

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT STRATEGIES IN IMPROVING CHILD PROTECTION IN THE MODERN ERA

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### ABSTRACT

*Currently, technological developments are developing rapidly. The advancement of information and communication technology must be balanced with the empowerment of women in improving child protection in the modern era. In this context, women have an important role in protecting children's rights, especially amidst the challenges that arise due to the use of gadgets and social media. This study uses a qualitative method with a document review approach. The purpose of this study is to explore women's empowerment strategies. The results of the study indicate that women's empowerment through education and skills training can improve welfare and independence which contributes to child protection. In addition, this study identifies various risks faced by children in the digital era, such as child abduction, bullying and access to inappropriate content. Therefore, collaboration between parents, society and government is needed to create a safe and supportive environment for children. Women's empowerment and child protection are strategic issues that must be considered to ensure a better future for future generations.*

**Keywords:** *women's empowerment, child protection, modern era*

### INTRODUCTION

Currently, social and cultural developments in the era of globalization are rapidly changing and developing. Entering the modern era which is marked by rapid advances in communication and information technology. This transformation has made the internet the main communication tool in the modern era. The Internet, as the biggest factor in development in this modern era. Through the Internet, people can communicate, access information and make it an essential tool in daily life. This dependence on digital technology brings new challenges and opportunities, thus requiring people to be able to adapt quickly.

Through this development, it fundamentally changes the way humans think, interact and live their lives. In this modern era, it is predicted to disrupt various activities in several sectors such as economic, social, and political, not only in the technology sector (Industri et al., 2018). In the modern era, it is not only about technological advancements, but also related to how to improve the quality of life and build better relationships in society. However, in today's modern era, it is very important to have a deep understanding of the impact of changes that continue to develop.

This development to the modern era does not only apply to adults, but also has an impact on children, as does the use of gadgets. Gadgets are now a basic human need around the world. This is because the feature services provided by the latest gadgets are easily accessible and provide information easily online (Nugroho et al., 2022). In addition to easy internet access, there is entertainment and many interesting games offered. Currently, the use of gadgets is very popular with children. The positive impact of the right use of gadgets in this modern era will make it easier for children to get to know and facilitate information. In addition, through games or games on gadgets, it will hone children's creativity, so that children are able to solve challenges through the game. So that indirectly in this modern era it has a good effect on children, because it has an effect on children's creativity. However, behind the positive effects in this modern era there are also negative impacts.

The use of internet access is getting easier and faster and makes it easier for children to get information that is not timely. As well as it is easy to get information in the form of images, videos, writing, sounds and others. In this modern era, many information media, both through television and newspapers, have found many cases related to minors accessing pornographic sites (Amelia & Nugraha, 2014). In addition, there is a case of a child who is addicted to gadgets until he forgets time. So that it has an impact on a child's health, psychology, and emotions. According to Nugroho et al., (2022), states that in life in the modern era today, children have been influenced by electronic media that has less space to participate in the real world.

Development in this modern era needs to be supervised by children. So that later a child can take advantage of technological developments in a positive way. To protect children from this technological development, the role of parents is needed. Child protection is something that must be seriously considered by various parties, especially the role of a woman. The role of a woman is increasingly important in maintaining and protecting the rights of her children. In addition to children's rights, they also have the right to protection from their parents, family, community, and the state to live, grow, and participate in accordance with human dignity and dignity. This protection includes the prevention of acts of violence that can cause physical, mental, sexual and psychological suffering (Rohayati & Kartini, 2019).

