

# Feminism and the Women's Carriage of the KRL Jabodetabek

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**Abstract.** Since October 2012, the Jabodetabek Electric Rail Train (KRL) has started to implement a policy for women-only carriages or Women's Special Trains (KKW). The purpose of holding this carriage or KKW is to reduce the number of sexual harassment against women that often occurs in public transportation modes, especially trains. This paper is a descriptive study by trying to reveal the meaning of gender equality in the Special Train for Women (KKW). Speaking of history, previously in England there had been train carriages dedicated to women through the Metropolitan Rainway in 1874, then in Japan women-only carriages on trains were intended as an effort by the government to stop sexual harassment, trains were labeled with sticker a pinkfemale symbol. This paper highlights gender equality which has become a controversy when there is special treatment for female passengers, some feminist activists consider this a mistake because there is a lot of discomfort for women themselves.

**Key words:** feminism; train cars; public transportation modes; KRL Jabodetabek

## 1 Introduction

We agree that it is important to create comfort in using public facilities. Cases of harassment of women, including in public transportation modes such as trains, are still common. Based on a survey by the Coalition for Safe Public Spaces (KRPA) in 2019, it was stated that as many as 46.8 percent of 62,224 people claimed to have experienced sexual harassment on public transportation. PT Kereta Commuter Indonesia (KCI) noted that there were 34 cases of harassment reported in 2019. This trend of harassment has decreased along with the implementation of health protocols (physical distancing) which minimizes the occurrence of sexual harassment during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, harassment still occurs on trains and until now the government through PT KAI continues to socialize the campaign to report if you become a victim and see harassment on the train. Based on the consideration of harassments that often occur in public transportation, women become objects of harassment. Since October 2012, the Jabodetabek Electric Rail Train (KRL) has started to implement a policy for women's special carriages or Women's Special Trains (KKW). However, the policy of women's special carriages or Women's Special Trains (KKW) actually caused new problems and controversies that succeeded in raising the question of gender equality which became controversial when there was special treatment for female passengers. This is a mistake because there is actually a lot of discomfort for the women themselves.

The special female passenger train or often referred to as the Women's Special Train (KKW) is a passenger train that is used specifically for women. Women's Special Trains (KKW)

have been present and developed in several countries such as in Japan, India, Egypt, Iran, Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and including Indonesia, while passengers in several other countries have not been introduced. In Indonesia the Special Train for Women (KKW) was introduced by PT Kereta Api Indonesia since October 1, 2012 as an effort to reduce the level of sexual harassment, especially against women in public places, especially trains. Female-only passenger trains are marked with a large purple or pink sticker, with the words "Women Only" at the very front and back of the train. Each of these trains can only be used by women and men cannot enter the train and this rule is very strict, if anyone violates there will be an officer who warns. However, the series of trains for women only have been returned to regular trains, with trains for women only at the end of trains number 1 and 8 until now. Since mid-2014, trains that have just been imported from Japan are no longer given a female-only train sticker on the end of the train, but are still used as women-only trains. Even though the labeled trains still wore the sticker until 2018, they were still used as women-only trains. The earliest female-only passenger trains used in Japan were in 1912 Chuo , when they were introduced during peak hours to separate male and female students.



Figure 1. Women-only trains in Japan (Source: detik.net)

In addition, female-only street passenger trains were introduced in Kobe in the 1920s, and the Hankyu Railway ran special trains for female students who wanted to go to Kobe and Nishinomiya in the 1930s. Passenger trains exclusively used for women and children were introduced on the *Chuo* Line and Keihin-Tohoku Line in 1947, after the end of World War II. Like Japan, Taiwan has had female-only passenger trains in local service since 2006. However, due to the lack of impact and gender discrimination, these passenger trains were discontinued after 3 months of operation.



Figure 2. Jabodetabek KRL Women's Special Train (Source: PT KAI Indonesia)

In England there was already a train carriage dedicated to women via the *Metropolitan Railway* in 1874 but now it has been replaced by a regular train.

## 2 Feminist Views on Equal Use of Public Facilities

Attitudes towards gender inequality are called discrimination. Gender can be defined as the social roles and behaviors that occur between men and women in the process of sexual relations. The fact is that men and women have biological, social and cultural differences, and they share these biological differences with the needs and rights of society to achieve good social behavior. It is defined as a request for resources and authority. These requirements vary from company to company, but there are some important similarities. For example, almost all social groups agree that in military action, women are responsible for raising children and men. Apart from gender, race; Citizenship and status are social forms that shape the way people live and participate in society and the economy. Not all societies are discriminated against on the basis of race or ethnic origin; Society as a whole experiences gender discrimination (inequalities and inequalities). It took a long time to deal with injustice. political; The climate of injustice can change dramatically due to economic and social changes.

