



Women and Access Toward Social Change Role of Women in Legislative in Responding Regional Program

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Abstract. The role of women in the legislature is still widely questioned regarding their participation in various aspects of development. This research aims to reveal what women do in implementing their programs as legislative members; what are the reasons of women carry out the programs ; and what are the impact of their actions. Applying qualitative research methods with a gender perspective, it was found that in addition to carrying out their functions as members of the legislature with the functions of legislation, budgeting and oversight, women legislators also carry out community programs by participating in the implementation of programs carried out by local agencies during recess. They decided to take part in working on the program because they needed access to the community and the need to develop community activities. Their participation in development programs makes them have access to constituencies that will give them their acceptability in society. Beside that they negotiated to men in legislature in order to their purpose about gender equality is able to be manifested in various ways.

Keywords: Women, Legislature, Development Programs, Participation, Accessibility.

1. Introduction

The role of women in the legislature in relation to development programs is still widely questioned [1]. The questions that arise generally relate to the ability of women to carry out public functions as members of the legislature. This question is very valid because culturally women have experience working in the public sphere, especially the political sphere, for a very limited period of time and with diversity [2]. For example, data regarding Indonesian women who work in the parliament is 21,09 % [3]. Simultaneous regional head elections from 270 regions in Indonesia on December 9 2020. Only five women ran for governor, 26 people in the mayoral election, and 128 people in the regent election [4]. With the data above it appears that the number of women who work in the public sphere, especially in the world politics is still very limited so it is understandable that there are doubts about women's ability to carry out their public roles [5].

Studies on women in the legislature have been carried out by many experts. From many studies, patterns of study focus can be observed. The first is the tendency of women not to pay special attention to the political sector so that in the end several programs are held that do not show women's participation [6]–[8]. The second study is a study of the low participation of women in legislation in the decision-making process [7], [9], [10]. The third study is about women's resistance which is caused by

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cultural formations towards women which enable women to be less able to show their expressions formally. As a result, women express their various disagreements in the legislative arena by secretly resisting as revealed by Elizabeth [2].

This study complements previous studies on women in the legislature. The focus of this study is not only on women in the legislature and their legislative role. This research seeks to reveal whether women in the legislature only do their job as legislators, or do they do something else. If there are, what is that job, how do they carry out that job in their busy lives as legislators, and what is the impact of carrying out the duties of legislators on society.

These questions was based on the assumptions that career development in the legislature must be carried out, but female legislative members have networks that enable them to relate to various parties. Apart from that, women in the legislature can explain the function of relations in the sustainability of community programs. Therefore, women take advantage of various opportunities to approach constituents in implementing programs

2 Methods

This research uses qualitative methods, with a field study type. Field studies are based on data collection in a particular community. In this case, because the focus is on women in the legislature, the field of this research is the legislative institution with a focus on female legislative members at the Central Java level. For the needs of this study, 3 informants were determined with the assumption that the three people were representatives of three parties having female legislator more than two. Those parties are PDIP, PKB, and PPP.

The data drawing method was carried out using observation, structured interviews and in-depth interviews, as well as participative observation [11]. Observations were carried out to obtain observational data regarding women's activities both in the legislature and outside the legislative arena. Meanwhile, structured interviews are used to obtain general data needed in research, and in-depth interviews are carried out to obtain data related to values. Involved observations were carried out to gain an understanding of the activities carried out by female legislative members in carrying out their duties.

The analysis used in this research is gender analysis. Gender analyses assumed that gender role was stated and legitimated by society and culture [12]. Gender analysis was carried out to observe the implementation of programs carried out by legislative members. Therefore, a gender perspective is used from the perspective of female legislative members as well as from the programs they run. This research aims to reveal what women do in implementing themselves as legislative members; what are the reasons why women carry out the programs they do; and what are the impact of their actions.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1. The Activities that women do in implementing programs as legislative members;

The number of female members of the Central Java legislature is 24 people [13]. They are spread into five commissions, they are Commission A to Commission E. There are five women legislative members in Commission A. The focus of this commission is government, including government, security, social politics, civil service, law, education, employment, regional assets license and population. There are six women in Commission B. The focus of Commission B is the economy which includes trade, investment, SMEs, tourism and industry. Commission C which focused on Finance consisted of 4 women. This commission discusses about regional finance, regional income, retribution, taxes, banking, mining and the environment. Commission E that focused on people's welfare is supported by six women. The tasks of this commission is in the fields of employment, education, science, research, culture, empowerment, transmigration, child protection and women's empowerment.

Based on the focus of each commission's tasks, this will certainly have implications for the program strategy that will be implemented. Discussing programs run by women's legislative members in Central Java must discuss the duties of each informant in the assignment provisions according to their position. It was found that in addition to carrying out their functions as members of the legislature with the functions of legislation, budgeting and oversight, women legislators also carry out community programs by participating in the implementation of programs carried out by local agencies during recess.

In one year, council members experience two periods, namely a session period and a recess period. The session period is held in the building and the recess period is the time for legislative members to meet with their constituents to explore aspirations. They come to absorb the aspirations of the constituents and then convey them during the session. The recess period is generally held at least 3 times a year, as well as the trial period. The recess period can be carried out individually or in groups. The recess period is usually determined through a hearing and the duration of each recess is one week. The limited recess period is an obstacle for female legislators to get closer to their constituents emotionally and listen to more and deeper aspirations.

The limited space for meetings between constituents and legislators does not stop female legislators in each commission from working better. They collaborate and participate in the work of related agencies under the commission's work area in implementing the program. So that the aspirations that will be obtained are more specific. Apart from that, this collaborative activity is a quite effective way of observing. This is based on what was conveyed by the following 3 informants:

Informant 1: "Apart from the recess period, we also take part in programs run by departments under the commission, such as the education department.