In addition, child protection is very important to be carried out from the developments that occur in people's lives, such as those related to economic aspects (*Menteri Negara Pemberdayaan Perempuan Dan Perlindungan Anak Republik Indonesia*, 2011). Although children are subject to their rights, their characteristics are still vulnerable because they are still in the stage of growth and development so that they require the involvement of adults, to ensure the survival and development of children optimally and to fulfill their rights and protect children from various risks (Arliman & Laurensius, 2017). In this context, parents play an important role in educating children to overcome new challenges and opportunities in the face of increasingly diverse world developments. So that parents play an important role in guiding children in filtering the information accessed and using technology wisely (Hidayati et al., 2023). In this era of globalization, women's empowerment and child protection are strategic issues that are of concern to the world. According to Rahim, (2024) That through the study of potential issues and women's needs that have various aspects, it can be known the hierarchy of priorities needed for progress in the field of women's empowerment. So efforts are needed to increase the role of women in solving various problems and providing protection to children. Efforts have been made in women's empowerment, such as the quality of education, economy, quality of life, improvement of conditions, quality of life of women in various fields and others (Linda, 2023) Women's empowerment can reduce violence that is often experienced by women, so it is important to understand women's needs and priorities for their progress. Various efforts need to be made, to strengthen the role of women in facing various problems and protecting their children.

Based on the description above, there are several factors in the development in the modern era. So that women have a role in providing protection to children. Therefore, this article was compiled to describe in depth "Women's Empowerment Strategies in Improving Protection for Children in the Modern Era".

## **METHOD**

This study uses qualitative research methods. Qualitative research is the collection of data in a natural setting that aims to interpret the phenomenon that occurs where the researcher is a key instrument, sampling of data sources, collection techniques by triangulation (combined), data analysis is inductive/qualitative and the results of qualitative research emphasize meaning rather than generalization (Aggito & Setiawan, 2018:8). This type of research is a qualitative research approach to document review. This method of document review or literature review is a comprehensive research review conducted on a specific topic to provide information to readers related to the topic being researched in order to find the reason for the research (Wulandari & Rini, 2021). The literature review in this study was obtained from various sources, including journals, e-books, and

the internet. The data used in this study was obtained from the results of research conducted and published in online journals both national and international (Wulandari & Rini, 2021).

## **RESULT**

### *Women's Empowerment Strategy*

Women's empowerment has not been really applied to women living in remote or rural areas, therefore many women have not been properly empowered. So the need for women's empowerment to make people aware and encourage people to achieve their maximum potential (Wulandari & Rini, 2021). Women's empowerment is a strategic effort to distribute power through the transformation of social structures. This makes women's position significantly improve when they are able to achieve independence and have control over the decisions that affect their lives. In addition, by empowering women, it not only improves individual welfare, but also makes a positive contribution to overall national development. Women's empowerment focuses on giving women the opportunity to improve their lives to make decisions that affect their well-being, which includes economic, social, political and psychological (Habib & Sutopo, 2024). The strategy of women's empowerment through social development is not only by meeting basic needs and open access. But it also empowers them to make decisions, address gender inequality and support the development of society as a whole (Rahim, 2024). In addition, critical awareness, mobilization, and holding control over one's own life from existing resources (Putri, 2021).

The following are women's empowerment strategies:

### *Women's Empowerment in Education*

Women's empowerment in the field of education is the key to the social, economic and political progress of society. A study shows that educated women are more likely to get decent jobs, have healthier and more active children. Therefore, quality education is a crucial first step. Inequality in the field of education is a major obstacle to women's empowerment. Through education, it will open up opportunities and provide women to overcome social and economic challenges. However, there are still barriers to accessing quality education, especially in remote areas (Ansori et al., 2021:189). In this modern era, there are still other obstacles in women's empowerment, one of which is the lack of support from parents, and the surrounding environment to advance to a higher level of education and assume that women are better off at home. In the current modern era, various countries have made efforts to improve access to education for women. Many women pursue higher education in the fields of education, health, engineering and others. Women's empowerment through education has an influence on the economic sector. Educated women tend to have better job opportunities and contribute effectively to the economy. For example, in opening a new business, designing a careful planning, promotion strategies, doing good cooperation, and others. In addition, women's empowerment through education has benefits in terms of health and welfare. Educated women tend to have knowledge about health and nutrition both in children and families.

