

THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER KNOWLEDGE: THE SUBSTANCE OF EMANCIPATION MODERN WOMEN

Nur Afina Laelatun Ni'mah¹, Nadhifa Fairuz Rahmi²

^{1,2,3}UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan, Indonesia

nurafinalaelatunnimah@mhs.uingusdur.ac.id¹
nadhifafairuzrahmi@mhs.uingusdur.ac.id²

ABSTRAK

Gender merupakan hal yang terus dibahas dan masih diperbincangkan sampai saat ini. Ketika berbicara tentang gender maka tidak terlepas pula dari kata emansipasi wanita. Seorang wanita bagaikan topik pembahasan utama dalam kesetaraan gender karena wanita lah yang diremehkan dan kesetaraan antara pria dan wanita memang dibutuhkan. Manusia adalah makhluk sosial yang membutuhkan satu sama lainnya, dalam ranah sosial ini pula manusia harus menjunjung tinggi toleransi dan menghormati antara manusia satu dengan lainnya baik karena perbedaan agama, suku, ras, budaya, maupun jenis kelamin. Seorang laki — laki dan wanita memang diciptakan berbeda, bukan untuk mengunggulkan antara yang satu dengan lainnya namun untuk saling melengkapi satu sama lainnya. Penelitian ini merupakan jenis penelitian kepustakaan, yaitu metode penelitian yang menggunakan sumber informasi dari perpustakaan atau sumber yang berkaitan dengan literatur dan dokumen tertulis. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui eksistensi emansipasi wanita di era modern seperti saat ini dalam lingkup pengetahuan gender. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pengetahuan gender masih tetap eksis sampai saat ini. Namun, paradigma yang dimiliki terhadap emansipasi wanita saat ini berbeda antara satu dengan yang lainnya.

Kata kunci : Wanita, Emansipasi, Gender

ABSTRACT

Gender is something that continues to be discussed and is still being discussed today. When talking about gender, it is inseparable from the word women's emancipation. A woman is like the main topic of discussion in gender equality because women are underestimated and equality between men and women is needed. Humans are social creatures who need each other, in this social realm humans must also uphold tolerance and respect between humans with each other both because of differences in religion, ethnicity, race, culture, and gender. Men and women are created differently, not to excel one another but to complement each other. This research is a type of literature research, which is a research method that uses information sources from libraries or sources related to literature and written documents. This study aims to determine the existence of women's emancipation in the modern era as it is today in the scope of gender knowledge. The results of this

study show that gender knowledge still exists today. However, the current paradigm for women's emancipation differs from one another.

Keywords : *Women, Emancipation, Gender*

INTRODUCTION

In this era of rapid technological advancement in globalization, women have a significant contribution that cannot be underestimated. Many women have a considerable influence on the progress of the times. In the era of struggle or colonization, we know figures like RA. Kartini who were able to elevate the status of women. In the modern era today, we also know many great women who have made extraordinary contributions to society and even the country.

The word "emancipation" itself carries the meaning of liberation from domination. (Nurhilmiah, 2017) The women's emancipation advocated by RA. Kartini signifies a struggle to break free from the cultural constraints that bound women in her society at that time. The contents of RA. Kartini's letters reveal her thoughts related to the struggle for women's rights. The desire for freedom and independence for women championed by RA. Kartini includes the freedom to pursue education in schools and rejecting polygamy in marriage. (Khamdiyah, 2016)

Women's emancipation in Indonesia does not mean that a woman demands the same rights as men without considering her natural role as a woman. Women's emancipation here is more precisely about fulfilling functions to the fullest. Emancipation should be natural and inherent, which means women have their own place without having to compete with men.

