

CHAPTER II

FEMINISM AND GENDER INEQUALITY IN WORLDWIDE TODAY

This chapter will describe feminism and gender inequalities in worldwide today, which will be related in answering the analysis of this research. Previously, the writer will provide general overviews of feminism definition and history also gender inequalities. Many women throughout the world are organizing, working together to campaigning gender equality to improve their lives.

Gender equality is when female and men have the equal rights to make their own society in their own life. Meanwhile, gender inequalities are when women and men do not have the same rights to make their own society in their own life. Poverty, discrimination, sexual harassments identically happened to women and girls where female are regarded as less power meanwhile men tend to have higher power. Almost all regulation or policies are taken by men; the role of women in decision-making is less than men. The representations of women in negotiations to create peace, security, and sustainable development are still far from the equal.

A. Feminism.

Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression(Bell, 2000). The term "feminist" appeared in 1871 in a French

medical text to describe a cessation in a development of the sexual organs and characteristics in male patients, who were perceived as thus suffering from ‘feminization’ of their bodies(Fredman, 2001). Although in medical terminology feminism was used to signify a feminization of men, in political terms, it was first used to describe a virilization of women. Before the term itself was adopted.

In the 1840s the women’s rights movement had started to emerge in the United States with the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 and the resulting Declaration of Sentiments, which claimed for women the principles of liberty and equality expounded in the American Declaration of Independence. This was followed by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony’s founding of the National Woman Suffrage Association. In Britain, too, the 1840s onwards saw the emergence of women’s suffrage movements. But even before the emergence of organized suffrage movements, women had been writing about the inequalities and injustices in women’s social condition and campaigning to change it. In 1792 Mary Wollstonecraft had published *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* and at the same time in France women such as Olympe de Gouges and Théroigne de Méricourt were fighting for the extension of the rights promised by the French Revolution to women(Fredman, 2001).

Feminism history was often described in three temporal waves. The first wave feminism is used to refer to the late nineteenth century and early twentieth-century feminist movements that were concerned (although not

exclusively) with gaining equal rights for women, particularly the right of suffrage. The second wave feminism refers to the resurgence of feminist activity in the late 1960s and 1970s, when protest again centered around women's inequality, although this time not only in terms of women's lack of equal political rights but in the areas of family, sexuality, and work, and the third wave is used to refer to the timeframe from 1990's to present day. It attempts to expand feminism to include women with a diverse set of identities recognizing that women are of "many colors, ethnicities, nationalities, religions and cultural backgrounds".

In the 1980s, many scholars identified liberal feminism, socialist/Marxist feminism and radical feminism as the three main branches of feminism. Liberal feminists include all those who campaign for equal rights for women within the framework of the liberal state, arguing that the theoretical basis on which this state is built is sound but that the rights and privileges it confers must be extended to women to give them equal citizenship with men. Marxist and socialist feminists link gender inequality and women's oppression to the capitalist system of production and the division of labor consistent with this system; and radical feminists see men's domination of women as the result of the system of patriarchy, which is independent of all other social structures – that is, it is not a product of capitalism.

B. Gender Inequality in Worldwide Today.

Gender problem is related with the differences rights between women and men, women and men have different access in getting education, health, labor market and political participation. Men have better access than women in all level, the unequal rights between women and men determine the economic condition, security and peace. Most of countries in the world have gender problem; female usually cannot fully enjoy their rights because they did not have the same rights as men.

1. Gender Inequality in Health.

According to World Health Organization (WHO)(WHO, 2017), Health is a fundamental human rights and a necessary precondition for individual and societal development. It is defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity(WHO, 2017). There are three factors determining the health differences between women and men such as: gender, biology and development. Each factor has contribution in determining health for individual throughout the life cycle.

Mortality in some developing regions is still increase, gender inequality and gender norms have influences and impact on health condition of women and men. There are some examples, such as early

forced marriage, lack of information and education, lack of access to get information about healthy, lack of control to early pregnancies and the risk of unsafe abortion.

According to United Nation women data in 2015(Nations, 2015), one out of three women in Northern Africa and Western Asia is obese, more than half adult of women are obese such as in Samoa, Kiribati, Micronesia and Tonga. Maternal mortality ration in sub-Saharan Africa is still increase, where only half of the pregnant women receive adequate care during childbirth. Although life expectancy over the past twenty years was increasing both of sexes because of the medical and the technological improvements, women reach 72 years and 68 years for men, the gender gap in favor women tends to widen as life expectancy increases women have risks on health problem still. In 2012 in the worldwide non-communicable diseases such as cancer, chronic pulmonary disease and diabetes were the dominant cause of death, 70 per cent of all female death and 66 per cent of all male death (Nations, 2015).

