# The Role of Women Political Activists in Overseeing the Political Budget for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in Kendari City

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**Abstract.** This research discusses the role of women political activists in overseeing the politics of budgeting for the empowerment of women and children. Basically, it is to participate in supervising how the budget policy can be realized in a form that is more acceptable to the community, especially women's empowerment and the fulfillment of their rights. This study uses a qualitative approach. The Role of Women's Political Activists and DPRD in Overseeing Budget Politics This situation is, of course, very worrying. Because on the one hand, the public does not understand the mechanism and rules of the budget. On the other hand, rulers with the knowledge they have tend to hide it from the public. Therefore the need for attention from related institutions including government agencies the local people's representative council of the DPRD in particular to oversee the politics of the budget for women's empowerment and child protection during budget discussions, the role of the DPRD is very important to back up the budget in the field of women's empowerment and child protection in the city of Kendari.

**Keywords:** women's political activist; citty kendari DPRD, oversighr function; empowerment of women and children; budget politics.

# 1 Introduction

The budget is the government's work plan in the form of money in a certain period. Apar from that, the budget is an important indicator in making the government's economic policies and describes a comprehensive statement about a country, where citizens depend on the state to provide excellent services and infrastructure. Apart from that, the budget also has an impact on all aspects of people's lives as a product of the political process, the budget reflects political relations between actors who have an interest in resource allocation. The involvement of various actors throughout the budgeting process, starting from the planning and preparation, to the evaluation stage, is the main element in budget politics which makes the budget a political process, an arena for the struggle for public resources between various interests, both actors within the prevailing political system and groups, other interests that have influence on political decisions.

In a broad sense, budget politics can be interpreted as a budget strategy, where the budget is not only oriented towards policy desires (policy driven), but also requires taking sides with the people who have not been able to fully enjoy the "development cake" in the name of development, because the benchmark for the welfare of the whole society is the essential goal of development. The political framework of the budget must always show its support for the community. This budget policy is what the public really hopes for, because its

concrete explanation is directed at program priorities that lead to efforts to overcome development problems, women's empowerment and child protection.

As an autonomous region, Kendari City has autonomous authority in planning and implementing development in accordance with its needs and potential together with various stakeholder elements to synergize the top-down approach with the bottom-up approach, so that it is hoped that it will be able to produce appropriate development planning. with the objective needs of Kendari City Therefore, budget politics is an important dimension in budget allocation that is oriented towards community interests in the corridors of development and empowerment of women and children in regional autonomy and decentralization which is currently faced with economic and financial management problems that must receive special attention in government management, because several programs Government at the district, provincial and central levels requires good financial management, so transparency and ability in managing programs and finances is need

Good and systematic financial management must refer to existing regulations, in order to realize accountability, efficiency, job creation, transparency, empowerment of capacity and potential, as well as efficient and integrated development mechanisms. Apart from that, financial management in central and regional governments, especially financial management for the empowerment of women and children in an integrated manner, is based more on an approach to fulfilling basic rights and good women's empowerment mechanisms. The utilization of financial management must provide benefits to the community, especially women, not only by fulfilling their needs, but also encouraging citizens to become smarter in responding to changes that occur and determining productive activity choices within the framework of community empowerment in particular. Women and children

The role of women political activists in budget politics is basically to participate in monitoring how budget policies can be realized in a form that is more easily accessible to the public, especially empowering women and fulfilling their rights. Until now, this has not been marginalized. The visible reality is that there is no transparency in budget management. tends to be controlled by a few rulers. This situation is of course very worrying. Because on the one hand, the public does not yet understand the budget mechanisms and regulations. On the other hand, rulers with the knowledge they possess tend to hide it from the public. Therefore, there needs to be attention from related institutions, including government institutions, the Regional People's Representative Council, DPRD, especially to oversee budget politics for women's empowerment and child protection in budget discussions. The DPRD's role is very important in backing up the budget in the areas of women's empowerment and child protection in the city, drive.

