

GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITHIN ASIA



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FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of accomplishment that I present this edited volume, *Gender and International Relations within Asia*. This book represents one of the important academic outputs of the International Gender Class in International Relations in Asian Context, organized by the Department of International Relations, Universitas Riau.

The study of gender has become increasingly indispensable in understanding contemporary international relations. Across Asia, gender dynamics continue to shape political participation, economic development, migration, security, environmental governance, and social transformation. Yet, gender perspectives often remain underrepresented in mainstream International Relations scholarship. This volume seeks to contribute to addressing that gap by bringing together diverse perspectives and analyses that illuminate the intersections between gender and international relations within the Asian context.

This book is the result of a collaborative effort among lecturers, academics, researchers, and gender scholars from various institutions across Indonesia. Their contributions reflect not only academic rigor but also a shared commitment to advancing critical discussions on gender issues and promoting more inclusive approaches to international relations scholarship. Through the chapters presented in this volume, readers will encounter a wide range of themes, case studies, and theoretical reflections that demonstrate the complexity and significance of gender in regional and global affairs.

The publication of this volume would not have been possible without the generous support of the Eurasia Foundation (from Asia), whose funding and commitment to academic exchange have enabled the successful implementation of the International Gender Class and the

development of this book. We sincerely appreciate the Foundation's dedication to fostering cross-border learning, scholarly collaboration, and the promotion of gender-sensitive education in Asia.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all contributors, reviewers, organizers, and participants who dedicated their time, expertise, and energy to this initiative. Their enthusiasm and intellectual engagement have transformed this project into a meaningful academic contribution that will hopefully inspire further research and dialogue on gender and international relations.

As Head of the Department of International Relations, Universitas Riau, I am proud to witness the growing interest in gender studies within our academic community. It is my hope that this book will serve as a valuable resource for students, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to better understand the gendered dimensions of international affairs in Asia. More importantly, I hope it will encourage future collaborations and strengthen scholarly networks dedicated to advancing gender equality, social justice, and inclusive development.

Finally, I congratulate all authors and collaborators for their outstanding contributions. May this volume enrich academic discourse and contribute meaningfully to the development of gender-sensitive perspectives in International Relations scholarship.

Pekanbaru, June 2026
Head of Department of International Relations
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
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Dr. Yusnarida Eka Nizmi, S.IP., M.Si.

PREFACE

Universities today are expected to do more than produce graduates and generate research outputs. They are called upon to become spaces where critical ideas are nurtured, diverse perspectives are valued, and solutions to pressing societal challenges are developed. Among the many issues confronting contemporary societies, gender equality remains one of the most significant and enduring concerns, influencing social development, governance, economic opportunities, human security, and international cooperation.

As a Faculty committed to advancing knowledge and fostering socially responsible scholarship, the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Riau welcomes initiatives that encourage critical engagement with gender issues from multidisciplinary and international perspectives. The publication of *Gender and International Relations within Asia* represents one such initiative. Emerging from the International Gender Class in International Relations in Asian Context, this volume demonstrates how academic collaboration can generate meaningful discussions on issues that transcend national borders and disciplinary boundaries.

The Asian region offers a particularly important context for examining gender in international relations. Home to diverse societies, political systems, and development experiences, Asia presents both remarkable progress and persistent challenges regarding gender equality. Understanding these dynamics requires scholars to move beyond conventional analyses and consider how gender shapes international processes, institutions, and outcomes. Through the contributions gathered in this volume, readers are invited to explore these complexities and reflect upon their implications for scholarship, policy, and practice.

This publication also reflects the growing commitment of Universitas Riau to internationalization and academic networking. Meaningful academic advancement increasingly depends upon collaboration among institutions, scholars, and

organizations across countries and regions. Programs such as the International Gender Class provide valuable opportunities for intellectual exchange, knowledge sharing, and the strengthening of scholarly communities dedicated to addressing contemporary global challenges.

On this occasion, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Eurasia Foundation (from Asia) for its generous support in making this initiative possible. The Foundation's contribution has enabled productive academic engagement and helped create a platform where scholars can exchange ideas, develop networks, and contribute to the advancement of gender-related scholarship within the field of International Relations.

I also extend my sincere congratulations to the Department of International Relations, the editorial team, contributing authors, reviewers, and all participants involved in this endeavor. Their dedication demonstrates the importance of collective academic efforts in producing knowledge that is both intellectually rigorous and socially relevant.

It is my hope that this volume will not only enrich academic discussions but also encourage future collaborations, innovative research, and constructive dialogue on gender issues across Asia and beyond. May this book serve as a source of inspiration for students, researchers, policymakers, and all readers interested in promoting a more inclusive and equitable world.

