

Woman and Covid-19 Pandemic

Editorial

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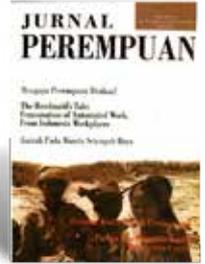
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Editorial: Women and the Covid-19 Pandemic

Gender inequality that persists in the society is considered to have worsened the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women. UN Women's Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA) in Europe and Central Asia found more than 15 percent of women have lost their jobs, 41 percent of women have experienced wage's cut, and found the increasing hour and workload of women in the family during the Covid-19 pandemic. Not only causing economic and social impacts, the Covid-19 pandemic has also caused increasing women's vulnerability to domestic violence. *Shadow pandemic* is a concept that explains the phenomenon of the increased prevalence of violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Family as a 'gendered institution' has become an important focus in feminism studies. Feminism views family in a patriarchal society as an embodiment of unequal gender relation, where women's gender role is constructed and placed in subordinate manner. In a patriarchal society, women are being attached to sex-affective production role, who are tasked to provide emotional caring function for her child(ren) and husband, as well fulfilling men's sexual satisfaction. Meanwhile, the works within family such as care work and household work, are often economically undervalued and being considered as unskilled works.

Since March 2020, the government of Indonesia has officially declared Covid-19 pandemic status. One of the policies to prevent the transmission of pandemic is the large-scale social restriction (*Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar - PSBB*). PSBB is a social distancing policy that require restrictions of activities in public spaces such as office, factory, entertainment facility, religious facility, restaurant, school, market, shopping center, and many others. The social distancing has created contraction to economic activities in Indonesia. As the consequence, the Covid-19 pandemic has been shadowed by the lay-offs to the workers, and job loss of many business entrepreneurs and/or informal sectors. The economic impacts of the pandemic do not only happen to the macro economy but also to the household economy.

Analysis on the unequal gender relation within family is important in order to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic towards women. The application of social distancing has made most of activities in public space to be done from homes. Therefore, during the

pandemic, we witness the emergence of various form activities, such as: work from home, long-distance schooling, long-distance religious activities, including online shopping. The concentration of activities at home have increased women's responsibilities within the households. During the pandemic time, for instance, a working mother must be able to manage the load and time allocation between working-from-home and accompanying their children to do online schooling. During the pandemic, a housewife must also ensure the fulfilment of nutritional needs and the increased electricity bills, while family's income is declining.

The intersectional feminism is an important feminism concept in observing the different situation faced by women and marginalized groups during the Covid-19 pandemic. In general, the increasing households' burden in the time of the pandemic would certainly have effect on women. However, women are not homogenous entities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, domestic worker—who are mostly done by women—has become a profession that is vulnerable to exploitation. Although the work load of domestic workers is increased during the pandemic, but in general, the domestic workers do not receive extra wages. On the contrary, during the pandemic, the domestic workers are more vulnerable to lay-offs and stigma as transmitters of Corona virus. Migrant domestic workers also face similar vulnerabilities as the domestic workers, with additional vulnerability of being involuntarily repatriated.

The intersectional feminism could also disclose the multiple layers of marginalization experienced by the marginalized group, such as the LGBT or transgenders. Due to their gender identity, transgenders people usually have limited access to various employment sectors. During the implementation of PSBB, the common types of jobs that are done by transgender people, such as beauty salon, street musician, restaurant, are the ones that are being closed or restricted. In several cases, the transgenders also experience barriers in accessing social assistance, because of not having of identity cards. Meanwhile, due to their gender identity, families who commonly become the sanctuary during the pandemic, reversely has become vulnerable to violence against transgender people. The unequal socio, economic and political relation, have brought worse impacts of the pandemic to the groups who experience

multiple inequalities. These multiple vulnerabilities are experienced by groups such as transgenders, women with disability, domestic workers, fisherwomen, migrant workers, and others, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Though sit in subordinate positions, women do have agency to survive during the pandemic, including to provide support for their community. Women in Sumba, for instance, have developed education's initiative, providing information, and communication about the Covid-19 pandemic, for their communities. The other women's agency can be seen in the voluntarism done by *Solidaritas Pangan Jogja* (SPJ). SPJ has managed to transform the bias view on care work, such as cooking in the kitchen, into solidarity movement of soup kitchen (public kitchen) for the marginalized groups during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a restricted social space during the Covid-19 pandemic, women could drive collective actions, not only for survival purpose, but also to create space for public interest. The experience of women's organizations such as Rahima and 'Aisyiyah, have shown women's collective movement in assisting community through aid and educational solidarity movement. Meanwhile, KAPAL Perempuan has tried to develop solidarity's initiative while at the same time keep monitoring over the prevalent gender-based violence that persist during the pandemic, such as child marriage. Aside from overcoming the pressure from the 'gendered space' due to the pandemic, women also maintain their civic