2. Gender Inequality in Education.

According to United Nations General Assembly on Universal Declaration of Human Rights, education is the core of human rights. According to United Nations, Educational, Scientific, and Cultural

Organizations (UNESCO) education is an investment in human capital that confers benefit to both individuals and societies, allowing them to reach their fullest potential. Education is indispensable for closing the gap between women and men in respect to social and economic opportunities and is key to empowering women and allowing them to become agents of change in economic, social and political spheres. It also improves women's chances of leading a healthy life and passing on the benefits to future generations (Nations, 2015).

The participation of women and men in primary education was increasing, with primary education rising from 77 to 90 per cent for girls and from 87 to 92 per cent for men, but the gender gap between women and men in primary education still exists. In Sub-Saharan Africa in 2012, only 75 per cent of primary school-aged girls and 81 per cent of boys of the same age attended (Nations, 2015).

The report on gender disparities in participation in primary education from 79 countries, 63 countries report that disparities give the disadvantages to girls, such as in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia and South Eastern Asia. Large disparities were found in 21 of the 63 countries with GPI (Gender Parities Index) less than 0.90 (Nations, 2015).

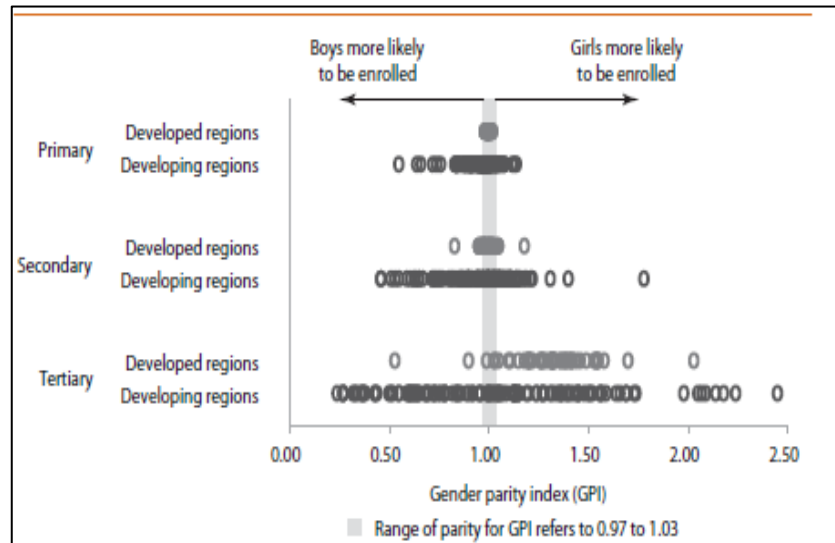
The access for children to go to school was more limited, and the disparities affecting girls were more severe than boys. Disparities give the

advantages to men relatively lower than girls only 16 countries out of 79 countries where boys were at a disadvantage. The significant factor of contribution in disparities is poverty, although it is not the only one giving the negative impact to children in accessing and participating in education.

Participation in secondary education is relatively close between girls and men, in 2012 the percentages of girls in the secondary education is 72 percent while for boys was 74 percent. Although gender disparities in accessing to secondary education have been reduced, they remain more prevalent and wider than those at the primary level.

Figure 2.1

Gender Parity Index (GPI) for Gross Enrolment Ratios in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education, 2005–2012



Sources: The World's Women 2015 Trends and Statistics(Nations, 2015)

Gender parity index (GPI) showed that boys tend to be enrolled than girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education. Although, in some regions girls also have high enrolment but boys are globally more dominant than girl. In the tertiary education, the participation of women and men in the world showed remarkably, in the progress between 1990 and 2012, women's participation was rising from 13 to 33 percent and men's participation was rising from 14 to 31 percent. In some regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa women and men participation in the tertiary education was still lower than other regions, in the period of 1990 and 2012; the progress only rose from 2 to 6 percent for women and 4 to 10 percent for men(Nations, 2015).

In the Southern Asia Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) are lower than global averages at 25 percent for men and 20 percent for Women. In Technical and Vocational Education and Training programs (TVET), boys participated more than did girls, accounting 86 per cent of countries. The girls globally participated in Technical and Vocational Education and Training programs (TVET) was only 44 percent since 1990 to 2012 (Nations, 2015). Gender disparities were more visible in the proportion of women and men graduates in fields of science, engineer, education, health and welfare and humanities and the arts.