Pekanbaru, June 2026
Dean of Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
Universitas Riau

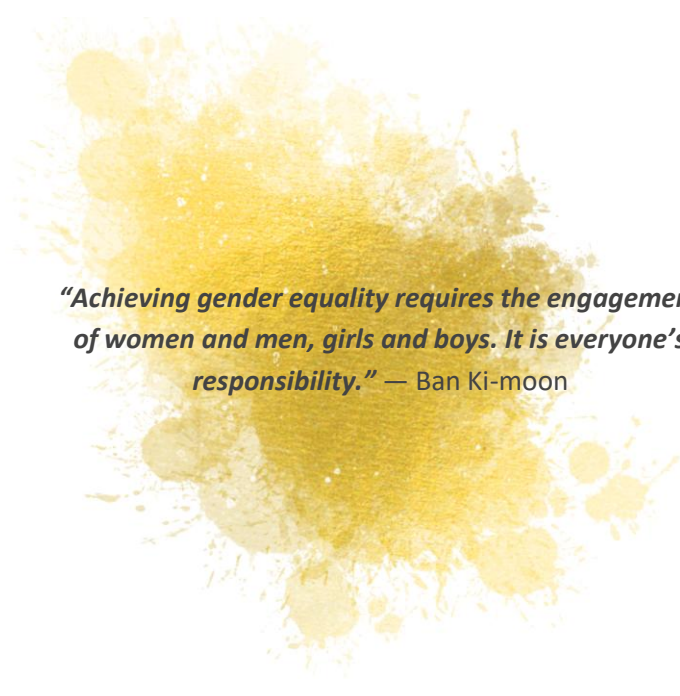
Dr. Meyzi Heriyanto, S.Sos., M.Si.

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“Achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, girls and boys. It is everyone’s responsibility.” — Ban Ki-moon

CHAPTER 1



GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: LOOKING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

**Dr. Yusnarida Eka Nizmi, S.IP., M.Si.
Rahmi Yulia, S.IP., M.Han.**

Universitas Riau

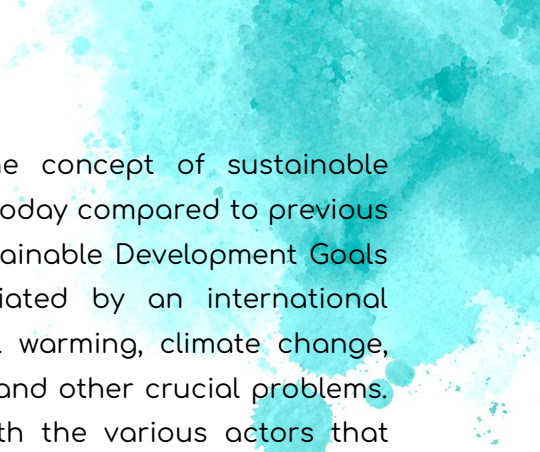


Gender and Sustainable Development Goals: Looking for Gender Equality

Introduction

Brundtland, as cited in Idowu et al. (2020), states that the sustainability approach is intended to serve the interests of present and future generations. The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development published this in a 1987 report, *Our Common Future*, which explained that human life and development must face the risks arising from massive global industrialization. The United Nations (1987) had emphasized from the beginning that the terminology of sustainable development is a basic concept of how to meet present needs without sacrificing human life in the future.

The understanding of the United Nations above is in line with the three basic concepts of development guidelines proposed by John Elkington (1997), namely profit (a development structure that facilitates industrialization and reduces unemployment), people (eliminating poverty and facilitating public health and education), and planet (protecting the environment).



Several decades later, the concept of sustainable development is still very relevant today compared to previous years. The emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals can be seen as an effort initiated by an international organization to overcome global warming, climate change, human rights violations, poverty, and other crucial problems. The United Nations, together with the various actors that accompany it, seeks to address climate change, human rights violations, poverty, and other issues. As an international organization, the United Nations tries to respond to how the increase in the world population can still be followed by the availability of healthy food, clean water, air, and energy, and all of this can be achieved if all of these components of need are designed with proper strategies that prioritize sustainable life for all human beings. An appropriate economic approach is very necessary considering that the impacts produced are related to environmental and social principles, such as the creation of peace, a healthy environment, and guaranteed human welfare.

To achieve the intended goals, the United Nations initiated various meetings in the form of climate change conferences, such as the Paris Agreement in 2015 and the eighth meeting of the Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015), including also the Sustainable Development Goals, which were agreed upon in 2015, where all of the agreements above show an increasing awareness of governments, society, and business groups to take part in being responsible for the sustainability of human life on this earth.

Protecting the earth and the diversity of its resources is an intergenerational responsibility that becomes a shared priority. The impact of environmental change and the climate



crisis is not gender neutral at all. Both in developing and developed regions, women are more vulnerable and feel the impact of climate change more than men. Climate change and environmental damage have caused millions of people to be displaced from their homes or countries of origin, and sadly, 75 percent of them are women.

Globally, women are exposed to the impacts of environmental change in a greater way, shown by the fact that women and girls make up around four out of five of the population affected by displacement due to climate change and also have a possibility 14 times higher of dying in climate-related disasters compared to men, but at the same time women are still rarely involved in the process of making climate change policies, even though their involvement in the economic, energy, and business sectors shows a more developing trend (United Nations, 2025; UN Women, 2024).

These factors are structural challenges faced by women of various ages in social and other contexts. Gender inequality can be seen very clearly in the labor sector, especially in fields of work with higher income, including inequality in wage provision and access to finance and natural resources.