I don't want to provide material because it has been submitted by the department. "Usually I will ask for a moment after the event to gather information and aspirations as material for the commission meeting."

Informant 2: "We will find out what the real needs of the community are when taking part in official activities related to my duties and functions at Commission B. During the pandemic, I took part in the activities of the Central Java Cooperatives and SMEs department. Based on my experience of participating in training and empowerment activities for single mothers, I saw how many women had to fend for themselves after the death of their husbands. This made me think about fighting for them in meetings."

The next informant also said that apart from taking a break, they were also actively involved in departments such as the Child and Women's Protection Department, which is their work area. She said she felt out of sorts when he came to a survivor of sexual harassment that is a victim from someone close to him. She emphasized that there must be assistance for victims and regulations are needed as a basis for solving problems. Based on this direct experience, she was able to give input for the provision of severe penalties through clear legal products.

The involvement of female legislators in official work was their strategy to realize improvements on behalf of women's needs. They could explore aspirations and do direct observations of the community, especially women. As representatives of the community, legislators are also required to be able to create ideas that defend the interests of the community, both in the form of regulations and programs. However, in order to have sufficient access, female legislators are required to dare to speak out even though their number is small in parliament.

Female legislators often lose out to the male majority, so they sometimes choose to silent and obey the majority vote, as stated by informant 1. She said that as a new member and a woman, I often choose to follow the majority vote because every time I speak up I am often not heard. However, not all female legislators have a weak mentality. Some of them also have a strategy of negotiating outside the forum before the trial was held. This effort was carried out for cases that are considered sensitive regarding gender or other gender mainstreaming discussions. As stated by informant 3, negotiations outside the forum were necessary for gender mainstreaming issues because male legislators need to be understood first because they lack a gender perspective and avoid lengthy trial processes.

Even though they are the second class in the Central Java parliament, the efforts that female legislators continue to make outside the Parliament Building are a good value for them in carrying out their duties. America as the largest democratic country, its people see that female legislators have not done much work so they are asked to do more [14].

3.2. The reasons women carry out the programs they do

Women in the legislature explained their reasons for being involved in various activities in other government institutions. For example in executive institutions because legislative institutions do not always have programs that are in contact with community programs. Their actions in taking part in official activities are certainly not solely due to carrying out supervision as part of the legislator's function. However, by joining this program, they can access information, explore aspirations and make direct observations on matters that can be used as material for commission or Special Committee meetings on specific issues, as conveyed by informants 1, 2, and 3.

They decided to take part in working on the program because they needed access to the community and the need to develop community activities. Their participation in development programs makes them have access to constituencies that will give them their acceptability in society. Another reason is to fight for women's rights to be more secure. This is as conveyed by informants 2 and 3 that they have a responsibility for what happens to women, whether in the form of acts of violence or other forms of injustice experienced.

Lobbying was carried out by female legislators as a means of accessing the changes they want to achieve. Negotiations with male legislators outside the forum are considered more effective in efforts to fight for women's rights both in legislation and securing budgets for gender sensitive programs. Lobbying is indeed a ninja way for female legislators to make their work easier politically. This also reinforces that gender equality in parliament is still low. In the same case as Washington DC, female lobbyists are underappreciated and have far-reaching implications for gender equality in elite political participation [15].

3.3. The impact of their actions

Because the activities of several legislative members are related to community programs, they have many advantages, including as stated by one informant 1: "We as legislative members become legislative members because of the voice's community. Therefore, when we have the opportunity to communicate and interact with the community then we are very lucky".

Another informant said: "Legislative members are very dependent on the voice of the community. Meanwhile, we only have the opportunity to meet with the community when we are on "recess". With minimal recess activity, it is impossible for us to carry out an optimal approach to the community. So actually the program is close to our community needs", stated by informant 3.

"I really took advantage of joining this program to observe problems that occurred, communicate directly and be able to create strategies for what we should do in the form of programs and regulations. "Giving hugs and listening carefully to their stories, seeing directly their outburst of emotions will

certainly provide a different emotional experience than just listening to the Department's presentation," emphasized informant 3

The impact of conducting negotiations outside the trial forum is that it is quite effective in reducing debates in the forum which often get heated. The input submitted can be accepted with a softer discussion. However, to negotiate, you need skilled lobbyists and negotiators because to convince people who don't have the same perspective, you need explanation strategies and analogies that are easy to accept and make sense to them. Of course, the consequence of this effort is that the negotiation process is not only carried out once but requires several meetings. With lobbying like this, we can fight for them in the form of regulations and programs and budgets submitted to third information.

4 Conclusion

Becoming a member of a legislature whose number is smaller than that of men was not an easy thing. If women didn't have enough courage to speak out, the existence of women would not provide meaningful change to realize women's rights and protection which had not yet been realized. Therefore, every effort was made by female legislators in the Central Java parliament by joining in many community services under their work area. This was done because the recess period was limited to being able to explore information and aspirations and build closeness with the constituents who have chosen them. They also lobby outside the trial forum to discuss issues that were considered serious so that during the trial it was not difficult and their goals were achieved in an effort to fight for the interests of women in particular.

What they were trying to do certainly had a reason and would have a good impact on their careers as women legislators. Here they must be able to produce policy products and monitor programs carried out by the executive and ensure that the budget prepared by the executive was pro-women. If we conclude from what women legislators doing here, it is that they are still second class members in parliament because the way they access what is their right must be done through non-formal channels. Apart from having to do extra work compared to the work of male legislator and for those who do not dare to speak up they choose to hold the majority vote.

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