

Gender Sensitivity in Decision Making Process in Regional Council of Representatives of Gorontalo Province

By

Kristina Mohamad Udoki

Postgraduate Doctoral Public Administration, State University of Gorontalo, Indonesia

Asna Aneta

Lecturers at the Faculty of Social Sciences, State University of Gorontalo, Indonesia

Rauf Hatu

Lecturers at the Faculty of Social Sciences, State University of Gorontalo, Indonesia

Ismet Sulila

Lecturers at the Faculty of Social Sciences, State University of Gorontalo, Indonesia

Email: asnaatiek.aneta@ung.ac.id

Abstract

This article aims to analyze and describe gender sensitivity in the decision-making process in the regional parliament of Gorontalo province. The method used in this article is a qualitative descriptive method. This method refers to the identification or characteristics that distinguish groups of people, objects and events. Data analysis used in qualitative research is an interactive model analysis consisting of three components of analysis namely: (1) Data reduction; (2) Data Presentations; (3) Data Verification and Conclusion Drawing. The results of the article show that: Gender sensitivity in the process of adopting decisions for women Regional People's Representative Assembly members at the Gorontalo Regional People's Legislative Council which includes involvement in determining alternative policies and participating in contributing ideas and arguing in forums is not optimal enough. This is due to the weak ability of women Regional People's Representative Assembly members to maintain the policy environment, their lack of work experience, and the limited intellectual capacity of women Regional People's Representative Assembly members in fighting for gender-sensitive policies. For this reason, the author suggests that members of the Gorontalo Provincial Regional People's Representative Assembly always increase their productivity, effectiveness, responsibility and responsibility in fighting for women's interests. Besides that, women Regional People's Representative Assembly members need to practice their communication style so they can maximize their aspirations in policy-making forums, both at the legislative and executive levels.

Keywords: Decision Making, Woman, Regional People's Representative Assembly

Introduction

In Indonesian culture, there is still an imbalance in the position of women and men. This behavior has indeed taken root and become a custom in the midst of society. Talking about women cannot be separated from the social construction that regulates and places women in a different position from men. The struggle of women to get their rights as human beings is a struggle that never stops because of various things that can happen in this very rapid development of differences. Aziz (2018) views that this is closely related to traditional values and culture controlled by men, which is called patriarchal culture.

The ebb and flow of women's representation in parliament is still a problem. Batubara et al. (2020) said that the perception of the patriarchal system in society still divides the division of roles between men in the public sphere while women are in the domestic sphere. This condition is one of the reasons for the limited participation of women in the political process. Meanwhile Alamona et al. (2017) added that the domination of men as policy makers is one of the reasons for the emergence of various regulations that are considered less friendly to the interests of women.

The representation of women in practical politics is one of the answers from the state in providing opportunities for women to appear in practical political contests. At least since the 2004 General Election, Indonesia has introduced an affirmative action policy to increase the role of women in politics. Affirmative action policies against women have been perfected over time. Law Number 12 of 2003 concerning the General Election of Members of the People's Representative Council (DPR), Regional Representative Council (DPD) and Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) article 65 paragraph 1, Law Number 8 of 2012 concerning General Election of Members of the DPR DPD, and DPRD article 8 paragraph 2 letter e, and Law Number 15 of 2012 concerning General Election Organizers and Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections.

Meeting the 30% quota for women's representation is considered urgent. Quoting the opinion of Nurcahyo (2016) that in the history of politics in Indonesia, the number of women in parliament has not shown a significant figure. Women are still in a weak position both qualitatively and quantitatively. This statement is also logical because from the author's observation that the level of participation of women members of parliament, especially in the decision-making process, is still not visible. Weak political communication that is created between women parliamentarians and constituents as well as work partners causes the resulting policies to be non-gender responsive.

In writing this article, the author focuses on the role of members of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) of Gorontalo Province. From the author's observation of the presentation, the decision-making of women DPRD members regarding gender issues is still far from expectations. In fact, the constituents who elect Candidates for Women DPRD Members hope that with the representation of women MPs, the resulting policies will at least represent women's interests. Not without reason, because in Gorontalo Province there are still many problems related to women, including: (1) Women's empowerment and child protection which includes improving health and education services that are not yet optimal; (2) The woman who is the head of the family; (3) Violence against women and children; (4) Child neglect which causes stunting is not handled properly; and (5) Sexual harassment.