# 2 Literature Review

#### 2.1 Concept of The Role Of Female Political Activists

Roles are defined as organized expectations related to a particular interaction context that shape an individual's motivational orientation towards others. Through these cultural patterns, blueprints or examples of behavior, people learn who they are in front of others and how they should act towards others. According to Aida Vitalaya, as quoted by Indah Ahdiah, in simple terms the meaning of the role can be stated as follows:

- Roles are dynamic aspects of status that are patterned and revolve around certain rights and obligations.
- Roles relate to a person's status in a particular group or social situation which is influenced by a set of expectations of other people regarding the behavior that should be displayed by the person concerned.
- The implementation of a role is influenced by the image that a person wants to develop. Thus, a role is a whole cultural pattern that is connected to the status of the individual concerned
- Assessment of the diversity of a role involves good and bad, high and low or many and few.

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- Assessment of the diversity of a role involves good and bad, high and low or many and few.[1].

From the definition explained above, Soerjono Soekanto explains that a person can be called a role if he has carried out his rights and obligations in society according to his social status. Based on the definition above, it can be concluded that a role is a person's behavior as a right and obligation that must be carried out in accordance with his position, and the existing regulations in the society (organization) that they follow. The role referred to in this case emphasizes the elements of rights, obligations and responsibilities.

There are other opinions that are said about roles, namely normative roles and ideal roles. Normative roles are more closely related to the duties and obligations of female political activists and DPRD legislative members. Meanwhile, ideal roles are roles that are expected to be carried out by those who have that role. In essence, a role is a series of certain behaviors that exist because of a certain position.

# 2.2 The Concept Politic Anggaran

Budget politics can be understood by investigating patterns of behavior and authority. This is the door to the manifestation of the distribution of power of actors in making budget policies. So it is understandable that the attraction between the main actors in budgeting cannot be separated from the desire to increase their respective influence, as can be seen from the accommodation of the actors' interests. To understand the budget preparation process is necessary understanding of the formal structure of roles and responsibilities in the budgeting process, the role of the government in decision making, political choices and accountability in the budget expenditure management system, network of power and influence of stakeholders (outside the formal process) that influences the results of the budget process, incentives provided (good hidden or overt) for actions that influence politicians and the bureaucracy in

decision making during budget preparation and determination, bureaucratic decision making space at all levels of the budget determination process.

Politics can be involved in all state affairs, including public financial affairs, both in planning, implementation and evaluation stages. A good political theory of state finances is relatively dependent on a country's ideology, meaning that a political theory of state finances that is good for one country is not necessarily good for other countries. Political activity in state finances depends on the degree of democracy, which provides flexibility/freedom for political activity in a country

In the current effort to empower women, the desired perspective of change in budget management. Budget management must be based on the interests of women's empowerment. This is not only seen from the large budget allocation for women's interests but also seen from the large participation of the community (DPRD) in planning, implementation and supervision of women's empowerment. As for the steps in preparing a budget, there are two things that need to be paid attention to regarding the budget, namely planning and controlling costs. Planning includes developing goals and preparing various budgets to achieve predetermined goals. Controlling includes steps that will be taken by management to increase the possibility of achieving the goals that have been set through the contribution of all parts within the company or agency. Activities to prepare the budget are called budgeting, while activities to control whether the implementation of the budget is in accordance with what was budgeted are called controlling or overseeing the budget.

# 2.3 The Concept of Womens Empowerment And Child Protection

Etymologically, empowerment comes from the basic word "daya" which means strength or ability. Starting from this understanding, empowerment can be interpreted as a process towards culture or a process to obtain power for parties who are less or not yet empowered. (Sulistiyani, 2004)

Based on Kindervatter's opinion, empowerment is the process of providing strength or power in the form of education which aims to raise awareness, understanding and sensitivity of students regarding social, economic and political development, so that in the end they have the ability to improve and improve their position in society. (Anwar, 2007).

Essentially, according to Kreisber, empowerment has two characteristics, namely first, as a reflection of emancipatory interests that encourage society to participate collectively in development. Second, empowerment is a process of involving individuals or society in the process of enlightenment, awareness and collective organization so that they can participate. Empowerment is an effort to recognize, understand policies and utilize power, investigating the processes by which people can regulate or control (to control over) their lives, skills and position to become critical and effective participants in society, including changing that power.

