

Promoting Woman's Empowerment for Social Resilience in Post-Conflict Area of Lampung

Uswatun Hasanah

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Abstract: The rich diversity in Indonesia not only gives many good opportunities but also often triggers various social conflicts. In some areas, these social conflicts escalated into crimes and the brutal massacre of many innocent people, including in Lampung Province. Therefore, the effort to mediate and preserve peacefulness even after the conflict should be the main concern for all parties involved. In this case, women have a very crucial contribution, especially in the development of post-conflict social resilience. This study aims to examine the strategy of empowering women that could strengthen social resilience in Post-Conflict areas of Lampung Province. This research can be categorized as qualitative research, with interviews being the main instrument in this research data collection method. At the same time, observation is used to strengthen the interview data and a triangulation step for the validity of the research data. The research subjects taken were two sub-districts in Lampung Province which had the highest levels of social conflict, namely South Lampung and Central Lampung, which focused on female research subjects who had special social status and positions in the surrounding community. This study will reveal what aspects the woman's empowerment can be optimized to sustain and improve the better situation after conflicts and how it will be better implemented for better future generations.

Keywords: Woman Empowerment, Social Resilience, Post-Conflict Area.

Introduction

Indonesia can be considered a country that has high social diversity with various ethnic, religious, and cultural groups (Umam, 2020). However, these differences often cause social problems and conflicts at the family and community levels. (Suwignyo & Yuliantri, 2018). KPA data record states that there was an additional 50% increase of cases of social conflict with various triggering factors. Lampung Province is one of the provinces that has a high level of social conflict, which is based on disputes between community groups as the main issue.

Efforts have been made to resolve social conflicts. However, community tension and anxiety are still continuing which requires a strategic effort to re-stabilize the social conditions of society. In this case, the focus of discussion from previous research is generally on mediation efforts

by the police and group leaders in resolving the conflict (Prayitno, 2019). However, studies on optimizing the role of women and strategies for stabilizing post-conflict conditions are still minimal, so further research is urgently needed.

One of the factors that can influence the potential for conflict to arise in Indonesia is how strong social resilience is in people's lives. (Umm, 2020). Social resilience needs to be continuously maintained and improved so that communities lives can be safe and comfortable. One of the actors who plays an important role in efforts to develop social resilience in society is women. Women are central actors who have great potential to become actors in driving the development of social resilience in society (Prantiasih, 2014).

Empowering women in the process of post-conflict social resilience can accelerate the process of stabilizing social conditions with a more persuasive and emotional approach. In addition,

improving the role of women in the process of building social stability and resilience will be carried out more effectively and on target, including at the family level which is the main foundation of social resilience (Lestari, 2011). The potential for women's empowerment is not only about their participation in the economic and political fields, but also as an actor of change and a driving force for the development of social resilience. This is proven by the facts that a number of regions which have been able to resolve their social conflict problems and stabilize the condition of society more quickly and more effectively by optimizing the role of women in the process of social stabilization in society. (Lestari, 2011).

This research was carried out with the aim of exploring the extent of efforts to empower women in the process of developing and building post-conflict communities in Lampung Province.

Methods

This research can be categorized as a qualitative research in the form of written and oral data from research subjects (Moleong, 2003). The research locations were taken from two sub-districts in Lampung Province which had the highest levels of social conflict, which are South Lampung and Central Lampung with female participants in the surrounding community. Research subjects were selected using a purposive sampling technique so that the results of the data obtained can explain the phenomena and research problems accurately and reliably. Interviews are the main instrument in this research data collection method, while observation is used to strengthen the interview data as well as a triangulation step for the validity of the research data. This study has been analyzed by using descriptive qualitative data analysis, including data reduction, data display, and data verification.

Results and Discussion

Empowering Women at Family Level of the Post-Conflict Phase

Inter-ethnic conflicts are still major issues that often occur with a variety of causal factors, such as

revenge between residents (Padmiati, 2013), the act of prosecuting one social group (Padmiati, 2013) and other reasons that show low values of inter-ethnic tolerance in Lampung Province. (Prayitno, 2019). This social conflict also often arises due to differences in decision making within a group, responses toward differences, or by misunderstandings about something (Irwandi & Chotim, 2017). Therefore, re-establishing the potential of women in building social resilience in conflict-prone areas is a necessary.