From these various phenomena, at least with the presence of women DPRD members in the Gorontalo Provincial Parliament, they must have the courage to make decisions. The Gender Development Index (IPG) in Gorontalo Province is 85.87% and the women's empowerment index (IGD) is 70%. (Data source: GorontaloProv.go.id 2019). In general, IPG and IDG of Gorontalo Province must be handled specifically, especially regarding violence against women and children, and the contribution of women to gain access to capital in the MSME and industrial sectors. Of the 47 Quota Parliamentary Seats, there were at least 12 Women DPRD members in the 2019-2024 period as illustrated in the following table:

Table 1. *Women lawmakers of Gorontalo Province for the 2019-2024 term*

No	Name	Position	Party
1	Siti Nurain Sompi	Members of Commission I	Gerindra
2	Hj. Espin Tuli, SE., M.Si	Chairman of Commission II	PDI Struggle
3	Hj. Yeyen Septiani Sidiki, SE.,MM	Members of Commission II	Golkar
4	Indriani Dunda	Members of Commission II	Nasdem
5	Meyke Camaru, SH., MH	Members of Commission III	Golkar
6	Venny Rosdiana Anwar, SE., MH	Members of Commission III	PDI Struggle
7	Hj. Lolly Jonah	Members of Commission III	Nasdem
8	Dra. Hj. Nikma Tahir	Deputy Chairman of Commission IV	Golkar
9	Indri Monoarfa	Members of Commission IV	Nasdem
10	Sri Masri Sumuri, SE	Members of Commission IV	PPP
11	Nani Mbuinga	Members of Commission IV	Gerindra
12	Hj. Sintje Kadji	Members of Commission IV	PKB

Data Source: *Gorontalo Provincial DPRD Decree No. 15/DPRD/X/2019*

However, during this term, there are various aspects that are still in the public spotlight for women who sit in the seats of the Gorontalo Provincial DPRD, including: (1) Women's involvement in the decision-making process at the Gorontalo Provincial DPRD is not optimal; (2) There are doubts by political parties in involving women in the implementation of the 3 main functions of DPRD due to limited experience and soft skills of those concerned; (3) There are situations or conditions where the benefits arising from women's involvement in the policy-making process tend to have less added value; (4) There are situations and conditions in which the process of monitoring and evaluating women members of parliament on executive performance tends to be less effective and efficient.

The phenomenon of the above problems is caused by the fact that the money for women to influence the decision-making process in political parties is still narrow. Finally, women do not have enough ability to suppress political parties due to various limitations. The low gender sensitivity according to Handi Mulyaningsih, (2008) occurs because DPRD members do not fight for strategic gender interests. Gender strategic interests are women's interests that must be addressed immediately due to an urgent situation. This is because gender interests are not subordinated to the socio-political system which results in discrimination against women and limited access/opportunities, participation and control of women in all aspects. As a result, the various activities of women DPRD members are not beneficial to the interests of their constituents.

Women's issues that are not discussed in the Gorontalo Provincial Parliament have made the authors encourage members of the Women's DPRD to take a role in discussing gender issues in the process of forming local regulations, budget allocation policies, and supervising executive performance in women's empowerment programs. The problem is how far the gender sensitivity of women DPRD members is so that they are able to fight for practical and strategic gender interests. For this reason, the focus of the article is to discuss the decision-making process which can be seen from several indicators including: (1) the involvement of women DPRD members in determining gender-sensitive policy alternatives; (2) the involvement of women DPRD members in contributing ideas, thoughts, being active in joint forums with stakeholders.

Methods

This article uses descriptive research with a qualitative approach. This method refers to the identification or characteristics that distinguish groups of people, objects and events that cannot be generalized Please (2018). Basically, descriptive qualitative involves the process of conceptualization and results in the formation of a classification scheme. The role of the writer is someone who observes social phenomena by looking at primary data relating to the contribution of women DPRD members in the Gorontalo Provincial DPRD in fighting for gender-sensitive policies in the legislative, budgeting and oversight processes. Furthermore, the existence of the author here acts as a key instrument as a non-participant observer where the author goes directly to the field but does not go directly into the life of the object of research.

Sources of data contained in research articles are (1) Primary data sources, which consist of information that the author traced through interviews with informants related to the research topic; (2) Secondary data sources, namely publications, namely books, journals, newspapers/magazines, websites, and policy documents related to problems. Sugiyono (2017). Data analysis used in qualitative research is an interactive model analysis consisting of three components of analysis, namely: (1) data reduction; (2) Data Presentation; (3) Data Verification and Conclusion Drawing (Miles et al., 2014).

