

# **Domestication of Women in Public Spaces (Examining the Women's Role Efforts in the Public Domain in Bangka Belitung)**

<sup>1</sup>Sujadmi, <sup>2</sup>P R Wilujeng, <sup>3</sup>M Afifulloh

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Universitas Bangka Belitung

[1sujad.m13@gmail.com](mailto:sujad.m13@gmail.com), [2 panggiorestu@gmail.com](mailto:panggiorestu@gmail.com), [3afifulloh@mail.ugm.ac.id](mailto:afifulloh@mail.ugm.ac.id)

## **ABSTRACT**

The social structure in society affects the division of groups in certain positions or classes. This study tries to see how social structure affects the placement of women's groups in social culture. The purpose of this study is to examine the efforts made by women's groups in Bangka Belitung both in real and virtual spaces. Further, this research is conducted to analyze the construction of society on the characteristics of the role of women in public spaces. The focus of the study is more on the activities of women's organizations and their activities or work programs that are carried out especially at the provincial level. The analysis is conducted based on the perspective of the division of roles proposed by J.S. Mill about the sexual division of labor that grows in society. The theory stated that what is called the nature of womanhood is the result of social construction through an education system. This research is descriptive qualitative. The type of data is primary and secondary data. Primary data obtained through active participant observation and in-depth interviews. The technique of determining the informant is done by purposive sampling. Secondary data obtained from the documentation of several relevant references. The analysis used triangulation techniques. The results of the study showed that the majority of formal legal women's organizations did not meet the requirements as formal forms of organization. The existing conditions are only in the form of informal groups. In fact, this condition does not show a significant impact on the competence of women's groups in the public sphere. The existence of these groups tends to strengthen the roles of women in the domestic sphere. There is only a physical space shift in role implementation. The situation shows that domestic spaces in the public sphere are increasingly diversified for women's groups.

*Keywords: Domestication, Public Space, Women, Bangka Belitung*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Differences in society are an inevitable necessity. The occurrence of differences is not a serious problem. The problem that arises in society if this difference is a form of injustice between people or groups. Differences arise from various aspects or factors, one of which is the difference in a group based on gender.

Differences in community groups in terms of gender, male and female, is a nature or a gift from God that cannot be denied. The differences between these two groups eventually

led to a long problem regarding the results of the socio-cultural construction and the cultural structure of the community [1]. This difference is placed vertically so that it raises social stratification based on gender. This reality can be raise a problem about gender discrimination, and investigates the relation between gender and social class relation [2].

Women have been placed in the second position or as a social class that is under the group of men [3]. Women are identified with internal scope or commonly referred to as domestic space. This domestic space makes women always struggle with reproductive issues and limited routines in accessing resources [4]. Thus the involvement of women in public spaces becomes limited. For example the involvement of women in parliament. In the Bangka Belitung Islands Province, the number of women involved or occupying seats in parliament (House of Representative) is only 6.7% [5]. This figure is certainly still far from the 30% set by the government.

The reluctance of women to be involved in the political sphere does not merely describe the passivity or lack of involvement of women in the public sphere in other aspects [6]. Although the level of representation of women is very low in parliament, it does not mean that women in Bangka Belitung only take part in the domestic sphere. This condition can be seen from the many communities or groups of women who ultimately grow and develop into women's organizations. At the end of 2018, there were 36 women's organizations that grew and developed in Bangka Belitung [7].

The data shows that the involvement of women in the public sphere is beginning to be seen. The problem that arises then is whether the activities carried out by these various organizations really lead to public access or further strengthen the domestic role of women's groups themselves? In reality there are many women's groups whose activities are still revolving around domestic issues such as training on caring for children, tips and tricks for being a great housewife, and many others. While the problem of access to resources regarding education, politics, and the economy is still limited and still leads to the expansion of domestic space. It is interesting to do further studies on the dynamics of domestification and publication of women in a social group or organization.

Departing from the problems above, the focus of this study leads to the problem of efforts made by women in Bangka Belitung to be involved in the public sphere. Furthermore, we will discuss about how do women's organizations in Bangka Belitung interpret and maintain their existence in the public sphere?

