

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN IN SUKAMARA REGENCY, CENTRA BORNEO PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Education is the most important for a nation and a state's life. Because of that, education should be obtained by all people without exception. However, in its application, it is still found that there are differences in higher education opportunities in terms of gender. This research was conducted to describe the perception of the community in Petarikan 1 village about the importance of higher education for women and the factors that influence it. This research is qualitative, with the subject of the community of Petarikan 1 Village, Sukamara District, Sukamara Regency with data collection techniques including observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of this study indicate that as much as 15% of the community considers higher education for women very important, as much as 35% is important, as much as 40% is less important, and as much as 10% is not important. The factors that cause are the family environment and lack of awareness of the importance of education 39.8%, people's thinking that is still traditional 27.3%, and economic factors 32.8%.

Keywords: *Perception, Society, university lecture, Women*

ABSTRAK

Pendidikan menjadi kebutuhan paling utama bagi kehidupan berbangsa dan bernegara, sudah sepatutnya pendidikan didapatkan oleh seluruh masyarakat tanpa terkecuali. Namun, dalam penerapannya masih ditemukan adanya perbedaan kesempatan pendidikan tinggi dilihat dari aspek gender. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mendeskripsikan persepsi masyarakat di desa Petarikan 1 tentang pentingnya pendidikan tinggi bagi perempuan dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya. Penelitian ini termasuk kualitatif, dengan subjek masyarakat Desa Petarikan 1 Kecamatan Sukamara Kabupaten Sukamara dengan teknik pengumpulan data meliputi observasi, wawancara dan dokumentasi. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa sebanyak 15% masyarakat menganggap pendidikan tinggi bagi perempuan sangat penting, sebanyak 35% penting, sebanyak 40% kurang penting dan sebanyak 10% tidak penting. Adapun faktor yang menyebabkan adalah lingkungan keluarga dan kurangnya kesadaran akan pentingnya pendidikan sebesar 39,8%, pemikiran masyarakat yang masih tradisional sebesar 27,3% dan faktor ekonomi sebesar 32,8%.]

Keyword: *Persepsi, Sosial, Pendidikan Tinggi, Wanita*

INTRODUCTION

Education in Indonesia is increasingly experiencing development, nowadays the nation's children can freely enjoy education in college to deepen their knowledge and develop their skills (Tamin, dkk 2018). Education becomes the most important need for human life as a provision to continue a more established life in the future. This is in line with the opinion of Bhardwaj, who also defines education as the "essential of human virtue" which means that education is the most essential human policy and the basis for a good life in the future (Bhardwaj, 2016). In this case, education becomes an important aspect of the life of the nation and state because the quality of education will affect the quality of human resources that will lead a nation to more advanced life. That way it should be obtained by all citizens without exception.

Education for women is one of the important issues in efforts to improve the quality of a nation. Having a higher education is already an important concern for women today as Margaret's statement, that Education for women has been a priority (Margaret, 2017). The importance of women having a higher education is because education is one of the ways that will bring women through the rapid flow of globalization as stated by Nurkholis, Education can prepare humans to face globalization (Nurkholis, 2013) . This is because the first and main education is in the family environment wherein the family environment the mother occupies the most important role in preparing the generations of a nation in the future (Qomari, 2008). By maximizing the possibility of opportunities in getting higher education for women, it is expected to be able to bring the Indonesian nation more advanced by giving birth to the next generation of qualified (Sujatmoko, 2016).

In Islam, women are glorified beings. As a glorified being, Islam strongly preserves women's rights both the right to education and the right to work or a career. In other words, Islam does not provide space restrictions for women to work inside and outside the home and in all the good areas needed for good survival (Wakirin, 2017). This freedom to get an education, it turns out, inadvertently gives women the opportunity to get the same social equality as men (Rokhmansyah, 2016).

However, in its application in the field, there are still found differences in higher education opportunities seen from the gender aspect in society. Society is more concerned with men in terms of education, and views women as not needing to be

highly educated. The existence of inequality can be influenced by several factors such as economic, social, environmental, lack of awareness of all women regarding the importance of education whereas education is also an investment to form quality human resources (Bhardwaj, 2016), and also the perception factor of society itself which considers women nature only in the kitchen and will serve the husband. Differences in position and even the role of men and women who are growing in society are caused by culture and religious views and even community beliefs (Efendy, 2014).

Higher education is very important for the survival of life for all genders. Regardless of the nature of women or men, the two have the same right to the opportunity to attend the highest possible education, because education becomes a basic bridge to a more established life in the future. In addition, women will also become the first educators for children so in this case it further strengthens the reason for the importance of higher education for women.