Results and Discussion

It is undeniable that decision-making in Indonesia, both in terms of the legislative and executive elements, is still dominated by men. This male domination is ultimately considered to be less gender sensitive which results in gender inequality in many aspects of life. Soerdawo et al. (2019) emphasized that conceptually gender sensitivity is the ability to understand gender inequality, especially in decision making which results in reduced opportunities and lower socioeconomic status of women compared to men. Gender inequality shows the existence of injustice (gender gap) and discrimination between women and men in various aspects of life, both in the household, society and the country. In order to see how the decision-making process is gender sensitive by women DPRD members, the following authors discuss it into several indicators as follows:

Involvement of Women DPRD Members in Determining Gender Sensitive Policy Alternatives

The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) is an institution to realize people's sovereignty in the region. The function of the Gorontalo Provincial DPRD as a representative body for all the people in the region is a vehicle for implementing democracy in the region which is positioned as an element of regional administration. The existence of 12 female DPRD members out of a total of 45 DPRD members of Gorontalo Province clearly shows that there is more male dominance. In this small number, women DPRD members are expected to take a big role and participate in influencing parliamentary policies. In the context of involvement that is gender sensitive, women should also have a stake in the formulation of policies, whether it is the Draft Regional Regulations, budgeting or oversight. However, if the quality of female DPRD members cannot overcome the swift struggle for equality, this will certainly set a bad precedent for that struggle. This is because, let alone equality in policy making, a series of women's social problems in Gorontalo Province are rarely touched upon. This means that the existence of Women DPRD Members in Gorontalo Province must be encouraged in the context of fighting for gender equality within the framework of Regional Government.

Based on the results of the author's interview with the informant Mrs. MK (Member of the Regional Regulation Formation Agency) from the Golkar faction regarding the aspirations of the people during the recess period, he said that: "The authority of DPRD members is to accommodate as many aspirations as possible. Some aspirations here are conveyed formally, namely during recess, and some are directly conveyed in an informal form, for example coming directly to the office for two-way communication or demonstrations. It is from these aspirations that we strive to bridge the interests of the community to the Governor and OPD staff so that the decision-making process can be maximized.

Meanwhile, based on the results of an interview with the initial informant Mrs. ET (a member of the Women's DPRD) said that "the process of determining alternative policies is mostly in the Budget Agency (Banggar). The budget body is a permanent part of the DPRD and is formed at the beginning of the DPRD membership term. Its main task is to provide advice and opinions in the form of the main thoughts of the DPRD to the governor in preparing the RAPBD, changes and calculations of the APBD, and preparing the budget. Members of the Budget Committee are proposed by each faction by considering their membership in each commission. From the main functions of the members of the Banggar it is clear that the authority of the members of the Banggar is quite large and is even said to be the *prima donna* of all members. This is because the role of Banggar members in driving the Regional Expenditure Budget Draft (RAPBD), the governor's work programs and the main points of local government policies is more flexible than DPRD members who occupy other commissions or AKD. Only 3 out of 12 female DPRD members who sit on the Budget Committee, namely Mrs. Espin Tuli, Mrs. Meyke Kamaru, and Mrs. Loly Pou Junus. This indicates that the 3 members of Banggar have the opportunity to fight for a gender-sensitive budget."

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it was found that in the descriptors how the ability of women DPRD members to contribute ideas, thoughts, discipline in meeting attendance, discussions related to local government program policies received various responses from several supporting informants starting from the Chairperson of the DPRD, Chair of the Political Party, sociologists, and society. The responses were as follows: (1) It was found that the discipline of women DPRD members in meetings still needs to be improved, especially during commission and plenary meetings; (2) It was found that even though a member of the Women's Regional Representative Council was vocal in convincing the forum in the decision-making process, again the decision was ultimately returned to the faction. It is the head of the faction that has the most authority in rotating its members in the existing Council Complements; (3) It was found that uniting the hearts and minds of 45 DPRD Members for one thought was difficult. Because everyone comes with their own interests; (4) It was found that the majority of male DPRD member informants thought that so far the female DPRD members had not been optimal because their ideas were less visible so that the male DPRD members were more vocal in the decision-making process in carrying out the functions of legislation, budgeting and oversight.

Kariem & Ishmatuddin, (2020) in the journal of his research results said that decision making is the hope and goal of success in the future, aspirations, aspirations, wishes, desires and a strong desire to achieve something, such as success in the purpose of this desire. Aspirations are strong wishes from the people conveyed to the Regional Representative Council at the Provincial and Regency/City levels in the form of statements of attitudes, opinions, hopes, criticisms, inputs and suggestions related to the duties, functions and authorities of the DPRD. Meanwhile Hunawa, (2022) argues that aspirations are council activities that are carried out by listening, paying attention, accepting, studying, and studying aspirations both those that develop in the community and those that are complained to the DPRD.