In the Women's Studies Encyclopedia, as cited by Nasaruddin Umar, gender is defined as a cultural concept that seeks to create distinctions in terms of roles, behaviors, mentalities, and emotional characteristics between men and women that evolve within a particular society. (Muzakkir, 2018)

It can be interpreted that gender is a non-biological difference and also not a divine nature. The concept of gender itself must be distinguished between the word gender and the word sex (biological sex). The difference in biological sex between men and women is a divine nature that cannot be changed and is a biological determination. Meanwhile, gender is the difference in behavior between men and women that is socially constructed. (Batoebara et al., 2023)

One of the increasingly discussed issues lately is the issue of equality between men and women, commonly referred to as gender equality. The definition of gender equality specifically addresses the disparity between the conditions and positions of women and men in the surrounding society.

The stereotype prevailing now is that men work and excel outside the home, while women are deemed suitable only for staying inside the home. This stereotype influences parents' attitudes in terms of limited economics. In this case, parents will encourage their sons to pursue unlimited higher education, while for daughters, parents may think it's better to find them a spouse as soon as possible.

Men are seen as more important in pursuing education because in the future it will be men who will lead and provide for the family, while women will remain homemakers and only take care of children. From this statement, higher education is considered less necessary for women.

Views like these appear to be unfair to one party, especially women. They find discrimination in terms of getting opportunities for higher education. Besides, they are exploited to work to help their parents, while at their age, they should still be enjoying their childhood or teenage years. (Efendy, 2014)

In many families, women are often sidelined, for example, in terms of education. For families with limited economic resources, this will certainly impact the future of women. When the family's economic condition is weak, parents will prioritize their sons to continue their education over their daughters. This happens because parents believe that their sons will eventually become the heads of households and be responsible for providing for their families, so education is given more priority.

Islam does not condone various forms of oppression. Likewise, the relationship between men and women. Islam teaches men to treat women well, and vice versa. Men and women are equal in terms of education, employment, or status.

However, gender education is still very necessary. One should at least have knowledge of gender as a basis for behavior. It is no longer the time to continue being bound by stereotypes that have existed for so long. Nevertheless, women's emancipation, which is also part of the struggle for gender equality, must be in line with its original substance. It does not mean that by upholding women's emancipation, one can degrade the dignity and honor of men. In addition to changing stereotypes about women, stereotypes about men should also be corrected in the same way.

The method used in this research is qualitative research. Qualitative research involves collecting data in a natural setting with the purpose of interpreting phenomena that occur, where the researcher acts as the key instrument. Sampling of data sources is done purposively and through snowball sampling. Data collection techniques involve triangulation (combining different methods). Data analysis is inductive/qualitative, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning and generalization. (Suharsimi, 2020) The technique used by the researcher

is literature review or desk research. Library research is a research method that utilizes information sources from libraries or sources related to literature and written documents. This method involves searching and collecting information from various sources such as books, journals, articles, documents, and other publications available in libraries or other information sources. This type of research is also often referred to as documentary research or book survey. (Zaki & Saiman, 2021)

DISCUSSION

Gender Knowledge

Gender is not a new phenomenon that has emerged recently or been discussed lately. Gender has been discussed since ancient times. The beginning of the gender issue entering Indonesia was during the colonial period, when Indonesian female heroes emerged. R.A Kartini is one of Indonesia's heroes, pioneering the struggle for equality between men and women, especially in education. (Taufik et al., 2014)

Gender is the role performed by both men and women. Gender comprises attitudes, behaviors, or norms in society related to the male and female sexes. Gender is the societal perception that assesses the differences between men and women. This term is closely related to the concept of sexuality. Gender is usually associated with masculinity and femininity. (Fazri, 2019)

Gender knowledge is important to be accepted by everyone. Many people do not understand about the equal rights possessed by men and women which makes them, especially the Adams, feel that men are more domineering than women. Even though we clearly know that than men, the number of women in this world is more and includes the majority. However, when there are more women than men, why are women still oppressed and considered weak. Therefore, providing education about gender and equal rights between men and women is very necessary so that people can open their views and expand existing perspectives.

