



Social Construction of Muslim Students on Gender Equality

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Abstract. This research departs from issues related to gender equality which has been a problem that has been highlighted, especially in Indonesia. So far, there are many pros and cons in the community when discussing gender issues, especially related to gender equality. The socio-cultural construction of society is never separated from the formation of the concept of gender itself. In the current era, many movements have been born to thoroughly explore gender issues, especially from young people, especially students as agents of change in society. The purpose of this study was to explore and find out more about the perceptions and meanings of muslim female students in the civil engineering department at the State University of Surabaya regarding the concept of gender equality. Furthermore, the research was conducted using a qualitative approach through observation and interview techniques. The theory used in the research is the theory of social construction through the perspective of Peter L Berger in helping to answer the issues raised. The results show that the concept of gender equality that is interpreted by the majority of informants is that the concept of gender can give birth to a movement to provide equal space and opportunities for men and women or get equal rights in various aspects of life in society.

Keywords: Social Construction · Gender Equality · Muslim Students

1 Introduction

At this time, along with the development of the times and the increasing awareness that substantially humans are equal, the issue of gender equality is increasingly being voiced, both from men and women. Gender is a concept of social relations that distinguishes the functions and roles between men and women. The distinction is determined according to the position, function and role of men and women. Many people have the perception that gender is always related to women [1]. Gender is an attribute inherent in men and women who are culturally shaped. Gender also distinguishes the structure of every aspect of human social life based on gender differences [2]. As a concept in social analysis, gender refers to a set of traits, roles, responsibilities, functions, rights, and behaviors inherent in men and women as cultural forms [3]. Society creates attitudes and behaviors based on gender, including in determining what should distinguish women and men. This belief

is also passed down from generation to generation through the process of socialization, both within the family, community, educational institutions, and religion.

Gender can also be understood as a consequence that arises as a result of differences in biological anatomy that encourage the emergence of cultural aspects. According to Showalter, the term gender became known in early 1977, when a London feminist group no longer used old issues such as patriarchal or sexist but replaced them with the term gender discourse. British sociologist Ann Oakley is recognized as the first person to distinguish between sex and gender [4]. There are biological differences between women and men, but culture interprets these biological differences into a set of social demands about appropriate behavior, and in turn rights, resources and power. While these demands vary by society, there are some striking similarities. For example,

Gender equality actually refers to an equal situation between men and women, especially in terms of fulfilling rights and obligations. However, in Indonesia, women often experience gender injustice, for example, there are still many cases of violence against women. With the development of the times, the community began to work together to fight for gender equality. Women have dared to enter the realm of tasks or jobs that are mostly done by men. For example, in lectures that are getting longer, more and more women are pursuing engineering, especially mechanical engineering. So, it is not uncommon nowadays many women dare to appear in the public sector. Not infrequently also men now participate in women's work in the domestic sector. It is undeniable that gender equality cannot be separated from the existence of the feminism movement. In the history of feminism, there have been complexities faced by feminists. Consciously providing a definition of being a feminist or not, it is certain that the problems of women are something that is important to be researched using theoretical frameworks, policies, and also actions to realize social justice for women [5]. As we also know that there is currently a movement called 'muslimah feminist' where from the movement it can be said that they still uphold Islamic values but they also agree about gender equality. Therefore, the researcher took the title 'Social Construction of Civil Engineering Students, State University of Surabaya regarding gender equality' because the researchers wanted to know how the opinion of students majoring in Civil Engineering, State University of Surabaya on this matter. Do they agree or not with the existence of gender equality. The reason is that researchers believe that Surabaya State University students have different characteristics from other university students. Researchers also doubt that because of the influence of globalization, it can bring changes from the perspective of students at the State University of Surabaya. Do they agree or not with the existence of gender equality. The reason is that researchers believe that Surabaya State University students have different characteristics from other university students. Researchers also doubt that because of the influence of globalization, it can bring changes from the perspective of students at the State University of Surabaya. Do they agree or not with the existence of gender equality. The reason is that researchers believe that Surabaya State University students have different characteristics from other university students. Researchers also doubt that because of the influence of globalization, it can bring changes from the perspective of students at the State University of Surabaya. The formulation of the problem obtained from the description of the background above is as follows: How is the social

construction of students majoring in Civil Engineering, State University of Surabaya regarding gender equality?

