agents and political agendas. [3] Meanwhile, if it is associated between gender issues with the public policy, then there are 2 (two) things that can be done to raise awareness and include gender issues in the public policy agenda, namely;

1. To increase the number of women in parliament through affirmative action, political parties must adopt a minimum quota of female candidates in elections; and
2. In discourse Gender and Development (GAD) participation of women in the decision making process, so that issues about gender will be more accommodated and become one of the policy alternatives to be adopted into a political decision, so it is expected to have an impact on increasing women's development and empowerment.

Figure 1 Gender Frame of Mind and Public Policy



Women's involvement in politics over time continues to increase despite the decline from 1992 to 1999, but after it has continued to increase. One indicator is the trend of increasing the representation of women in the legislature, especially from the 1999 general election until the last election in 2009. In the 1999 election (9.2%), the 2004 election (11.8%), and the 2009 election (18%). The increase in the representation of women in politics, especially in elections, does not happen immediately, but because of the continuous struggle to realize the right of everyone to achieve equality and justice, one of them is to realize laws and regulations that have partisanship and affirmative to increase women's representation. [4] Because the representation of women in politics in Indonesia becomes urgent, keep in mind that in addition to the generality, there are still many obstacles for women to sit in parliament.

In the public hearing process, the government made a proposal that was balanced between women and men. The involvement of women in the preparation of regional legal products has been effective, especially issues related to the roles and functions of women is Regulation No. 2 of 2005 on the Establishment of Community Empowerment Institutions. Especially for the involvement of women in society categorized as two career women and career women. In public vultures, both are included in the process. So, regarding the participation of women, both career and non-career are always invited in writing as long as they are related to the issue that will be discussed.

At the national level, the task force to accelerate the response to covid-19 is dominated only by male figures. Only one woman is part of the task force, namely the minister of the economy who occupies the position as director. Still, it was later reported that Sri Mulyani disappeared from this task force. Then, if referring to the head of the task force at the regional level, the representation of women in this task force is 87 out of 1096 regional heads or about 8%. This data refers to elected female regional authorities' 2015, 2017, and 2018. The figure of 8% is petite when referring to the 30% affirmation policy mandated by the Electoral Act. [5] Considering gender perspectives and involving

women and men in decision-making processes or public policy are sine qua non from various democratic frameworks. Since democracy, by definition, cannot be considered to create gender evictions, it must strive to lead to gender equality and the representation of women and men in the decision-making process or public policy and various opportunities to attract women's goals.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the study, [6] concluded that the involvement of women in the making of regional regulations, especially in Banyumas, still experienced various obstacles. In this case, the role of women (generally) is still considered low or not maximal. The government has given the opportunity, but women still do not get their rights to the fullest. Women's roles are present, but functions in the form of input have not been maximal. In general, the obstacles that arise in the involvement of women in local rule-making come from the mindset of society about women, culture, and the quality of human resources.

In this study, [5] tried to see how the female leader in handling Covid19, in this case, was the Regent of Serang, Hj. Ratu Tatu Chasanah in handling the Covid-19 crisis in Serang Regency. This research is essential because, in the midst of gender mainstreaming and increasingly strong women's leadership, researchers want to examine the quality of elected female regional heads when facing a crisis in their area. This research offers another approach because it tries to look at the rate of female regional authorities in the face of problems. In contrast, other research on female leaders is more likely to photograph in quantity how women are represented in both the executive and legislative spheres.

In research, [2] the author analyzed the urgency and barriers of women's representation in the face of politics in Indonesia, in addition to exploring how the arrangement of the guarantee of the protection of political rights for women is seen from the 1945 Constitution, the Election Law, CEDAW, ICCPR, and the Convention on Women's Political Rights, and how the implementation of women's political rights de jure and de facto is seen from the representation of women and the obligations of whether from the state to Address that.