Gender justice is currently not considered by all circles of society, many people consider men and women to be different levels, men are always at the top level while women are below men. While gender justice is placing between men and women fairly and equally. (Munasaroh, 2022) It is hoped that society can be free from values that assume that men are more important than women, and no longer distinguish positions, roles, responsibilities between men and women seen from gender. The realization of gender justice is marked by the absence of discrimination between women and men. Thus women and men have access, opportunity to participate, and control over development and obtain equal and equitable benefits from

development. Having access and participation means having the opportunity or opportunity to use resources and having full authority to make decisions on the use and results of resources so as to obtain equal benefits.

Gender justice is currently not being given enough attention by all segments of society. Many people perceive men and women as being on different levels, with men always placed at the top while women are seen as beneath men. However, gender justice involves treating men and women fairly and equally. It is hoped that society can move away from the notion that men are superior to women, and no longer differentiate between the positions, roles, and responsibilities of men and women based on gender. Achieving gender justice is marked by the absence of discrimination between women and men. Consequently, women and men should have equal access, opportunities for participation, and control over development, as well as receiving equal and fair benefits from it. Having access and participation means having the opportunity to utilize resources and having full authority to make decisions about their use and outcomes, thereby gaining equal benefits. (Ulya, 2018)

Contemporary Women's Emancipation

The figure of Raden Ajeng Kartini seems inseparable from discussions about women's emancipation. Kartini's efforts to fight for women's rights to obtain the highest education possible and to be given equal opportunities to apply their knowledge without having their status degraded have made her known as a prominent figure in the women's emancipation movement.

According to the Indonesian Dictionary, "emansipasi" refers to liberation from slavery or equality in various aspects of community life, such as equality between women and men. Furthermore, women's emancipation signifies the process of women freeing themselves from low socio-economic status or legal constraints that limit their potential for development and advancement. (Suharman, 2022)

In this modern era, the term "emansipasi" has undergone a shift in meaning. However, many women still do not understand how to apply it in practical steps. While Kartini fought for women to obtain their rights in the past, today, women's emancipation can actually be achieved through simpler steps.

One simple form of emancipation is when women do not depend on anyone else for their livelihood and learn to be more independent. Additionally, in daily life, emancipation can begin with small things, such as being agents of change in small communities, such as friendship groups or within the household. The role of agents of change to influence people to

do good things is much more challenging than engaging in large-scale activities that are less appealing. Therefore, by doing simple things and bringing goodness and benefits to the surrounding environment, it is already a form of emancipation.

Another form of emancipation can also be achieved by doing good to others and appreciating what one has as a form of gratitude for the blessings bestowed by God. However, it is advisable not to do good deeds half-heartedly, especially if one lacks a high fighting spirit. In addition to emotional, spiritual, and intellectual intelligence, resilience (adversity quotient) is also important to master. If someone is consistent in pursuing something but lacks inner resilience, then it will become difficult. The real motivation lies within each individual, but it depends on how the individual focuses on the motivation they possess. (Majid, 2021)

Women's emancipation does not solely focus on equality between the rights of men and women to equal opportunities in various fields. The true meaning of women's emancipation is about how women can develop and progress over time without losing their identity. By fully understanding the meaning of women's emancipation, women participate in providing emancipation for society and the country. (Kusdiana, 2011)

In modern times like today, women working outside the home is no longer taboo. Working as office employees, which requires them to leave early in the morning and return home late in the afternoon, seems to be the aspiration of all modern women. Moreover, it is not uncommon for many to strive to pursue higher education and study at renowned campuses with the assurance of being easily accepted in decent workplaces. Increasing academic achievements and soft skills are widely practiced by women today. (Citra Mustikawati, 2015)

Women's emancipation is the freedom for women to express themselves, explore their potential, and develop competencies in all areas without fear of discrimination from men. As a form of resistance to injustice against women during the colonial period, R.A Kartini began the struggle for equality between men and women, especially in the field of education. Indeed, Kartini's struggle to realize equality between men and women is embodied in the book entitled "Habis Gelap Terbitlah Terang" (Out of Darkness Comes Light).