2 Method

This approach uses a qualitative approach, which in this approach is an approach that conducts in-depth research that is oriented towards natural phenomena and instead has to go into the field. So it can be said that in this qualitative approach is the existence of a research procedure that produces descriptive data research in the form of words written or from someone's mouth, and can be seen from the behavior that will be obtained, observed so that it will find truth that can be accepted by the human mind itself.

The perspective used in this study uses qualitative research, which is about data collected in the form of words and pictures, and the form of words arranged in a sentence, for example, is a sentence from an interview from an informant. In this research method basically describes the social construction of students majoring in Civil Engineering, State University of Surabaya regarding gender equality, which in this study also uses a comparison of one data with another to the interviewed informants. And the research method itself is a technique or way to find, collect, and obtain, record the data obtained.

The research method used by the researcher is descriptive using a qualitative approach. Descriptive approach itself is a writing that describes an actual situation about the existence of the object under study.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Gender Equality Concept

The first informant provides an overview of the concept of gender equality by making men and women to get equal rights and opportunities in various aspects of life. A different view was expressed by the second informant, the concept of gender equality actually still has problems in defining it, but the informant gives an illustration that the existence of gender equality makes women have a wider scope than usual, especially in terms of work [6]. According to the third informant, gender equality according to the formants is everything that already exists in the Qur'an. The informant also gave an example that housework should also be done by men. The informant stated that he did not know the origin of the statement that women must '3M' (*Masak, Manak, Macak*).

According to the fourth informant regarding the notion of gender equality, the informant argues that gender equality is a new thing, where it was created by humans in the world regarding issues between men and women, long after Islam was created. According to the fifth informant, knowing gender equality is a movement to provide equal space, place, or opportunity for women and men in all fields [7]. According to the sixth informant, the concept of gender equality according to the informant is the existence of justice or the view that all people must have and receive equal treatment and there is no difference in their gender identity which is natural. The existence of gender equality is so that everyone can get the same justice, especially in matters of work, politics, and so on. According to the seventh informant, historical gender equality has been in the

Qur'an. According to him, gender equality is equalizing in all aspects between men and women. However, until now women are still considered weak and have always been a complementary figure in married life, for example. According to the eight informants, gender equality is something that is being discussed by many people. Islamic teachings have explained that men are more entitled and better to be a leader. But as time goes by, men and women continue to experience parallels. According to the seventh informant, historical gender equality has been in the Qur'an. According to him, gender equality is equalizing in all aspects between men and women [8]. However, until now women are still considered weak and have always been a complementary figure in married life, for example. According to the eight informants, gender equality is something that is being discussed by many people. Islamic teachings have explained that men are more entitled and better to be a leader. But as time goes by, men and women continue to experience parallels. According to the seventh informant, historical gender equality has been in the Qur'an. According to him, gender equality is equalizing in all aspects between men and women. However, until now women are still considered weak and have always been a complementary figure in married life, for example. According to the eight informants, gender equality is something that is being discussed by many people. Islamic teachings have explained that men are more entitled and better to be a leader. But as time goes by, men and women continue to experience parallels. However, until now women are still considered weak and have always been a complementary figure in married life, for example. According to the eight informants, gender equality is something that is being discussed by many people. Islamic teachings have explained that men are more entitled and better to be a leader. But as time goes by, men and women continue to experience parallels. However, until now women are still considered weak and have always been a complementary figure in married life, for example. According to the eight informants, gender equality is something that is being discussed by many people. Islamic teachings have explained that men are more entitled and better to be a leader. But as time goes by, men and women continue to experience parallels.

3.2 The Importance of Gender Equality

According to the first informant, looking at the concept of gender equality at this time is indeed important because there are many women who can do jobs like men, but the concept of gender equality should not be misunderstood to elevate the position of women. While the second informant admitted the importance of gender equality when the position of women is threatened in the current era, especially women who lack more knowledge. However, the informants also did not agree that the concept of Gender equality is misinterpreted to elevate the position of women from the position of men so that it can be arbitrary.