In Science, the proportion of women one out of fourteen women compared one out of nine men graduates, in engineering one women out

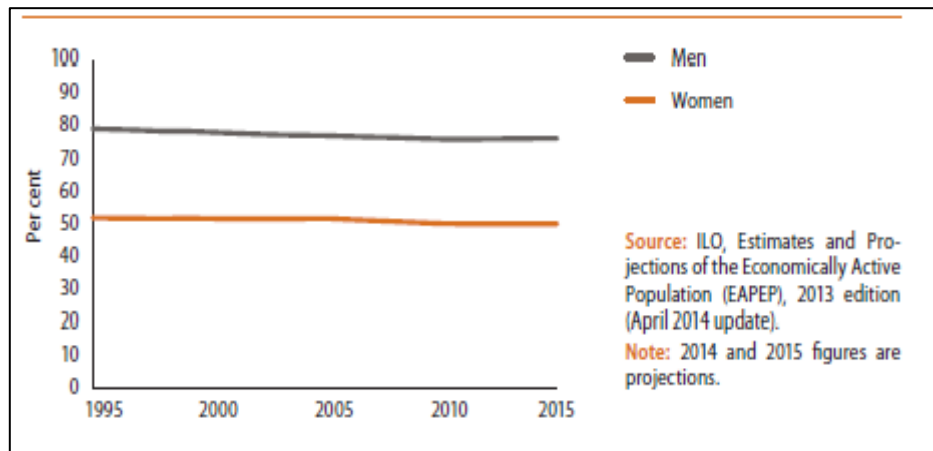
of twenty women compared to one men out of five men graduates. While, in the education women's proportion one out of six women compared to one men out of ten men graduates. In the worldwide the proportion of women as the researchers still lowers than men, women researchers was only 30 percent and in the Eastern Asia was only 18 percent(Nations, 2015).

3. Gender Inequality in Labor force

Globally, Men participated more in the labor force than did women, in the figures 2.2 shows that since 1995 to 2015 women's participation in the labor force was still less than men's participation. In 2015, only 50 per cent women of working age were in the labor force meanwhile accounted for men 77 per cent of working age in the labor force. Although the men global labor force participation rate was declined steadily from 80 percent in 1995 to 77 percent in 2010, the gender gap labor force between women and men still unchanged because women global labor force participation rate was also declined steadily from 52 percent in 1995 until 2006 to 50 percent in 2010 (Nations, 2015).

Figure 2.2

Estimated and Projected Global Labor Force Participation Rate, Persons
Aged 15+ Years, by Sex, 1995 to 2015

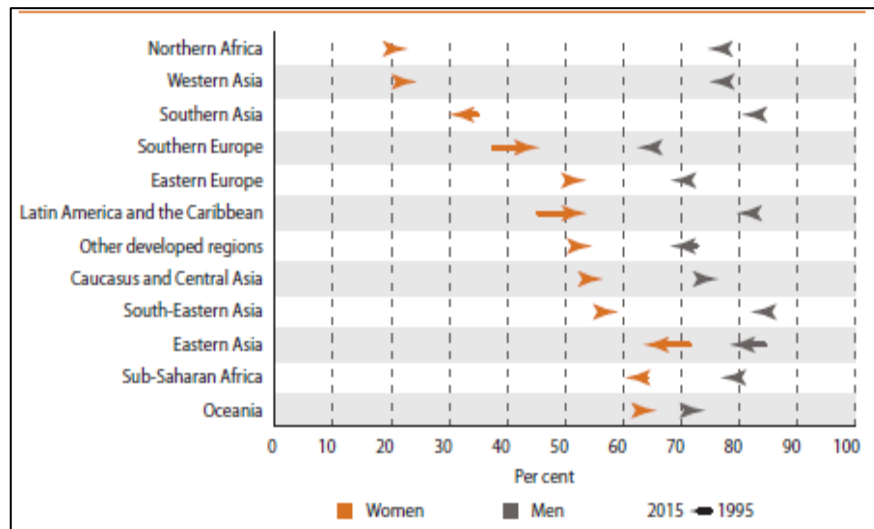


Sources: The World's Women 2015 Trends and Statistics (Nations, 2015).

The labor force participation rate of women and men in one region with other regions is different. It is seen in figure 2.3, the figures shows that men's labor force participation rates in 2015 ranged less widely from 62 percent in Southern Europe to 82 percent in South-Eastern Asia and it is contrast with women's labor force participation rates in Northern Africa, Western and Southern Asia was only 30 percent and Southern Europe was below 50 percent. The unemployment rate in the world of women was higher than men. International Labor Offices noted that from 177 countries, 121 countries showed women unemployment, such as in Northern Africa, Western Asia, Southern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure 2.3

Labor Force Participate Rate, Persons Aged 15+ Years, by Sex and Region, 1995 and 2015



Sources: The World’s Women 2015 Trends and Statistics(Nations, 2015)

According to International Labor Offices data, since 1995 the gender gap unemployment between women and men was relatively constant in all regions except for Southern Europe and Western Asia. The increasing Western Asia from 4 to 9 percentages points was because of a larger increase in the unemployment rate for women than for men. In the Southern Europe was the opposite, the decreasing gender gap from 7 to 4 percentages points was due to a higher men’s unemployment.