# 2.4 Feminism Theory

Feminism comes from the Latin word "femina" which means having feminine characteristics. is a women's movement that demands equality and justice, the same rights as

men, feminism focuses its attention on the main object of attention, the situation and experiences of women in society, this theory is critical and actively defends women, trying to produce a better world for women in particular and humans in general. generally. Feminism fights for two things that women in general have not had, namely equality and autonomy to determine what is good for themselves.

#### 3 Method

The research design in this paper uses qualitative research methods. The use of qualitative methods in this research can also help researchers to understand the data obtained in the field and then analyze it further. Therefore, qualitative research is also able to provide greater opportunities for expression and explanation (Horison, 2009)

The type used is descriptive, where this research is focused on collecting as much detailed information as possible regarding an existing symptom. Researchers use this type of research to be able to answer the role of activists and DPRD members in Kendari City in overseeing budget politics for women's empowerment and child protection in Kendari City.

Descriptive research is a research design that describes the phenomenon being studied, describing the magnitude of the problem being studied. The questions commonly used are "what and how" with the aim of explaining the phenomenon being studied to answer research questions and descriptive research can be found in qualitative and quantitative research (Swarjana, 2012).

### 4 Findings and Discussion

# 4.1 The Role of Female Legislative Members In Overseeing Budget Politics.

The role of legislative members can be seen from how the legislative members carry out their functions. Female legislative members have a dual function as housewives and also as representatives of the people, especially for women who have been left behind due to the lack of championing of women's interests which rarely receive attention. With the increase in the women's quota in parliament, which was then confirmed by the Political Parties Law and the Election Law which requires women's representation in parliament, this is an opportunity for elected legislative members to fight for women's interests. Women's representation in the legislature is very important because women have special needs that can only be understood by both by the woman herself. These special needs can include the need for reproductive health, family welfare issues (such as the affordable price of nine basic commodities, health issues and children's education), concern for children, advanced human needs, domestic violence and issues of sexual violence and others.

The duties carried out by women as board members are:

- 1. Develop cross-fraction networks between women in parliament to strengthen the basis for fighting for women's interests.
- 2. Strengthen the article regarding women's quotas.
- 3. Fight for laws (perda) that guarantee the role of women in the public sphere and protect women

Gender responsive planning is planning that is carried out by including the differences in experiences, aspirations, needs and problems of women and men in the preparation process. Meanwhile, according to Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 15 of 2008, planning with a gender perspective is planning to achieve gender equality and justice which is carried out through integrating the experiences, aspirations, needs, potential and resolution of problems of women and men. Gender responsive planning is carried out in both medium term (5 year) and annual planning. The aim is to formulate gender-responsive development policy plans and programs in various fields of development, including economic, legal, political, religious, educational, social and cultural.

A gender budget is a budget that is fair between women and men or a gender budget is not a budget that favors women because not all current development program budgeting is gender responsive or free from gender bias and inequality, gender gap). For this reason, gender budgeting analysis is needed as a budget analysis method to see the impact of the budget on women and men, girls and boys in different economic groups. How much attention regional governments pay to empowering women can be seen, among other things, through their budget policies. The budget is a reflection of the values adhered to and communicates what the regional government's priorities are. From this budget it can also be seen how much attention the Regional Government pays to improving the welfare of its people, including women's groups. It is realized that, in general, regional budgets are still gender neutral, but the impact of the budget is never gender neutral. Gender responsive budgeting is expected to be able to answer the problem of gender gaps. A gender responsive budget is a budget that is responsive to the needs of women and men which is a tool for realizing gender equality and justice. The ultimate goal of gender responsive budgeting is to have a budget that favors men and women, especially poor women who have so far received little benefit from existing budget allocations.

