Quality of Life and Women Empowerment in Central Sulawesi

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Abstract

This study aims to look at the quality of life and empowerment of women in Central Sulawesi. The quality of life and women's empowerment is the essence that is always put forward by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in the midst of gender imbalances in various fields of development, as well as to realize the International commitment of 50 gender equality: 50 by 2030. This research uses qualitative research methods with data collection techniques, secondary from various institutions. The results showed that the development achievement gap between men and women can be seen from the Gender Development Index in Central Sulawesi of 92.25. Although Central Sulawesi shows good results compared to other provinces in Indonesia, the acceleration of development of women in Central Sulawesi is still slower than men. Meanwhile, in general, Indonesia's human development is still at the middle level with the Human Development Index (HDI) 66.76. Furthermore, the Central Sulawesi Gender Empowerment Index is at 65.57. The Gender Empowerment Index describes the quality of life and empowerment of women in politics, economy and decision making and control of economic resources.

Keywords: Quality of Life, Women's Empowerment, Gender Development Index, Gender Empowerment Index

Introduction

Several dimensions of women's status discussed so far, including women's influence on power, freedom, decision-making skills, awareness and mental health, can collectively be defined as aspects of women's empowerment (Holland & Rammohan, 2019). Other indicators analyzed (socio-demographic factors, diagnosis, personal experience at work, overall happiness, approach and research) did not predict further levels of empowerment (Sutton et al., 2019). Individuals with higher and lower intrinsic levels of incentives or external motivation are proven to have positive self, strength, and empowerment (Gram et al., 2017).

As the resource hypothesis suggests, greater availability of resources eliminates the needs of human livelihoods, and hence provides scope for addressing gender-specific preferences. A more egalitarian distribution of material and social resources allows both sexes to express gender-specific preferences independently (Williams, 2018). The quality of human resources, both in terms of capacity, capability (Suwana & Lily, 2017), and productivity is one of the determinants of a country's competitiveness. In terms of population composition, male and female human resources are almost the same. This means that this development was achieved by half by women. Therefore, to improve the country's competitiveness and development, gender equality is needed in increasing equal rights, responsibilities, capabilities and opportunities for women. However, gender equality in Indonesia has not been fully fulfilled (Fakih, 1996).
At puberty, gender inequality appears (Sraboni & Quisumbing, 2018). Or do men or women (both those in the reproductive age group and those who are not) face different barriers (Narayanan et al., 2019). The women in the group did not have differences in terms of sociodemographic characteristics (Moghadam et al., 2018). Basically, the concept of gender equality is rights-based and develops from the fact that women and girls have borne the burden of gender-based discrimination (Onditi & Odera, 2017). Regardless of the changing landscape of global gender data, the overall pattern of gender equality for women's science, medicine, and global health is one of multiple advantages and a continuing challenge (Shannon et al., 2019). There are differences between several countries in relation to empowerment system connections (Jones et al., 2019). Specific gender equality programs have been developed around the world and in various sectors. A gender component has been added to many programs that were initially gender blind, and gender mainstreaming. But sometimes with few real consequences, it is often seen as the key to achieving meaningful policies related to gender and sexual rights (Engeli & Mazur, 2018).

Various data show gender inequality in all regions in Indonesia. Therefore, in Indonesia the issue of gender equality is also contained in the vision of national development to create an Indonesia that is independent, advanced, just and prosperous. In the 2014-2019 National Medium-Term Development Plan, gender perspectives in all fields and stages of development are emphasized. Equity in development is to improve the quality of human resources and sustainable development. One of the objectives of the mission is the Quality of Life of the Indonesian People. Achieving the quality of life for women, especially through gender equality and women’s empowerment in all aspects of development. The facts that are now seen show that the social status of women in traditional Indonesian society is indeed low (Astuti & Al, 2017). They are considered second class citizens. Even though the emancipation efforts have been made by figures such as Raden Dewi Sartika and R.A. Kartini a century ago, but until now the stigma of dominating men and women is still very much so that the role of women in politics is constrained (Suwana & Lily, 2017).

Changes in individual empowerment are mediated by the empowerment status of the important people associated with them; The way in which personal characteristics are perceived influences the way a person responds to others and; The decisions of the communities in which they live are instantaneous (Galiè & Farnworth, 2019). The word "empowerment" is interpreted differently by many academics (Rahman et al., 2017). In this perspective, empowerment becomes an unfolding recurring phase which is basically about improvements in the bonds of power (Sarma & Pais, 2008). One of the efforts to empower the role of women in development is by asking the government to manipulate regulations through laws and regulations that force women to be given roles in development so that the stigma of community mental attitudes that dominate women can change by removing old views (Sulistyowati & Kosasih, 2017).

