

# Prevention of Violence Against Women Through Improving the Quality of Life of Women in Indonesia

Ratna Herawati\*  
 University of Diponegoro Semarang  
 ratnaherawati@lecturer.undip.ac.id

Sekar Anggun Gading Pinilih  
 University of Diponegoro Semarang  
 sekar\_anggun@live.undip.ac.id

**Abstract.** One of the visions, missions and directions of the President of Indonesia is to improve the quality of the Indonesian people, through the development of human resources, including women. On the other hand, there is a lot of discrimination against women. This paper aims to find out government policies in reducing discrimination against women so as to improve the quality of Indonesian society and its challenges. This research is qualitative research type. This research looks at problems in the community, then looks for a legal basis. Based on results that the government have the priority programs to improve the quality of women in Indonesia, by carrying out activities that are strengthening policies and regulations on women's empowerment; improve and understand gender issues and their root causes; increase the empowerment of women, especially in education, health, economy, labour, politics, and public office; and improving and coordinating networks between the central government, regional governments, the community, the mass media, and the business world. The challenges to realise this program are the government's commitment, understanding of gender, and law enforcement.

**Keywords:** *prevention of violence, women, human resource development, government policies*

## INTRODUCTION

One of the objectives of the Republic of Indonesia is to protect the entire Indonesian people, including women. The objectives, as stated in the Preamble of the Indonesian Constitution are, then elaborated in the Article 28I that obligations in eliminating discrimination. Thus, to follow up on the obligations of the state, Indonesian Law Number 39 of 1999 about Human Rights was formed, which is the government's effort to prevent violations of Human Rights. In addition to being listed in the law, the government's efforts, as stated in the vision, mission, and direction of President Joko Widodo in 2019-2024, in order to realise Indonesia as an adaptive, productive, innovative, and competitive country, it is necessary to improve Human Resources

through improving the quality of life of Indonesian people, including women.

Several factors affect the quality of life of Indonesian women. These factors are in line with the Beijing Platform for Action, as stated in the Sustainable Development Goals. They are women and poverty, education and training for women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in positions of authority and decision making, institutional mechanisms for advancing women, women's human rights, women and the media, women and the environment, and girls. One such factor, namely violence against women, which can cause serious health problems that is very influential on the quality of life of women [1].

The patriarchal in Indonesian culture is one of the causes of violence. Patriarchy provides the framing of gender inequality and concomitant unequal power, social values, entitlements, and roles [2]. In addition, the stereotype that men have rights over women will have an impact on community responses to violence, services to violence, and policymaking. Other initiatives to reduce gendered stereotypes and rape supportive beliefs include training for law enforcement officers and prevention education in public schools and universities [3]. Inequality, asymmetry and subordination towards women are evident in social, political, economic and even more so in culture, especially when violence is committed in marital ties so that women do not report it to the authorities. Therefore the role of the government is huge to improve the quality of life of Indonesian women.

This research focuses on the need for government priority programs in reducing discrimination against women not only related to the factors of violence. Factors such as insecurity, hopelessness, violence, low income, limited education, abuse, physical ill health, distress, addiction, stressful work conditions and human rights violations have been found to increase vulnerability to mental ill-health. Consequently, gender has a significant impact on the exposure of individuals to mental health risk [4]. In addition, this research focuses on the responsibility of the government to improve the quality of Indonesian society, especially women. This is certainly different from the government program in Macau, considering

the characteristics of Indonesian people that are different from Macau, which is very thick with Chinese traditions. Chinese traditions, social attitudes, and various changes that can be made in Macau in terms of the draft law on Combating of Domestic Violence Act [5].

**METHOD**

This research is qualitative research type. This research looks at problems in the community, then looks for a legal basis, and is processed using the triangulation method.