Based on information from informants and then supported by various expert opinions above, the authors conclude that in the decision-making process, members of the Women's DPRD should have a high commitment in trying to capture aspirations and bring these aspirations to the decision-making process that prioritizes gender interests. The commitment of women DPRD members is expected to be implemented in an obsessive passion manner so that they carry out their duties with full loyalty to their profession. In particular, the professional commitment of women DPRD members is carried out by encouraging the implementation of their duties as best as possible by being faithful, loyal, tenacious, persistent and active in carrying out their work. The efforts that need to be made to build professional commitment are contained in the scheme below:

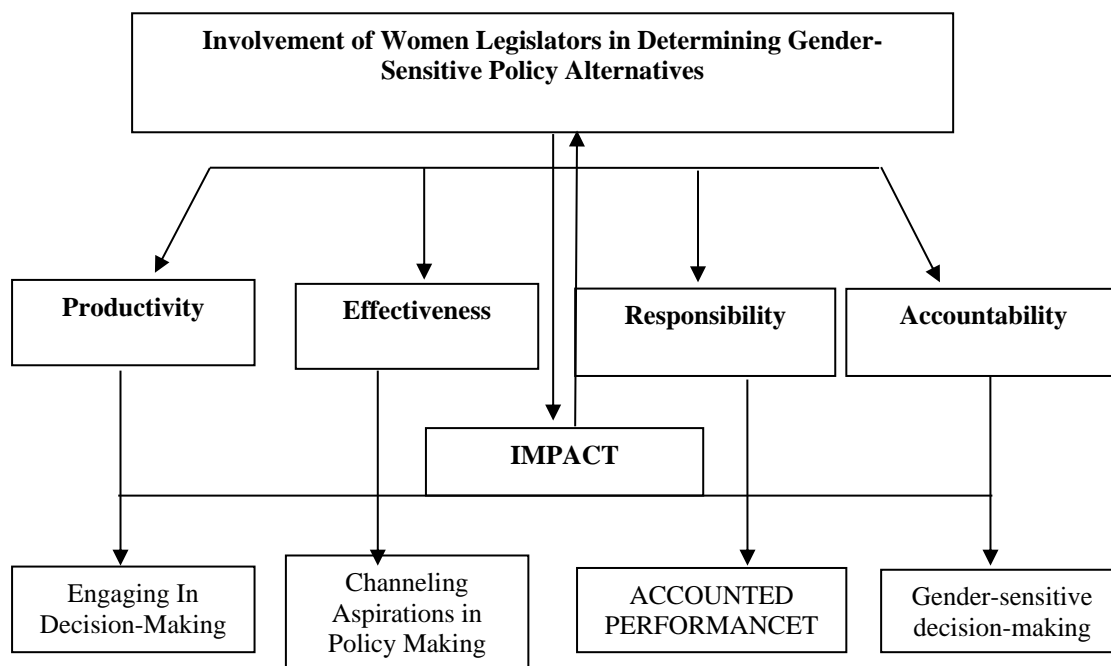


Figure 1. Engagement strategies for determining gender-sensitive policy alternatives

The description of the above scheme is in the form of: (1) Productivity, which is determined by the involvement of women DPRD members in the formulation of regional regulations, budgeting and supervision; (2) Effectiveness, which is determined by the channeling of the aspirations and demands of the people towards the realization of the APBD; (3) Responsibility and responsibility, which is determined by efforts to fight for the interests of the people.

Involvement of Women DPRD Members in Contributing Ideas, Thoughts, Activeness in Joint Forums with Stakeholders

There is another form of bias felt by female DPRD members in contributing ideas, thoughts in executive and legislative forums which causes the gender sensitivity of female DPRD members in Gorontalo Province to tend to be low. This was confirmed by the informant RM, who is a parliamentary journalist, who said that "From period to period in office, the role of female DPRD members tends to be of less quality when compared to male DPRD members. When they were given the opportunity to speak, most of it didn't touch the substance of the meeting. Of the 12 members of the Women's DPRD so far that I have observed, only 2 seem to be quite active in contributing their ideas and thoughts in the aspiration discussion meeting."

