

## Gender Equality in the Shipping World in the Perception of the People of the Riau Islands

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### Abstract

Society's view of gender equality is hard to change. Many parents still disagree with their daughter's career in the shipping industry. The study aims to find out the extent of society's perception of gender equality in the sailing world and whether a change in public opinion could increase the number of female sailors on the Island of Riau. The methods used in this study are descriptive quantitative research methodologies and semi-structured interviews. The result of this study is the gender equality of the sailing world in the Riau Islands' societies has many stigmas on both sides. But on the other hand, people who did work in the navigation world and were experts on the subject thought that women could do the job as long as they had the expertise. People's positive views on the issue of gender equality will have a positive impact on the growing number of female sailors in the Riau Islands.

**Keywords:** gender; voyage; stigma.

### A. INTRODUCTION

Gender inequality is closely associated with discrimination, both by law and by fact. Discrimination in education refers to the rule that separates men and women from certain fields of education, the law says there is no gender discrimination in education because every citizen has the right to the education he or she wants. From the fact is, there are many who believe that men and women cannot have the same right to choose education. Women have their own field, such as social or literary and men are better suited for technical or eksakta (Dr.Niken Safitri, 2016).

The realities faced by the gender imbalance globally affect most of the work force in sectors. It is known that the number of women is nearly half the nation's population, though the participation of women is less than that of men (Purnama N.F., 2017). According to data from the statistical center, it is known that the participation rate of the labor force (TPAK) in the Riau Islands is at large indicating a significant number difference between women and men. Sakernas report in August 2022 recorded the number of men at 86.44%, while the number of women was 50.68%.

The ratio of involvement of women in the workforce is much smaller than that of men. The difference in this figure is vastly different from that of the Indonesian population itself based on gender and a more balanced age. The gap of attainment between men and women in the job market is influenced by various factors, such as culture, social and economic (Angraini.S, Nurhayati, 2021:90). Moreover, there are many assumptions that a

man's abilities are far better than those of a woman, such as his physical and emotional abilities (Purnama N.F., 2017).

The Riau Islands have an ocean area of 242,825 km<sup>2</sup> and an area of 10,595,41 km<sup>2</sup> (dinkesprovkepri, 2022). This shows the extent of the oceans is greater than the area of land. Its own people rely on the sea as a source of livelihood. Many communities that worked as seafarers either became fishermen or worked in the navigation industry. The majority of communities that worked as fishermen and that worked in the shipping industry were still dominated by male workers compared with female workers. The extent to which human society still reflects that women should act according to their nature as women without having to contribute to an area more dominated by men. This perception is one of the factors that causes the number of female sailors to be very small.

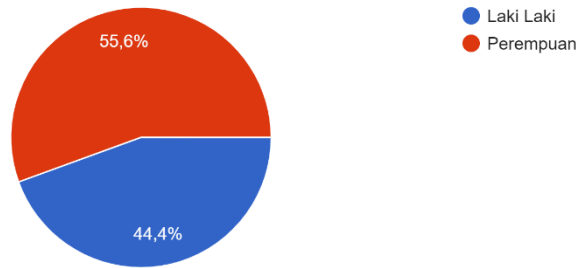
Shipping is a predominately male industry where physical activity is necessary. The lack of support for female sailors is usually rooted in family and community. As a result, women are more likely to choose such professions as science, art, information, and health. This was because they knew little about the useful and challenging careers that the maritime industry could pursue. The educational world, in fact, does not help students to discuss career choices in navigation that women can join. Scarce sources of information on the job are such as magazines, newspapers or social media to create jobs in the female shipping industry.

It is difficult to change people's views on gender equality. Even though there have been international forums that have opened doors to allow women to work in the maritime industry and the increasing number of female seafarers, in fact there are still many parents who do not approve of their daughters having a career in the shipping industry. Acceptable risk is the reason. Women working in male-dominated environments were subjected to physical and verbal abuse. In many disciplines, this inherent perception leads to stereotypes that are heavily influenced by gender identity. This research was structured to determine the extent to which people's perceptions of gender equality are present in the world of shipping and whether changes in public opinion can increase the number of female seafarers in the Riau Islands.