Discrimination exists all over the world. Today, great strides have been made in the area of gender equality. The nature and extent of these differences vary widely from country to country or region to region. No other country in the world has the same social and economic rights as women. Gender disparities in the use of economic resources, power and political participation are rare. Women and girls face a lot of inequality, but it still hurts. Therefore, gender equality with individual values becomes an important issue for the purpose of the process. Gender equality enhances a country's ability to effectively develop, eradicate and manage poverty. Promoting gender equality is an important part of the military's efforts to help reduce poverty and improve the living standards of men and women in the international community. Several global feminist perspectives assert that women have equal rights and obligations, including the following:

- a. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women
- b. End all forms of violence against women in the public and private sectors, including human trafficking and other forms of exploitation.
- c. First Marriage First Marriage Compulsory marriage is not a judgment.
- d. Women's wisdom provides equal opportunities for all levels of leadership and socio-economic decision making.
- e. Ensure access to international reproductive health and documents discussed in forums and conferences agreed in the International Conference on Population and Development.

In the use and utilization of public facilities The feminist view, especially radical feminism, expresses a feminist point of view who wants to make radical changes in society by eliminating all forms of male supremacy in social and economic contexts. Early radical feminists who emerged in the second wave of feminism in the 1960s generally viewed patriarchy as a "*transhistorical phenomenon*" that preceded or was deeper than other sources of oppression. Radical feminists question gender-differentiated public facilities, such as toilets. If this equality applies, then there should no longer be any distinction between the types of toilets for men and women.

### **3 Women Only Trains (*Kereta Khusus Wanita*) and Inconvenience**

The women's carriage should be intended to provide protection for women. However, in reality, because in this carriage the passengers are women, sometimes a feeling of equality arises which can increase the possibility of friction because no one wants to budge. Jabodetabek KRL. This Commuter Line KRL is a commuter electric rail service whose operation is carried out by PT Kereta Commuter Indonesia. After the operation of the female-only carriages on the KRL, there were complaints from female passengers who used the carriage facilities. The female passengers often have to experience unpleasant events such as jostling in an orderly manner when entering and leaving the carriage (they are not orderly to queue). Not infrequently passengers have to argue with each other and there are even cases of two women grabbing each other to get a seat. Not to mention during peak hours such as in the morning when going to work and in the afternoon when going home from work, the number of passengers increases so that they have to jostle from the station while waiting for the train to arrive. The female passengers seemed not to let their guard down or they would miss the opportunity to sit down or even get into the carriage.

Pregnant women and the elderly also often don't get the chance to sit in the priority seats because other passengers don't want to budge. For this reason, many passengers have to prepare a number of strategies to be able to use this women-only carriage facility. Not a few also choose to ride in public carriages with men because they feel that they will be prioritized to get a seat. The next problem experienced by female passengers when traveling is that in the morning they often choose to ride in public carriages even though they have to jostle with male passengers. This is because the women think that it is still quite comfortable to do in the morning because the passengers are considered to be quite fresh and do not emit body odor. This is different from the situation in the afternoon, after carrying out daily activities, an unpleasant odor generally arises from men because men tend to be less caring than women. A few other passengers, such as pregnant women (especially those with small stature) are often in doubt and are not given priority seats. They then plan a specific strategy to get a seat. A concrete example is that there are female passengers who boarded from Cikini Station with the final destination of Depok Station, they chose to first return to the City Station and make sure to get a seat because the station is the initial station, so passengers can finally sit down to the station that goes to Depok Station.

## 4 Conclusion

We agree that it is important to create comfort in using public facilities. Cases of harassment of women, including in public transportation modes such as trains, are still common. The purpose of holding this carriage or KKW is to reduce the number of sexual harassment against women that often occurs in public transportation modes, especially trains. This paper is a descriptive study by trying to reveal the meaning of gender equality in the Special Train for Women (KKW). This paper focuses on gender equality which has become a controversy when there is special treatment for female passengers, some feminist activists consider this a mistake because there is a lot of discomfort for women themselves.

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