

Analyzing the Relationship Between Gender Equality and Javanese 'Patriarchal' Culture to Recording Information for Future Generations

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Abstract. Patriarchy is the behaviour of favouring men over women. In Javanese culture currently there is still patriarchy in the social life of the community. There is such a stigma in Javanese culture that places women in a limited role. Often in Javanese culture the role of women is referred to as 3M '*Macak, Manak, Masak*'. In addition, there is the term women as '*kanca wingking*' or which means friends behind. The purpose of this research is to illustrate that although the world is evolving, Javanese patriarchal culture still hinders the concept of gender equality. Through the results of this research, it is hoped that it can provide a record of information for future generations and can motivate people to be able to realise gender equality. The research method used is systematic literature review. Researchers used secondary data sources referenced through journals and books that have relevance to the issues discussed. The results of this study indicate that there is a relevance between gender equality and patriarchal Javanese culture. In this connection, patriarchal Javanese culture becomes an obstacle to realising gender equality. This finding reflects the patriarchal culture adhered to by Javanese society shackles women in gender equality. In realising gender equality in patriarchal culture, there are several challenges such as a strong patriarchal culture, education and career continuity and social norms.

Keywords: Patriarchy, Javanese Culture, Gender Equality.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country rich in culture because it consists of various archipelagos. One of the cultures that is quite interesting and famous in Indonesia is Javanese culture. According to M. Dawam Rahardjo, Javanese culture is a human attitude which in its application includes the way of life, attitudes, norms, and beliefs embraced by the Javanese people. In addition, this culture not only includes customs, but also a value system that guides people in their daily lives. In the application of attitudes, there are norms that govern how men and women behave, but often these norms favor men rather than women. This partiality is often referred to as patriarchy. Patriarchy is a term used to express male power, more precisely the power relationship between men and women, but puts men in a dominant position or dominates in various aspects and ways. (Hunga 2013). In the Great Dictionary of Indonesian, patriarchy is the behavior of prioritizing men over women. The application of patriarchy, especially in Javanese culture, has started since the colonial era or before the 2000s. This is evidenced by various regulations, both written and unwritten, such as in the story of the heroine in Indonesia, namely "Kartini".

Kartini was born in 1879 in Jepara, Central Java. Born into a noble family, she was shackled by various rules and traditions of Javanese culture. As one of Indonesia's heroes, Kartini is aware of the gender injustice experienced by Javanese women. Her desire to fight for women's rights in the form of equality is manifested in the form of media publications such as newspapers and creating special schools for women. (Mas'Ud and Mulyaningsih 2022). During its development, this patriarchal Javanese culture still continues to this day. For now, Javanese culture itself still identifies women, especially a wife, as a *kanca wingking* (friend in the back). This identification causes a burden on

the role of a woman. This makes women's space, especially in the household, limited. (Tyas Pratisthita and Ayu Wisnu, 2022) In reality, the role of women is more than just a *kanca wingking* in the family, society, and country. With the existence of competent female resources, it will give birth to a quality next generation. Therefore, the position of women, especially in Javanese culture, should not be lower or higher than men.

Patriarchal culture, especially in Javanese culture, is a structural problem that affects individuals, groups, and society at large. Patriarchy is not just about placing men as the main ruler, but it concerns norms and values that are inherited from generation to generation. Patriarchal culture has developed into a hegemonic ideology that is deeply rooted in society. (Mulyani, 2018). There is an adagium or Javanese proverb that says "*Yen awan dadi theklek, yen bengi dadi lemek*" which means "if the day becomes slippers, if the night becomes a blanket". This illustrates how cruel the expectations are for women who only function as servants of their husbands both day and night. There are also the terms *macak*, *manak*, and *masak* mentioned in *Serat Candrarini* which means that women must always look beautiful, give descendants for men, and cook for their husbands. In short, it can be interpreted that Javanese culture, which is quite thick with gender bias, is an obstacle to optimizing women's participation in the public world.