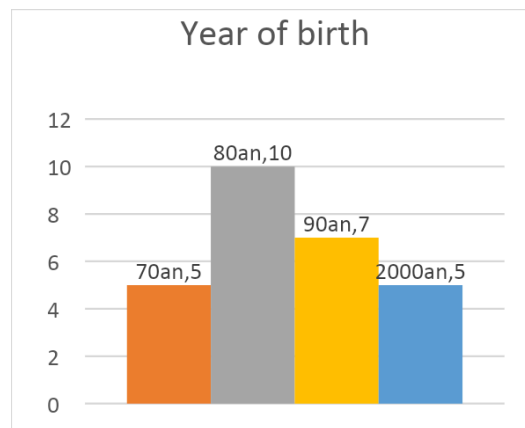
The role of women tends to be more significant than that of men, both in the domestic sphere and in productive activities related to maritime affairs (Indrawasih,R., 2021). Women have a big role in advancing maritime business and shipping safety. There are many career options that can be achieved starting from being a captain, crew member, businessman in shipping, practicing maritime law and other jobs that are more challenging.

## **B. RESEARCH METHODS**

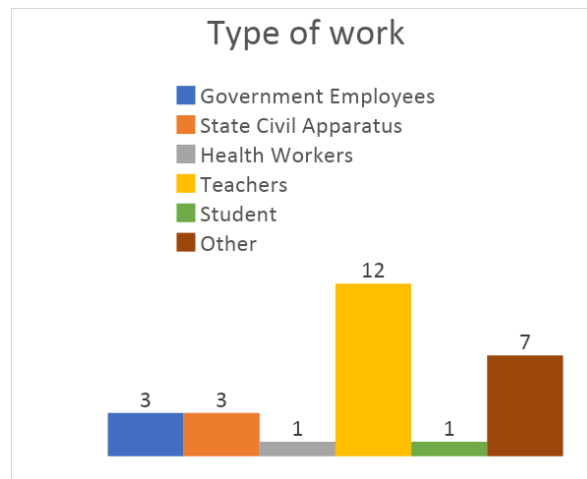
The research method used in this research is descriptive quantitative research methodology and semi-structured interviews as reinforcement of the data obtained. Quantitative descriptive is a type of research that is used to analyze data by describing the data that has been collected as it is. The data collection technique was carried out by distributing online questionnaires to the public and distributing them in the form of Google Form. Respondents consisted of various backgrounds and age ranges. The following data obtained:



**Figure 1. Gender**



**Figure 2. Year of Birth**



**Figure 3. Type of Work**

There were 27 people who participated in completing this questionnaire consisting of 55.6% women and 44.4% men with an age range of 23 years to 51 years. The majority of respondents who filled out the questionnaire work in the education sector. The questionnaire consists of 5 questions filled out in the form of long answers, covering general knowledge and personal opinion. Interview data collection was carried out to one of the Riau Archipelago communities with the initial "R" who is a man who works as a

fisherman. In addition, an interview was also conducted with one of the crew members with the initial "S" who is a female employee. The interview was conducted online via Google Meet with the aim that the information obtained from this interview could be used as a comparison and reinforcement of the results of the questionnaire that was distributed.

### C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the general population, gender descrimination was still very high, especially in the seafaring world. Most people think that the navigation world is unsafe especially with women, so many parents do not agree with their children to enter the navigation world. Here's data analysis obtained during research:

**Table 1.** Questionnaire's Questions and Answers

| No. | Questions   | Public opinion   |
|-----|---|--|
| 1.  | In your opinion what is gender equality?  | Gender equality is male and female who get their chance and their rights as human beings. Are able to participate in cultural, educational, and similar social activities in the development.  |
| 2.  | Do you think there is or is not gender equality in the shipping industry?   | According to the data which can be in the questionsubmissive, 77.8% vote yes, which means they agree that in the sailing world all sexes are equal and 22.2% choose not, which means they disagree that in the sailing world all sexes are equal.  |
| 3.  | Would you agree if women worked in the shipping industry?   | Some would agree with the claim that women could work in the shipping industry, since women had the right to choose a career in their lives. Women can also provide creativity and not all industry must sail, while others just work from an office. However, some would be skeptical if women entered the navigation industry because in their opinion the navigation industry is an unfriendly world for women, violence to gender discrimination on navigation is still high.  |
| 4.  | If you as a parent have a daughter who would like to work in the shipping and career industry in the world, how would you respond to that desire? | The log on questionnaires state that some parents support and approve of their daughter's entry into the navigation world, provided they have the ability and determination to work in the navigation industry. Parents also need to make sure that they are not wrong in choosing a course and providing training in order to meet their future careers. Still others may object to the idea that the navigation world was unsafe and would steer to avoid working in the navigation industry and to be understanding to their daughters. But again all decisions are made with the child, if she is happy and wants the sailing world then his parents will agree. |