politics in public space. Therefore, despite the decreasing public space during the Covid-19 pandemic, the women activists continue to guard civic politics, such as pushing for the deliberation of the draft bill on the Elimination of Sexual Violence, draft bill on Domestic Workers, as well as being involved in activism to criticize the draft bill of Omnibus Law on Job Creation.

Jurnal Perempuan 107 on Women and the Covid-19 Pandemic, reconfirms the findings and women's experiences in various countries, that in Indonesia, the Covid-19 pandemic also brings more burden and vulnerability to women. The intertwined inequalities of gender identify, class position, social status, and the Covid-19 pandemic, have caused multiple vulnerability to women and other marginalized groups. Therefore, substantial inclusion of women in the mitigation of the Covid-19 pandemic is required, not only because women are one of the groups that face enormous vulnerabilities, but also because women are the backbone of prevention and recovery processes of the pandemic. The experiences on women's agency have taught that the Covid-19 pandemic could not be overcome by domesticizing the emerged problems. Here, we are being reminded to one argument that was developed during the second wave of feminism, that women's personal experiences could not be detached from the existing political structure in the society. That is 'the personal is political'. Have a great reading!

(Atnike Nova Sigiro)

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Feminist Theoretical Perspective: Intersectionality and Covid-19

Jurnal Perempuan, Vol. 25 No. 4, November 2020, pages. 1-10, 2 pictures, 16 references

The author argues for using a new theoretical foundation and criticizes Gender Mainstreaming perspective in issues related to gender. The author proposes an intersectionality approach that can critically see the problem of Covid-19 and its implications to not only gender relations (men and women) but also race, ethnicity, class, LGBTQIA, and other minority groups. The author emphasizes the concept of critical praxis, which uses both critical questions and activism for total social change.

Keywords: Covid-19, Intersectionality, Critical Praxis, Gender Mainstreaming, Male Crisis

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From Loss to Survival: A study on the Sumbanese Women's Experiences during Covid-19 Mitigation

Jurnal Perempuan, Vol. 25 No. 4, November 2020, pages. 11-23, 37 references

This article describes the capacity of Sumbanese women to survive and adapt to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pandemic response creates problems due to changes in various aspects of life, such as health access patterns, social interaction and relationships, work patterns and employment status, religious practice, and school education system. To overcome the impact of pandemic response, they change their behavior and lifestyle, such as utilizing strategic partners in Covid-19-related education, participating as community volunteers, switching professions, and building social support among fellow community members. This study used a qualitative approach with data collection techniques through in-depth interviews, online focus group discussions, and online surveys.

Keywords: resilience, social relation, stigmatization, Sumbanese women, Covid-19.

Alimatul Qibtiyah

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Indonesian Women's Experiences in Dealing with the Impacts of Pandemic Covid-19

Jurnal Perempuan, Vol. 25 No. 4, November 2020, pages. 25-35, 2 tables, 32 references

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought serious impact due to its massive scale, that occur all over the world, at all levels of groups within society. This disaster has a strong social dimension because its vulnerabilities often intersects with the existing social stratification. In various disasters, women often become one of the most vulnerable to be affected,

especially in the context of culture of patriarchy, that intertwine with misogynistic interpretations of religion, and the unfriendly economic and political system towards women. This article aims to identify the forms of the impacts Covid-19 pandemic on women, government's regulations that deal with these impacts, as well as women's efforts both as individual and in groups in dealing those impacts. This research was conducted through literature study over various researches by several institutions, also through observation and interviews with several women groups. The results of this study found that women are one of the most vulnerable and the most affected groups of Covid-19 Pandemic. Although rather delayed, government has included women in the decision-making in handling the situation of women, children and vulnerable groups during the pandemic. Women's experiences both as individual and groups in responding to the impact of pandemic also deserve some appreciation. This research found that during the pandemic, women have shown their resilience, creativity, and put forward women's collaboration.