One of the ideas that are gender sensitive can be marked by the ratification of regional regulations on gender issues. However, in the 2019-2024 period, not a single Regional Regulation has been passed regarding the interests of women. This indicates that the idea of women DPRD members who are expected to contribute to the representation of women's interests has not been very visible during their period in office. This was also confirmed by a male DPRD member with the initials SB who said that "decision-making involves a process from upstream to downstream. This means that the process of planning, implementing and evaluating what products will be produced for the benefit of the DPRD members concerned, because they bring aspirations from their respective constituencies. According to him, there are 3 determining factors, namely (1) Environment. Because the environment determines the atmosphere of decision making. Therefore, each DPRD member must maintain the conduciveness of his communication. If this is not maintained, the party authorities consider that their aspirations do not need to be discussed at the plenary meeting level, (2) Experience. This is very important because each DPRD member must have a strategy in fighting for aspirations as well as must be smart in reading the situation on the ground so that there is no conflict of interest; (3) Individuals. What plays a role in the individual is his intellectual capacity. If he is unable to process words into sentences, into narratives, and convinces them in the forum, then the person concerned is considered to have no aspirations. So collectively, we, fellow DPRD members, will not accommodate this idea.

Kurniasih & Rusfiana (2021) in their research journal revealed that the intellectual capacity of DPRD members plays an important role in fighting for people's aspirations. Education and experience factors will also dominate when dealing in parliamentary forums. Women DPRD members should show a strong mentality and not look at giving up in fighting for aspirations as long as it is known that they can be executed because of the availability of the budget. Meanwhile Annas & Anirwan (2019) said that for most women DPRD members who are passive in speaking are caused by women's low understanding, lack of self-confidence, and assuming that a culture that places men as the main decision makers, is positioned as a leader in the forum. It's a shame that if women parliamentarians have such an understanding, the struggle for gender-sensitive policies will always be secondary.

From the description above, the author is of the opinion that currently there are problems in the distribution of the allocation of basic tasks and functions and authority between male and female DPRD members. On the one hand, male DPRD members want female DPRD members to have the spirit to fight for the aspirations of their constituency. On the other hand DPRD members lack the quality or strategy on how to make their aspirations acceptable before the forum to be fought for by the executive ranks. Therefore the authors assume that the differences between men and women in viewing positions and roles in decision-making occur due to differences in behavior and ideology. These differences will have an impact on the imbalance of the decision-making process.

From the description above, in the end the author arrives at the narrative that political parties that have succeeded in placing elected women cadres as DPRD members should train their cadres to be able to communicate effectively. So far the author sees that if DPRD members appear passive in communicating, political parties or factions tend to just let that happen. For this reason, the author offers a proactive communication style so as to eliminate gender bias. If the cadres are properly trained, this can also encourage political parties to increase the emergence of female cadres while at the same time being able to present effective arguments during recess or during meetings at the faction, commission and plenary levels. personal ability in rhetoric.

