



RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE STRUGGLE OF INDONESIAN WOMEN TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION
(A CASE STUDY FROM 'RUSUNAWA')

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 15th May, 2018
Received in revised form
20th June, 2018
Accepted 07th July, 2018
Published online 30th August, 2018

Key Words:

Flat, Actor,
Empowerment,
Feminist Standpoint Theory.

ABSTRACT

This article discusses role of women in struggling transformation within their community. As one of government policies in 2015 about eradication of slum areas under Basuki Tjahaja Purnama ('Ahok') as previous governor of Jakarta, many flats were built and provided to those who became the target of that program. It's called 'Rusunawa' low cost simple flat. Researcher chooses 'Rusunawa' Pulogebang (the first flat located on East Jakarta) as the locus of research. Unfortunately, there are new social problems emerge. One of them is adaptation matter: changing habits from past location to new situation. Crashed by new system such as paying room regularly every month meanwhile having no permanent job/work yet gives seriously impact until now. Besides that, losing home also keep them traumatic. In such situation, not all people can change their way of life rapidly till some women driven by awareness struggling to change the community decisively by various sustainable efforts. Therefore, this qualitative research will analyze the three main ideas in Feminist Standpoint Theory: knowledge, experience and power relation. Intrinsic case study is used to get in-depth inquiry. Also, conducts as participant observer and in-depth interviewer towards two key informants and community itself. Therefore, based on critical paradigm, researcher tries to explore women's struggle in 'Rusunawa' Pulogebang in some fields: health, education and economic. The result shows that those women succeed to lead the community towards social transformation.

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Citation: Lasmery RM Girsang, 2018. "The struggle of Indonesian women towards transformation (A Case Study from 'Rusunawa')", *International Journal of Current Research*, 10, (08), 72637-72640.

INTRODUCTION

The government's efforts in regulating of urban settlements must again 'get rid of' marginal society. On 2015, provincial government of DKI Jakarta had to evict slum areas (such as: *Kampung Pulo, Bukit Duri, Kalijodo, Pasar Ikan, Bidaracina, Pinangsia, Kemayoran, Waduk Puit, Menteng Dalam* and many else). That policy results rejection among many people living under those poverty lines. Even, till the society had been moved to new location vertical settlement called 'Rusunawa' still becomes more complicated social reality. 'Rusunawa'—low cost simple flat is a new phenomenon for those societies. A new social-world order has been created that gives impact on changing people's perspective and behavior. Lifestyle, the way of thinking, habit, behavior and social interaction that lasted for long time ago collided due to adjustments to the prevailing system. Wrapped by such situation, women still become part of community who were oppressed and marginalized. They could not fight against the rules. Supported by the idea that women are also eligible for having different

worldview than men (whereas the worldview is still dominated by masculine forces), women should be able to behave in their social world. They also gain knowledge and maximize their capacity to play power relation among stakeholder, too. Women have their own experience to solve their problems. The experience which had been formed from the social world ultimately led to knowledge. Now days, the feminism perspective continues to grow and encourage activists/observers of feminism to actively fight for equal rights of women who also have the same ability with the masculine. Thus, that social reality that these actors face is part of the picture of the social world that cannot be separated from the layers of structure that shelter it. Neuman (2013) asserts that the structures are not permanent, but can be developed even can be modified. The mutually negating structures can also compress or complicate the surface appearance of other structures. This perpetual contradiction needs to be regulated through a certain mechanism. The mechanisms may contain opposing or contradictory forces or processes; but actually become part of a larger single process. If we look further from the communication side, the picture of above social world underlies the researcher to examine the role of female actors. The actors have to fight for themselves in advance in order to prove to the society and the apparatus for the struggle

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.31689.08.2018>

successfully. Although persuasive efforts have not produced the results as expected by the actor yet, long struggle certainly succeeded in incising some achievement to lift the 'degree' of society up at 'Rusunawa' to the next (better) level. Therefore, researcher stands on the science of social critical (critical social science). According to Fay (1987), critical social researchers aim to criticize and change social relations by revealing the sources underlying social control, power relations and inequality. By revealing conditions, critical social research seeks to empower people, especially those in marginal, defenseless societies. Critical social science is also aimed at exposing myths, uncovering hidden truths and helping people improve their lives. So the purpose of the study is to explain the social order in such a way as to be a catalyst for itself that leads to the transformation of the social order (in Neuman, 2013: 124). In other words, the arena is considered as 'struggle' in which human strategy is associated with the affirmation or upgrading of their positions.