Women's empowerment through education can be done through:

- a. Providing scholarships or financial assistance Scholarships that focus on women, so as to be a driver for women to pursue higher education.
- b. Motivating women's awareness By motivating women regarding the importance of education, it will change the social norms that have been applied (especially in remote areas), that education for women is very necessary in this modern era.

Women's empowerment in education is a long-term investment that benefits individuals and society at large. However, women's empowerment through education is not only carried out in formal education. However, it can also be done through non-formal education, such as education through special trainings.

### *Women's Empowerment in the Economic Field*

Women's empowerment in the economic sector is often associated with increased access to aspects of education, employment and entrepreneurship training. Through increasing women's capacity in the economic sector, it will affect overall economic growth. Women's empowerment is an important strategy to increase the role of women in increasing their potential so that they are more independent at work, for example increasing women's empowerment through sewing training skills, cooking, cosmetology, graphic design, IT, etc. This empowerment can be done through mentoring and skill development for women (Wulandari & Rini, 2021).

Women's empowerment in the economic field can be done through:

- a. Sewing training Sewing training is a very important skill for women. For example, the use of limbah from waste that can still be processed, such as fabric waste. This patchwork waste can be used to create creativity with economic value. One of them is the manufacture of doormats. In the training provided by the community, especially women, some do not know about this innovation. Through the training that is given and carried out seriously, it will provide knowledge skillfully.
- b. Cooking skills training Cooking is an activity that is usually done by women. The growing interest in cooking in the culinary world makes competitors in the culinary field strict and requires culinary actors to have extraordinary skills and knowledge in the culinary field. Through current technological developments, it has made it easier for business people to obtain information. Skills and knowledge about cooking can be easily gained from learning through social media. The skills mastered can provide business opportunities in the culinary field. In addition, currently the use of technology as a medium for promoting a business field. This will make the economy better.
- c. Graphic Design Training The rapid development of technology today at the village level provides training related to graphic design that can create good business opportunities and improve economic status. In addition to receiving training from the village, the community can also quickly dig up information or knowledge through the internet.
- d. Cosmetology Training Currently, the government has held many trainings, including Cosmetology. Through the makeup training held this will become a new potential to become a professional makeup artist. In addition to learning from the training provided, people can learn through the internet which is currently widely encountered related to makeup. If these skills can be mastered and open new businesses that affect income in the economic sector.
- e. Computer Training In this modern era, the development of science and technology is increasingly advanced, the community does not want to be left behind by these developments. Because nowadays computer skills in the world of work are very important. So everyone must equip themselves to increase independence and also be able to increase income in the economic field.

#### *Women's Empowerment Through PKK*

Women's Empowerment Strategy through Family Empowerment and Welfare (PKK) according to Samran & Putri, (2023) The objectives are as follows:

- a. Empowerment through policy and planning is carried out to realize more equitable access to resources, public services and opportunities to participate in society. Through this strategy, it has resulted in identifying the needs of women and fighting for women's interests in deliberations for village development plans.
- b. Empowerment through social and political action. It is done to equip women so that they are more effective in empowering women.
- c. Empowerment through education and awareness is carried out to improve women's skills. So that women are able to develop skills, weaving, knitting and batik.

#### *Women's Empowerment Through Digital Literacy*

In the era of digital transformation, mass media plays a strategic role in uplifting women and encouraging change. Exposure to crucial women's issues through the media has inspired activists to voice the protection of women's rights. Through gender empowerment and equality campaigns, activists seek to build collective awareness so that women can contribute optimally as agents of social transformation. One of them is that prosecutors in the mass media play a role as disseminators of religious knowledge in society. The media and religion complement each other in shaping people's personalities through the delivery of inclusive religious values. The internet with its various platforms is an effective means of da'wah allowing people to access religious information independently for better self-change (Makruf & Hasyim, 2022).

Through writing training, women are able to convey their ideas to improve the social conditions of the community. Especially in the era and role of women, they should take part in it. Therefore, through the community court, it is an effort to spread awareness for women to contribute through the literacy movement that is able to produce meaningful writing to achieve gender equality through digital (Makruf & Hasyim, 2022).