Islam does not discriminate between women and men in demanding the highest possible knowledge. Islam does not limit its people in terms of seeking knowledge; even Islam encourages its people to seek knowledge throughout their life (long life education). So there is no age limit in seeking knowledge and Islam encourages to seek knowledge and practice it in public life and does not distinguish between men and women in seeking knowledge. Thus, education is needed for all people including women.

That way, the author is interested in reviewing the perception of the people of Petarikan Village 1 District Of Sukamara Regency which is currently still experiencing problems related to community perception of the importance of high education for women. This is due to several factors such as economic factors, family environment, lack of awareness of the importance of education, and phenomena that occur such as the occurrence of pregnancy out of wedlock and seeing the number of scholars who are still unemployed. This further strengthens the perception that higher education for women is considered unimportant because of its nature that only takes care of domestic aspects of the household. But on the other hand, some parents who support their children to pursue higher education and prepare for their careers.

So that the author through this article will be studied on the topic of how the condition of education in Petarikan Village 1, and how the perception of the people in

Petarikan village 1 related to the importance of higher education for women. Because no research that discusses this topic in the community of Petarikan Village 1 Sukamara District sukamara district.

METHODS

This research uses a type of qualitative research method; philosophically the research methodology is part of the science that studies how the working procedure seeks the truth (Manzilati, 2017). Qualitative research is a research procedure that later produces descriptive data in the form of words or oral words derived from the person studied (Nugrahani, 2014). Where the subject of this study is the community of Petarikan Village 1 Sukamara District Sukamara regency, with a description of how the condition and perception of Petarikan village community 1 about the importance of higher education for women.

The data collection technique in this study is to conduct observations, interviews, and documentation. With data analysis techniques in the form of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion withdrawal. Where in the data reduction stage, researchers conduct the focusing on raw data obtained after observation, interview and documentation in the field so that it can be adjusted to the needs of the study. Furthermore, researchers enter the stage of preparing data so that the data of research results can be neatly arranged so that it can be easily understood. Then continued with the conclusion of the results of data processing, in the process of drawing these conclusions will result in a discovery as a result of research that has been done.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In Islam it is recommended to uphold equality in the field of law and education between men and women should get the right to education without having to experience discrimination. Through education, both men and women, both religious and community sciences, humans can carry out their functions as *khalifatu fil ardl* (Huda, 2004).

Education is the right of every individual, rich-poor, weak strong, cleverly stupid, and male. Therefore education is a necessity for every individual regardless of

background. Education is one of the important and effective efforts made to change one's mindset, this change in mindset will affect the change in one's perspective, so it will automatically also affect the habits carried out. Considering one of the causes of oppression, marginalization, subordination, and even harsh treatment of women is the poverty of education experienced by women (Sutiwi, 2005).

Women should also get a proper education. Considering that women are mothers to their children, women's education is not only necessary but very important to get attention. Education, however, starts with the family, and there the role of women as mothers is very important. In Indonesia education for women has received attention from the government, even the number of women who pursue higher education is increasing. However, in some areas of Indonesia, there are still many inequalities in terms of educational opportunities, especially at a higher level among women. As well as the state of education in Petarikan Village 1 which still looks down on the world of high education for women.

In Indonesia, education for women has received attention from the government, even the number of women pursuing higher education is increasing. However, in some areas in Indonesia, there are still many inequalities in terms of educational opportunities, especially at higher levels among women. As is the case with the state of education in Petarikan 1 Village which still looks down on the world of higher education for women.

Islam put women and men in their place. It is unjustifiable to the assumption of orientalist and enemies of Islam that Islam places women to a low degree or is considered a second-class society. In Islam, women are glorified. There are many verses of the Qur'an or hadiths of the Prophet that glorify and elevate the degree of women. Whether as a mother, child, wife or as a member of society itself. There is no discrimination between men and women in Islam, but what distinguishes the two is their function, because of the nature of each (Jannah, Surawan, and Athaillah, 2021)

Human life is not far from education, the people of the city or village need education, whether men or women. However, the difference in the education of each region lies in how they utilize existing education so that such education can change the condition of the wider community (Nabila, 2020).

Public Perception of the Importance of Education for Women

Discussing education, parents certainly have their perception of education. Perception in the Great Dictionary of Indonesian is the direct response (acceptance) of something; absorption, or the process of a person knowing some things through his five senses (Oktariani 2014). In short, perception itself is a view, which is how a person perceives and interprets things (Sobur 2013). A perception is an event that someone regarding an event has experienced. Things, objects, and events are obtained by inferring information and interpreting messages (Fadli, Mazrur, and Surawan, 2021).