**RESULT & DISCUSSION**

**1. Priority Programs of the Indonesian Government in Reducing Discrimination Against Women**

Discrimination is not gender inequality but a mechanism through which women obtain their rights after carrying out their obligations. Discrimination is seen not as a social mechanism/process born out of social subjectivities (gender bias) leading to inequality but as 'a dimension of gender bias which is different from gender inequality'. Thus, instead of identifying discriminatory mechanisms in wage differentials, employment and type of work, which come together to create inequalities and must be taken into account when measuring it, wage differentials are called inequality by themselves, and when integrated with employment differentials, they become discrimination [6].

The form of protection for women in Indonesia is stipulated in the vision and strategy of government in National Medium-Term Government Plan for 2020-2024. Improving the quality of life of women in development requires strategies. The first strategy is by strengthening policies and regulations. Policies and regulations in Indonesia related to women become the affairs of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Children Protection. Currently, there are 421 discriminatory policies. The policy consists of 40 policies at the national level such as the criminalisation of women, neglect of affirmations, reduction of constitutional rights in general. Meanwhile, 381 policies at the regional level governing matters of religion, morality and public order (criminalisation, coercion, dress separation, segregation of public spaces by sex, and curfew). Therefore, it is necessary to improve the mechanism of women's participation in the whole process of policy formulation at all levels so that men do not dominate it, so could be challenging male sex dominance within patriarchy [7].

The next strategy is to increase the knowledge and understanding of women, families, communities, businesses, and other stakeholders about violence against women and the crime of human trafficking. The following is violence against

women in the last 12 years based on data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Children Protection's annual records in 2019:

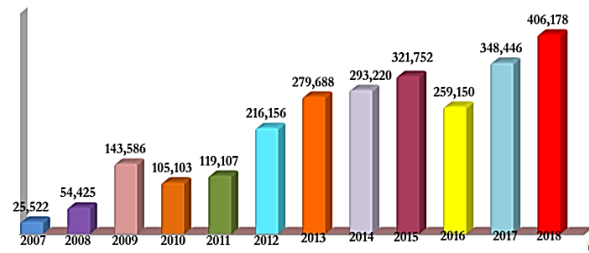


Figure 1. Women's Empowerment and Children Protection's annual records

Based on these data, it is appropriate to increase knowledge and understanding not only of women but also men so that cooperation can be established in the family, community, business world, and other stakeholders. This is because sexual violence is not only limited to the home and workplace. Sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or act to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work [8].

The third strategy is strengthening the institutional protection of women from violence through increasing the capacity of human resources of service providers, coordination between service provider units, strengthening data and information, and supervision. Shelters provide abused women with an opportunity to break through the cycle of violence, redefine their relationship with their spouses, and prepare for a long-term transition. Practical information and services offered by the shelter can make abused women deal with marital separation and their financial, legal and housing problems [9]. Since the existence of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit, protection for women has improved. But until now only formed in 21 provinces and 34 districts/cities. In addition, the services available are still limited. There are 3,721 service places recorded, with 21,538 cases reported in 2018, so there is still a huge gap between the number of victims and shelters. In addition, the conditions of shelters are also inadequate. Therefore, it is necessary to improve capacity building/training of human resources for gender mainstreaming and mainstreaming children's rights.

The last strategy is strengthening networks and cooperation between the government (central and regional), communities, mass media actors, the business world and legal aid institutions. This strategy is used as an effort to empower women in the economic field. The economic independence of women victims of violence as an effort to remedy the broader causes at the root of women's victimisation

of violence while simultaneously stressing the need to empower women as part of achieving gender equality [10]. Men and women have equal opportunities in career advancement in the organisation. Chinese organisations should fulfil the responsibilities to their employees by complying with anti-discriminatory legislation. It is worth noting that women are playing an increasingly important role in the Chinese economy. Thus organisations may lose out if their managers fail to acknowledge, reward, and encourage the contributions of their female employees. Since women are an important part of the workforce in China (e.g. women play facilitating roles in workgroups which enhances group performance), human resource managers should avoid gender discrimination in recruitment and other human resources functions [11].