Strategies designed in women's empowerment aim to give women greater influence from certain material and non-material resources (Linda, 2023). According to Rahim, (2024) women's empowerment is not only the responsibility of individuals or communities, but is also an important agenda in global development involving various parties, including governments, international institutions, and the private sector. Governments can provide funding for supportive policies, while the private sector can implement them through inclusive workplace practices and provide economic opportunities for women. Community organizations play a role in advocating for women's rights, providing support services and promoting empowerment programs at the community level. Through strong collaboration from various interests, it can create an environment that supports women's empowerment and ensures that all women have a fair opportunity to develop (Ansori et al., n.d.,2021:191-192).

Meanwhile, according to Linda, (2023) that empowering women by building power through, motivating, exploring potential, raising awareness of their potential and providing opportunities to play the widest possible role. Through women's empowerment strategies aim to increase women's influence through access to resources, and involve collaboration between government, the private sector, and community organizations to create a supportive environment and ensure equitable opportunities for all women to thrive.

### *Child Protection in the Modern Era*

In the current era of globalization, information technology provides an offer of ease of access to information. The rapid development of technology today has the influence of rapid change. One form of information technology advancement is social media (Social Media). Social media is a source of information that can be accessed easily. The use of social media is not only done by adults, but young children in this modern era can also use social media (Ulfah, 2020:1-2).

The right use of social media will provide good for its users, such as communicating with family or friends who are far away, finding important information, and being able to learn through social media. However, behind the benefits of using social media, there are dangers of using social media, especially among children. However, with the sophistication of today's technology and supported by the existence of social media, many young children to adults abuse social media to commit crimes, such as fraud, child abduction, sexual abuse, and others (Ulfah, 2020:3).

The following are some of the crimes against children due to social media:

- a. Child abduction cases are crimes that often occur. This case provides a lesson for parents not to provide information to the public through social media related to photos and children's personal data. By accidentally uploading children's personal data on social media, it will provide an opportunity for the kidnapers to carry out their actions.



- b. Digital Child Kidnapping (Digital Kidnapping) This kidnapping can be carried out through taking photos of children and children's personal data, then spreading on social media. Then the perpetrator admitted that the child was his missing child.
- c. Bullying Currently, bullying behavior is not only in adults, but young children also often get this behavior. Bullying behavior occurs in various places such as home environments, schools, playgrounds, and even through social media. The impact of this bullying on the psychological and emotional of children.
- d. Sexual Abuse in Children In this digital era, technology is increasingly sophisticated. Through the use of social media, harassment can occur, the victims of which are minors. Sexual harassment occurs when children are looking at something on a gadget, such as the appearance of advertisements that are inappropriate for young children to see, which are in the form of images. Therefore, parents play an important role in supervising their children when using social media.
- e. Gadget Addiction in Children In this digital era, children are no strangers to gadgets. Addiction and ease of operation of technology cause children at an early age to be proficient in operationalizing technological sophistication. Currently, many parents provide access to technology (gadget) to early children, as a medium for play.
- f. Violence and Pornography Technology that is increasingly modern, makes humans do whatever they want to do, both positive and negative. Through the internet, pornography is now easily accessible. Not only adults can access, but young children can also access. Giving gadgets to children without supervision has caused a lot of addiction and exposure to pornography in children.
- g. Health and Radiation The danger of radiation from gadgets to children's growth and development. Therefore, gadgets are very dangerous for minors. In addition, it has side effects, namely addiction to playing gadgets every day, being lazy to play with friends, being exposed to radiation hazards and so on.

