

Women's Involvement in Local Politics? Realizing Reinforcement of Gender Equality in Sinjai Regency, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT - The purpose of this research is related to the strategy of the local government to build gender equality in the political field in Sinjai Regency to determine the Strengthening of the Existence of Women in the Political Sector to Achieve Gender Equality in Sinjai Regency.. The type of this research is qualitative research. This research uses descriptive research. The results of this study are to strengthen the existence of the women in political view to achieve gender equality in Sinjai, the implementation of these policies through Government Regulation number 12 of 2013 concerning Gender Mainstreaming which becomes the foundation and encouragement to be more gender-responsive, and the capability in political already increasing, because there is no more gender discrimination in leadership because already depending on women's capacity and performance, and then the accessibility of the women to access politics has been given a lot of form from government and the legislative. However, patriarchal values become the dominant cultural barrier limiting women's participation in politics

Keywords: Gender Equality; Patriarchy; Local Politics

Introduction

Patriarchal culture cannot be separated from women's lives. The domination of men over women has become a social reality in many countries. Patriarchal culture is a system in which women are considered "property" and men as human beings (Kollo & Sunarso, 2018; Susanto, 2015). In this case, men are subjects, and women are objects governed by men in social and cultural life. This is what makes many women strive to fight for their degrees and rights and free them from this culture, also known as gender equality as a step to get equal rights in various aspects of life (Heise et al., 2019).

The concept of gender is an inherent trait of men and women that is constructed socially and culturally. For example, the woman is known to be gentle, emotionally beautiful, and motherly. While men are considered strong, rational, and mighty. Furthermore, gender is understood as a social construction of the relationship between men and women which is constructed by the system in which both are located. To understand the concept of gender, it can be distinguished between the words gender and sex. It is understood that gender is a trait that is used as the basis for identifying differences between men and women in terms of conditions and culture, values and behavior, mentality, and emotions, as well as other non-biological factors (Khaerah & Mutiarin, 2016; Sumule et al., 2019)

Gender equality is one of our human rights as human beings. The right to live in honor, free from fear, and free to make life choices is not only intended for men, women also have the same rights in essence. But in reality, the opportunity to enjoy a decent life is still under the control of men power. Both in terms of education, employment to political aspects (Dhar, 2019; Hudson, 2009; Melander, 2005; Syed et al., 2018).

Regarding the involvement of women in the political aspect, the government needs more attention because a number of political decisions made tend to be masculine in nature and lack a gender perspective (women), while most of the political decisions made always involve women as targets. Therefore, several Presidential Regulations Number 7 of 2005 concerning the National Medium-Term Development Plan of 2004-2009 have been ratified.

Working Group on Public Policy Advocacy, Temporary Special Actions to Ensure Women's Representation, 2002. To follow up the government's seriousness in handling women's representation in politics, the government implements that political parties participating in elections must meet the requirements to include at least 30% of women's representation in the management of political parties at the central level (Law No. 8/2012, article 15 letter d) and the nomination of members of the DPR/D (Law No. 8/2012 article 55). 86% to only 79 people or 14% of the total 560 elected members (Wahyudi, 2018). Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) is the right development strategy to realize gender equality and justice through gender-responsive development policies and programs in the future. Therefore, the implementation of PUG in Sinjai Regency must be implemented through gender-responsive policies and based on the social, economic, and cultural characteristics of Sinjai Regency.

Based on this, the government of Sinjai Regency issued and passed the Sinjai Regency Regional Regulation Number 12 of 2013 concerning Gender Mainstreaming in Sinjai Regency. In order to realize gender equality and justice, as well as proof of the seriousness of the Sinjai Regency Government's commitment to implementing Gender Mainstreaming as a strategy built to integrate gender into an integral dimension of planning, preparation, and implementation, utilization, and evaluation of regional policies and development.

The implementation of the law related to gender equality can see the results in the general recovery of members of the DPR in Sinjai Regency in 2019-2024. The General Election Commission (KPU) of Sinjai Regency has finally appointed 30 members of the Sinjai DPRD for the 2019-2024 period. They are legislators elected from the results of the Legislative Election and 8 of them are female legislators with a percentage of 26.6%, this figure has almost reached the target of 30%. This fact more or less shows that there are still many challenges to be faced, in realizing gender equality, especially in the political field. In the context of achieving and implementing gender equality programs, the Sinjai Regency Regional Regulation Number 12 of 2013 concerning Gender Mainstreaming has been stipulated in Sinjai Regency. The government agency National Unity and Politics (Kesbangpol) Sinjai held political education for female figures and strengthened the Regional Democracy Index in order to increase the dignity of women in the world of politics as an effort for female politicians to be able to play a role in political development such as affirmative policy-making and women's involvement in politics. political.