According to the third informant, the question of the importance of gender equality at this time is important. Because, with the existence of gender equality, it can make it easier for women and men to get jobs. Where with the existence of gender equality, there is no barrier between men and women. And they both can get their own rights. The informant also argued that gender equality itself is not important because according to the informant, Allah SWT created humans into two, namely women and men, there must be a reason for this. And the creation of these creatures has been arranged according to

its function by Allah SWT. The fifth informant said that it was very important to have gender equality because it could be said that in this era, there is a great need for equal roles or positions between men and women. This cannot be said to be different because they both want to have the same position. Moreover, this era is an era of freedom in any matter or doing other things, because anyone can have the same right to have an opinion and or to act.

According to the sixth informant, the existence of gender equality is so that everyone can get the same justice, especially in matters of work, politics, and so on. Gender equality is very important because in society there are still many who think that the nature of a woman is to cook, wash, and take care of children. But nature itself is a gift from God and cannot be changed, namely for a woman to conceive and give birth. According to the eighth informant, the existence of gender equality is not that important to him, because between men and women it is preordained to have their own natures. Allah SWT created humans by dividing the two sexes there must be a reason and the reason is written in the holy verses of the Qur'an.

3.3 Position of Women in Gender Equality

The first informant did not agree that gender equality could position women as equal to men. According to the informant, if the concept is used, it tends not to be said to be equal, but women can position themselves higher than women, instead of upholding gender equality. The parallel position in question should be used appropriately in terms of work and decision making [9]. The second informant is of the view that gender equality does deliver an equal position between men and women. This alignment is actually meant to minimize violence against women by men. So that people actually need to know the parallel perspective in the true sense. According to the third informant, he stated that he agreed with the statement that the position of women was equal to that of men. The informant stated that with this statement, as women they would no longer be underestimated by men.

The fourth informant is of the opinion that he agrees with the statement of gender equality, as long as it is carried out in accordance with Islamic religious law and should not deviate from the path that has been outlined. The fifth informant answered whether or not students agree or disagree with gender equality at this time, in which case it can be said to agree or not because at this time not only students are voicing about gender equality, but there are many movements that care about it. This is because the role of women is also important and also needed not only by men, and women themselves also have the same rights as a man, but how can a woman be obedient and obedient to a man as her husband.

The sixth informant's view regarding whether or not students agree with gender equality at this time is that they do not agree because gender equality on the part of women is positioned on a par with men. The parallel position or the same level in question is that the position is positioned with the right things in both, such as in the position of a joint decision and so on [10]. The seventh informant with the existence of gender equality is less approved by the informant because gender equality tends to give the highest position to women with the assumption that they want to uphold the equal position between women and men. -man. Positions or equal work positions should be used appropriately

in the decision-making process. According to the eighth informant, many women today are become regional leaders, for example, become regional representatives of the *DPR* and *DPRD*. This means that since the development of the era has often found career women. The informant explained that the leadership of a woman is no less great than a man.

3.4 Gender Equality in Islamic Law

According to the first informant's knowledge of gender equality in Islam, it is men who lead women. However, this context could be during ancient Islam, because times have evolved so that such contexts must be adjusted. The second informant admitted that he did not know much about gender equality in Islamic law. However, as far as the informants know in Islam, the leader is a man, so it is true that women are obedient to men. According to the third informant, the position of women in Islam is in accordance with the Qur'an. Where according to the informant, the Qur'an has stated that men are priests for women. From this statement, it can be explained that the position of women in Islam is indeed that women are led by men.

The fourth informant argues that gender equality according to the Islamic view is that men and women have been created as perfectly as possible and are in accordance with their respective functions. So that they only need to carry out the function of their nature, and do not violate what has been given by Allah SWT to them. Informants also argue that the position of women in Islam is very high and highly respected. According to the fifth informant, there is a law regarding gender equality in Islam, namely the informant knows that like a man in Islam really becomes an imam to lead women in the family especially, but seen today that there have been many changes and there are developments in this era maybe in this concept should be adjusted.