The patriarchal system that is deeply rooted in Javanese culture has created stereotypes about gender roles. Women are often seen only as weak objects and what women do can be categorized as objectivity. (Emma Dalton 2019). Men have a stronger physical size that is considered appropriate to do heavy work. (Sari and Haryono, 2019). This view results in a stereotype in society that men are the protectors and women just have to obey what men have determined. Living in the grip of a patriarchal culture makes Javanese women unable to move freely. According to Novianto, who argues that Javanese women depict the face of oppression because Javanese culture does not provide space for equality between men and women. In this case, it reflects that Javanese culture with its patriarchal norms often places women in a subordinate position or inferior to men. Patriarchal Javanese cultural values have created a mindset that limits the roles and opportunities for Javanese women. Often Javanese people think that women do not need to get too much education because in the end women only work in the kitchen. With this perception, it shows that the existing Javanese cultural norms have taken root strongly, thus causing a stigma against women themselves that in the end their task is only in the kitchen.

Some previous literatures has paid a lot of attention related to patriarchy and culture. First, research conducted by Salma Rabbaniyah and Shafa Salsabila which emphasizes patriarchal culture, especially in the Javanese tribe, triggers problems in relations between genders. (Rabbaniyah and Salsabila, 2022) The scientific contribution of this article is to understand how patriarchal culture in Java affects women's behavior and position, especially in the campus environment. Second, research conducted by Yunita Ratna Sari which emphasizes the contribution of Javanese women's role as legislative leaders. (Yunita Ratna Sari 2023). The scientific contribution of this article shows that the representation of women in the Central Java region to become legislative leaders from 2019 to 2023 has not reached the 30 percent gender affirmative quota. This is due to the patriarchal culture and the emergence of negative stereotypes against women.

Based on some of the literacy that has been stated, it becomes the researcher's footing in determining the academic gap in this study. Therefore, researchers are interested in focusing on analyzing the relationship between gender equality and patriarchal Javanese culture in order to recording information for future generations. The importance of this study is so that future generations get an overview of recorded information about patriarchy in Javanese culture related to its relevance to gender equality.

METHODS

The method used in this study is systematic literature review. In order to answer the problems in this study, the researcher uses secondary data sources referred to through journals and books that are related to the problems raised by the researcher. Researchers use certain keywords to find literacy that has relevance that can be used as a reference so that the discussion does not provide an expansion of understanding. Various data that have been obtained are selected through the stages of data reduction to drawing conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Patriarchal Culture in Java

The identity of Javanese society is formed with long and rich historical backgrounds. The Javanese family structure positions men as fathers who have the highest authority in decision-making. This shows how women have a narrow role in family decision-making. Javanese patriarchal culture is still influential in people's lives, especially in rural areas. Men are still the main coordinates in controlling the social system in various lives. That is why women are marginalized. The existence of a patriarchal culture in the social life of Javanese society often leads to gender inequality and the main victims in this case are women. (Halizah and Faralita, 2023). In East Javanese folklore, there is a pattern that places men in an important role who get the main storyline in the whole story. Based on East Javanese folklore, there are factors that make patriarchy exist in Javanese culture, such as economy, culture, and thought patterns. These factors cause women to have a tendency to depend on men. This results in a view that men are portrayed with masculinity and women with feminism. (Sugiarti 2021).

The strong Javanese patriarchal culture makes women vulnerable to sexual violence crimes. This is because the patriarchal culture in the Javanese tribe forms an attitude of freedom towards men, which makes victims especially women, not feel that they are being exploited or become victims of sexual crimes. (Rabbaniyah and Salsabila, 2022). The perception that women should be submissive, weak and inferior means that they are often considered inferior to men. This perception leads to women being perceived as sexual objects and is the cause of violence against them. Over time women will develop behaviors to maintain their self-esteem by not speaking out about discrimination experienced due to gender inequality rooted in Javanese patriarchal culture. Not only in educational settings such as universities, the strong Javanese patriarchal culture is reflected in the Samin women of Bojonegoro. Although there have been several generations and many have been influenced by global developments, there is no rejection of the rules of patriarchal culture in Samin women. They have to follow the tradition that forbids them from taking a higher position than men, although some try to fight the situation. Despite many pushes such as the influence of information from outside the Samin community, the patriarchal cultural system still exists. (Huda 2019).