Women are often considered weak and discriminated against not only by men but sometimes even by other women, although women are resilient beings who possess strengths that may not even be possessed by men. After all, it is a woman who bears the responsibility and opportunity of carrying a child and nurturing life within her womb. The one who brings humans into this world is a mother, who is a woman. Furthermore, there is a saying that paradise lies at the feet of the mother, who is a woman. This is the strength of women, even when they decide to pursue a career. Even as career women who work outside the home, when

they return home, a woman will perform household duties and guide her children. In reality, there should be no issue if a man sweeps or performs household chores. This actually shows that they are good and responsible men. Regarding the duties of a husband and a wife, these are matters that can be discussed and shared responsibilities. However, it is generally societal perceptions and views that become the problem, where people assume that household chores are solely the responsibility of a wife and if a husband does them, it is considered demeaning. This mindset is fundamentally wrong because women are not created to be trampled upon by men but to be companions. Even in the Quran, it is said that Eve was created from Adam's rib. The role of a wife is to accompany her husband, and they are created to complement each other. So, it doesn't matter who does what because fundamentally they are the same soul in different bodies, as husband and wife are soulmates.

Women's emancipation is something new from the past, a time when a woman was considered only capable of working in the kitchen, taking care of the house, and attending to her husband, a time when discrimination between men and women was strongly felt. However, in this modern era of modernization, women's emancipation is no longer a new thing. This topic is now very popular and widely discussed. If in the past R.A Kartini fought for women to get their rights, now is the time for women to show their true selves, to show the world that women are not as weak as they are perceived to be. Many people believe that men always use logic while women always use feelings, they assume that women are weak because they use feelings, and they are wrong. A woman's feelings are not weaknesses but their strengths.

Talking about equality between men and women, the writer believes that women who can truly be considered equal to men can be seen in Western or European women. However, everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately, those who are too "Westernized" end up discriminating against women who still hold onto ancestral principles. However, a woman's grace can also be seen in her attitude. In addition to thoughts and knowledge, a person is also judged by their attitude and morals.

Women's emancipation in the present day still exists until now. It's not just the struggle for gender equality that is highlighted, but the thoughts and achievements of great women in the world are also becoming broader. However, not all developments have only positive impacts. Women's emancipation itself has negative effects where the paradigm of thinking held by many people will result in different conclusions. The substance of women's emancipation must not deviate so that the goal of emancipation itself can be achieved, which is equality and parity. Unfortunately, there are some thoughts that deviate from the path of emancipation itself. The current development of women's emancipation must be in line with

open-minded thinking and a broad perspective. Because if it's not balanced, when stereotypes about women begin to fade, it will contradict stereotypes about men, which may even increase.

CONCLUSION

In this era of globalization where technological progress is very rapid, women have a meaningful contribution and cannot be underestimated. Many women have a considerable influence on the progress of the times. In the era of struggle or colonialism, we know the figure of R.A Kartini who was able to raise the status of women. In the modern era, we also know many great women who have extraordinary contributions to society and even the country.

Gender is something that continues to be discussed and is still being discussed today. When talking about gender, it is inseparable from the word women's emancipation. A woman is like the main topic of discussion in gender equality because women are underestimated and equality between men and women is needed.

The word emancipation itself has the meaning of liberation from a rule. The emancipation of women in Indonesia does not mean that a woman demands equal rights with men without considering the nature of being a woman. The emancipation of women here is more precisely as the fulfillment of functions to the maximum. Emancipation should be natural and natural, this means that women have their own place without having to compete with men.

Women's emancipation today still exists today. Not only the struggle for gender equality is raised, but the thoughts and achievements possessed by great women in the world are getting wider. However, not everything that develops only has a positive impact. The emancipation of women itself has a negative impact where the paradigm of thought shared by many people will produce different conclusions. The substance of women's emancipation must not deviate so that the goal of emancipation itself can be achieved, namely equality and equality.

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