| No. | Questions   | Public opinion  |
|-----|---|---|
| 5.  | How do you view women who are brave and able to work in a line of work dominated by men, as in the shipping industry? | Working in the navigation industry was much admired by the public because not all women had the courage and competence to work in the navigation industry. The perceptions that have developed in society that careers in the field dominated by men must also be opposed to proving that women are also capable of working in the navigation industry. |

Analysis of the data obtained from the Riau Islands Province, faced by its gender of 55.6% the majority of respondents were women and 44.4% were males. The questionnaires were filled in from various academic/diplomas, high schools/SMKS, students, elementary, middle school, and nursing. In this type of work, the most prominent is the teacher's work force and others.

Of the 27 respondents who attended the survey, it is evident that society itself has understood the importance of gender equality. Gender equality is not only about gender differences, but also about equality between men and women in the fulfilment of rights and obligations. Some even agreed that there was no gender difference in the world of maritime law and accepted that women could also work in the male sphere. On the second question, 77.8% of people acknowledge gender equality in the shipping industry. The lack of special treatment of female workers, both male and female workers get the same assignments as their share. While not in general, this suggests that in a contemporary period of gender treatment of men and women in the Indonesia cruise industry, the decline over time and the role of women in the current sailing industry is beginning to increase. Women's development opportunities in the shipping industry are very open, depending on individual skills.

Questions number 3 and 4 lead to the public's response to women working as sailors and what if their children wanted the position. Family is one of the factors affecting a child's career choices. Many parents would agree with women who work in the naval industry, but if their children want the job, they would still consider approving it. Parents need to make sure that their children take their decisions seriously and are prepared for the risks they will face. On question no. 5, it was said that working in the shipping industry was admirable because not everyone could work in the shipping industry.

Interviews were obtained, at the time asked questions about how they viewed women in the shipping industry. The fisherman "R" Sir Said that he did not approve of women working in the navigation industry because he felt that the shipping industry was unsafe for women who had to work for days at sea. He also said that women should work on domestic domains in view of having a family that would be difficult. Whereas the second interview to "s" employees is a woman and a crew member who received a positive response. At the time being asked the question "is your work distinguished and ill-treated?". She replied that during his work he was treated the same as other male crew members. They get assigned assigned assignments. She also says, though as women we should be able to keep up and show that we are also worthy to work on that domain. She also says, though as women we should be able to keep up and show that we are also worthy to work on that domain.

At this interview came with some of the pros and cons, which people themselves still consider the shipping industry to be less secure for women. In addition, however, female sailors in the shipping industry are now losing gender inequality. This proved that the world was no longer something women should fear as long as they were able to carry out the work. Judging from the analysis of the questionnaires' data, the Riau Islands also agree on gender equality in the shipping industry. This proves that the idea of gender is slowly eroding society and is reinforced with the "S" view that gender inequality is absent in the cruise industry. People's positive views on the issue of gender equality will have a positive impact on the growing number of female sailors in the Riau Islands.

#### D. CONCLUSION

The conclusion we've come to from this study is that the world's gender equality in the perception of the riau islands society has many stigma on both sides. Because in the navigation world, the general opinion still ancient on the issue of female gender shouldn't work in the sailing world because they think the risk is greater and they assume that women don't have the physical strength of men. But on the other hand, people who did work in the sailing world and were already experts on the subject thought that women could work in the navigation world with men. That's because it's seen how soup is and what the future will be. The patriarchy culture that developed in the world of cruise about gender equality was gradually eliminated, Therefore, they assume that women and men have the same right to work in the navigation industry as long as they are able to keep up and be able to handle sailing.

It is therefore necessary to educate coastal society on the issue of gender equality in the country. Coastal society still believes women can't work in the shipping industry, This is due to the patriarchy culture that still applies to coastal society. But on the other hand, if they had a sense of style and were able to adapt quickly in the navigation field, they would have to work in the navigation world.

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