Indonesia actually has equality with men for a long time. Just look at how women are more dominant in West Sumatra who adhere to the matriarchal line. The role of women has been seen as in Bali where women have mastered property matters, even become skilled laborers, such as masons (Suwana & Lily, 2017). The efforts to achieve gender equality and justice have actually been carried out by various parties for a long time, but are still facing obstacles. Gender equality and justice are still difficult to enjoy by all levels of society, especially women. Therefore, the government has taken a policy, concerning the need for an appropriate strategy that can reach all government agencies, the private sector, urban communities, rural communities and so on. This strategy is known as gender mainstreaming. This strategy is stated in Presidential Instruction Number 9 of 2000 concerning Gender Mainstreaming in National Development (Sardjunani, 2001).
With gender mainstreaming, the government can work more efficiently and effectively in producing public policies that are fair and gender responsive for all levels of society, both men and women. With this strategy, development programs to be implemented will be more sensitive or responsive to gender. This in turn will be able to uphold the rights and obligations of men and women to the same opportunity, equal recognition and equal appreciation can be obtained if women in all aspects have good quality. Both in terms of education and in terms of health and economic access.

**Methods**

This study uses qualitative research methods (Zuada et al., 2019), which are descriptive in nature to examine the relationship between empowerment and quality of life (Shin & Park, 2017). The type of data used is secondary data. Data analysis consists of data condensation, data presentation and drawing conclusions (Zulkifli et al., 2018). Further analysis was carried out by combining an interactive approach to the three main components (Mufti et al., 2020). This article discusses preliminary results that present data from coherent sources (Rajindra et al., 2019). This study uses data sourced from Government Offices as well as related agencies and NGOs in Central Sulawesi Province, besides this research also uses various data sources, from the survey and census results as follows: National Labor Force Survey from the Central Bureau of Statistics, Survey National Social Economy, also from the National Demographic and Health Survey as well as the Regional Medium-Term Development Planning Survey and other supporting data from related offices in Central Sulawesi Province. What these institutions are doing, however, is to facilitate and encourage this process by creating the appropriate conditions (de Groot et al., 2017).

**Population Distribution in Central Sulawesi**

The population of Central Sulawesi Province tends to increase every year. The population of Central Sulawesi Province in 2015 was 2,635,009 people, increasing to 2,683,722 people in 2016, in 2017 it increased to 2,729,227 people, in 2017 it became 2,785,488 people, and in 2019 the population reached 2,921,715 inhabitants. With a population growth rate of 1.9% and a population density of 45 people per square kilometer. The total population of Central Sulawesi in 2020 reached 2.92, with a male population of 1.49 and a female population of 1.43 with a ratio of 104.38 (Central Sulawesi Statistics Agency, 2020).

Judging from the population distribution in 2020, the highest population distribution is in Parigi Moutong Regency, which is 465,883 people or 15.94% of the total population of Central Sulawesi, while the lowest population is in Banggai Laut Regency with 70,886 people or 2.40% of the total population. Central Sulawesi Province. The proportion of the male population is more dominant than the female population, namely as much as 1,492,152 or 51.08 percent compared to 142,9563 or 48.92 percent of women (Central Sulawesi Statistics Agency, 2020).

**Quality of Life**

Human development in Central Sulawesi gradually increased during the period 2015 - 2019. The increase in human development is represented by the HDI figure. In 2015, Central Sulawesi's HDI figure increased to 64.27 to 65.00 in 2014. In 2016, Central Sulawesi's HDI increased to 65.79 followed by an increase in 2017 to 66.43 and in 2018 the HDI figure returned to 66.76. In 2019, it increased to 67.47, the increase in the HDI figure was the impact of the socio-economic performance of Central Sulawesi which had improved over the past 5 years. Based on the ranking, Central Sulawesi's HDI 209 ranks 26th out of 34 provinces in Indonesia (Central Bureau of Statistics & Central Sulawesi Regional Development Planning Agency, 2020).
For Sulawesi in general, the HDI for Central Sulawesi in 2019 was ranked fourth, where North Sulawesi at 7, South Sulawesi at 14, and Southeast Sulawesi at 19. This rank is still better than West Sulawesi, which was at 31st and Gorontalo at 31st. This shows that the quality of life of the population of Central Sulawesi is still relatively moderate compared to the quality of life of the population in several provinces in Sulawesi (Central Bureau of Statistics & Central Sulawesi Regional Development Planning Agency, 2020). The development of HDI during 2015 - 2019 can also be seen by reducing the shortfall or distance of HDI to an ideal value that explains the speed of HDI for a certain period.