In this case, people's perception of the importance of higher education for women in Petarikan Village 1, from the data of interviews and observations, there are several data sources that state that higher education for women in Petarikan Village 1 is not important, while most other data sources say it is important.

Perception, of course, is influenced by several factors, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are factors that arise or relate to one (Sobur, 2013). That includes the way parents educate, relationships between family members, the atmosphere of the house, the economic situation of the family, the understanding of parents, and cultural background (Umar, 2015). A person's perception can be influenced by their background.

The background some people who consider higher education for women unimportant are people who do not dabble in the world of education and their minds have been fostered by factors such as perception or traditional mindset. Such the perception of the difference in nature between men and women also affects the perception of parents about educational opportunities, especially at the college level in women, their mindset towards the nature of a woman. Where later after household a woman will take care of domestic activities in the household and a man has the responsibility of working to provide for his family. So they prefer to prioritize education for their children. This perception is certainly inseparable from the existence of economic and environmental factors.

In addition, the reality in the field related to the number of scholars who are still unemployed also affects the perception of parents related to higher education for their children. Because they still meet undergraduate graduates who have not yet got a job, then they assume that higher education does not guarantee one's success. This

perception is not entirely wrong, education as one of the aspects that bridge success does not mean it will guarantee that success can be so easily achieved by everyone. Back to each individual on his or her will and determination to keep trying to achieve the desired success.

On the contrary, there are still many people who consider higher education important for women because their background is of a mother who understands their obligations as educators (Sujati and Haq, 2020). Women are mothers-to-be and educators for their children. A woman who is now a child will become a mother and educator for her children. Every woman will certainly continue the relay of education, faith and Islam to her children (Mulia 2016). So, how can they fulfil their obligation to be educators for their children if they do not get the opportunity to get the highest possible education? (Shihab, 2018).

Therefore, they realize that the responsibility of being a mother is very large because the more quality the mother's school is certainly the more qualified the educational results are given to her child. With women continuing their higher education, they will have a wider knowledge. Prove that women can be successful in their careers. The opportunity to work is much easier to come by if someone has become a scholar. The income earned while working will also be higher than those who are only graduates of secondary education. A person who has a higher education will be more respected in the community and employment environment.

Although many parents are aware of the importance of education and the magnitude of the influence of education on women, there are still many women who cannot continue their education because of factors such as the economy, context, and because of the lack of awareness of the importance of education so that not a few children who underestimate education and choose to directly work as farmworkers even not infrequently also choose to get married directly.

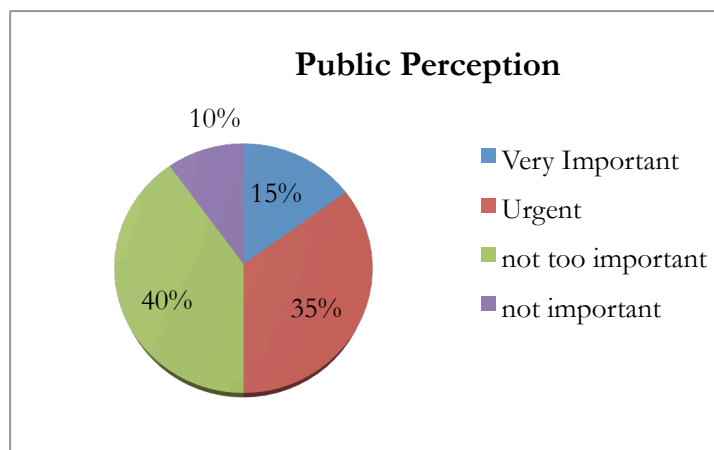


Figure 1. Percentage of Public Perception of the Importance of Higher Education for Women.

Educational Conditions in Petarikan Village 1 Sukamara District Sukamara Regency

As well as the condition of education in Petarikan Village 1 Sukamara District Sukamara Regency, this village only has an elementary school and junior high school which is certainly the main source of education for children living in Petarikan Village 1. Although there are already elementary and junior high schools in this village there are still many children who break up in the middle of the road in education. This is certainly a concern to see the pain of some citizens who underestimate education for their children. Though education is very important for the lives of these children in the future, especially for girls who are the first madrassas and play a role in determining the next generation of educated nations.