The studies on women's issues and public space have been conducted in various fields. One of the study was conducted by Sesilia CMF (2009) which takes the title "Women and Public Spaces". Her study discusses the profession of architects which have tended to be assumed as male professions full of masculinity. Her study focuses on the forms of obstacles faced by women who work as architecture. The results of his study found that there are several obstacles faced by women when becoming architecture. Obstacles in question include gender characteristics, access, security, personal space, privacy, territory and power [8].

The next study conducted by Rina sari K and Yuan V (2017) entitled "Gendering the Internet: Women in a Different Gender Room". This study examines a variety of gender depictions that can be found in the media. The media becomes a mirror of society and reflect what happens in it. Gender studies are inseparable from technology, where gender shapes and is shaped by the internet. In Indonesia there are websites that have gender-based segmentation such as Vemale.com and Sooperboy.com. This research look at the portrayal of women in different gender spaces from the two websites. This study uses a qualitative approach with content analysis methods. The results show that both sites feature women who

have already penetrated the public sphere, but the shadow of the domestic role in the private sphere is still included [9].

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods. Descriptive qualitative research here aims to describe social conditions using descriptive data [10]. This study intended to the philosophy of postpositivism. Data from the field were analyzed with the aim of obtaining in-depth information [11]. This research takes place in Bangka Belitung specifically focusing on women's organizations located at the Bangka Belitung Islands Province level. This research took 8 women's organizations in Bangka Belitung. The organizations selected as samples have varied backgrounds and represent the overall background of women's organizations in the research location. Data collection techniques are by observing, interviewing, and documenting techniques. The analysis is done by reducing, displaying, and drawing conclusions on the data that has been collected.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Sexual division of labor**

According to Friedman in Budiman (2010) that in society has an assumption that women should be happy to be the 'queen' of the household and will be happy if doing household chores. This statement certainly contradicts existing reality. Budiman (2010) argues that women are not always happy in a domestic environment. This condition shows that living in a domestic environment is not necessarily the natural nature of a woman. If it is not, women will always be happy to fulfill the tasks given by the community [12].

John Stuart Mill said that the nature of a woman who was contracted feminine originated from the existence of an education system. Mill believes that the effort to divide community groups into two (male and female) and the effort to distinguish them is a planned political action. In the end, the strong group, that is, the group of men will always see the side of excellence they have as a natural thing. In this position, women in the social structure and division of labor will occupy a weak position. Women are considered as a weak group that is unable to survive in public spaces which incidentally requires a side of strength (masculinity). Thus, the definition of roles tends to be biological, not oriented to the abilities of each individual. This division would certainly be more detrimental or weaken the group of women, so what is obtained by women is considered as natural (God-given).

### **3.2 Domestic and public spaces**

MacDonald (in Royal, 2008) explained that women were identified in social life and even the media because of the dichotomous division of labor in the public and domestic spheres. In Javanese society, women are judged as '*konco wingking*' and the second sex. This condition places women in the domestic space as they are only dealing with issues in well, kitchen and bed. Another meaning is that women are only as a means of reproduction whose permanently to 'cook, dress up, give birth' (Imron & Nasucha, 2009). Social construction which is still influenced by gender role stereotypes places women in domestic roles, namely as a comrade to their husbands and as mother of her children. Even after having children, a woman can be a husband and a wife in the household [13].

Thus, generally in social life, gender roles are distinguished from public roles and

domestic roles. The public role is a role that includes all activities that are outside the affairs of the household including economic, educational, socio-political issues. The next room is domestic space. This space is defined as internal space. In this space, women only take care of household issues related to reproductive activities.

### **3.3 Demographic description of the public sphere in Bangka Belitung**

Geographically and administratively, Bangka Belitung Islands Province has an area 81.725,06 km<sup>2</sup> consisting of land and sea areas. Based on Law Number 5 of 2003, there are two large islands namely Bangka Island, consisting of 4 (four) districts / cities, and Belitung Island consisting of 2 (two) districts. totally, from 6 districts / cities, there are 50 sub-districts with a total of 82 and 289 villages. The population in Bangka Belitung as of September 2019 were 714,269 women and 774,523 men (projected). With a male population ratio of 108.37. The composition of the population in Bangka Belitung during this era experienced a demographic bonus where the population was dominated by productive age, namely the age range of 15-65 years [14].