Then several activities held by youth organizations related to Gender Equality from Various Women's Perspectives Between Fitrah and the Demands for Gender Sensitive Cadre Training which is one of the policies that have been set to encourage increased gender equality and women's empowerment both at the center and in the regions including in Sinjai Regency. Many factors are a challenge, one of which is the lack of understanding and knowledge of gender issues, especially from policymakers and society in general. The lack of government budget allocated is one indication.

Method

This type of research is qualitative research, qualitative research is research that intends to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, and action, presented by way of description in the form of words and language, in a

special natural context (Creswell, 2016). and by utilizing various natural methods. This study uses a descriptive type of research because it is directly related to the symptoms that appear around the research and ongoing events in the present. The purpose of this descriptive research is to make a description, or description systematically and relate between the phenomena being studied. Research informants are sources or people who are asked for information related to the research carried out. Data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation. This analysis technique basically consists of three components, namely: data reduction, data display, and drawing and verifying conclusions.

Result and Discussion

The government of Sinjai Regency administratively consists of 9 definitive sub-districts. Based on data from the Government Section of the Sinjai Regency Regional Secretariat Office, in 2015 there were 67 definitive villages, 13 sub-districts, and 354 hamlets. The number of Civil Servants including functional teachers according to the Regional Personnel Agency of Sinjai Regency was recorded at 5,781 people with details of 2,552 men and 3,229 women. Meanwhile, the representation of women in the local parliament in Sinjai Regency is fairly even, there are only two parties that do not have women's representatives, namely Golkar and PDIP, the complete data can be seen in table 1.

Table 1. List of Political Parties and Seats in the Sinjai local parliament 2019-2024

No	Political Party	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	GERINDRA	4	1	5
2.	PKB	1	1	2
3.	GOLKAR	4	-	4
4.	PAN	2	1	3
5.	PDIP	1	-	1
6.	PKS	2	1	3
7.	PPP	2	1	3
8.	HANURA	1	1	2
9.	DEMOKRAT	2	1	3
10.	NASDEM	3	1	4
	Total	22	8	30

Source : DP3AP2KB, 2019

Strengthening the Existence of Women in Politics in Sinjai District

Strengthening the existence of women is a step taken by the government to increase and encourage women's involvement in politics. But broadly speaking, women in politics do not only have roles or positions in the Legislative or Executive sector, they are more than related to involvement in making policies, as well as in regional development and have opportunities to fulfill women's rights. The existence of women to date is very important, not just as a discourse on gender equality, but also has an impact on the future development of a region or country. Because women are the foundation of the nation. Those who have a big role to pass the baton to the next generation. Of course, by providing access to education, providing opportunities to take part on an equal footing with men, and providing space and support to do innovative things without discrimination by society on the label of women, who are still considered weak (Lapalu, 2021; Wahyudi, 2018). Strengthening the existence of women, in this research can be viewed from three aspects, namely: (a) policy, (b) capability and (c) accessibility.

Policy

The Policy is a government strategy to direct all stakeholders to comply with decision-making with certain goals. Political policies are very influential in increasing women's empowerment, to supporting all women's activities (Goldman & Little, 2015; Mcleod et al., 2018; Prantiasih, 2016). With the existence of political decisions through policies by the government, all levels of government, Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary should take part in encouraging the role of women in all areas, especially politics. The Minister of Women's Empowerment issues a policy on a one-get policy or one-door policy to coordinate gender-sensitive activities. Presidential Regulation Number 65 of 2020 concerning the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, following the policy of the Sinjai Regency Government, also issued Regional Regulation Number 12 of 2013 concerning Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) Chapter II Article 2 PUG based on respect for human rights, justice, participation, equality and non-discriminatory. PUG is one of the strategies to create equal and balanced conditions for men and women in obtaining opportunities/opportunities, participation, control, and development benefits so that a condition of justice and gender equality will be created.

The Sinjai Regency Government's response to the issue of women and their existence has become a priority in policy making. To support the PUG policy, the government provides politically oriented women's activities, such as political education conducted by Kesbangpol and political seminars held by DP3AP2KB. Law number 20 of 2008, at least 30 in the establishment and management at the central level, allows a change to occur and has an impact on the quality of decisions taken in public institutions. To support the involvement of women in all sectors, the planning sector, and the development sector. The representation of women is stated in Law no. 10 of 2008 Article paragraph 2 which regulates about 3 legislative candidates, there is at least one female legislative candidate.