The view of the sixth informant regarding the law of gender equality in Islam according to the informant is important because the position of a man will always be a leader and a woman must carry out obligations which must obey a man. According to the seventh informant, the existence of women as leaders is not mandatory because it is in accordance with the verse of the Qur'an which contains that women can become leaders, but it is not required. Women are considered unable to lead the people because the burden is considered by men to be a very heavy burden and responsibility. According to the eighth informant in Islamic teachings, it has been explained that men are more entitled and better to be a leader. But as time goes by, men and women continue to experience parallels.

3.5 Women Become Leaders

According to the first informant, if there is a woman who becomes the leader, the informant agrees, however, women actually have limitations in terms of physical and energy, so they still need men to complete them. According to the second informant, there is nothing wrong with women being leaders, because women will continue to be a guide for their children when they are married. The informant gave an example that at this time there are also many women who become leaders such as the mayor of Surabaya, Mrs. Risma. However, according to informants such as Mrs. Risma, when she is at home she

continues to do her homework and serve her husband. So that his position as the leader of the city of Surabaya can be instantly lost when dealing with his husband. According to the third informant, if there is a woman who becomes the leader of an organization or government, the informant strongly agrees. This is because according to the informant, a woman is also capable of leading and this is not only done by men. The informant also believes that women are no less powerful in terms of leadership, this can be seen from several examples of leaders such as Tri Rismaharini. According to the fourth informant, agreed that women are given the opportunity to lead an organization or institution, because according to the informant women are no less great in terms of knowledge and morals than men.

According to the sixth informant, there is nothing wrong with women being a leader at this time, because a woman can also act as a leader like a woman and man. Even though a woman as a leader does not forget the obligations she has at home, especially at 3M (cooking, taking care of children, and washing) this cannot be disputed, because in this gender equality there is freedom and fairness in any case.

3.6 Muslim Feminist Movement

According to the first informant, the Muslim feminist movement actually aims to prevent women from being oppressed under the pretext of being obedient to men. Although in the Islamic context, men are women leaders, but that context should not be misused to use women to submit to men. The influence of globalization itself has led the feminist movement to influence the Islamic perspective. The second informant admitted that he did not clearly follow the movement because he did not know the purpose of the movement. However, the views of the movement's informants include supporting gender equality by sticking to Islamic guidelines. As exemplified by Mrs. Risma's leadership.

According to the third informant regarding the existence of the feminist movement, the informant himself was not aware of the existence of the movement and did not know the true purpose of the movement. So that the informants did not provide much information about the feminism movement. The fourth informant's opinion regarding the existence of the feminist movement, the informant did not agree. Because according to the informant, the main goal of the feminist movement itself is not in line with the teachings of Islam. Where the informant stated that the goal of the feminist movement is to create gender equality between men and women so that from this goal the feminist movement supports the existence of LGBTQ and this is not in line with the teachings of Islam.

According to the fifth informant regarding gender equality which is closely related to the feminist movement, namely gender equality itself is very closely related to the feminist movement because in relation to gender equality it tries to fight for the rights that it is the same for men or women, that women themselves can or are capable of becoming leaders like men. Therefore, gender equality will give birth to a feminist movement that supports the existence of equal rights between women and men, from this it can be linked that the movement actually has a goal so that women are not oppressed by a man and must obey a man. But from this there is a change and modern influence which now affects an Islamic perspective in this case regarding gender equality.

The sixth informant said that he did not follow a movement too much because he did not understand and did not know about it, but the informant had a view on this that supports the existence of gender equality in Islamic religious guidelines, because a woman anytime and anywhere will remain obedient to a man or to her husband.

According to the seventh informant, the emergence of the feminist movement in recent years has been enormous. However, the informant did not agree, because the goals of feminism were not in accordance with the teachings of Islam. The eighth informant himself did not know about the feminist movement and only knew about feminism when asked by the researcher.

