

# Women's Perspectives on Patriarchal Culture in The Context of Human Rights

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**Abstract.** The perspective that arises that everything must be done by women even though it is also actually not a problem if done by men which has an impact on the physical harm to women during the ceremony. Therefore, this study will examine how women's perspectives on patriarchal culture. The purpose of this study is to state the existence of patriarchal culture and examine how women's perspectives on patriarchal culture. The method is used case study method with qualitative approach through data collection techniques: conservation and interviews. It's hoped that this research can be useful for the community either as a reference or educational material on how patriarchal culture still exists in Banjar Kebon. The results of this study show that patriarchal culture still exists in people's lives in Banjar Kebon, especially in the context of religious ceremonies and based on women's perspectives in Banjar Kebon.

**Keywords:** Patriarchal Culture, Human Rights, Women

## 1. Introduction

As a citizen living under the umbrella of the law, every citizen has equal rights and position before the law [1]. In addition to the state of law, Indonesia is also a country rich in traditions and culture, one of which is the island of Bali. Bali is rich in tradition and identical with a variety of unique religious ceremonies ranging from small and large ceremonies though. In holding religious ceremonies, of course, there are a lot of preparations that need to be done beforehand and usually women will spend a lot of time and energy in preparing it because more women do it than men, therefore this culture leads to patriarchal culture because this actually harms women. Patriarchal culture is a social system that places men as the main authority in social organization. In this case, the position of men is considered higher than women in social, cultural, and economic life. The rise of party culture which is very influential on women in Bali, especially when carrying out religious ceremonies, in fact also affects human rights [2].

Seeing this makes researchers enthusiastic to analyze more deeply about how the existence and how women's perspectives on patriarchal culture that still exist in Bali, especially in Banjar Kebon, Sulahan Village, Susut District, Bangli Regency. In essence, every human being has been endowed with his own obligations and rights that should be respected by any group without racing against a culture that tends to be no longer relevant if it is still applied at this time, namely patriarchal culture.

The benefit of this research is to provide knowledge as well as prove the existence of patriarchal culture in Banjar Kebon that with the development of the era of patriarchal culture in community life, it cannot be denied its existence and this research is also useful as a study material for women's perspectives on patriarchal culture and its correlation to human rights, especially women in Banjar Kebon as a race or group that tends to be disadvantaged. With this research, the author hopes that there will be more people who understand that patriarchal culture is not a relevant culture if it is still continuously applied in this era of globalization in community life, especially in Banjar Kebon.

The method used in this research process is to use the case study method through a qualitative approach [3]. Data collection techniques are carried out by observation and interviews. Based on the title, background, and objectives of this study, the formulation of the problem to be studied further can be concluded, namely:

1. How is the existence of patriarchal culture in the continuity of religious ceremonies in Banjar Kebon, Sulahan Village, Susust District, Bangli Regency?
2. What is the perspective of women on patriarchal culture in the context of human rights in the continuity of religious ceremonies in Banjar Kebon, Sulahan Village, Susust District, Bangli Regency?

## **2. Discussion**

### ***The existence of patriarchal culture in the continuity of religious ceremonies in Banjar Kebon***

According to KBBI, patriarchy is a behavior that prioritizes men over women in certain societies or social groups. Patriarchal culture is the unequal distribution of power between men and women in certain aspects of a society. Quoted from an article reported by the *Women's Human Rights Education Institute*. But in simple terms, patriarchal culture is a phenomenon or social system that places men in a higher position compared to women in social, political, economic, and cultural life [4]. The existence of patriarchal culture in the midst of the era of globalization is in fact still often felt, especially in areas that are thick with customs and traditions. Such as rural areas that have difficulty in accessing formal education and are not touched by the direct impact of modernization. It is of course difficult to achieve a balance between men and women plus economic issues are one of the issues causing patriarchal culture to persist today.