One of the efforts to strengthen the existence of women is to maximize opportunities related to the provision of a 30% quota for women. In the Legislature of Sinjai Regency, it has almost reached 30%, namely the number of women who sit in the DPRD seats of the Regency. Sinjai as many as 8 people, and the second-highest executive realm, namely the Deputy Regent, is a woman. Not only that, several important positions in the Agency or District Office. Sinjai, was occupied by women. Such as the Head of the Tourism Office, the Head of the P3AP2KB Office, Assistant 2, and Assistant 3 Kab. Sinjai. Of course, it is accompanied by qualified and capable qualities so it deserves to be in an important position in government politics. This success cannot be separated from the support of all stakeholders who want the existence of women to be maintained. Through political education and training or women's and political seminars held by the Office of National Unity and Politics, the P3AP2KB Service, and several parties that are aware of women and politics.

The government's efforts are seen in various programs to support women's capabilities by regularly providing seminars and socialization of political education to women's organizations as an embodiment to empower women and provide information related to politics so that they are able to enter the world of politics through women's organizations that can be accessed by all communities. located in Sinjai Regency. One of the organizations is Darma Wanita, Aisyiah, and Nasyiatul Aisyiah. Of course, this is given financial assistance from the government through the APBD to carry out women's programs, both in terms of political and Islamic knowledge. Because some of the programs that were implemented also involved study mothers and assemblies, in the end, women were able to control all sectors and still maintain their existence.

In accordance with the government's goal to strengthen the existence of women, the PPP political party also provides programs or develops political education or cadre activities to introduce women and politics. Almost all government and private sectors have understood and taken part in improving the quality and capability and providing access to every woman, through policies and programs implemented. In the sense that local government policies have increased and developed not only as a formality but have become a shared responsibility to realize gender equality, especially in the political field in Sinjai Regency.

Capability

Women have a very important meaning to provide the understanding and uniting perceptions about the importance of developing a healthy, and real democracy (del Carmen Feijoó & Nari, 2018; Staudt, 2019; Sulastri et al., 2020). Therefore, the development of women's political education needs to be considered and always improved through various programs owned by the government both from an organizational perspective and strengthening the pillars of democracy through legislative, executive, and judicial institutions that are aspirational and pro to the interests of women. With that the district government. Sinjai issued various programs to improve women's capabilities and understanding related to politics as well as increase their potential, quality, and being able to provide positive changes in various fields, so that later they will be able to contribute and be competent in their respective fields, especially in the political field.

One of the government programs that is budgeted every year is to provide political education to the community, especially women in an effort to increase people's political knowledge and to be able to participate optimally in the political system, in accordance with the understanding of popular sovereignty or democracy that the community must be able to carry out the task of political participation. As well as to provide education related to politics and get used to talking about politics, so that later it will not be a taboo thing for a woman to participate and voice herself in political contests, both regional elections and legislative elections.

In general, the functions of the legislature revolve around the function of legislation/legislation, budgeting/budgeting, and supervisory/controlling functions (article 316 paragraph (1). According to Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, article 1 paragraph (4) it is stated that the Regional People's Representative Council, hereinafter referred to as the regional people's representative institution, is domiciled as an element of the regional government administration, the entire rights of DPRD basically contain these functions. The success of maintaining pro-women's programs in providing education cannot be separated from the hard work of women in parliament to fight for the rights of others, proving the success of women as representatives of the people in parliament to carry out their role as controlling, namely maintaining policies or making policies for women or others, and take part in the allocation of regional expenditures, some of which must be allocated for the development and empowerment of women, as was done by Kesbangpol in providing special political education for women.

Increasing political knowledge and soft skills before becoming a representative of the people are considered important, so that they can participate in planning, mentoring, decision making, monitoring, evaluation, and policies issued by pro-women and pro people, because they already know women's issues and are also provided with basic education. political. This is because women's political representation is an important element if we want to place the context of demoralization in a gender-friendly perspective. Therefore, there are several superior programs of the district government. Sinjai for women, namely, Reducing the number of violence against women and

children, Minimizing the occurrence of discrimination against women and children, Optimizing the role of women in reducing economic inequality, and Providing the widest opportunity for women to play an active role in the development process.

Strengthening capabilities also affect the level of women's empowerment and leadership skills, related to the division of labor between men and women in various sectors that no longer exists. All are placed equally according to their capabilities and capacities, and there is no separation of positions specifically for men and women. There is no doubt about the level of empowerment and ability to lead as a woman because it can be seen that strategic positions in government are not centralized by men, but based on the capabilities they have, and currently, women have taken on many important roles. Regarding gender equality, it has been implemented and is not just a theory, but based on a person's quality. This has an impact on the level of women's empowerment in Kab. Sinjai, every year is increasing compared to the previous year. The following table describes the level of women's participation in government political institutions, to see the level of women's empowerment in Sinjai Regency.