TABLE 1. Article Comparison

No	Researcher Name and Year	Article Title	Research Results
1	(Sugiarti, 2021)	Budaya Patriarki Dalam Cerita Rakyat Jawa Timur	According to the results of a late study, it was found that in East Javanese folklore, patriarchal culture is manifested by the role of men who tend to be brave, strong, clever, and have a leadership spirit. Meanwhile, women only depend on men.
2	(Rabbaniyah and Salsabila, 2022)	Patriarki Dalam Budaya Jawa; Membangun Perilaku Pembungkaman Diri Pada Perempuan Korban Seksual Dalam Kampus	The label of women as weak, submissive, and subordinate makes men feel in a higher position than women. With this, women become easy targets as victims of sexual violence, especially in the university environment. The deep-rooted patriarchal culture gave rise to the concept of rape culture which resulted in women being silenced as a form of self-protection from the patriarchal environment.
3	(Halizah and Faralita, 2023)	Budaya Patriarki dan Kesenjangan Gender	Patriarchal culture still shows its existence in Indonesian society. Although many women play the role of breadwinners, this does not make this patriarchal culture disappear just like that. Then to achieve gender equality, there needs to be a change in patriarchal culture and women's empowerment.

Based on table I comparison of articles, it can be noted that from 2022 to 2023 there is still gender inequality due to patriarchal Javanese culture. Often the victims of gender inequality that arise due to patriarchal culture are women. Although women perform the same role as men, it still does not make women equal according to the findings of the article in 2023. Meanwhile, the findings of the 2021 article revealed that patriarchal culture has been inserted in folklore, especially in East Java. This shows that patriarchal values favour men.

2. The Relevance of Gender Equality and Patriarchal Culture

Gender equality means equality in terms of rights, roles, positions, and obligations between men and women. It refers to efforts to balance the opportunities of men and women in access to resources, opportunities, rights, and decision-making. Everyone is born with equal rights, regardless of gender. Therefore, they should be able to get a job, education, make decisions, participate in politics with equal access. (Zidni Ilma Arfany et al, 2023). Gender equality and patriarchal culture are two concepts that are interrelated and influence each other in social, political and economic contexts. The influence of patriarchal social context on gender equality is the role of men and women and gender-based violence due to the existence of a more dominant role. In the political field, especially Javanese women, there is still a negative stigma associated with women as leaders. (Yunita Ratna Sari, 2023). Although women take part in economic matters to support the family, they still cannot eliminate patriarchal culture. In relation to patriarchal culture, it prevents humans from achieving gender equality. In line with the data submitted by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) related to the gender inequality index, there is a gap in findings where in one region of Java gender equality has increased. While in other regions there is no increase in gender equality.

Despite the decline in the gender inequality index, patriarchal culture, especially in Javanese society, is still a trap for women. Many Javanese women still feel trapped in social norms that force women to adhere traditional roles. The demand to be a full-time housewife when married and have little role in decision-making. In addition, violence because women are considered weak is often considered right. Instead, women as victims are often blamed by society. Therefore, although there is a decreasing index of gender inequality, patriarchal culture is still a barrier to achieving gender equality in Javanese society. Although in practice gender equality has its own legislation, it cannot be denied that entrenched patriarchal values set women in a lower position. (Yulitha, 2023). In a study conducted by Yulitha, 2023 suggested that the stronger the patriarchal culture in a society, the lower the attitude towards gender equality. This shows that achieving gender equality requires changes related to cultural norms that imprison women.

3. Challenges in Realizing Gender Equality in Patriarchal Culture

Gender equality in the context of patriarchal Javanese culture faces various dynamic challenges. In this context, it often affects the role and position of women in society. Although the demand for gender equality is increasingly encouraged, in reality there are still challenges that must be faced by the community. Some previous literatures have paid attention to the challenges of realizing gender equality in a patriarchal culture. First, research conducted by Sarah and Hetty suggests that the entrenched patriarchal culture is a problem in gender inequality. Secondly, research conducted by Lady and Prastiwi emphasized that there are still polemics in women's career sustainability and indications in achieving higher education. Third, research conducted by Atin Fitriana which argues that in the history of classical manuscripts, women have been required to follow the social norms described in the embodiment of characters in the classical manuscript *Serat Wulang Putri Adisara*. Based on some of the literature that has been put forward, it can be noted that there are challenges to realizing gender equality in a patriarchal culture.