The population based on sex is almost the same, has a variety of activities both informally (tends to lead to domestic aspects) and formal (tends to lead to the public aspect). The existence of women's groups is in the spotlight in this region. Various activities of women, both in the public and domestic spheres, become subject of the study and targets of several programs in the relevant local government agencies.

Women and men working in the formal sector within the regional government scope of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province. Based on data the comparison of the number of men and women working in the formal sector is at close range. It's just that when examined further related to the level of education, women are still lower than men. the position occupied by women is also still not strategic. The strategic position intended here is the position that has the authority in determining policy or decision making. The heads of each Regional Government Organization (OPD) are still dominated by males.

The position of women in OPD offices tends to be in the sector that leads to feminine skills or competencies. Tasks that tend to require accuracy, painstaking, related to administrative technical matters (correspondence), and which demands neatness. Female employees are inclined to interpret such positions as sufficient and relevant according to their role as women. If there are women who have the opportunity to rise to strategic positions in policy / decision making, then they are likely to still hesitate to take that position. The reason given is that the position of top leadership who makes decisions will be more suitable if filled by men.

### **3.4 Identification of Women's Organizations and Women's Organizational Work Program Activities**

The role of Bangka Belitung women in the public sphere, especially in the formal sector, is still not proportional to the number of men. This inequality will be even higher when compared to the public sphere in the informal sector (outside the government). Social construction of sexual division of labor that has an impact on the placement of women in the domestic sphere continues to be produced in social life. This condition has an impact on how women's groups interpret and position themselves which always tends to lead to the domestic sphere. This is always identified with the notion that it is fate or nature as a woman who must focus on the domestic sphere and always be a 'servant' for men.

Various efforts were made by women's groups together with related agencies to realize women's participation in the public sphere. Various policies and activities are carried out to elevate the participation of women in the public sphere. One effort was to create women's communities or organizations. This organization is expected to be a place for self-actualization of women outside the home.

There are many women's organizations or communities in Bangka Belitung. The Government at least listed as many as 36 women's groups that were declared as women's organizations. However, if explored further, all the thirty six basically not meet the criteria as an organization. This is based on findings in the field that there unorganized structure and rules that exist in these organizations, there are only routine activities that are sometimes accidental in nature as needed. Categorically, women's organizations can be grouped into 5 (five) categories. They are Government Agency (9), Religion (11), Entrepreneurship (7), Scientific (4), and Profession (5).

Women's organizations that grow and develop in Bangka Belitung are still largely dominated by organizations with religious ideologies, especially Islam. In addition, following the next are organizations or groups of civil servants' wives. Based on the ideology, it can be identified the pattern of activities or work programs carried out in these organizations. Broadly speaking, the program is still unstructured or not well planned. The Activities are still limited to routines and even then only adjust the program or activities hold by husbands' office if that are official. While entrepreneurial background organizations are still not optimal in carrying out their activities. The substance of the work program is related to the routine domestic activities.

In general, there are no programs that significantly encourage awareness of gender equality in social life. In essence, the work program carried out and planned is still close to the domestic sphere. That is, there is only a physical shift in space; domestic activities carried out in public spaces. This condition will certainly further legitimize that the role of women should be proficient and capable in domestic work. This condition reinforces the dichotomy of private and public roles between men and women. Various jobs or activities in the public sector that are submitted or even carried out by women's organizations in Bangka Belitung are jobs or activities that are still very close to domestic affairs [15].

The existence of these organizations on the one hand is positive for women to become a forum for actualizing themselves in the public sphere. Women's activities in public spaces are increasing and varied even though their activities are still close to the domestic sphere. However, organization basically becomes a very important and needed element in social life [16]. So in this condition, the organization becomes a forum for women in Bangka Belitung to express their creative ideas and become a public space to divert from their domestic routines.

However, of course, not all women's organizations in Bangka Belitung have programs aimed at increasing skills in the domestic sphere. There are several organizations that also focus on increasing women's awareness and skills in the public sphere, especially those based on science. In addition, there is a religiously based organization that substantially has an existing work program that focuses on aspects of strengthening capacity and the role of women in the public sphere such as in education and politics. The efforts to increase awareness and encourage women's willingness to enter the domestic world still tend to be undertaken by relatively large organizations that intersect with institutions. For organizations that are relatively small, their effort is still a momentum or based on the invitation events from government agencies.