At the district or city level, the HDI for Palu City in 2019 is still in first place at 79.90, followed by Morowali Regency in second place at 69.86, Poso Regency in third place at 68.13, and fourth place in Banggai Regency at 68.17. The last rank (13th rank) in 2019 was occupied by Tojo Una-Una Regency at 62.33, followed by Tolitoli Regency (rank 12) at 66.37 and Parigi Moutong Regency (rank 11) at 63.60 in 2019. Gap The HDI between Palu City which was in the highest rank, and the HDI of Tojo Una-Una Regency which was in the lowest rank reached 62.33 (Central Bureau of Statistics & Central Sulawesi Regional Development Planning Agency, 2020).

Apart from being compared based on the HDI value, the achievement of human development in an area can also be compared according to the speed of movement of HDI towards ideal values. The speed of an area in achieving the ideal HDI is indicated by the shortfall reduction value. To measure the speed of development of HDI in a period, a measure of shortfall reduction per year is used. The reduction of shortfall shows the comparison of the achievements that have been taken with the achievements that must be taken to reach the ideal HDI point (100).

Health Aspects of Quality of Life

Health indicators in calculating HDI are reflected in the life expectancy index calculated using life expectancy figures. Life expectancy is an estimate of how many years a person can take during an average lifetime. This indicator is often used to evaluate government performance in improving the welfare of the population in the health sector (Central Sulawesi Statistics Agency, 2020). When compared to other Sulawesi provinces in 2019, Central Sulawesi ranks third with the lowest life expectancy of 67.31 years. The region with the lowest life expectancy is West Sulawesi at 64.22 years, followed by Gorontalo 67 for 12 years. While in regional areas, the highest life expectancy is North Sulawesi with 70.99 years, followed by Southeast Sulawesi for 70.44 years, and South Sulawesi for 69.80 years (Central Sulawesi Statistics Agency, 2020). The highest life expectancy in Central Sulawesi occurred in Poso Regency at the age of 70.09 years 2019, followed by Palu City and Banggai Regency with 69.93 years. The lowest life expectancy in Parigi Moutong Regency is 63.17 years, followed by Banggai Laut Regency at 63.48 years. This means that Poso Regency has the best level of health while Parigi Moutong Regency has the worst health level in Central Sulawesi (Central Sulawesi Statistics Agency, 2020).

The development of women's life expectancy has increased in 2019 compared to 2017. In 2018 the life expectancy of women reached 69.18 years, then increased to 69.26 years in 2018. The increase in women's life expectancy also follows the increase in men's life expectancy. It's just that the level achieved is still below the life expectancy of women. In 2018 the life expectancy of men reached 65.27 years and increased in 2018 to 65.34 years. The pattern of increasing female life expectancy followed by male life expectancy is not sufficient to narrow the gap between achieving female life expectancy and male life expectancy. However, in the long term this difference is expected to get smaller along with the improvement of services in the health sector.
**Educational Aspects of Quality of Life**

The Sustainable Development Goals regard education as a priority for sustainable development, fostering inclusive and equitable opportunities for all (Segovia-Pérez et al., 2019). The highest school expectation figure in 2019 is Palu City at 15.52 years, meaning that the expected length of schooling for children aged 7 years in Palu City is more than 15 years. Metric analysis carried out at the Regional Revenue Bureau, Palu was considered successful because they saw the use of the system based on the experience of the daily work environment and read references / guidelines, sought knowledge through the Internet and the use of emplus (Samad & Kusuma, 2020). Followed by Buol 13.04 years and Poso 13.15 years. Meanwhile, the lowest region is Tojo Una-Una Regency with 11.31 years, followed by North Morowali Regency with 11.69 years. This shows that the level of school expectation in Palu City is the best, while in Tojo Una-Una Regency the worst. The position of men in education is admittedly lower than that of women. In 2017 the male population aged 7 years and over had a school expectancy rate of 12.37 years, while for women it was higher, namely 13.09 years. Then in 2019, male school expectations increased to 12.39 years, but the female school expectation rate also increased to 13.12 years (Research and Development Agency, 2020).

In Central Sulawesi, Palu City has the highest average length of schooling, namely 11.24 years, Poso 8.52 years, and Morowali 8.38 years. Meanwhile, the regions with the lowest average length of schooling were Parigi Moutong Regency with 6.72 years, followed by Tojo Una-Una with 7.65 years and Banggai and Tolitoli Districts with 7.72 years each. This means that Palu City has an average second grade population of SMA, while Parigi Moutong Regency has an average population of almost first grade SMP. In 2016, the average length of school for boys was 8.27 years, an increase from the previous year which was 8.16 years. Meanwhile, the average length of schooling for girls increased from 7.62 years in 2019 to 7.66 years in 2018. This means that in the 2016 - 2017 period, in general the education of the male and female population in Central Sulawesi was equal. with grades one and two of SMP (Research and Development Agency, 2020).