Based on the results of observations and interviews obtained data concluded that the majority of girls in Petarikan Village 1 only received education until elementary school and junior high school, and only a small percentage continued their education from high school to college. Factors that cause low women who continue higher education are:

1. Family Environment and Lack of Awareness of the Importance of Education.

The majority of Petarikan 1 village people are elementary and junior high school graduates so this is certainly very influential on children's perception of education, especially higher education. Then the parents in Petarikan village have a fear of association in this modern era, one of the prominent characteristics in

our era is technology and freedom in everything, especially in terms of association. This association is the main reason parents are afraid to send their daughters to school, considering the phenomenon that often occurs in the village of Petarikan, namely girls who continue their high school and college education outside the village instead of graduating from school but instead go home with two bodies so that the majority of parents directly marry off their children or directly help parents work. Though not all women can fall into the wrong hole because there are still many women who understand and adhere to religion.

With the environment, less supportive families, and the phenomenon that often occurs in the village Petarikan 1 can be drawn to the conclusion that there is a very lack of awareness of the importance of education, especially for women, so many girls who are married, choose to get married directly, even choose to work directly. Especially women who have gained the trust and support of their families should be able to maintain that trust and can be proud of their families, not vice versa.

2. Traditional thoughts.

Traditional thinking is also the cause of the lack of women who continue higher education. Petarikan Village Community 1 many who think that the nature of the woman in the kitchen, no matter how high school women will end up in the kitchen and only limited to taking care of domestic needs in the household. In addition, people also assume that if a woman is educated too high will be feared to have difficulty in getting a soul mate because the male side will be inferior. Also the assumption of the public who are often called "spinsters" considering the amount of time needed to complete their studies in college or can be considered late marriage.

Regarding higher education opportunities for women are also not infrequently hindered by the thought of parents who prefer higher education for their sons only, because men are considered more deserving because later will be the head of the family that provides for their family life. So that some people who are still patterned traditionally decide that women do not need to get too high education this is what makes the lack of women in Petarikan Village 1 who continue higher education.

3. Economic Factors.

Education is everyone's conscious effort to guide and develop the personality and basic abilities of children in both formal and no formal forms of education. One of the supporting factors is the economy where economic conditions have a very large influence in shaping the character of children; the economic situation is enough to provide wider opportunities to develop their potential through education (Rahmayani, 2021).

Economic factors are factors that are widely complained about by the public in the world of education, especially at the level of education in college. The low economic condition of society is also the reason a woman does not get the opportunity to get an education until high education. When a person is born into a lower-middle economic family, then they are reluctant to continue to college, because they cannot afford to pay tuition fees (Khayati, 2008).

Low economic conditions in society affect the opportunity to get an education in college for women. Where someone who comes from a family with relatively low economic conditions will feel reluctant to continue their education in college because it is hindered by insufficient economic factors (Khayati, 2008).

However, in the economic limitations experienced by the people of Petarikan Village 1 who only rely on livelihoods as farmworkers, farmers and construction workers, they assume they are unable to send their children to college because of their jobs and income. Although some people are already aware of the importance of education, they feel hopeless because they are unable to send their children to college. Although now the government has tried to assist with programs to help underprivileged communities such as Bidikmisi, but still the people of Petarikan Village 1 many still do not know how to register even there are still those who do not know about the government programs.

Table 1. Factors cause low women who continue higher education.

No	Factors Causing Low Women Who Continue Higher Education	Percentage
1.	Family environment and lack of awareness of the importance of education	39,8%
2.	Thoughts that are still traditional	27,3%
3.	Economy Factors	32,8%

CONCLUSION

From the presentation of research results on public perception of the importance of higher education for women in Petarikan Village Sukamara district Sukamara district, it can be concluded that the discussion of education for women in Petarikan village 1, mostly only elementary and junior high school graduates and only a small percentage continue their education to a higher level. This is certainly influenced by several factors cause are the family environment and lack of awareness of the importance of education 39.8%, people's thinking that is still traditional 27.3%, and economic factors 32.8%..

The public perception of the importance of education for women in Petarikan village 1 is that there are still some people who consider higher education for women is not important Background some people who consider higher education for women unimportant are people who do not dabble in the world of education and their minds have fostered traditional perceptions or mindsets. Such the perception of the difference in nature between men and women also affects the perception of parents to educational opportunities, especially at the college level in women, their mindset towards the nature of a woman.

While there are still many people who realize and budget for the importance of higher education for women. Because their background is of a mother who understands their obligations as educators. Therefore, they realize that the responsibility of being a mother is very large because the more quality the mother's school is certainly the more qualified the educational results are given to her child.

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