

THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Committee:Economic and Social Council

Agenda Item:Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women in Developing Economies

Development is a dynamic, multifaceted and even biased concept that changes a lot. When development is defined, the first thing that comes to mind is economic development, but today, it is emphasized that in order for countries to be considered developed, only economic development is not enough, and social, political and human development must also be achieved at the same rate. In this respect, development is a complex process both conceptually and politically. In the 1990 Human Development Report; it was reported that development has certain goals and tools, and that it is necessary to make a distinction between them. It was also emphasized that the ultimate goal of development should be based on people's successes, freedoms and capabilities. Because the human development approach, which does not consider only the income-oriented approach sufficient, puts people at the center of development. The human factor, namely human capital, is the most important production factor in today's rapidly changing world. As the relationship between human capital and development became clearer over time, the development process all over the world gained a new perspective. While discussing the concept of development, the most important factor of which is people, how and in what way women were or were included in the social development process in the same period is an important issue. Gender equality and women's empowerment have been seen as a more holistic strategy in creating new sustainable models and processes. In general, gender is the understanding of having the freedom to use the rights that people have or should have without being bound by strict gender roles and to benefit from opportunities without distinguishing people as women and men. Women's empowerment is actually both a process and a result, and the World Bank has defined women's empowerment as the key to all programs. However, before gender-based consciousness was fully established; policies were put into practice to empower women. Since these programs primarily focused on economic development; the ground was prepared for women to work in more difficult conditions and labor-intensive jobs for many years, thus losing their material and spiritual power. From this point of view, the results of the studies carried out in international development policies for the empowerment of women have been the subject of discussions in terms of gender equality. In this context, although the inclusion of gender equality in mainstream policies has different appearances in different countries, it has been seen that the emphasis on gender equality is aimed at ensuring women's participation in the workforce and eliminating the inequalities they experience in the labor market. However, these policies, which were institutionalized and included in the program with governments, actually include regulations for women to balance their work and family lives, but the aim is to pave the way for flexible labor in the labor market and to access it more easily. It is also obvious that women working in both developed and developing countries have to deal with many different problems, and the obstacles and problems in their careers are often similar. Since women's labor is an effective element in activating the internal dynamics of a society; developments described as development have further increased women's workload and problems in labor-intensive jobs and have expanded men's authority and even their area of authority.

International Women's Day is an important time to reflect on the struggles of women in Indonesia who face a patriarchal culture that still hinders the achievement of gender equality. Despite progress, significant challenges remain in women's liberation from limited and stereotypical roles in society.

This article will outline the problems of patriarchal culture, look at the history of Kartini's feminist struggle, and consider religious and legal perspectives on gender equality. It will also discuss concrete efforts to overcome the shackles of patriarchal culture to promote true gender equality in Indonesia. Gender equality is a fundamental principle that affirms that all individuals, regardless of gender, have the same rights in all areas of life. However, in Indonesia, as in many other countries around the world, patriarchal culture remains a major obstacle to achieving true gender equality. Patriarchal culture is a social and cultural system in which men are perceived to have dominance, control, and superiority over women in all things. In Indonesia, patriarchal culture is still very strong and this is reflected in the expectations that women should do household chores such as laundry, cooking and childcare, while men should work outside the home and be the backbone of the family. These expectations often leave many women feeling restricted and unable to develop their potential outside of their traditional roles as housewives. Because women are still seen as having to prioritize their roles as mothers and wives, they are often forced to choose between career and family. While there has been progress in gender equality, such as increasing women's access to education and employment, patriarchal culture still persists and affects many aspects of women's lives. A clear example of this is the issue of leadership, where women are often perceived as less capable of leading because they are too emotional or indecisive. In fact, many studies have shown that women have the same leadership abilities as men, and sometimes even better in some aspects.

A large number of global organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, are implementing various initiatives and regulations to ensure gender parity in developing countries. The UN is implementing initiatives, particularly through women's access to education, political participation, economic empowerment and deterrence of gender-based violence. In the area of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 'gender equality' (Goal 5) aims to increase women's rights in developing countries. Organizations such as the World Bank and UNICEF also provide funding and guidance to increase women's education, discourage early unions and promote women's employment. In addition, municipalities and non-profit organizations in many countries are organizing training, small loans and informational drives to increase women's participation in decision-making, combat violence against women and assist women's business enterprises. The spread of technology and digital access, supported by women's digital literacy and market intelligence, improves the quality of life for women, especially in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. These efforts constitute an international effort to reduce gender inequalities in underdeveloped countries and strengthen women's status in society.

The United Nations and its part ECOSOC can create plans that help women and men equally over the long term. Working with UNICEF and UNESCO, we can support scholarships, development of educational facilities and awareness initiatives to ensure girls continue their education. Parents can get help from local groups to prevent young people from marrying too early, and we can push for new laws to change this. Teacher training and assistance with course materials can be included in school lessons to help everyone understand the importance of treating boys and girls the same. Microcredit resources can be created through UN Women and UNDP to promote female entrepreneurship, and enterprise development workshops can be expanded. Standard reports can be prepared for workplaces where labor charges are the same, and transparency guidelines can be supported. We can create programs to help women leave informal work and find jobs with benefits. Strengthen CEDAW oversight systems to implement strong anti-violence legislation, ensure that the law is enforced and provide shelter for women. Legal aid projects can be implemented and laws can be changed to ensure that women can inherit and own property. In the fight against gender bias, nations can provide routine updates and financial support to organizations that provide legal aid to survivors. Media initiatives can

challenge traditional gender norms, raise public awareness, and campaigns such as HeForshe can be adapted to include men in this effort. Quota frameworks can be recommended by encouraging mentoring initiatives for women decision-makers, as well as increasing the presence of women in governance and civic arenas. Furthermore, in line with spiritual figures, gender parity concepts can be expanded through modification rather than conflict with traditional beliefs. All of these steps can be carried out holistically, thanks to the norm-setting authority of ECOSOC and the technical capabilities of UN agencies.

References:

<https://www.povertyactionlab.org/blog/12-20-21/improving-gender-equality-indonesia-importance-addressing-gender-norms>
<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/04/01/the-struggle-against-patriarchal-culture-for-gender-equality-in-indonesia/> <https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/topics/gender-equality#:~:text=Gender%20equality%20means%20that%20the,in%20dignity%2C%20safety%20and%20security.> <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/gender-equality>
<https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/5-gender-equality/> <https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality>
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en
<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/gender-equality.html>
<https://www.ilo.org/topics-and-sectors/gender-equality>