Table 2. Gender data of the P3AP2KB Service Number of Workers in Political Institutions in Sinjai Regency by Gender in 2019-2021.

No	Type of work	Gender	
		Male	Female
1	Regent's Expert Staff	9	4
2	Head of District Office	7	2
3	Inspectorate	6	1
4	Head of Department	18	4
5	Regent	1	0
6	vice-regent	0	1
7	Member of Local Parliament	23	7
8	Village Apparatus	125	28
9	Village head	50	2
Total		239	49

Source : processed by researchers, 2021

With the level of skills and involvement of women in the social community area, DPRD members have also been active in conducting regional district visits to accommodate the aspirations of the community, especially women. The ability of a woman to become a representative of the people is also important because it is always related to the rights and interests of citizens, especially women, and also because it has the advantage of having high sensitivity. This is the main factor as a member of the DPRD who has a role as, a legislator, budgeting, and controlling. By having direct experience in the field and the ability to observe the policies needed to represent the voice of the people, especially women in legislation at the time of drafting local regulations, so they are able to solve and help women's problems both externally and internally, so there is no doubt that women are in terms of capability to be a leader.

One of the programs is owned to actively contribute to the community in the development of the political world. By empowering women in terms of conducting educative meetings and mentoring in the field of people's economy, such as small and medium enterprises. The involvement of women and opportunities in politics has increased, because work collaboration and performance in leadership between men and women have been implemented in various sectors, both in the realm of government and legislative and political parties.

Accessibility

Access to opportunities, in this case, women's participation in politics as well as providing access or opportunities to take part in politics in the context of realizing gender equality. In order to achieve accessibility, every community has the right to get equal and equal opportunities without any gender differences. Therefore, several programs have been provided by the government and the legislature for political access and education. The government has encouraged women's participation to pave the way and be involvement in politics and provide space for women's participation to be elected and voted for. The involvement of women is still massive because the involvement of women in the planning process is mandatory to be involved.

The Deputy Regent of Sinjai explained that opportunities and involvement must always be supported in various ways. Because politics is a fundamental thing for women to voice ideas and is also an opportunity to be more useful in a larger interest, at least we must be involved in political interests at least to be involved in determining policies and budgeting so that they are right on target and in accordance with the needs of women.

Table 3. Representation of Women in Local Parliaments in Sinjai Regency

No	Position	Gender	
		Male	Female
1	electoral district 1	7	2
2	electoral district 2	8	0
3	electoral district 3	4	3
4	electoral district 4	5	1
5	Deputy Chairman of the Commission	2	2
6	Secretary of the Commission	1	1

Source : processed by researchers, 2021

It can be seen that the opportunities and accessibility of women are now getting bigger because the percentage of women in each electoral district is not too far away, there is only one electoral district that does not have female representation, and this needs to be further improved. However, to take a closer look at the accessibility of women, it can be seen their participation in providing provisions and giving their aspirations, as in the formulation of the 2019-2024 Budget Agency in Sinjai Regency there were 2 women DPRD members who participated in representatives from the PKB and Hanura factions. There are 2 women representing the Gerindra and PKB factions in the formulation of the Regional Regulation Formation Body. In the Consultative Meeting of the Deliberative Body, there were 3 women representing the Democrat, PAN, and PKS factions.

The provision of opportunities and the participation of women is always taken into account, both in terms of decision-making or supervisors and also from the government or politics. Affirming that gender equality in politics in the Sinjai district has been implemented well and can be seen from the number of women's representatives who are involved in important agendas. As for the efforts of political parties to open up opportunities for women in politics, namely by preparing a forum to facilitate women who want to be involved in political parties. Then attention to the provision of political access, especially in Kab. Sinjai is not only carried out by the local government but has also received more attention from the legislature and political parties so that women have power and are involved in politics. For example, the women's organization, the development union, is a forum for women who want to participate and make changes, as well as providing understanding about the importance of politics to women through political schools or party cadres.

Conclusion

The indicator that strengthens the existence of women in politics to achieve gender equality in the Sinjai district is the implementation of policies through Regional Regulation number 12 of 2013 concerning Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) which is the basis and encouragement to be more gender-responsive, then the capability of women in politics has been increasing, because there is no longer a gender difference in leading, it all depends on the capacity of women and their performance, and the accessibility of politics has been given a lot, both from government agencies and the legislature.

Gender equality in Sinjai Regency is realized because of the support of government regulations, meanwhile, patriarchal values become the dominant cultural barrier limiting women's participation in politics, including also preventing women from entering the recruitment and selection process for members of the legislature or political parties.

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