## **2. Activities undertaken by the Indonesian government to run of Priority Programs and Challenges in Improving the quality of Indonesian Women**

The problem of discrimination against women can be seen from the following situation analysis. Based on data from the Statistics Agency in 2019 that: 1) Development of the Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender Development Index (GDI) shows an increase in GDI which means that the gender gap is getting smaller, but achievements until 2019 have never been higher than in 2015; 2) The development of the Gender Empowerment Index (GEI) shows the role and active participation of women in politics, public positions and the economy that is getting better, but the Indonesian Gender Inequality Index is still high, making it the third lowest in ASEAN. Also, women's education and contribution in any sectors are lower than men. The impact of climate change is greater felt by women, but women's readiness and life skills are still limited in anticipating it. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the quality of living and the role of women in development.

Improving the quality of life and the role of women in development can be achieved through several programs such as strengthening policies and regulations on empowering women; improving and understanding gender issues and their causes; increasing the empowerment of women especially in the fields of education, health, economy, labour, politics, and public office; and improving and coordinating networks between the central government, regional governments, the community, the mass media, and the business world. The activity is focused on strengthening the institutionalisation of gender mainstreaming, and gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes in ministries/institutions, provincial/district/city governments, and municipal governments.

The implementation of priority programs which

are then spelt out in these activities depends on the government's commitment to avoid discrimination so can achieve sustainable development goals. Governments pledged to take further concrete actions to achieve gender equality, including strengthening the implementation of laws, policies, strategies and institutional mechanisms, as well as work towards transforming discriminatory gender norms and practices. Governments committed to significantly mobilising additional financial resources and strengthening accountability mechanisms. Most importantly, governments seemed to have welcomed the contributions of civil society, including women's and community-based organisations, to support implementation at all levels [12]. In addition, the government must focus on empowering women in a sustainable manner so that gender justice can be achieved. The lack of a sustained focus on the empowerment of women and girls through a holistic human rights lens has resulted in challenges in achieving goals on gender justice, equality, non-discrimination and dignity. The relationship between sex, gender, socioeconomic conditions, race, and the historical and cultural contexts are underpinning violence [13].

Besides the government's commitment, also depends on the community, especially men, in understanding gender and the quality of their problems. Changes in the mindset of men that women also have rights are very influential on the success of government programs. Measures of these aspects of masculinity can include more direct questions about attitudes toward violence (whether the use of force and coercion in relationships is seen as appropriate), attitudes about power in sexual and intimate relationships, perceptions of the importance of equality in relationships, as well as measures of adherence to stereotyped beliefs about masculinity (men should be strong and not show their feelings) and stress about whether one is living up to expected gender role norms [14]. Thus, the change in the mindset of men can give an embarrassing effect if men discriminate against women. Awareness and understanding of the effects of shame as men's self-regulation practices can also be used for positive effects by practitioners working with women who experience male violence. For example, the 'Freedom Program' as a training program for empowerment and capacity building for survivors of violence in the household [15].

Also, in law enforcement, Judges should see from the perspective of women who got violence so that there is no discrimination in law enforcement. If it is viewed from the perspective of the average judge, uninformed about the dynamics and effects of domestic violence, the killing may appear entirely unreasonable; as either irrational or retaliatory. However, from a battered woman's perspective it is clear that having lived with serious abuse under the constant threat of violence, having developed a

heightened capacity to perceive danger from her batterer for whom escape has failed or is not a realistic option there may have been no other reasonable alternative [16].

Discrimination against women is a major cause of violence. Violence against women is a violation of human rights, even according to research, is a very serious violation. Violence against women is a serious violation of human rights revealed by different configurations throughout the life of a woman [17]. Therefore, one of way to improve the quality of life of Indonesian women is by eliminating discrimination against women.

