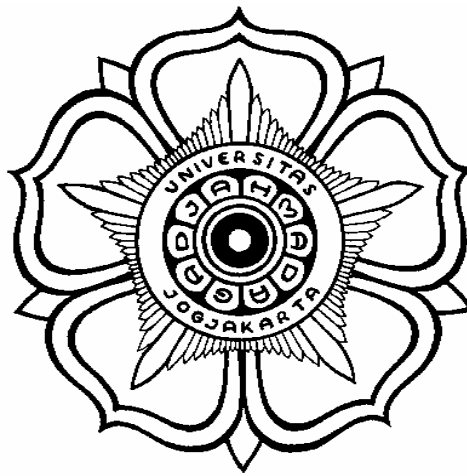


# **WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN INDONESIA**



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## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN INDONESIA**

### **A. Introduction**

Chapter 27 verses 1 of Constitution of Republic of Indonesia guarantees that all citizens have equal position in legal system and government, they are obliged to uphold law and the government. Verse 2 states that each citizen is entitled to decent job and life for humanity. The 2 verses mentioned above show that there is an equal position for all citizens regardless of their group, ethnicity, religion and gender. In reality, however, gender issues still happen and the victims could be men but mostly women.

Strong social and cultural values that have patriarchal system place men and women in different role and position. It always causes problems of subordination, marginalization, violence against women, and stereotype way of thinking and double role. Those problems might lead to injustice and unequal position of gender. Patriarchal social and cultural treatment above makes women have no access, opportunity in planning, conduct and control over development. Unlike men, women don't get benefit from the development either. It makes their position and role low in the society. Therefore the government considers the importance of making strategies that have been implemented in Presidential Instruction no 9/ 2000.

Presidential Instruction no 9/ 2000 about gender mainstreaming in the development has given a mandate to increase position, role and quality of women. It also aims at implementing equal and just gender in family, national and state life. The Presidential Instruction also sees the importance of strategies of gender mainstreaming in all development process that became inseparable with functional activities in all institutions both in central and regional government.

### **B. Gender Issues**

According to profile and indicator of gender in Indonesia, there are gender issues in the following:

## **1. Education and Training**

There is still discrimination against girls to get access to education in various regions. It is caused by traditional attitude, marriage, pregnancy at early age, sexual abuse, insufficient teaching materials, gender bias and insufficient school facilities that can be accessed physically or non physically.

## **2. Health**

Health and welfare is still beyond the reach of women. One of the biggest obstacles in reaching optimal health standard is that there is no equal right between male and female and among females themselves. In several regions, social classes and indigenous people and ethnicity suffer from malnutrition, anemia, diarrhea, contagious diseases, malaria, tuberculosis and other tropical diseases.

## **3. Economy**

There are different access between men and women in having opportunity to take part in economic sectors. It is shown by the facts that the access of small and middle class business women in getting credit, information about market and business, management and business development is still limited. Women also have limited skills and education to get better job opportunity, good protection and social security both in formal and informal sectors. In addition, there is still an assumption that women employees are considered production element not business partner.

## **4. Violence against Women**

In some cases, it is the women and girls that become the target of physical, sexual as well as psychological violence that often exceeds tolerance of humanity, class and culture. Violence and violation of human rights are often experienced by women at all ages because of conflict. Women may not enjoy their equal rights because:

- a. there are implementations which do not comply with the regulations, for examples, private law, civil law, manpower regulations, etc.
- b. complicated administrative procedures.

- c. low awareness toward legal process and low monitoring toward violations of women's right.
- d. women are under represented in the legal systems.
- e. insufficient information about women's right.
- f. there are still some discriminative legal products and gender bias.

#### **5. Decision Making Process**

The number of women working in public sector is increasing but only a few of them can get important positions. Women are under represented in government institutions as well as legislative bodies.

Only a few women are involved in decision making process in families and public sector. In same areas such as Bali, Batak and Eastern part of Indonesia in which patriarchal culture is dominant, there are several discriminative treatment towards women, for example, parents usually give different treatment for their children education, etc.

#### **6. Social welfare**

There are still some values and cultural norms which are not conducive for women empowerment. Because some women only have low education, they can't get good jobs. Husband sometimes does not give permission to their wife who wants to work in public sector.

Therefore the government has a strong commitment to gender mainstreaming by issuing Presidential Institution no 9/ 2000.

### **C. Gender Mainstreaming in Indonesia**

Gender Mainstreaming (President's Instruction No 9/ 2000) is a strategy to achieve gender equality and equity through policies and programs that consider experience, aspiration, needs, and problems of women and men into the process of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all policies and programs in various life and development sectors.

### **Scope of Gender Mainstreaming**

Includes all planning, implementation, and evaluation of development policies and programs with respect to experience, aspiration, needs, and problems of women and men.

### **Pre-equities for Gender Mainstreaming Implementation**

- Political will and leadership of the executive, judicative, and legislative institutions.
- The availability of policy framework commitment on the part of national district/ municipal government in an equality and equity.
- The structure and mechanism of national and district/ municipal government to gender mainstreaming implementation.
- Data and information system classification by gender.
- Gender analysis tools for planning, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation purposes.
- Support for the government from a democratize society.

### **Implication of Gender Mainstreaming**

Every government institution, local as well as national, needs to integrate the dimensions of gender equality and equity into its respective local and sectored programs.

### **Conclusion**

In short, all regulation and systems related to relationship between men and women have to be improved based on equal position for all citizens. There must be a good coordination among the government, society, and private institutions to realize it. Now gender mainstreaming in the form of training or advocating has been implemented in the governmental level as well as private institutions. However, this policy has not yet reached the grassroots so the government has to keep on socializing it to wider targets.