4. Gender Inequality in Political Participations.

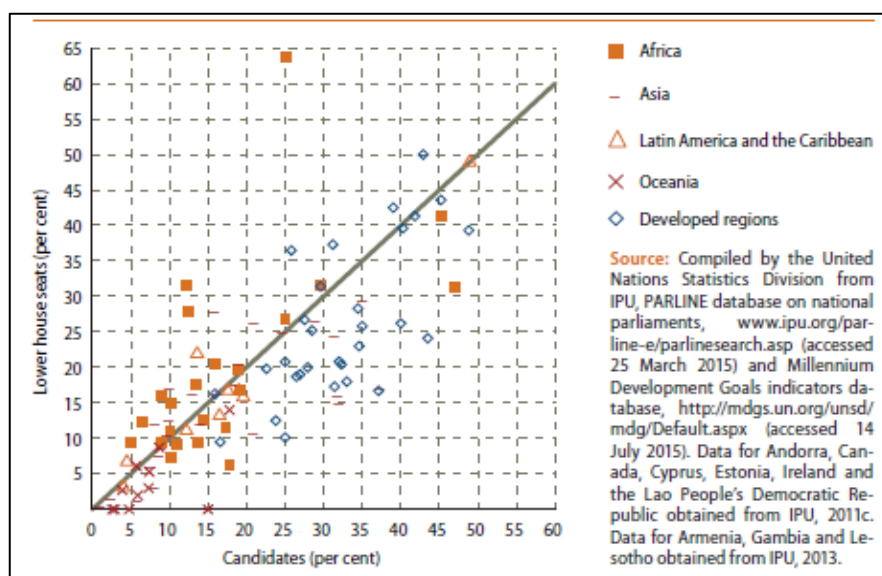
Globally, power and decision making was dominantly gained by men than women. The unequal participation of women and men in power and decisions making has affected the policy of the government. According to Inter-Parliamentary Union Women, a study conducted in 2006 – 2008 among parliamentarians from 110 countries showed that woman in the parliament had more concern in gender and social issues such as equal pay, parental leave, reproductive rights and protections against gender-based violence and childcare(Nations, 2015).

This is the data of women's contributions in the politics, women contributing in the parliamentary was only 22,7 percent and men was 77,3 percent; female member of government was 17,7 percent and for men was 82,3 percent; Women Heads of state was only 6,6 percent and men as Heads of state was 93,4 percent; Then for Women Heads of government was only 7,3 percent and for men was 92,7 percent as Heads of government(Women in parliaments, 2016).

The figure 2.8 below shows that women's proportion in the parliament was lower, the low proportion of women is due to the low of female's candidates and the low election rates of women candidates. This fact indicates that in the national parliament the number of women's candidates is still insufficient.

Figure 2.4

Share of Women among Candidates for the Lower or Single Houses of Parliament in the Latest Election Year, by the Proportion of Seats held by Women in the Lower or Single House and by Region, 2015



Sources: The World's Women 2015 Trends and Statistics (Nations, 2015).

5. Men's Violence against Women.

According to United Nations General Assembly, violence against women means “any act of gender-based violence that result in, or is to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, (Article 1)”(Assembly, 1993). Half of women across the world were susceptible

sexual violence, regardless of their income, age or education. According to United Nations statistics, one of three women have experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives and two from three victims of intimate partner family-related homicide are women.

Women in the world are often as a subject for physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence wherever they are. Women are identic as weak human beings, who do not have considerable power to protect their selves. Meanwhile men are identic as strong human being and have more power to protect their selves as well as to control others. Women who have ever experienced sexual violence usually get long-term physical, mental and emotional health problems. Sometimes, violence against women also could lead to death. In 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the practice is concentrated, more than 125 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to female genital mutilation. However, data indicate that the practice is less prevalent among younger women than older generations in all countries(Nations, 2015).

In the majority of countries, less than 40 percent of the women who experience violence seek the help of any sort, and among those who do, most look to family and friends as opposed to the police and health services(Nations, 2015). The percentage of women who seek help from

the police, out of all women seeking help, is less than 10 per cent in almost all countries with data. At least 119 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, 125 have laws on sexual harassment and 52 have laws on marital rape. However, even when domestic violence laws exist, they are not always implemented or implemented in ways that help women(Nations, 2015).