Statement of the Problem

The problem to be known is entitled "The Struggle of Indonesian Women towards Transformation (A Case Study from 'Rusunawa')".

Significance of Study

Standpoint is a place from which to critically view the world around us. Whatever our vantage point its location tends to focus our attention on some features of the natural and social landscape while obscuring others. Standpoint can be called by other synonyms: viewpoint, perspective, outlook, position (Griffin, 2012). Introduced by Harding and Wood, Feminist Standpoint Theory is developed vary by some scientists such as Collins (1986), Haraway (1988), Hartsock (1983), Rose (1983) and Smith (1987). Also in some previous study, there were several researches emphasizing the concepts from Feminist Standpoint Theory, namely Chang foot (DOI: 10.1177/0191453704044024); Ardill (DOI:10.1080/10383441.2013.10854778); Sandford (DOI:10.1177/0263276415594238); Flatschart (DOI:10.1080/14767430.2017.1313650); Potter (DOI:10.1080/07907184.2012.727399); Mosedale (DOI:10.1002/jid.3050); Naidu (DOI:10.1080/10130950.2010.9676289).

Objective

The objective of this study is to explore knowledge, experience, and power relation belongs to women while struggling transformation within community at 'Rusunawa'.

Research Method

This qualitative research uses critical paradigm which refers to Marxist. Qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, report detailed views of information, and conducts the study in a natural setting (Denzin and Lincoln, 2011). Researcher applies intrinsic case study as the method. By using exploratory type to develop initial idea to the research problem, researcher applies participant observation and in-depth interview over two main actors and a group of people in community. Here are brief descriptions related to the informants. First actor is

Mestikasari (41 years old) already stays at 'Rusunawa' since 2015. Secondly, Nurkhasanah (47 years old) stays since 2016. Come from non-relocation program, both of them are Javanese females one of the largest ethnic in Indonesia. Clearly, below are competencies of each:

Table 1. Actor's competency

Actors:	Competency
Actor 1	Opinion leader
	Skilful in health and informal education
	Active and participate in many society's matter
	Fluent in speaking
Actor 2	Have self-confidence
	Opinion leader
	Skilful in creative economic
	Famous in group and society
	Have firmness

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result could be explained by these findings.

Actor 1

To improve the welfare of community, many efforts had done. Driven by high awareness about health, actor 1 Mestikasari initiates most of new programs. Since 2015 living at 'Rusunawa', actor already had concerned in health care. Having experience in health practice previously, actor begins to introduce healthy habits to community. Especially for children below 5 years old, actor actively educates hygiene habits such as: washing hand, taking a bath regularly, keeping things tidy, until having nutritious food for the growth. This actor also sustainably stresses the standard of health based on profound knowledge and long experience as a medical staff and nurse in KARTIKA clinic (North Jakarta) since 1996. Without any medical background before, actor got training directly from experienced doctors and nurses to treat patients.

Briefly, Table 2 shows the role of actor in struggling better life within community.

Table 2.

No	Type of activity
1.	Encourage awareness to live healthy
2.	Socialize campaign for "Stop Smoking"
3.	Do monitoring to adolescent lifestyle

As motivator in health sector, actor did socialization through those activities. Such previous intensive socializations about the danger of smoking had already been applied to adults. However, in fact, that efforts lead actor to take risk being hostile within the community. But actor never gives up; keeps trying and giving time to share good standard for living healthy. Finally, all of her struggles are already accepted after running within this three years. Meanwhile, actor also involves herself to protect the lifestyle adapted by teenagers and adolescents. Keeping old perspective up, it is found that most of the community still has negative mindset and behavior; for example consume drugs. Therefore, actor wastes more time to monitor and investigate orderly to avoid bad accidents and report to the leader of flat.

Next, supported by her skill, actor provides some treatments voluntarily. As seen at table below.

Table 3.

No	Type of activity
1	Giving free medicine
2	Giving free consultancy
3	Serving people at home with pleasure

Without hesitation, actor welcomes the community in asking help while in injury or sickness. By giving free medicine and consultancy, actor sets the living room up to be a place to give treatment for those who need it. Not stopping in health, also actor contributes more in education sector as mentor. Firstly 'PAUD' (an early childhood education program) as can be seen below.

Table 4.

Year	Number of students	Passing
2016	26	8
2017	34	10
2018	43	15

Table 4 shows the number of children involved for the last three years. There are many difficulties and constraints in its process but cannot stop her way to struggle for the children's need in education. Besides mentor, actor develops many daily activities to encourage them to have willingness to get education. Some activities are listed below.