The situation in Bangka Belitung at least reinforces what Mill said that the dichotomy

system of private and public spaces for women and men is the result of the construction of the education system. Where the education system increasingly confirms women are in the domestic domain. The existing education system is not only through formal education, but also informal. The organization here is considered as an organ in the education system that can be run by community groups. Instead of involving women to play a role in the public sphere, the only thing that is strengthening and social legitimacy is that women should indeed be in the private or domestic sphere.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

The efforts to realize gender equality in a society that is closest with patriarchal culture is indeed not easy. The inherent socio-cultural construction has been internalized even as if rooted in every side of community life. Genderization identified with sex or genital takes place at a very long-terms socialization. This process even gained legitimacy from various socialization agents even at the level and level of the state and religion. Involving women in the public sphere in accordance with the dream of equality cannot be done immediately. So far, the role of women in the public sphere is still in physical space. The substantial even is barely touched.

Concerning women in women's organizations does not necessarily have a significant influence on women in public spaces. The rise of women's organizations in Bangka Belitung is still limited to a public space that has not been approved in the substance of the meaning of the public space itself. The dichotomy between private and public is increasing and is legitimized through organizations, the place for the actualization of women's groups. That these organizations do not have a clear mission direction yet and are not supported by organized work program. This is what causes that the activities or programs are still limited to routine activities and increasingly strengthen the private role that shifts into the physical space activities and it is called organizations.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Fakhri, Mansour."Analisis Gender & Transformasi Sosial, Pustaka Pelajar, Yogyakarta, 2012
- [2] I. Rosida and L. Rejeki, "Woman in Patriarchal Culture: Gender Discrimination and Intersectionality Portrayed in Bob Darling by Carolyn Cooke," *Insa. J. Islam Humanit.*, 2017.
- [3] Bhasin, Kamla,"Menggugat Patriarki: Pengantar tentang Persoalan Dominasi terhadap Perempuan (terjemahan)", Pustaka Pelajar, Yogyakarta, 1996
- [4] S. Sujadmi, "PEREMPUAN DALAM ARENA KEKERASAN DOMESTIK: (Studi Dokumen Penyebab Kekerasan pada Perempuan dalam Rumah Tangga di Pulau Bangka)," *Society*, 2017.
- [5] DPRD Provinsi Bangka Belitung dalam Angka Tahun 2017
- [6] Sujadmi, "*Partisipasi Berbasis Komunitas*. Jurnal MPR-RI , 2019
- [7] DP3ACS KB Bangka Belitung dalam Angka 2018
- [8] C. Monalisa, Sesilia, "*Wanita dan Ruang Publik*," Skripsi S1 Jurusan Arsitektur Fakultas Teknik Universitas Indonesia. <http://lib.ui.ac.id/file?file=digital/20249517-R050934.pdf>, 2009

- [9] R. S. Kusuma and Y. Vitasari, "Gendering the Internet: Perempuan pada Ruang Gender yang Berbeda," *J. ILMU Komun.*, 2017.
- [10] B. Bungin, *Penelitian Kualitatif: Komunikasi, Ekonomi, Kebijakan Publik, Dan Ilmu Sosial Lainnya*. 2011.
- [11] Mukhtar, "Metode Praktis dan Penelitian Deskriptif Kualitatif," *Jakarta Ref. (GP Press Gr.*, 2013.
- [12] Budiman, Arif, "Pembagian Kerja Secara Seksual", Gramedia, Jakarta,,2010
- [13] Budiman, Arif, "Pembagian Kerja Secara Seksual", Gramedia, Jakarta,,2010
- [14] Imron & Nasucha, 2009
- [15] Sudarminta,J, "Persoalan 'Publik' dan 'Privat' dalam Feminisme", Kanisius, Yogyakarta, 2010
- [16] J. Winardi, "Teori Organisasi & Pengorganisasian," *Teor. Organ. Pengorganisasian*, 2006.