4 Conclusion

The concept of gender equality that can be concluded that the majority of informants provide the concept of gender equality is a movement where to provide equal space and opportunities for men and women or get equal rights in various aspects of life. There is an example in the Qur'an, namely that housework should also be done by a man, from this it can be seen that gender equality should have justice and equal treatment and there is no difference in their natural gender identity. But from the results of this study regarding gender equality, one of the informants argues that gender equality is currently being discussed booming.

According to Islamic teachings, it has been explained that a man is more entitled to become a leader, as the times between men and women continue to experience parallels or similarities. The existence of gender equality is very important, because looking at this concept, there are many women who can do their jobs nowadays like men and recognize the importance of gender equality when the position of women is threatened in the current era, especially for women who lack the existence of more knowledge.

However, this can be considered as a disagreement if the concept of gender equality is misinterpreted to leave the position of women from the position of men so that it will be arbitrary. In terms of gender equality, it is more directed to everyone being able to get the same justice, especially in matters of work, politics, and so on, gender equality in society is still considered important and many people think that it is the nature of a woman to cook, take care of children, and wash. But the nature of a woman cannot be changed and has been given by God, namely as a woman pregnant and giving birth. From this it can be explained that a man and a woman have different lines, especially in nature.

The position of a woman in gender equality, the majority of informants agreed, because of the view that gender equality does deliver a person's position that is equal to both men and women, the alignment is meant to minimize violence against women that has been committed by a man. The position of a woman in gender equality can be said to be correct as long as it goes with Islamic religious law and must not turn back from the path that has been outlined, that in Islamic teachings it has been explained that women must obey and obey men in kinship who have a position as a husband because a man after all remains a priest for a woman. But judging by the changing times, many women have become leaders in any job, such as regional leaders becoming regional representatives of the DPR and DPD. This means that it can be seen in the times that

career women have often been found where a female leader is no less powerful than men in doing anything, especially at work. In terms of gender equality, it is seen in Islamic law, namely, especially in a man who is obliged to lead women and each of them already has a line, especially in his nature, so that they only need to carry out the functions of their nature and not commit violations of what has been ordained by the law. Allah SWT. This means that it can be seen in the times that career women have often been found where a female leader is no less powerful than men in doing anything, especially at work. In terms of gender equality, it is seen in Islamic law, namely, especially in a man who is obliged to lead women and each of them already has a line, especially in his nature, so they only need to carry out the functions of their nature and not commit violations of what has been ordained by the law. Allah SWT. This means that it can be seen in the times that career women have often been found where a female leader is no less powerful than men in doing anything, especially at work. In terms of gender equality, it is seen in Islamic law, namely, especially in a man who is obliged to lead women and each of them already has a line, especially in his nature, so that they only need to carry out the functions of their nature and not commit violations of what has been ordained by the law, Allah SWT.

In gender equality itself, there are women who become leaders, the majority of informants in this study strongly agree because it can be said that after all a woman also has an advantage, but also has a limitation in physical and energy so that after all she still needs a man to support her. do anything or to complete it. With this, there is nothing wrong if a woman serves as a leader and is able to lead like a man, this cannot be disputed because in this gender equality there is freedom and fairness in any case. There is gender equality in the Muslim feminist movement, which is mostly unclear about a movement, but it can be concluded that in this case, informants have a view that the movement strongly supports gender equality by sticking to the guidelines of Islamic teachings. Which is where a man and a woman have been given a straight line and created in pairs according to their nature. With this, gender equality is closely related to the feminist movement because there is a link regarding gender equality trying to fight for equal rights between men and women, that a woman can also be a leader, therefore gender equality will give birth to a feminist movement that support the equal rights of men and women.

Suggestion

From the research above, suggestions are taken so that the concept of gender equality remains in line with what has been taught by religion. Because, basically religion cannot be removed from all aspects of human life in the world. And religion is also an endeavor in everyday life. In addition, from the research above, a suggestion can be taken so that humans can live side by side, both male and female. So that all forms of acts of injustice against men and women or what is commonly referred to as gender injustice can slowly be minimized and eliminated.

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