Strong Patriarchal System

The shackles of a strong patriarchal system create significant challenges for women. Often in this case women are trapped in gender stereotypes. Strong patriarchy shapes women's behaviour to prioritise the needs of others over their own. In the shackles of patriarchy, women are taught to be submissive. (Apriliandra and Krisnani, 2021) . Entrenched patriarchy can have serious long-term effects on society. When patriarchy is seen as a positive thing, it will make men feel powerful and unnecessary to respect the existence and dignity of a woman. According to previous research conducted by Arum and Kiki which suggests that violence in Javanese culture is not only physical but there is symbolic violence. The results showed that many women do not realise that they are the object of violence because of cultural norms that have been internalised for a long time. (Alyyah and Khondziroh, 2024)

Education and Career Sustainability

Cultural influences play an important role in women's education and career progression. Often men are prioritised in terms of education and employment opportunities, while women are only involved in domestic affairs. This challenge is caused by the perception that education for women is not important as men are the main breadwinners in a family. Although higher education does not immediately free a woman from the shackles of subservience to men. According to the cultural point of view, being a career woman is considered not in accordance with the proverb in Javanese culture. The corridor for women to work is very narrow because women have demands to do domestic tasks including cooking, cleaning the house, and so on. (Lady, Prastiwi, and Rahmadanik, 2020). Career continuity after marriage for women is not an easy thing because women are always required to manage household affairs. Society's view of women with higher education when married is that it is better if they concentrate on the family. Career continuity also cannot be achieved optimally because of regional restrictions that must remember the role of women to take care of the family. Women are limited in achieving their careers, for example, being placed in a different city with a higher position but cannot be done because of the demands of domestic duties. (Nur Wahyuni and Hidayati, 2023)

Binding Social Norms

From a young age, women have been taught to fulfil domestic duties in the family. In the life of the heroine Kartini, it is described that Javanese women who have entered puberty will be prepared for marriage. Women are forbidden to leave the house and learn to become a wife who is ready to serve her husband. (Sari and Haryono, 2019). The current reality is still the same in terms of educating women from a young age to understand and perform domestic duties. The practice of marrying with '*dipingit*' is very rare in urban areas but it does not rule out the possibility that this practice still occurs in rural areas that are thick with elements of adhering to Javanese cultural norms.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of patriarchal culture shows that the strong patriarchal system in society has a relationship with gender equality. This relevance results in the conclusion that the influence of patriarchal Javanese culture inhibits humans, especially Javanese women, in achieving gender equality. Patriarchy still affects gender roles and power dynamics. In Javanese culture, women are often placed below men and have a narrow role of carrying out domestic duties. In fact, there are still restrictions in access to education, career advancement opportunities and negative views of women as leaders. In Javanese culture itself, there are different perspectives towards women due to gender stereotypes. The lasting impact of the patriarchal culture that is still entrenched today is violence. Violence against women, both physical and symbolic, is one of the outcomes of patriarchal culture that harms individuals and hinders the development of society as a whole. Individuals who are trapped in a patriarchal mindset often experience delays in social and economic progress. This is due to the underutilisation of the potential of half the population, namely women.

To ensure a more just and equal future for the next generation, changes are needed in Javanese cultural structures and stigmas that are less compatible with the concept of gender equality. This includes gender-inclusive and equality-based education, strengthening policies that support women's rights, as well as efforts to change discriminatory social norms. The gender paradigm should not make women who are wrapped in Javanese culture to dim their existence. The existence of Javanese women in achieving dreams, making decisions, becoming leaders, and career sustainability should be the same as men. Involving women in organisations and not giving negative views when they become leaders is one way to support gender equality that can be done. By doing so, we can build a stronger foundation for gender equality and empower everyone regardless of gender. Through the recording of this information, it is hoped that the next generation can learn from the experiences and challenges faced by women in patriarchal cultures, and commit to creating a more just and equal world for everyone.

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