This article will analyze how gender equality and the enforcement of human rights are two key factors in achieving the various goals of sustainable development, a global commitment by 2030. Gender gaps and poorly managed discrimination will only become obstacles to achieving the seventeen SDGs. This article will be divided into three main sections, beginning with an explanation of the basic concept of the SDGs and how to understand their relationship to gender equality. The discussion continues with a review of the

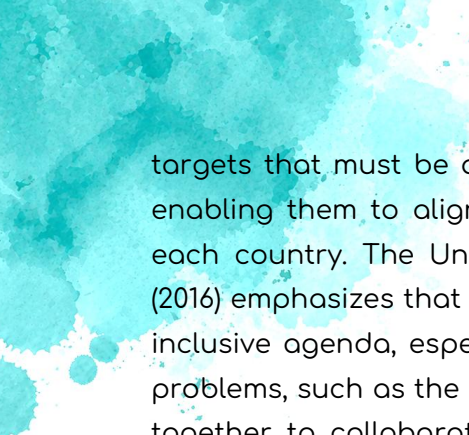
framework of gender equality, which will explain what gender equality actually is.

Defining and Understanding SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, which is targeted for achievement in 2030, is a global framework to end extreme poverty, inequality, and injustice and to protect the earth where we live. Every member of the United Nations has signed this transformative agenda, which requires significant changes across sectors over several decades. The agreement on the SDGs agenda is a product of the success of multilateralism.

The United Nations (2015) believes that the seventeen points of the SDGs are the real form of a series of global aspirations whose achievement is integrated by 2030. The SDGs emphasize collaborative partnerships and cooperation across actors and countries for the achievement of their three main dimensions, namely sustainable development, economic growth, and social inclusiveness.

The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, are universally agreed to end poverty and gender discrimination, protect the planet, and ensure that all individuals can enjoy peace and prosperity in the future. These seventeen main global focuses prioritize issues such as climate change, gender equality, sustainable consumption, and peace and justice, among others. These goals are designed to intersect, and often success in responding to one issue will be related to handling another. The pattern of SDGs work in collaborative partnership has a strong desire to improve life in a sustainable way for future generations. The SDGs provide a set of guidelines and



targets that must be achieved by all participating countries, enabling them to align with the priorities and challenges in each country. The United Nations Development Programme (2016) emphasizes that the SDGs must be recognized as a very inclusive agenda, especially in the context of solving various problems, such as the roots of poverty, bringing many parties together to collaborate in order to achieve significant and positive changes for the earth and its inhabitants.

The Sustainable Development Goals set a series of requirements for achieving them. For example, in the context of gender and development, this becomes a key to achieving other sustainable development goals. If talking about the environment, for example, it has different impacts on men and women because of differences in roles and behaviors assigned to them across various community groups, as well as differences in psychological characteristics between women and men. Whether in the context of energy, the need for water, transportation, urban design, agriculture, or food consumption, a gender perspective is the main key that can be used to understand and analyze how the environment influences that are completely different between men and women.

Dankelman (2010) reveals that globally, women play an important role in communities, supporting, sustaining, and guaranteeing welfare for the present and the future. Françoise d'Eaubonne and Paisain (1992) and the United Nations Development Programme (2019) reveal that ecofeminism and the women and environment approach reflect an understanding of nature and the role of women. Women and men respond and experience the environment differently. Dorceta E. Taylor (2002) adds that the issue of gender equality

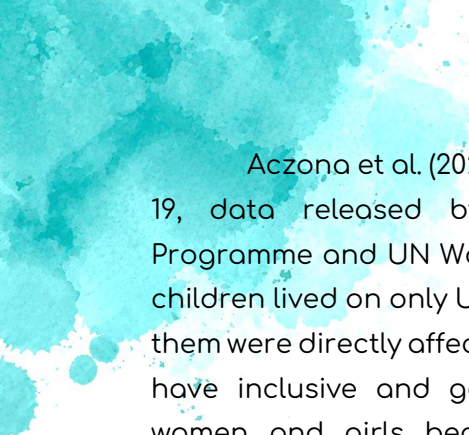
is clearly important to address so that related issues receive priority and the policies made are appropriate.

Data from OECD (2020) shows that the green economy aims to create significant opportunities for women to be involved in environmental jobs and to participate in green innovation, but this can happen only if there are policies and social frameworks that create space for women's communities. Research results from Bonewit and Shreeves (2015), Hossain et al. (2017), and Ben-Amar, Chang, and McIlkenny (2017) emphasize that, basically, giving greater access to women in leadership positions, both in the public and private sectors and at all levels of policymaking, can help the achievement of targets related to the environment.

The Portrait of Inequality: Gender Cross-Country

The OECD document (2021) published that the year 2020 was marked as the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was agreed upon by 189 countries in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women as an important point in the framework of gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the world.

The twelve focus areas agreed under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are indeed things that need to get attention. UN Women (2020) reports that progress from this declaration is already evident, with 1 billion people having escaped extreme poverty since 1995, and the global education gap has been reduced.



Aczona et al. (2020) explain that, in the context of COVID-19, data released by the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women show that 435 million women and children lived on only USD 1.90 per day in 2021, and 47 million of them were directly affected by the pandemic. If countries do not have inclusive and gender equality-oriented policies, then women and girls become vulnerable groups that will be trapped in extreme poverty. Given this condition, governments need to reorient their policies to achieve a better quality of life in the long term.