### CONCLUSION

Based on results, it can be concluded that: (1) Government priority programs in reducing discrimination against women through strengthening policies and regulations on prevention, handling, rehabilitation, repatriation, and reintegration; increasing the knowledge and understanding of women, families, communities, the business world, and other stakeholders about violence against women and human trafficking; strengthening institutional protection for women from acts of violence through increasing the capacity of human resources of service providers, coordination between service provider units, strengthening data and information, supervision; strengthening networks and cooperation between the government, communities, mass media actors, the business world and legal aid institutions; (2) the programs undertaken by the government to improve the quality of women are to strengthen policies and regulations on women's empowerment; improve and understand gender issues and their root causes; increase the empowerment of women, especially in education, health, economy, labor, politics, and public office; and improving and coordinating networks between the central government, regional governments, the community, the mass media, and the business world. The challenges to realise this program are government commitment, understanding of gender, and law enforcement.

### REFERENCES

- [1] I. Casado and C. Bárcena, "Analysis of violence against elderly woman," *Procedia - Soc. Behav. Sci.*, vol. 161, pp. 110–114, 2014.
- [2] Y. Sikweyiya, A. A. Addo-lartey, D. O. Alangea, and P. Dako-gyeke, "Patriarchy and gender-inequitable attitudes as drivers of intimate partner violence against women in the central region of," pp. 1–11, 2020.
- [3] E. A. Bates, K. R. Klement, L. K. Kaye, and C. R. Pennington, "The Impact of Gendered Stereotypes on Perceptions of Violence : A Commentary," pp. 34–43, 2019.
- [4] S. Basu, "Mental Health Concerns for Indian Women," pp. 127–136, 2012.
- [5] K. Hsieh, "The Right to be Free from Domestic Violence in Macau," vol. 309, no. March, pp. 27–35, 2012.
- [6] S. Menon, "Gender and Discrimination: Health, Nutritional Status and Role of Women in India," vol. 2, pp. 270–272, 2011.
- [7] K. Mcneilly, "Gendered Violence and International Human Rights : Thinking Non-discrimination Beyond the Sex Binary," pp. 263–283, 2014.
- [8] I. Hartmann-tews, F. Bartsch, I. Wagner, and B. Rulofs, "Managing prevention of sexual violence and the role of commissioners in national sport federations in Germany \$ , \$\$," *Sport Manag. Rev.*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 155–169, 2020.
- [9] G. Kim and S. Yang, "An Ethnographic Study of a Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence in Korea," 2016.
- [10] L. Peroni, "Violence Against Migrant Women : The Istanbul Convention Through a Postcolonial Feminist Lens," *Fem. Leg. Stud.*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 49–67, 2016.
- [11] S. Foley and R. Loi, "Gender , gender identification and perceived gender discrimination An examination of mediating processes in China," vol. 34, no. 8, pp. 650–665, 2015.
- [12] S. Dhar, *Gender and Sustainable Development Goals ( SDGs )*. 2018.
- [13] R. Manjoo and U. N. Special, "" Bridging the Divide ': An Interview with Professor," *Fem. Leg. Stud.*, vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 329–347, 2015.
- [14] V. L. Banyard *et al.*, "Children and Youth Services Review Evaluating a gender transformative violence prevention program for middle school boys : A pilot study," vol. 101, no. March, pp. 165–173, 2019.
- [15] H. Baker, "The Significance of Shame in the Lives of Women Who Experience Male Violence.pdf," *Liverpool Law Rev* 34145–171, pp. 145–171, 2013.
- [16] K. Fitz-gibbon, "Domestic Violence and the Gendered Law of Self-Defence in France : The Case of Jacqueline Sauvage," *Fem. Leg. Stud.*, vol. 25, no. 3, pp. 313–335, 2017.
- [17] G. Valadares, E. de Oliveira Neves, C. Moreira, P. de Almeida Costa, and S. Mendes, "Violence and Women's Mental Health," in *Women's Mental Health: A Clinical and Evidence-Based Guide*, J. Rennó Jr., G. Valadares, A. Cantilino, J. Mendes-Ribeiro, R. Rocha, and A. da Silva, Eds. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2020, pp. 291–322.