### Gender responsive budget categories include

- a. Budget allocation for gender-specific targets oriented towards poverty alleviation. Budget allocation for gender-specific targets (can only be men or only women), depending on existing needs based on the results of analysis of disaggregated data.
- b. Budget allocation for mainstreaming gender and poverty. Budget allocation for spending on capacity building and providing tools and materials for efforts to realize gender mainstreaming, such as gender profiles, disaggregated data, data collection on poor families, analytical tools, as well as gender sensitive assessment indicators or gender analysis training.
- c. Gender responsive budget allocation General budget allocation as a response to the results of gender analysis. For example: providing budget allocations for the construction of markets, schools and health facilities close to residential areas, construction of PAHs and water pumps, provision of assistance/capital strengthening without buildings.

# **4.2** Factors That Influence The Role Of DPRD In Budget Discussions In The Field of Women's Empowerment

#### 1. Quality of Human Resources for DPRD Members.

Every member of the DPRD is required to have the ability to carry out their roles and functions. These qualities can be viewed in terms of political career (experience) in terms of

formal education level. The advice from board members to their friends is that they should not get bored of learning considering that those from various backgrounds are dealing with executives who have many years of experience. Without adequate abilities possessed by council members, they will have difficulty in dialogue, exchanging ideas and conveying ideas about regional development visions with the executive. The quality of a council member is needed, apart from being determined by formal requirements in statutory regulations, which needs to be taken into account by professionalism. This person, meaning the person who will apply as a member of the council, should already have a certain profession, for example as an accountant or a lawyer. Of course, with these people in their profession, the quality requirements, namely higher education, have been met. With professional requirements, good quality board members will be obtained, so that there is no longer any doubt about the integrity of a board member, because integrity can be measured, namely having a certain profession and of course their education is no longer secondary school education, but at least someone who has certain professions, have higher education.

# 2. DPRD Rules and Regulations

The DPRD's rules of conduct are rules that serve as guidelines for deliberations within the DPRD, the rules and regulations function to strengthen the governance of the DPRD institution in order to carry out constitutional democratic state life. If DPR regulations are interpreted as regulations, then the context must be the same as the meaning of a regulation, namely regulations that regulate formal matters and regulate material matters. So far, the DPR's rules and regulations only regulate formal matters, never in the DPR's rules and regulations regulate matters of a material nature. Based on these provisions, it can be said that the DPR's disciplinary regulations so far are not in line with,

- a. the principle of rules of procedures, that the DPR's rules of conduct should be interpreted as a rule that binds members of parliament, and not as a regulation,
- b. DPR's rules and regulations are not in line with the principle of a regulation regulating formal matters and material matters

### **5 Conclusion and Recommendation**

# 5.1 Conclusion

- 1. Development of women's empowerment is an integral part of human resource development in order to improve the status, position and conditions of women so that they can achieve equal progress with men. The DPRD determines the budget efficiently and effectively, the DPRD can add activities or propose a budget that is large and has a broad impact and the DPRD can propose a budget that already existed in the previous year, not appearing again the following year.
- 2. Factors that influence the DPRD in discussing the budget for women's empowerment and child care. Internal factors are related to the quality of human resources, while external factors are the DPRD's disciplinary regulations. The quality of DPRD members' human resources includes formal education. From the research results, educational background and abilities influence the role of the council in dialogue, exchanging ideas, conveying ideas for regional development visions, discussing the budget with the executive. Meanwhile, the rules and regulations influence the role of the DPRD in discussing the budget because the DPRD rules and regulations only regulate matters -formal matters only, never regulate material matt

#### 5.2 Recommendation

- 1. To increase the role of DPRD in budget discussions. Council members who sit on the budget committee need to have qualifications in the fields of economics, finance or economic law, or have taken regional finance courses, training in budget preparation with a gender perspective, so that they can carry out budget analysis and calculations. Apart from that, council members also become gender sensitive so as to produce a gender responsive budget, namely a budget that favors men and women.
- 2. DPRD Rules and Regulations should regulate formal and material matters. Apart from that, the DPRD's Rules and Regulations should be made in accordance with the needs of the times (dynamic), meaning they can change according to needs to facilitate the conveying of people's aspirations, not just copy and paste the Rules of Procedure of the previous period.

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