Table 5.

No	Kinds of activity
1.	Encouraging students at class
2.	Making creative activity
3.	Preparing administrative task
4.	Looking for sponsorship

Table 5 shows the actor's responsibility in running the program. Without any formal education before, driven by vision to educate Rusunawa's people, actor initiates to extend the scope of education for other group of people. Supported by the leader of 'Rusunawa', actor builds 'PKBM' (Society Learning Center).

Table 6.

Year	Member	Passing exam
2016	66	63
2017	68	42
2018	19	Still running

Table 6 shows the number of teenager and adult for the last three years. Due to so many drop-out students since most of residents at 'Rusunawa' did not have opportunity to complete education while government demolished their settlements, actor begins to facilitate education programs. "Packet A" (for Senior High School level), "Packet B" (for Junior High School level) and "Packet C" (for Elementary School level) are provided freely. Her efforts result positive impact, finally. Most of the members can pass the examination and getting transcript. As known, that document is still being a part of obligation applied to gain a job. Siti Zulaiha a jobless single parent feels satisfy for having new job to be a security staff in 'Rusunawa' after passing 'Packet C'. Continuously motivated by actor to complete the studying process at 'PKBM', Zulaiha is an example of woman who dares to gain her dream to get out from poverty by finishing education to have better job.

This picture of reality cannot be released from the role of actor, of course. As a mentor, actor has many responsibilities to ensure the process of studying runs well. As shown below:

Table 7.

No	Type of activity
1.	Conducting tutorial
2.	Facilitating student's equipment for studying
3.	Preparing administration for studying and examination
4.	Doing consultancy
5.	Giving moral support and solution
6.	Conducting as supervisor at examination
7.	Looking for sponsorship

Table 7 shows various roles tied to actor. Including last activity inside the table, actor fights in looking for sponsorship to support operational needs. Finally in 2016 through long and fully administrative process one of the charity agents in Jakarta (BAZIS) is ready to help to finance PKBM needs.

Actor 2

Following female actor develops economic sector especially creative/home industry. The 2nd actor Nurkhasanah also practices her skill due to her passion. After living at 'Rusunawa', actor left her early profession as a private teacher. Actor interests to learn autodidact and successfully produces home-made bags and other accessories (one of the creative industry products). In short, her capability was known by external stakeholders through printed media, television and also new media as seen from this table.

Table 8.

No	Type of activity
1.	Initiating, mentoring & evaluating program/event
2.	Making good cooperation with internal leader (coordinator) at 'Rusunawa'
3.	Managing good external relations with stakeholder (media, agent & customer)
4.	Empowering member by giving support, facility and incentives
5.	Giving open opportunity to members for joining program/event
6.	Recruiting women to be member of program/event

Table 8 shows the roles of the 2nd actor. Produce things independently influences other women surrounding at 'Rusunawa'. Step by step, many women offer themselves to be mentored by actor. Without any payment, actor invites whoever to get lesson/practice related to skill of sewing and 'batik'. However, not all of those activities can be managed smoothly. There are some difficulties that inhibit the process of production. One of them is negative attitude/behavior matter preventing getting the success such as boring and lazy. Most of members just need direct output: payment! In fact, the process of production needs more time from preparing, finishing and selling to customer as well as each capacity also must be upgraded to get the best quality. So, there are many gaps in knowledge and experience, sometimes make actor gives up. But her leadership mental pushes her to empower women patiently to raise their family economic up to a better condition. Interest to the actor's competency, some agents offer cooperation. One of them is *Jakarta Creative Hub* an agent founded by government asks her to be a trainer, giving practice to employee in making creative product. Also, *Jakarta Creative Hub* gives opportunity more to the actor to produce orders to be launched widely. Next, actor deals with some projects and surely gets benefit for that effort. The actor can

encourage women to be involved and finally able to produce their own product. Her successful effort in creative economic side is also treated by Sampoerna Foundation the largest tobacco company in Indonesia. Pointed out as the coordinator, actor runs her role to supervise events involving all women at 'Rusunawa'. A workshop in doing domestic business held for 4 months (January-May 2018) conducted by Sampoerna Foundation sharpens her ability to be opinion leader among the community, especially women.

Conclusion

In summary, this article suggests that by exploring knowledge, experience and power relation, actors are able to transform the community into better level. The ability to communicate, dialogue, persuade and influence the community lead the community having new 'life world' (perspective). Besides that, ability to negotiate/cooperate with external stakeholders practiced as power relation points out the society towards social transformation at 'Rusunawa' Pulogebang.

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