Publications from UN Women and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the OECD document (2021) explain that, globally, women aged 25 to 34 are more likely to live in poverty than men. Women do unpaid work for more than 4 hours per day, including domestic work, while men spend only 1 hour and 7 minutes per day on the same kind of work. The gap in the world of work between men and women becomes a gender gap whose chain is difficult to break.

OECD data (2019) shows how women throughout the world still experience violence, discrimination, and the limited job opportunities that they can obtain. Even in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, women make up only 39 percent. UN Women (2020) even reveals that only 14 percent of women become owners of agricultural land, which causes women to not be maximally involved in fighting climate change and environmental damage.

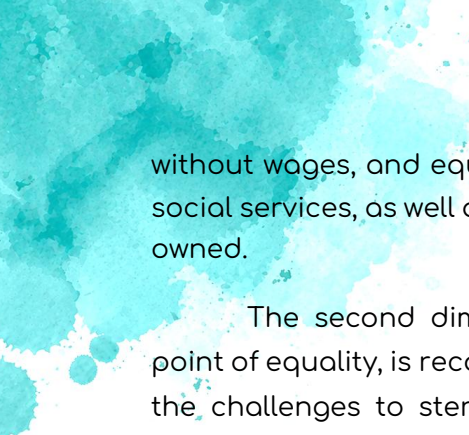
Reports from the International Labour Organization (2020) and the International Labour Organization (2018) explain how the gender gap in global forced labor reached 27 percent in 2019 and experienced a decline when compared to 1990,

which reached 29.1 percent. The biggest gender gap occurred in the transportation, construction, and manufacturing sectors.

World Health Organization (2019) explains that women's welfare in various sectors declined because of the COVID-19 crisis. Not only did 70 percent of women have to face health threats in the work environment, but they also had to face poor health facilities in their workplaces. Meanwhile, the OECD (2020) publication shows how women only occupy 25 percent of roles in decision-making and leadership, while 28 percent are in gender-based wage gaps. Forty-seven percent of women work in the transportation sector, 53 percent in the food sector, 60 percent in the service sector, and 62 percent in the retail sector. These sectors were the most severely affected both during the crisis and after the pandemic.

Gender Equality Frameworks

In the context of conceptualization, gender equality has a strong relation with how sustainable development is defined and pursued. Goldblatt and McLean (2011) explain that gender equality not only talks about the relationship between men and women but also how gender relations interact with class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, place, and other different dimensions. Vizard et al. (2011) state that the basic concept of gender equality actually emphasizes the importance of implementing human rights and how to bridge this concept when they interact and overlap. In other words, gender equality is a multidimensional concept. This concept intersects with socio-economic conditions in the world of work, welfare, and access to available resources. This concept also demands the guarantee of a safe life, equality in obtaining work, recognition, reduction and redistribution again for those who have worked



without wages, and equal access to health services and other social services, as well as equal access to control the resources owned.

The second dimension, which becomes an important point of equality, is recognition and dignity. Included in this are the challenges to stereotypes of masculinity and femininity; guaranteeing the absence of violence and violations of women's dignity; and guaranteeing reproductive health and sexual rights, as well as recognition and respect for women. Third, gender equality also means equal participation in making decisions at all levels. This includes supporting the presence of women's groups and women's voices in government and private institutions, building an inclusive democratic system, and guaranteeing space for collective feminist actions.

Challenging in Gender Equality and Achievement of SDGs

The 2030 SDGs agenda attempt to map how the gender dimension is, in fact, closely related to the achievement of gender equality targets and SDGs targets, so there is a need for space to integrate gender equality and environmental sustainability in a more systematic way. Although governments around the world have promoted actions that support sustainable programs, the implications for women, as well as the positioning of women's roles within the series of intended programs, remain unclear.

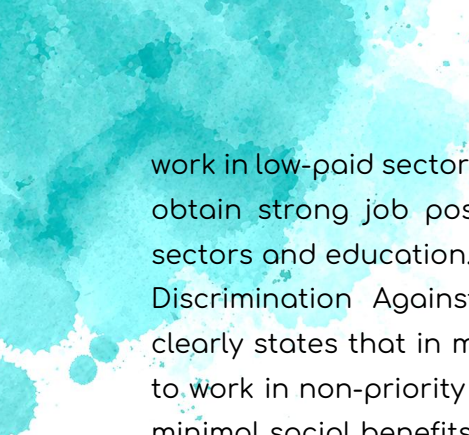
The OECD Report (2017) reveals that gender equality addresses economic and social issues, including discrimination, education, labor-sector policy, and health. The



issues above expand on the concepts of gender equality and the environment. However, the environment affects women differently, and the impact of gender inequality on the environment is not always the focus of attention in policy. The relationship of how gender equality intersects with the achievement of targets in other SDG schemes has not become a main priority. For example, a gender equality perspective is rarely found in infrastructure development or urban development, including in sustainable consumption, even though it cannot be denied that gender equality plays an important role in ensuring the achievement of sustainable development across all targets.

