

## **Citizen Participation in Realizing Gender Equality in Education and Development**

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### **Abstract**

This study aims to examine how the concept of citizen participation in realizing gender equality. The method used in this research was a literature study. The results of the study show that citizen participation in realizing gender equality is very important, participating in the education sector by seeking to create educational institutions that produce future leaders who do not discriminate against gender nor have a gender justice perspective. Citizens can participate in encouraging social inclusion in the classroom when learning process takes place, designing inclusive and gender sensitive-curricula as well as providing equal opportunities for men and women. Citizen participation in the field of development to realize gender equality can be carried out by planning and making development policies and implementing policies that provide equal opportunities without any gender discrimination. This research concludes that realizing the gender equality as a form of citizen rights requires participation of all citizens in various forms both in the fields of education and development.

**Key words:** Participation, Citizen, Gender Equality, Education, Development



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### **INTRODUCTION**

Countries with a democratic government system have consequences in the form of citizen participation. Without the participation of citizens, a democratic state will not materialize. Various citizen participation is very important in a public policy setting. It must be realized that if citizen participation is seen from the quality point of view, it shows clearly good quality and quality in every stage of public policy, then various problems will be easier to overcome. Government and community capacity must be increased to realize quality citizen participation. This is an effort to create a nation that is able to overcome its various problems. (Hasibuan, 2019). Citizen participation is indispensable in facing the challenges of the Indonesian nation. One of the challenges of the Indonesian nation is to achieve gender equality. The issue of gender equality in Indonesia is very much in the spotlight in various fields of citizen life such as in the fields of health, education, politics and law. Efforts to realize gender equality in Indonesia are in fact still not maximal to eliminate gender inequality with various existing gender discriminations.

The democratization of a nation, with various issues of gender inequality, still seems to have not shown the embodiment of a perfect democratic state. Gender issues in terms of political participation are also very striking, namely the issue of women's political participation so that they can represent democracy in Indonesia also seems to have not materialized. The existence of gender discrimination with the perspective of nahwa politics is a public space that is not a women's area, which is an illustration that gender equality has not been realized as it

should be. This perspective is reinforced by a terminology regarding private and public which shows gender discrimination with the stereotype that the public sphere is the realm of men and the private sphere is the realm of women. Gender injustice is then created between women and men, in the form of marginalization or exclusion of women in various sectors, especially the formal political sector. To realize gender equality, various efforts are needed. This effort includes citizen participation to change patriarchal culture for citizens, so that gender equality can be realized. (Gusmansyah, 2019) Citizen participation to realize gender equality in Indonesia is very much needed. Without the participation of citizens, it is difficult to overcome gender inequality. Various gender disparities due to gender stereotypes. Gender issues are problems of social construction mistakes of men and women. This difference in roles makes women tend to be marginalized and left behind.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses the method of literature review. Literature review is a research method by collecting data from various literature related to research studies. Literature review is a written summary of journal articles, books, or other documents that contain descriptions of past or current theories and information by organizing literature into documents and topics needed in research.

The analytical method used in this research is descriptive by describing various facts and then followed by analysis. (Creswell, 2014). Literature in the form of relevant books and journal articles is then carried out descriptive analysis to produce studies on citizen participation to realize gender equality in education and development. Literature review can make it easier for researchers to find references of the same type as the topic of discussion to be studied

## **DISCUSSION**

Participation is a mental involvement and emotions and feelings that are more than just physical involvement. Participation is an autonomous engagement not mobilized. The existence of a willingness as well as responses and sensitivity carried out by citizens related to problems in society by giving something to achieve the goals of a group based on volunteerism and a sense of pleasure to help (Maryanah, Suryandari, Handayani, & Mukhlis, 2022)

Participation is an active process which means that the person or group concerned takes the initiative to engage. Participation provides space for citizens to become subject to the process of social change, decision-making and action against injustice for the social transformation of the citizens themselves (Mikkelsen, 2001). Citizen participation is very important because actually citizens are implementing various activities in creating community participation, so it is important to carry out several things such as: it can benefit the community; its meaning can be understood by the community; carried out in accordance with the context and purpose, carried out in an honest, open and accountable manner, and certainly must involve the community in its implementation (Arafah & Winarso, 2020).

Citizen participation is very important in various fields of state life. Citizens who are active to be involved in citizenship activities in a shared life in a community are important points in realizing the goals of a country (Nurchotimah, Ulyan, & Kushardiyanti, 2021). The importance of the role of citizens certainly demands active participation in solving various problems in society. Citizen participation is a form of good citizenship. Striving for the formation of good citizens can be reflected while still respecting and becoming national values that have existed from previous generations, these good values must become an identity. The cultivation of good Indonesian values must be pursued. (Candra & Suryadi, 2019)

Understanding Gender which is a social and cultural construction that is attached to both men and women in society. This is related to labeling, one example is by labeling that women must be compassionate, gentle, diligent and also patient. The social construction of men who must be authoritative, firm, and must not be whiny and must have masculinity. The division of labor as a result of the social construction of society further clarifies the gender distinction in each sex. For example, there are certain majors or jobs that are considered as men's jobs or fields, including engineering, while for women it is suitable to take secretarial majors or other less menial jobs. This can occur due to various factors, including gender differences due to many things, including gender bias which is normal and becomes social construction through various methods, both religious and state teachings. Efforts to realize gender equality must be carried out by all citizens through the provision of equal access between women and men in various fields.(Gultom, 2021)