In this modern era, violence against children is widely found. Mentri Negara Pemberdayaan Perempuan Dan Perlindungan Anak Republik Indonesia, (2011), that the factors that cause violence are:

- a. Poverty Factors Poverty is one of the dominant factors in the occurrence of violence against children, because poverty often causes life pressure to become heavy, thus forcing family members to contribute to supporting the family economy, including children. This results in children being exploited and becoming victims of acts of violence both by family members, friends, swear words and other adults.
- b. Education. Low parental education is one of the causes of violence against children committed by parents in educating their children due to parents' lack of knowledge about children's rights and parenting.
- c. Socio-Cultural Factors Various acts of violence experienced by children are also often caused by violence that is considered a natural thing in the midst of society. In shaping the character of a society, violence is often used as a natural thing.
- d. Factors for the Use of Information and Communication Technology Advances Without Supervision Guidance from Adults. The advancement of science and technology through mass media, including the internet, can cause violence against children, such as the ease of children accessing the internet without supervision from parents/the community/government so that various child pornography impressions circulating on the internet, cannot be monitored by parents. Likewise, the screening of films that generally have elements of violence on various television broadcasts and print media which results in children doing and imitating the agenda.
- e. Violent behavior factors Violence against children occurs, because of the rough and temperamental behavior of the perpetrators of violence, so that if children make mistakes, then children always get violence both physical and psychological.
- f. Environmental Factors Violence in children often occurs in areas experiencing conflict, social or internal unrest, natural disasters and displacement.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the above explanation, women's empowerment strategies can be carried out in four ways, namely empowerment through education, empowerment in the economic sector, empowerment through PKK, and empowerment through digital literature. The main focus in the empowerment strategy is on the education factor. Educational empowerment is considered the most important. Because the empowerment of education for women is the main key that can have an impact on welfare in the economic field. Educational empowerment can be done through formal and non-formal education. Formal education with women studying at the higher education level with good quality education, while non-formal education can be carried out through participating in trainings for empowerment held by both the organization, government and private sectors. Economic empowerment affects economic welfare, which can be learned through training programs with other benefits and can open up business opportunities. This training increases women's independence and economic opportunities, which in turn affects overall economic growth. Empowerment through PKK programs involves equitable policies and planning, social action and education to improve women's skills, such as weaving and batik, to increase their participation in society. Empowerment through digital literacy is carried out through the use of mass media and the internet as a distribution of women's rights and provides a platform for women to contribute as agents of social change.

The results show that the protection of children in the modern era needs to be increased. This is due to the development of increasingly sophisticated technology, causing several crimes through social media. Starting from child abduction, bullying, sexual abuse of children, addiction, violence and pornography as well as Health and Radiation, which is caused by the lack of supervision of children over the use of increasingly sophisticated technology. Violence in the modern era is caused by poverty, education, social and cultural factors, the use of information and communication technology advances without supervision from adults, abusive behavior and environmental factors.

## **CONCLUSION**

Women's empowerment is important to overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities that arise due to the development of increasingly sophisticated technology in this modern era. Women's empowerment strategies can be carried out through: (1) women's empowerment in the education sector, which is the main key to improving social and economic welfare. (2) empowerment in the economic sector, namely by providing training-pleats such as sewing, cooking, graphic design and others. (3) empowerment through the PKK, which involves policies, social actions and education to improve women's skills. (4) empowerment through digital literacy, namely mass media and the internet is an important platform for empowerment and gender equality. Child protection in this modern era needs to be carried out stricter supervision, so that children can take advantage of technological advances appropriately, as well as adding insight through social media. In the modern era, there are many challenges that parents must face, namely, child abduction, bullying, sexual abuse, gadget addiction, pornography, violence and also have an impact on children's health. In addition, there are factors due to violence against children in the modern era, namely poverty, low education, culture, and lack of guidance in the use of technology. Good empowerment for women will affect the increase in protection for children in the modern era. Which is balanced in terms of education, knowledge and skills related to the rapid development of technology today. Women's empowerment strategies aim to increase women's influence through access to resources, and involve collaboration between governments, the private sector, and community organizations to create a supportive environment and ensure equitable opportunities for all women to thrive.

## **DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Women's empowerment strategies are still considered ineffective to improve child protection in the modern era. Therefore, further research is expected to add variables related to the effectiveness of women's empowerment programs and the evaluation of child protection policies in the modern era.

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