In a study [3] Adania's affirmative policy rules in the 2009 elections successfully increased the number of women in parliament. Within Banten Province, even though the 2004 general election compared with the 2009 general election, Banten women still did not make the most of the quota for women's participation in politics and placed women in formal political spaces such as governors and mayors. Deputy county governors of the two districts. In addition, the

implementation of gender mainstreaming regional regulations (Regulation No. 10 of 2005 and Regional Regulation No. 39 of 2006 on the guidelines for the regional action plan for gender mainstreaming in Banten Province) is not strong enough to significantly increase gender violence in Banten Province. The development of IP and IDG is still lower than the national standard. This condition proves that the increase in women's political participation in Banten still places oligarchs at the local level (political families, local elite networks, and affiliates of ruling political parties).

The results of the study found that the placement of karawang reGENCY DPRD seats was based on the results of the most votes with a system of order of legislative candidates who have not [7] *yet zipper system*, thus impacting the lack of chances of victory of women in elections. Therefore, women get 12% of the quota of membership seats. Two categories of representation, namely political representation and functional representation, the second ori kategis carried out regarding the role of lawmakers as Mandal performance has not been maximally carried out.

The results of this study [8] showed that women were not instructed at the formulation of the Qanun SiyasaH Syar'iyah Draft. The ability of the research is: First, the Formulation of the Draft Qanun SiyasaH Syar'iyah is very gender-biased because it does not involve women. Second, the partial culture that consults the dominance of men against women still occurs in the process of policymaking in Aceh. Third, men and women have equal rights in access, opportunity, profit, and control over resources and various aspects of life.

This study found that the activism of participation of the two Islamic women's organizations in the pandemic period played an important and massive role. Still, unfortunately, it seemed deliberately exclusive so that it was not widely exposed in the community. [9]

Seeks to provide the government with alternative policies through a bottom-up model, that is, through the power of civil society affected by the epidemic, combined with local government policies, and regard communities as the foundation of national power. [10] The role of civil society here focuses on the role of women as one of the promoters of the socialization strategy of public policies to increase public awareness of covid-19 and reduce the number of covid-19 cases. Women are believed to play a dual role in pandemic situations and play a strategic role in raising public awareness of covid-19 through their families. Therefore, optimizing the role of women is expected to help the government reduce the number of covid-19 cases.

There is an urgent need to increase the political representation of Indonesian women. Increasing

women's political representation is tantamount to increasing their effectiveness in influencing political decision-making, thereby guaranteeing the economic rights of women's groups and society and allocating necessary resources to improve the quality of human life. [11]

3. RESEARCH METHODS

Research on The Involvement of Women in the Establishment of Policies regarding Covid-19 in Indonesia uses qualitative descriptive statistical analysis [12] methods. The data for this study is based on literature studies in books, literature, journals, articles on the involvement of women in policy formation. This research uses secondary data as supporting material from research writing in another sense as a source of information that does not directly have authority and knowledge. [13]

4. DISCUSSION

The rapid spread of Covid-19 has made the entire country respond by moving in such a way as to handle this crisis. Indonesia is one of the countries that cannot be separated from this pandemic problem. As of April 26, 2020, the latest data showed positively confirmed cases reached 8,607, recovered 1,042, and died 720. "The high numbers proved positive for Covid-19 illustrate how dangerous this pandemic is. The spread of this virus makes the country experience a state of crisis; even Indonesia has declared extraordinary events over this incident. In the current pandemic situation, if every woman has a high awareness of the covid19 pandemic, it can help reduce the number of cases of covid-19, either through socialization between women, socialization in the workplace, or even play a role in influencing public policy if it is in the government environment of policyholders. Therefore, if every woman has good awareness of the pandemic situation and can play an optimal role in their respective domains, it will help reduce the number of covid-19 cases. The movement of women as actors of non-electoral political representation and political parties and female DPR members in parliament needs synergy in presenting and realizing interests at the level of legislation and budgeting. Of course, the goal is to press the agenda of discussion of regulations and budgets that can produce rules that provide power, have partisanship, and create justice and equality for women. [14]