Banjar Kebon is a rural area located in Sulahan Village, Susut District, Bangli Regency which is one of the objects of research where patriarchal culture still exists today. Seeing the rise of patriarchal culture in Banjar Kebon raises various views from the community, especially women. Patriarchal culture still exists in various social activities in society, especially in the lives of religious people, namely when religious ceremonies are held in Banjar Kebon. The most obvious thing that can be seen is that in decision making or so-called "*Sangkep*", decision making is often only done by men who conduct deliberations without involving women in it. For example, when there is a job that involves many women's roles in it but in decision making is done without women at all. Women as victims can only accept and complain to others, but do not have the right to speak because of a long-rooted culture that forces them to be silent and accepting. However, in this era of globalization, patriarchy has a revolution because of the strength of the movement and the awareness of women that gender equality in social life is necessary to place human rights regardless of their gender role.

The existence of patriarchal culture in Banjar Kebon can be proven through *Sangkep* activities or decision making. In this case, men have an important role in discussing a problem that can involve all circles of society but in the process there is absolutely no perspective from women. In carrying out religious ceremonies themselves, of course, it requires a lot of energy and the dominant work is done by women, therefore women are very disadvantaged and cannot exercise their rights as human beings, namely voicing opinions [5]. This is what causes patriarchal culture to still remain sustainable even in the midst of the era of globalization. Decision-making where women are victims but in them there is no female voice is something that is not concrete.

Bali is known for its rich traditions and customs that make religious ceremonies a very common thing done by the Balinese people. However, religious activities are often the place where patriarchal culture grows and develops until it is still sustainable today. The most obvious thing that also proves the existence of patriarchal culture in Banjar Kebon to date is during the process of preparing ceremonies where women take a greater role both in the temple as well as at home so sometimes women have to give their time fully to this because usually women have been busy with work 3 days before the ceremony. But not with men whose role in preparing the event can be said to be less. When viewed in terms of gender, this is of course a form of inequality between the roles of men and women, which can actually be done together. But if we look at it from the side of the existing culture, we cannot let go in terms of our trust and devotion to God. So in the process, all parties, both women and men, never think of this as inequality but this as a form of *Yadnya* [6]

### ***Women's Perspectives on Patriarchal Culture in the context of Human Rights***

Seeing the rise of patriarchal culture in social life, especially religious life, raises various perspectives from women in Banjar Kebon who also feel the impact of existence of patriarchal culture in the continuity of religious ceremonies themselves. The perspectives that arise are certainly diverse, but most women feel aggrieved by the existence of patriarchal culture and this perspective will be the subject of discussion in this study. Patriarchal culture not only affects women's physique, but if it is associated with their rights and obligations

as humans, of course, patriarchal culture also affects human rights. Human beings are more precisely incompatible with the concept in Human Rights that upholds equality for every human being [7].

As a woman who has always followed what decisions have been decided in society, especially customs, it certainly makes patriarchal culture more prevalent because once Women speak out about decisions or cultures that already exist in social life, so it tends to cause other perspectives such as women should not behave against custom. Returning to the implementation of religious ceremonies which are important activities for all Hindus, of course, in the process of implementation there is an impact that will be caused, especially on women [8]. The impact is certainly diverse, but physical and time constraints are the main ones. In preparing for religious ceremonies women must be able to leave all their personal activities both at home and at work because of all their time, energy, and His mind should be focused on the preparation of the ceremony, the day of the ceremony, and even after the religious ceremony. This indirectly requires women to always be ready if there is work related to religious ceremonies while in decision making women's voices. Often losing has no effect at all because the concept of patriarchal culture has considered that the position of men is always higher and can be valued than women. This subordination will indirectly greatly affect life, whether patriarchal culture will fade or will remain lasting. If this continues to be maintained and closed to change, then this patriarchal culture will always be encountered in life [9].