Keywords: women and pandemic, Covid-19 pandemic, women resilience

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Maintaining Civic Space: Women Activist and Spatial Politics During Pandemic Covid-19 in Indonesia

Jurnal Perempuan, Vol. 25 No. 4, November 2020, pages. 37-46, 1 table, 27 references

The Covid19 pandemic has changed society's spatial practices substantially. Large-scale social restrictions, lockdowns, and the obligation to wear masks have changed the way humans relates to each other personally and politically. This article discusses how the pandemic has shaped civic space of women activists and how women activists maintain and create citizenship space amid the pandemic and democratic regression. The data source of the article is collected through online survey of 20 female activists and in-depth online interviews. The results show that civil society organizations in Indonesia are under immense pressure due to pandemic and democratic regression. For civil society organizations, their space is limited by various legal regulations and various violence and stigma aimed at civil society activists. More than that, for women activists the pandemic also provides additional domestic burdens which make the space for women activists increasingly limited. In the midst of these obstacles, our research shows that women and civil society activists do not reduce their intensity in maintaining the civic space.

Key words: pandemic, civic space, spatial politics, democracy.

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The Urgency of Gender Perspectives in the Covid-19 Pandemic's Mitigation

Jurnal Perempuan, Vol. 25 No. 4, November 2020, pages. 47-57, 18 references

This paper looks at the urgency of gender perspective in Covid-19 pandemic's mitigation in Indonesia. This is crucial given the lack of gender perspective in measures to handle the pandemic in Indonesia and therefore deepening the existing gender inequality. This situation can be seen in the mitigation of the pandemic's impacts, particularly the specific impact of the pandemic on women within the gender cross-sectoral issues (economy, health, and education), and women's participation in the decision-making processes. Data during the pandemic show that the pandemic has caused serious impacts on women. Therefore, data and gender analysis are needed in order to ensure that measures in handling the pandemic would address the problems that are faced by women and vulnerable groups. This paper will present data from global and national, as well as data from KAPAL Perempuan's field experiences in its collaboration with its local partner organizations in 6 (six) provinces. The paper also draws from documentation from the experiences of other organizations in integrating gender perspective from the past natural disasters' mitigations that ever occurred in Yogyakarta, West Sumatra, Palu, and Lombok.

Keywords: gender and pandemic, women's leadership, pandemic and violence against women, grassroots women

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Women Ulema's Action Responding to Covid-19 Pandemic in their Communities: The Experience of 'Simpul Rahima'

Jurnal Perempuan, Vol. 25 No. 4, November 2020, pages. 59-69, 1 table, 1 picture, 19 references

This article raises the experience of female ulema's autonomy and strength in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in their communities. The female ulema that is represented by Simpul Rahima in this article, refers to the female ulemas who have attended series of Female Ulema School, that are based in community, with gender equality perspective about Islam. Data collection is conducted through focused group discussion (FGD) and online observation. This study reveals that self-autonomy of the female ulema has distinct characteristic from those of male ulema. The female ulema's preach is based on women's real experience. Female ulema also utilize their authority politically to

disseminate a peaceful, full of compassion and just Islamic teaching amidst religious interpretation which often marginalizes the position of women. In related with strength, female ulema utilize majelis taklim to preach a gender-just Islam as well as organize women's collective strength.

Keywords: female ulema, Covid-19 pandemic, women's autonomy

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Portrait of the Impact of the Implementation of Large-Scale Social Distancing during Covid-19 Pandemic towards Women and Marginalized Groups through the Perspective of Intersectional Feminism

Jurnal Perempuan, Vol. 25 No. 4, November 2020, pages. 71-84, 1 table, 37 references

Social distancing has been used as one of the methods to prevent the spreading of Corona virus during the Covid-19 pandemic. This method has been applied in many countries. In Indonesia, the social distancing method is implemented based on the Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar (PSBB), a large-scale social distancing policy. Through PSBB policy, a large number of activities in public domain must be closed and/or be restricted. Meanwhile, many of societal activities, such as schooling and working, must be held through long distance or being conducted at home. The application of social distancing has caused increasing of women's responsibilities on care work and house work in domestic domain. Through intersectional feminism's perspective, this article tries to elaborate the impact of the application of social distancing towards women and marginalized groups. This article found that the existing inequalities namely gender inequality, class inequality, and other forms of social inequality that have been experienced by women and the marginalized groups, have worsened their situations during the application of social distancing policy in Indonesia during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Covid-19 pandemic, intersectional feminism, social distancing, care work

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