A partial culture that consults male dominance of women and is not friendly to gender equality still occurs at the time of this policy-making process by excluding women as members of the drafting team. Conditions that remove barriers play a role for both women and men through culture and policy are fair and critical conditions. The role of women in politics and public policy, the power of women in politics, especially in

influencing public policy, cannot be underestimated. Women demonstrated this in the fight for their rights after the Reformation of the Church in France through the Feminist movement. Feminism, which initially aimed to gain equality with men as an active subject in education, later became a movement demanding equality in various fields. In Indonesia itself, the power of women in the political area is seen during the post-presidential campaign period in 2019 through a movement they call "Emak-Emak." In addition, government support for the role of women in the legislature is increasingly seen by the enacting of Law No.8 of 2012 articles 15 and 55 regarding the quota of 30% of party representatives from women. Based on this, it cannot be denied that the role of women in politics is quite significant both practically and non-practically. In pandemic times like today, women can play an important role, both through [8,15,16] *top-down* patterns as members of government, or through bottom-up patterns as civil society ai that can become a force in suppressing public policy.

Women's strength cannot be underestimated. Women play a role in influencing public policy, either directly or indirectly. Women become an alternative force when social politics in society is seen as experiencing a phase of deadlock. The role of women cannot be underestimated, because of its central role in the family, where the family is the basic foundation of a nation and a state. This is confirmed by Achmad Syarifudin, that women play a strategic role to the good of a nation through their role as mothers, wives, and children in families that have an impact on society in a macro way.[10]

Female representatives in parliament are also very important in public decision-making, as this will have an impact on the quality of legislation made by the state and public institutions [17] Gender is a dimension that must be included in all policies, planning, and development processes because gender helps to better understand the attitudes, needs, and roles of women and men in society based on social factors. The above questions indicate that the text and context The time and the meanings that appear greatly show inequality, and even lead to multiple interpretations of the role of women in the political arena by all parties, which boil down to the ambiguity in the realization of women's rights. Women members of the DPR-RI have been able to give input to the policy-making process, but have not been able to occupy strategic positions for decision making. In structural positions in the DPR-RI only 11 of the 102 female members of the DPR-RI sit as chairmen or vice chairmen in the commission or working committee (panja) of the DPR-RI and the special committee (pansus) of the DPR-RI. At the local government level, various policies are aligned with the central government to cope with the spread of Covid-19. But the implementation of the

policies that have been taken in the handling of Covid-19 in the region is implemented variously, which shows that the capacity of each regional head determines how the region is said to be facing this pandemic crisis in their respective regions. If you look at the handling of female leaders as heads of state, some writings lead to better handling compared to male heads of state.

The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) generally has three main functions, namely *legislation*, *budgeting*, and *controlling*. In this case, involvement is closely related in these three functions. Therefore, the legislative process will produce a public policy as a law product that aims for the welfare of society fairly.

Regarding the involvement of the community in the manufacture of legal products, until now it is still involved with problems in the form of:

- a. Women still look passive (embarrassed and reluctant to talk);
- b. Due to the busyness of invited parties, finally represented to other parties who are not necessarily competent so that public hearing, lack of input from the representing party.

Especially for women's involvement, in this case it can be categorized into 2 (two) parts, namely career and non-career women's involvement. Career women with non-career women have different characteristics. In relation to the role of women in development, the role of women broadly includes three basic things:

- a. The pattern of integration of women in terms of production (living) that directly produces;
- b. The role of women's integration in terms of productive work that does not directly produce, is often covered in the reproductive process;
- c. Women's participation in the decision-making process.

5. CONCLUSION

Various efforts and policies continue to be improved and pursued in suppressing the spread of covid-19 in several countries, including Indonesia. Regarding the involvement of women in the formation of policies regarding covid-19 in Indonesia is still experiencing various obstacles. In this case, the role of women (in general) is still considered low or not maximal. The opportunity has been given by the government but women are still unable to exercise this right in a maximum manner. In general, the obstacles that arise to the involvement of women in the establishment of policies stem from the mindset of society about women's culture and the quality of human resources. In fact, women's political involvement must not only meet quotas but how representation can result in a policy that seeks to voice the needs of women.

6. SUGGESTION

There needs to be firmness of Law No. 10 Of 2008 concerning elections, especially article 53 and article 55 paragraph 2. Every political party must prepare a cadre of female members who nominate or are nominated. So that female candidates who will sit in the DPRD seat not only meet quotas but have quality in carrying out their duties and functions.