A culture will indirectly affect human rights, including patriarchal culture. As civilized human beings they are born with the right they have, the right to express their opinions, the right to their own life, and the right to a decent life. However, is it in patriarchal culture that women's rights are fully obtained? This cannot be answered simply with a yes, because in practice, women's rights in patriarchal cultures must be silenced because they are considered to be within the power of men. The perspective that men have a higher position than women in social life [10]. Where their voices are considered to be represented by men, their rights are already behind men, and they are judged to be unable to do anything without men. It can be seen that, the influence of patriarchal culture greatly affects women's rights, they do not get their full rights but they have to do things that are not their obligations [11].

Such is the perspective of women in Banjar Kebon on the existence of patriarchal culture, a culture that is considered to cause inequality of roles in community life so that it gives birth to what is called gender inequality [12]. In this case, women are the ones who are burdened because in addition to having done their obligations, women also need to do things that are not their obligations without voicing their rights. The shackles of people's minds about existing cultures and traditions are the most difficult things to change and even remove because sometimes making changes in society can be considered a form of cultural assimilation [13]. Because as Yuval Noah Harari argues in his book "*Sapiens: A Brief Story Of Humankind*" gender is an easy matter, while gender is a serious matter [14]. The results of this study provide several concepts that in fact gender equality is still valid today, especially in the social sphere such as customs and culture so that in the opinion (Pambayun, 2021) this causes a bad view of women starting from their nature in society to marginalization [15].

### **3. Conclusion**

Patriarchal culture still exists and is influential in society, especially in rural areas such as Banjar Kebon. Patriarchy refers to a social system that gives superiority and power to men, while women are often ignored or do not have equal access in various aspects of life such as social, political, economic, and cultural. This phenomenon still persists today due to various factors, including customs and traditions that are difficult to change as well as constraints in formal education and modernization, especially in rural areas.

In Banjar Kebon society, patriarchal culture is still seen in various social activities, especially in decision making and the implementation of religious ceremonies. Decision-making tends to be done by men without involving women's perspectives, which results in gender inequality in participation and voting rights. Although women have an important role in the preparation of religious ceremonies, they still experience inequality in the allocation of time and responsibility. Patriarchal culture is also able to survive because of traditional beliefs and values that link gender inequality with religious aspects.

However, in this era of globalization, there is a growing movement and awareness among women to push for gender equality and overcome patriarchal culture. These efforts include an understanding that human rights must be placed above gender differences, and that women have the right to participate in decision-making and influence the development of society. Although patriarchal culture is still strong, the movement shows the potential to change people's views and fight for gender equality.

Thus, issues of economy, education, customs, traditions, and the role of religion contribute to the continuity of patriarchal culture in Banjar Kebon society. Nevertheless, slowly but surely, there are efforts to change mindsets and fight for women's rights in an effort to achieve better gender equality.

The perspective of women in Banjar Kebon towards patriarchal culture reflects dissatisfaction and a sense of injustice arising from male dominance in various aspects of life, including in decision-making and the implementation of religious ceremonies. Patriarchal culture affects women in a variety of ways. Women feel disadvantaged by a mindset that puts men in a higher position and limits women's roles and voices. In the context of religious ceremonies, women face significant physical and time constraints in the preparation and conduct of ceremonies, while their voice in decision-making is often not taken into account. This condition indicates the subordination of women and hinders the development of gender equality.

Patriarchal culture also has an impact on women's human rights. In this context, women's rights are often neglected or even violated, because male dominance is considered to replace women's needs and rights. Women sometimes feel tied down in roles defined by patriarchal culture, including performing tasks that shouldn't be their responsibility. This perspective also highlights the difficulty of changing or removing patriarchal culture, due to barriers in the form of strong beliefs and traditions in society. Change is considered a form of cultural assimilation that is difficult for some societies to accept. Nonetheless, there are efforts in the era of globalization to address gender inequality and embrace the concept of equality, with the recognition that gender is a serious issue and needs to be fought for.

Overall, this text describes how patriarchal culture affects women in Banjar Kebon and creates gender inequality that is still dilemmatic. However, there are signs of awareness and efforts to address this issue and drive change towards better gender equality.

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