Inequality toward women and its negative impacts spread across various points. CEDAW (2013) reports that national policies that still do not favor gender equality will continue to produce negative outcomes for women in their lives. For example, in marriage, inequality leads to divorce, a cycle of widowhood that is difficult to break, including problems in property ownership. Hulme (2009) emphasizes a view that is in line with the CEDAW report, stressing that women's limited access to economic resources also impacts the unequal role of women in making decisions in both the public and private sectors. The Millennium Development Goals Report (2015) explains how economic markets also do not provide guarantees for gender equality. Without political direction that favors women, markets can also create large opportunities for inequality and produce negative effects on women.

Currently, the average proportion of women in parliament is only around 22 percent. The Millennium Development Goals Report (2015) explains that a gender stereotype that often persists is that the majority of women



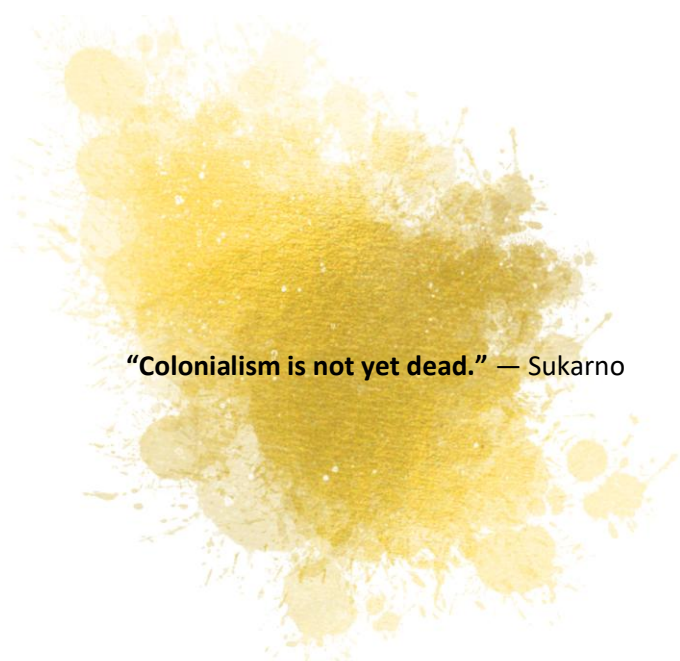
work in low-paid sectors, and they are far from opportunities to obtain strong job positions, such as working in the formal sectors and education. The report from the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice (2014) clearly states that in many developing countries, women tend to work in non-priority workspaces (jobs with lower wages and minimal social benefits) compared to men. The CEDAW Report (2014) states that many women are powerless in controlling their own sexual health and reproductive rights. UNFPA (2012) also reports the phenomenon of child marriage that still occurs in many countries. Data from the CEDAW Report (2014) also needs to be prioritized, where girls who are married at an early age are a portrait of women who do not receive adequate education and are at high risk of domestic violence and experiencing death during childbirth.

Gender-based violence also shows a fairly high increase. WHO (2013) provides a rather grim report where more than 35 percent of women worldwide experience physical and sexual violence. Data from the WHO report (2014) is also not something pleasant at all, where the phenomenon of sexual violence against wives or close partners is still seen as something normal in cultural contexts. It can be concluded that inequality is the result of a number of complex factors, including unequal protection provided, economic policy, culture, daily behavior, and, of course, the strong roots of patriarchy. Unfortunately, this complexity has not been fully integrated into the targets to be achieved under the SDGs. If the SDGs targets for 2030 are to be achieved, then all participating countries must ensure that gender equality is a condition that must already be present and well implemented in society.

Conclusion

Discussion on the SDGs, in principle, cannot be separated from the implementation of gender equality and human rights in every dimension of life. For UN member states, which are bound by human rights clauses, anti-discrimination provisions, and the adoption of values of equality and inclusiveness, it is certainly not something new to talk about gender equality and the SDGs. Many countries already have relatively good implementation of SDG points and gender equality. Commitments to continuously implement gender equality attributes within the framework of achieving the SDGs are still carried out through various regulations and policies.

In general, compliance with recommendations issued by the international community in formulating and implementing SDG strategies in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda commitment should be carried out by states, as the parties are fully responsible for the SDGs. An accountable government system will give greater opportunity for a country to achieve the agreed SDG targets. In the end, it needs to be underlined that several crucial things that must be prioritized in the context of achieving the SDGs are strengthening national systems based on human rights, expanding cooperation and collaboration with various partners, minimizing gender discrimination, and removing norms and stereotypes that can worsen gaps and inequality in society.



“Colonialism is not yet dead.” — Sukarno

CHAPTER 2



GENDER AND SECURITY: COLONIAL POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Dr. Dina Yulianti, S.S., M.Si.

Universitas Padjadjaran



Gender And Security: Colonial Powers in The Middle East

Introduction

In the traditional field of International Relations (IR) academic discussion, the subject of gender generally has been treated as a domestic or women's issue, that is, as something outside the scope of analysis of security, state power and the international system in general. The question in IR is "What is the national interest?" but the feminist question is more difficult: "Where are women in this process?" (Enloe, 2014; Tickner, 1992). This question is not only about representation, but also re-reads the whole power structure in the international system. Gender is not simply an additional variable, but rather a perspective that allows us to see previously invisible and unquestioned power relations (Peterson & Runyan, 2010; Tickner, 2014). This awareness has led to a specific sub-field of the discipline, namely, 'feminist security studies' (Sjoberg, 2010).