The province of Lampung also has several areas which are alleged to be conflict-prone areas which have not only disturbed the social life of the community but have also endangered the lives and often ends up with having victims (Padmiati, 2013). Even though efforts to mediate and resolve conflicts have been carried out by the group leaders, religious leaders, the police, and some residents, efforts to normalize and post-conflict social stability should always become the main concern for all parties (Prayitno, 2019). In this case, women have a very crucial role, especially in the development of post-conflict social resilience in order to create a safe and prosperous society.

Many women respondents have openness and modern views regarding the role of women, especially respondents who are still quite young. In addition, there is also an opinion that women have a better personal approach in solving problems, especially in stabilizing post-social conflict conditions. But certainly, the role of women in increasing family resilience as an effort to build social and national resilience deserves serious attention and strategic efforts in developing their role (Zahrok, 2018).

Many respondents acknowledged that support and activeness in improving the economic conditions of the family by women is an important factor in creating a better and happier family. The role of women in the family's economic sector is also the main trigger for reducing the potential for conflict in the family so that family conditions can be more stable since the trigger for conflict is basically economic conditions (Umam, 2020).

The empowerment of women in increasing social resilience includes not only the extent to which women can participate in decision making

and problem solving in the family but also how women contribute significantly to the development and stability of the social system, especially in the development of a child education. The development and future of a child are very significantly influenced by the perceptions of parents, especially mothers, regarding all the problems of family and community life. A mother directed approach to children will be able to produce a generation that has a high awareness of its role in social life in society (Zahrok, 2018).

Most cases of conflict that occur at the family level basically originate from a woman's ignorance or insensitivity regarding her role. In this case, the existence of community activities both culturally and a religious approach is urgently needed by targeting the development of awareness and understanding of women in their active role in the stability of family and social life.

Empowering Women at the Society Level of the Post-Conflict Phrase

One of the main roles of a woman at the community level which is related to the development of social resilience is the supportive role of women in every sector of community life. There are efforts from local residents to carry out social activities with the aim of gathering all different communities into one place so that communication and relationship will be promoted and foster mutual understanding and tolerance so that the potential for social conflict in the future can be minimized further.

Some respondents believe that women have good ability to regulate their emotions and are strong enough in facing any challenges. However, other opinions arise that women have weaknesses, such as they are easily panicked and anxious when there are threats or disturbances both mentally and physically. This of course will affect the condition of family stability which is one of the key measures of social resilience in society. Even though women are physically weaker than men, there is a lot of potential for women that is more appropriate and more effective to develop, especially in jobs that require multitasking and time management as well as those related to the social environment (Indarti, 2019). In addition, efforts to reduce the potential

for inter-ethnic cultural conflict in Lampung province have been carried out by carrying out routine social activities that can be attended by all members of the community regardless of differences in ethnicity and culture.

There are several obstacles or problems in the implementation and evaluation of efforts to strengthen post-conflict social resilience. First, there is a public perception of the role of a woman in a family and society which tends to underestimate the importance of the role of women. This is the main obstacle in developing the role of women in building social resilience. Further efforts are needed to provide awareness to the community by all parties. In addition, there are misconceptions about women's abilities and cultural beliefs that place women in a difficult position to develop. Therefore it is necessary to increase social awareness and public policies to be able to empower women in more productive ways both in decision making and in active participation for supporting any efforts to maintain post-conflict stability and increase social resilience in society.

Conclusions

Any efforts in empowering women optimally is necessary to increase social resilience, especially in the Post-Conflict Phrase in Lampung Province. This empowerment of women includes increasing the contribution of women in meeting economic needs and reactivating household roles, especially in determining the future of the family and children's education. This move will be a lot better and stronger with the support of all parties from the family, community and government who help each other in creating security and peaceful community. The women empowerment in efforts to build national resilience, while at the same time it will be able to overcome various social problems in a more productive manners and protect the family from the negative influences of these social conflicts.

Conflict of Interest: There are no conflicts of interest concerning the publication of this article as

all the research data collection and analysis has been done by the researcher herself.

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