Gender equality is a human right, it is very important to create peace in society. Gender equality is one of the determinants of justice in various fields. Gender equality is often misunderstood and equated with gender or only aimed at one gender, namely women. For this reason, gender data is very important in various fields to ensure gender justice. The development of the concept of gender is the result of a continuous construction between individuals and the interaction between individual values and behavior and norms in society (Lomazzi, Israel, & Crespi, 2018). The existence of gender inequality is caused by the roles that society creates for women and men. This leads to wider gender inequality. For example, about the division of time between women and men. Women tend to have a greater burden in private affairs so they have little time for the public sector (gabriel patri, 2018)

Various issues of gender equality indicate that there is gender inequality in people's lives. In the social order of society because of the patriarchal culture. As a consequence, the existence of a patriarchal culture results in the view that men must dominate women (Sulistyowati, 2021). Gender inequality is not only a national problem, but also occurs in various countries. Achieving gender equality is not an easy task even for a developed country, because no countries in the world have achieved full gender equality, especially in fulfilling gender-sensitive labor rights.(Bilan, Mishchuk, & Et, 2020). Research showing gender inequality in education has been conducted in various countries, including Nepal, which shows a gender bias in education, namely school enrollment for boys is higher than for girls. (Khanal, 2018)

There are two strategies to address gender inequality. First, citizens have the view that there must be a change in social construction, that women are not suitable for jobs that are considered jobs for men. Second, avoiding negative perspectives and fear when women do jobs that are constructed as men's jobs (Heilman & Caleo, 2018) Both of these strategies really need the participation of citizens to be able to change the social construction of society that is gender biased. The role of citizens in producing restrictive gender relations is needed, especially in making policies and creating gender-sensitive governance. Citizens in the community are very involved in realizing a gender-sensitive community by not isolating and marginalizing certain gender identities. If a social structure has been formed that leads to gender inequality, citizens should participate in reproducing gender-sensitive social constructions. Citizens who hold power should also participate in overcoming gender injustice. Perempuan harus dihadirkan baik di ruang privat maupun publik serta tidak mengistimewakan maskulinitas dalam sebuah komunitas(Jeanes et al., 2021). Women, who are usually constructed as someone who exists in the domestic sphere and private work, must begin to be active and participate in fighting for equality by participating in efforts to fulfill accessibility rights in the realm of education to participate in efforts to realize national development through their roles in their respective jobs.

The participation of citizens to participate in realizing gender equality is very important. Gender inequality was seen during the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in the world of work. There are several forms of citizen participation that can be carried out, among others by creating an environment of discrimination in the work environment, building gender-sensitive access with flexibility that accommodates gender identity. Ensuring the making of policies on health insurance and access that reflect gender equity, participating in creating anti-gender based violence both in the work environment and outside the work environment. Mobilize actions related to gender equality negotiations (Foley & Cooper, 2021) The problem of gender inequality that enters the realm of gender-based violence is very common. The phenomenon of sexual violence in society, especially in the fields of education and development, is something that must be sought for prevention and solutions. Anti-sexual violence studies must be included in learning materials in tertiary institutions through the educational pathway (Nurchotimah, Khasanah, & Risladiba, 2022).

Citizen participation in realizing gender equality can also be carried out in the field of education. The existence of gender equality in the world of education illustrates high quality education which is a priority in development with a global perspective. Education is the key to realizing gender equality. Through education, gender equality perspectives and gender equality values can be instilled and build habituation against violence and discrimination against gender. This can be pursued through educational institutions, both elementary schools and tertiary institutions. Educational institutions to produce future leaders who should also be able to form graduates who do not discriminate against gender or have a perspective of gender inequality. Educational institutions must also encourage the inclusion of women in the classroom when learning takes place. Not only that, a curriculum and learning model that is inclusive that is gender-sensitive and has equal opportunities for men and women must be designed (Miotto, López, & Rodríguez, 2019).

Citizen participation in realizing gender equality can also be seen in village development. Efforts to organize village development that are just and gender sensitive are very important. This participation is not only limited to implementing development alone but also making plans. Providing access to women who are vulnerable to discrimination is very important, so far the provision of access to participation for women has not been optimal (Tabah, Suryandari, & dkk, 2020) Citizens can participate to raise awareness among other citizens that development can be realized if carried out together not only during sustainable implementation but also planning. Participation from citizens can facilitate both the preparation and establishment of national policies that are sensitive to gender, up to the stage of the process of achieving gender-just national development. (Gultom, 2021). Several forms of citizen participation in realizing gender equality in education and development require awareness from various parties to encourage participation in order to realize gender equality in Indonesia.

Various theories have shown the importance of citizen participation in realizing gender equality in education and development. So citizens can choose various forms of participation in realizing gender equality. Participation can be done by carrying out the easiest form of participation. If all citizens participate in realizing gender equality, it will be easier to maximize gender equality in a country

## **CONCLUSION**

Citizens have an important role in the running of a country, including in overcoming various social problems, including regarding the not yet optimal gender equality. Accessibility in the field of education and development for all without any gender discrimination is the right

of every citizen. The democratic government system that has been chosen by the Indonesian people has the consequence that citizen participation is the main thing.

Various forms of citizen participation in realizing gender equality in education and development can be carried out. The field of education must realize gender equality in various educational activities. This can be pursued by encouraging the creation of educational institutions that produce future leaders who do not discriminate against gender or have a perspective of gender inequality. The role of citizens is very important in participating in encouraging women's inclusion and social inclusion in the classroom when learning takes place and designing inclusive and gender-sensitive curricula and learning models, then providing equal opportunities for men and women. Forms of citizen participation in the field of development to realize gender equality can be carried out in planning and making development policies in the community sphere and implementing policies that provide equal opportunities without gender discrimination in various efforts to achieve development goals. The goal of this development is development that pays attention to gender equality and fulfillment of equal rights for both men and women.

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