This understanding is based on the analytical concept of gender, rather than on a biological one. Gender is a system of meaning that assigns rationality, strength, etc. to the masculine figure and submissiveness and vulnerability to the feminine figure. This attachment is neither neutral nor natural, but rather a product of history, culture, and power relations



“The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.” — Gloria Steinem

CHAPTER 3

CONTRIBUTION OF FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Nuriyeni Kartika Bintarsari, MA., Ph.D.

Universitas Jenderal Soedirman



Contribution of Feminist Perspectives to The Development of Gender Studies in International Relations

Introduction

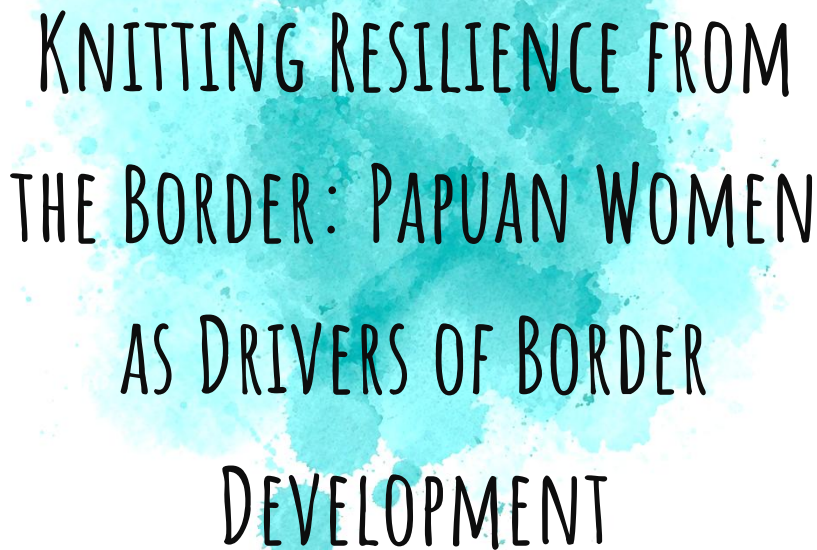
Feminist scholars in international relations (IR) have been questioning the position and place of women's contributions within the major theories of IR since the early 1980s (Pettman in Baylis & Smith, 2005; Sylvester, 2022). This question began to emerge in IR feminism in the 1980s through the works of Jean Bethke Elstain in *Women and War* (1987), J. Ann Tickner's article *On Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformulation*, and Cynthia Enloe's book *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Relations*, which was first published in 1989. These IR feminists raised questions that subsequently became pivotal in transforming the epistemology of IR studies, particularly by critiquing grand theories such as realism, neorealism, liberalism, and neoliberalism, which focus solely on anarchy within the international political system and its dynamics.

The contribution of feminist perspectives to the advancement of gender studies in IR was then discussed



"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."— Mahatma Gandhi

CHAPTER 4



KNITTING RESILIENCE FROM THE BORDER: PAPUAN WOMEN AS DRIVERS OF BORDER DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Melyana Ratana Pugu, M.Si.

Universitas Cenderawasih



Knitting Resilience from the Border: Papuan Women as Drivers of Border Development

Introduction

The border between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea not only acts as a dividing line but also as a living social space. In border areas, communities form relationships through kinship ties, cross-border mobility, economic activities, cultural exchange, and longstanding social connections. Therefore, borders should not be viewed only as peripheral spaces, but as important areas that contribute to security, connectivity, regional development, and the strengthening of local community identity.

Papuan women play crucial roles in the communities where they are the beneficiaries of development and protecting the sustainability of families, communities, cultures, local economies, and the environment. Papuan women in border areas play a dual role as guardians of domestic life, economic actors, maintainers of indigenous values, social



"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." --Jane Goodall

CHAPTER 5

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE HUMAN NEEDS FULFILLMENT: WOMEN ROLES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

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Universitas Riau

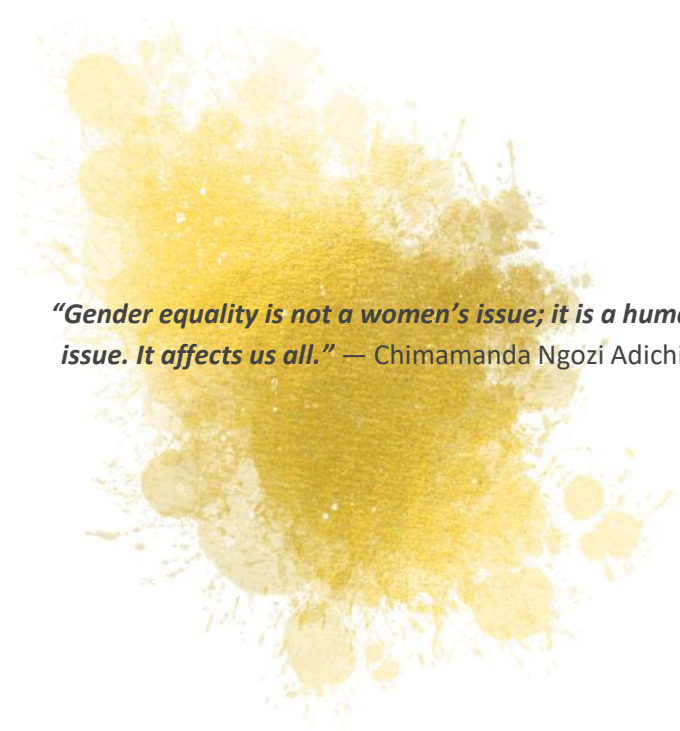


Environmental Sustainability for Current and Future Human Needs Fulfillment: Women Roles for Food Security and Resilience