**Women Empowerment**

The active involvement of women must continue to be encouraged in order to find their most appropriate position, not only in their main functions in the family, but also for the environment, society and even the State (Nurmillah et al., 2019). In general, women's empowerment in decision-making in Central Sulawesi, as measured by the Gender Empowerment Index, shows progress is getting better. In 2018 the Gender Empowerment Index for Central Sulawesi was 65.11, then in line with various development policies implemented, it increased slowly in 2017 to reach 67.57. This means that women's empowerment in decision-making in 2019 has only reached about 67.57 percent of the roles played by men. The number of women's representation in parliament in 2019 only reached 7 out of 45 seats or around 15.56 percent in the Central Sulawesi DPRD (People’s Representative Council). This percentage is still relatively small (Sardjunani, 2001).

One of the main variables in an institution is professionalism and can affect the efficiency of workers in the organization (Pasinringi et al., 2020). Women who work as professionals reached 51.92 percent in 2019, or more than half of professional workers in Central Sulawesi are women. Furthermore, in 2019 the percentage fell to 48.30 percent. This decline does not always mean that the number of women working as professionals has decreased, but the development of men who work as professionals has grown more than women in the total number of State Civil Servants in the Central Sulawesi Provincial Government in 2019 which
amounted to 46.36 percent of whom are women. Meanwhile, the male State Civil Service was recorded at 53.64 percent.

Women in academia and medicine are underrepresented, especially in leadership roles (Coe et al., 2019). The composition of the State Civil Apparatus shows an imbalance between men and women in occupying echelon positions in the Central Sulawesi Provincial Government. Inequality at the echelon I level has not been seen because there is only one echelon I position. However, if you look at the echelon II - IV positions, there is a very sharp imbalance where for echelon II positions only 16.98 percent are occupied by women. The remaining 83.02 percent is occupied by men. For echelon III positions, the percentage of women who held positions was greater than those in echelon II positions by 35.07 percent (Sardjunani, 2001).

The contribution of women's income to employment in Central Sulawesi is influenced by the size of the contribution of women in their respective districts/cities. Banggai Kepulauan Regency is the region with the largest contribution to women's work income at 43.52 percent, followed by Banggai Laut at 35.88 percent and Palu City at 33.56 percent. Meanwhile, the regions with the lowest contribution to women's work income were North Morowali with 20.05 percent, followed by Parigi Moutong at 23.56 percent and Buol at 23.69 percent. Thus, the national context can be expected to shape how flexible work is related to gender equality and work-life balance of workers (Chung & van, 2020).

The life expectancy of women is higher than that of men. The life expectancy of women has increased in 2019 compared to 2018. In 2018 the life expectancy of women reached 69.26 years then increased to 69.26 years in 2018. The increase in the life expectancy of women also follows the increase in the life expectancy of men, it's just that the level achieved is still below the life expectancy of women. In 2017, the male life expectancy reached 65.27 years and increased in 2019 to 65.34 years.

The position of men in education is admittedly lower than that of women. In 2018 the male population aged 7 years and over had a school expectancy rate of 12.37 years, while for women it was higher, namely 13.09 years. Women's Empowerment is seen from the Gender Empowerment Index in 2017 where Central Sulawesi is at 65.11 then increases slowly in 2019 reaching 67.57. This means that women's empowerment in decision making in 2018 has only reached around 67.57 percent. Women's representation in the parliament in 2019 only reached 7 seats out of 45 seats or around 15.56 percent in the Central Sulawesi DPRD. This percentage is still relatively small. As many as 46.36 percent were female civil servants in Central Sulawesi Province in 2019, while male State Civil Servants were recorded at 53.64 percent. Inequality in echelon I positions has not been seen but there are gaps in echelon II - IV positions.

**Conclusion**

Given the cultural conditions (related to patriarchal cultural values) and at the same time the existing structural conditions (shaped by the socio-political order), clear and concrete actions are needed to reduce gender disparities in various fields of development. For this reason, a strong political will is needed so that all development policies and programs pay attention to gender equality and justice, what must be done is to increase the level of women's involvement in the political process and public office; improve the level of education and health services and other programs, to improve the quality of life and women's resources; increasing campaigns against violence against women; improve criminal law instruments that are more comprehensive in protecting every individual from domestic violence; and improve
the quality of life of women through affirmative action, especially in the fields of education, health, employment, social, political and economic.

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