Continuous empowerment efforts are needed to women both within the system and outside the system, where the implementation of the process and the achievement of empowerment goals will be achieved through empowerment approaches, namely Catalyst, Protection, Strengthening and Maintenance.

In this regard, efforts are needed in raising women's awareness of the covid-19 pandemic and health protocols both nationally and internationally.

There needs to be self-debriefing for women since long before advancing in political office, such as by involving themselves in women's organizations or NGOs in the area. Everything that is to be achieved must be honed from the bottom, the provision of organization and education is needed so that women can maximize their potential in political positions.

REFERENCES

- [1] Ratu Nk. Keterlibatan Perempuan Dalam Pengambilan Keputusan Di Musyawarah. 2021.
- [2] Loura H. Potret Keterwakilan Perempuan dalam Wajah Politik Indonesia Perspektif Regulasi dan Implementasi. *Jurnal Konstitusi* 2012;9:401–29.
- [3] Delly M. Partisipasi Politik Perempuan Dan Kebijakan Publik Di Provinsi Banten. *Jurnal Komunikasi* 2013;2:32–9.
- [4] Mulyono F. Model Adopsi E-Government Dalam Perspektif Sistem. *Jurnal Administrasi Bisnis* 2012;8:61–74. <https://doi.org/10.26593/jab.v8i1.417>
- [5] Nurrohman B, Ramadhan G. Kepemimpinan Perempuan di Masa Krisis: Studi Kasus Bupati Serang dalam Penanganan Covid-19. *Ijd-Demos* 2020;2. <https://doi.org/10.37950/ijd.v2i3.67>
- [6] Ardhanariswari R, Marwah S, Sudrajat T. Keterlibatan Perempuan Dalam Penyusunan Produk Hukum Daerah Di Kabupaten Banyumas. 2016.
- [7] Eka Y. Keterlibatan Politik Perempuan dalam Proses Legislasi DPRD. *Jurnal Politikom Indonesia* 2017;2:105–14.
- [8] Musliman, Faradillah F. Perumusan Rancangan Qanun Siyarah Syar'iyah. *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa FISIP Unsyiah* 2021;6:1–17.
- [9] Mohamad RG, Yeby MM. Partisipasi Perempuan Melalui Organisasi Non Pemerintah Fatayat Dan Muslimat Nahdlatul Ulama Dalam Penanganan Covid-19. *Jurnal Of Government ; Kajian Manajemen Pemerintahan Dan Otonomi Daerah* 2020;6:1–19.
- [10] Susilowati I, Hakiem FN. Optimalisasi Peran Perempuan Sebagai Strategi Alternatif Kebijakan Publik Dalam Menekan Penyebaran Pandemi Covid-19. *SALAM: Jurnal Sosial Dan Budaya Syar-i* 2020;7:723–36. <https://doi.org/10.15408/sjsbs.v7i8.16551>
- [11] Fatmariza. Representasi Perempuan dalam Lembaga Legislatif di Sumatra Barat Pasca Quota 30%. *Demokrasi* 2005;4:49–62.
- [12] Arinkunto S. *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. JAKARTA: Rineka Cipta; 2006.
- [13] Sugiyono. Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif Dan R&D*. Bandung: ALFABETA; 2012.
- [14] Ardiansa D. Menghadirkan Kepentingan Perempuan dalam Representasi Politik di Indonesia. *Jurnal Politik* 2017;2:71. <https://doi.org/10.7454/jp.v2i1.82>
- [15] Komang N, Suwastini A. *Perkembangan Feminisme Barat Dari Abad Kedelapan Belas Hingga Postfeminisme: Sebuah Tinjauan Teoretis*. vol. 2. 2013.
- [16] Wahyudi V. Peran Politik Perempuan dalam Perspektif Gender. *Politea Jurnal Kajian Politik Islam* 2018;1:63–83.
- [17] Wahyudi V. Peran Politik Perempuan dalam Perspektif Gender. *Politea: Jurnal Politik Islam* 2018;1:63–83.