Introduction

The significant food in human live showed in the term “you are what you eat.” Good foods as one of the basic necessities of life require reliable access to safe and nutritious meals. Eating is not about being satiated but intaking nutritious food stuffs since nutrients provide the energy to our body to function well. Physical development and cognitive function heavily depend on good foods.

Food security as a condition when all people at all times have access both physical and economic to sufficient nutritious food that meets people’s dietary needs and foods preferences was introduced by the 1996 World Forum Summit. Nearly half of the global agricultural workforce and produce over 50% of the world's food (up to 80% in developing regions) accounted for women. The evidence showed they make up 60% of the world's chronically undernourished people. Indonesian government program for food security and good nutrition



“Gender equality is not a women’s issue; it is a human issue. It affects us all.” — Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

CHAPTER 6



CHALLENGES IN THE NEW DIGITAL ERA IN ASIA: A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

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Challenges in the New Digital Era in Asia: A Gender Perspective

Introduction

Digital technology is experiencing rapid development, which is causing changes in global social, political, and economic systems. This situation is also relevant in Asia, where various digital platforms significantly influence governance practices, public participation, diplomacy, and social movements. Governments utilize digital infrastructure to communicate policies and public administration. Meanwhile, citizens use online spaces as a medium to express opinions, mobilize collective action, and influence political discourse.

Asia is one of the fastest-growing digital regions in Asia, marked by significant increases in internet penetration and digital connectivity, as demonstrated in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and South Korea (International Telecommunication Union, 2023). However, this rapid digital transformation is accompanied by growing inequalities in terms of gender, power, and access to political influence.

From an International Relations (IR) perspective, digital technology cannot be viewed merely as a technical tool, but rather as a means of governance and an arena of power whose existence continues to evolve within the ever-changing dynamics of global politics. There is also a growing view that the existence of digital space is part of the process of



“No one is free when others are oppressed.” — Nelson
Mandela

CHAPTER 7



ASIA DISPLACEMENT CRISES THROUGH A GENDER LENS

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Asia Displacement Crises Through a Gender Lens

Introduction

For the last few decades, the Asian region has experienced large-scale displacement crises. It is estimated that over 16.9 million people are displaced, including over 6.3 million refugees and nearly 6.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2025 (UNHCR, 2025). The majority of these groups have come from countries like Afghanistan and Myanmar as a result of protracted conflict situations and prolonged humanitarian disruption in these countries. Beyond those, three other top refugee-producing countries in Asia are Syria, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, with the total for these three countries combined exceeding 5.77 million refugees (UNHCR Mid-Year Trends 2025, n.d.). A large number of these displaced populations have migrated to neighboring states in search of refuge and protection. However, their journeys to reach their destinations have been perilous, and they have been in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The region has also become a major contributor to the modern stateless people. There are around 2.6 million stateless people, comprising 1.5 million displaced stateless people and over 1 million non-displaced stateless people. The major source of this population originated from minority groups like the Rohingya ethnic group in Myanmar and the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who are stateless persons in India (Saradha, 2025;



***“If we are going to see real development in the world,
then our best investment is women.”***

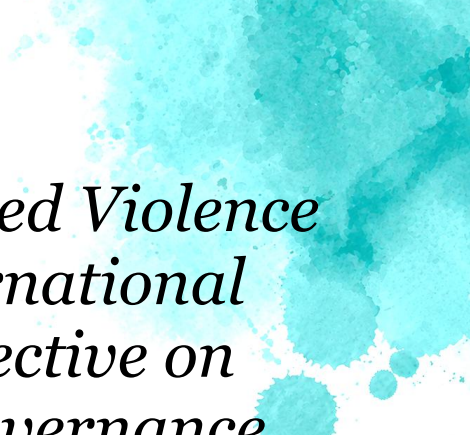
— Desmond Tutu

CHAPTER 8

ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ASIA: AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PERSPECTIVE ON DIGITAL POWER, GOVERNANCE, AND HUMAN SECURITY

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Online Gender-Based Violence in Asia: An International Relations Perspective on Digital Power, Governance, And Human Security

Introduction

The development of digital technology has changed how people communicate, participate in the public sphere, build social networks, and create/shape their identities. The Internet allows information to circulate very quickly across country borders, while social media, messaging applications, online forums, email services, and different data-driven devices have become everyday elements. Nevertheless, the mere growth of digital spaces does not automatically lead to safe and fair public spheres. Social inequalities that exist in the real world can be reproduced, supported, and even increased through technology. In these circumstances, online gender-based violence (OGBV), which is also commonly referred to in Indonesian as “*kekerasan berbasis gender online (KBGO)*”, has become a very significant problem for society, the government, and the international community.

A large, textured yellow watercolor splash or ink blot is centered on the page. It has a mottled, organic shape with various shades of yellow and some darker, more saturated areas, giving it a painterly or artistic feel. The edges are irregular and feathered into the white background.

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use
to change the world.” — Nelson Mandela***

CHAPTER 9
A RECONSTRUCTION OF GENDER
AND HUMAN SECURITY
PERSPECTIVES IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:
ASIAN APPROACH AND ISLAMIC
PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Mustiqowati U. Fithriyyah, M.Si.

UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim (UIN Suska) Riau



A Reconstruction of Gender and Human Security Perspectives in International Relations: Asian Approach and Islamic Perspective

Introduction

In recent decades, the field of international relations has undergone a substantial transformation. If the Cold War era was characterized by a realist perspective that prioritized the state, military power, territorial security, and geopolitical competition in the study of international property, the post-Cold War era saw an expansion of strategic issues that were no longer exclusively state-to-state. Security is no longer solely defined as the safeguarding of the state against military threats; it also encompasses protecting human beings from a range of social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental vulnerabilities.

One significant perspective that alters how we view global politics is gender. Gender has emerged as a critical analytical tool for understanding the dynamics of power,



"After darkness comes light." — Kartini

CHAPTER 10



GENDER: FEMINIST SUCCESSES AND FAILURES ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA

Dr. Suwarti Sari, S.IP., M.Si.

Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani



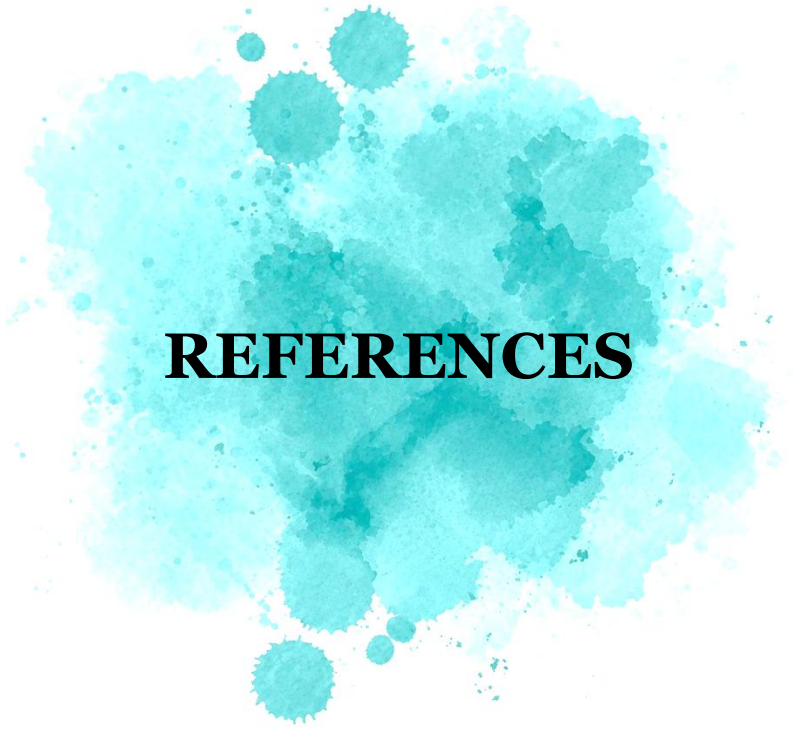
Gender: Feminist Successes and Failures on The Global Agenda

Introduction

The persistent gender gap in political and development roles stems from historical views, deeply rooted since the classical Greek era, that designate women as vulnerable and confined to nurturing roles within the household. This enduring dichotomy not only shapes social and political norms but also directly influences contemporary global policy and practice, underpinning both the successes and failures of feminist movements.

Building on this, political theory often places men in the public sphere, such as politics, economics, and war, which are considered rational, while women are relegated to the private sphere of domesticity and family care, which are considered emotional. When women enter the public sphere, they often face double standards: assertiveness is considered unfeminine, and empathy is considered weak and emotional, unfit to lead. This gap persists in modern institutions at the local and global levels, evident in political recruitment processes and corporate promotions. Masculine characteristics are considered synonymous with competence.

The gender approach in international relations (IR) is not simply about including women, but about critically examining



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GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITHIN ASIA



Gender and International Relations within Asia examines how gender shapes contemporary international issues across Asia, from sustainable development and migration to digital governance, security, and environmental sustainability. Through diverse theoretical perspectives and case studies, the book explores gender equality and the SDGs, feminist contributions to global agendas, the gendered impacts of displacement crises, women's roles in sustainable practices, Islamic perspectives on gender, online gender-based violence, and the challenges faced by women in cross-border regions such as Papua. Written by scholars and researchers from Indonesia, this volume highlights both the progress achieved and the persistent barriers to gender equality in Asia. By bridging gender studies and international relations, the book offers valuable insights into the complex ways gender influences regional and global affairs. This edited volume is an output of the International Gender Class in International Relations in Asian Context, organized by the Department of International Relations, Universitas Riau, with support from the Eurasia Foundation (from Asia).