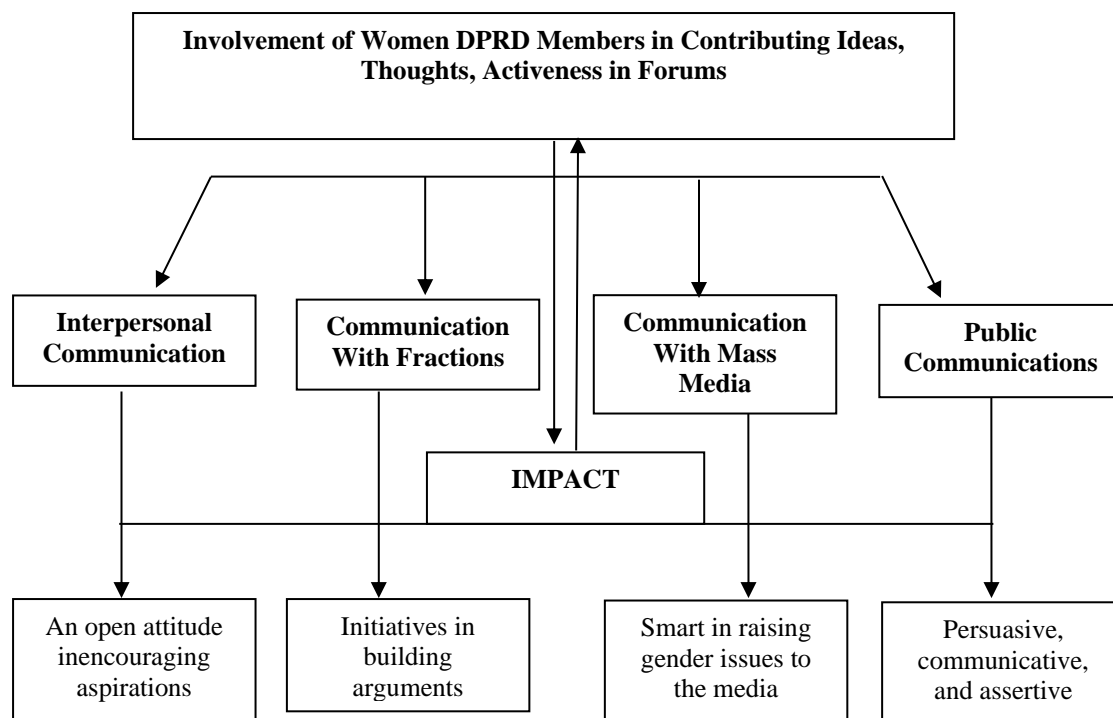


Figure 2. *Strategies for involvement in contributing ideas in forums*

The description of the above scheme is in the form of: (1) Interpersonal communication, which is described as being empathetic and listening to the other person and receiving feedback/input from the other person, being open, honest and outspoken; (2) Communication with factions, which is described as an attitude of building argumentation in meeting forums, taking the initiative to liven up discussions or talks, and having the ability to master problems; (3) Communication with the public which is described as a firm action but prioritizing a persuasive approach in verbal and non-verbal communication; (4) Communication with the mass media which is described as an attitude that always raises public issues to the media, is always demonstrative in fighting for people's rights, and is informative.

Conclusion

Gender sensitivity in the decision-making process for women DPRD members at the Gorontalo Regional People's Legislative Council which includes involvement in determining alternative policies and participating in contributing ideas and arguing in forums has not been optimal enough. This is due to the weak ability of women DPRD members to maintain the policy environment, their lack of work experience, and the limited intellectual capacity of women DPRD members in fighting for gender-sensitive policies.

For this reason, the author suggests that members of the Gorontalo Provincial DPRD always increase their productivity, effectiveness, responsibility and responsibility in fighting for women's interests. Besides that, women DPRD members need to practice their communication style so they can maximize their aspirations in policy-making forums, both at the legislative and executive levels.

References

- Annas, A., & Anirwan, A. (2019). Upaya Peningkatan Kinerja DPRD Kabupaten Soppeng. *Journal of Governance and Local Politics (JGLP)*, 1(2), 82-99.
- Aziz SR, A. (2018). Fungsi Pengawasan Parlemen Dalam Perspektif Gender. *Journal Of Politics and Policy*, 1(1), 1-18.
- Alamona, J., Zakarias, J. D., & Kawung, E. J. (2017). Marginalisasi Gender Dalam Pengambilan Keputusan (Studi Kualitatif Kaum Perempuan Di Lembaga Legislatif Kota Manado). *HOLISTIK, Journal of Social And Culture*
- Batubara, B. M., Barus, R. K. I., & Walhidayat, T. (2020, September). Model Komunikasi Politik Anggota DPRD Kota Medan Dalam Menghasilkan Kebijakan Responsif Gender. In *Prosiding Industrial Research Workshop and National Seminar*. 11(1) Pp. 1220-1227.
- Handi Mulyaningsih, H. (2008). Sensitivitas Gender Anggota Legislatif Propinsi Lampung (Studi Pada Perempuan Dan Laki-Laki Anggota DPRD Propinsi Lampung Masa Jabatan 2004-2009).
- Kariem, M. Q., & Ishmatuddin, N. (2020). Analysis of the Legislative Function of Banyuasin Regency Legislative Council Members During The Recess Period. *Journal of Governance and Public Policy*, 7(1), 29-34.
- Kurniasih, D., & Rusfiana, Y. (2021). Fungsi Reses Anggota DPRD Dalam Mengartikulasikan Aspirasi Masyarakat Kabupaten Bandung. *Jurnal Academia Praja*, 4(2), 380-395.
- Miles, M. B, Huberman, A. M, & Saldana, J. (2014). *Qualitative Data Analysis, A Methods Sourcebook*, Edition 3. Usa: Sage Publications. Terjemahan Tjetjep Rohindi Rohidi, Ui-Press
- Nurcahyo, A. (2016). Relevansi Budaya Patriarki Dengan Partisipasi Politik Dan Keterwakilan Perempuan Di Parlemen. *Agastya: Jurnal Sejarah Dan Pembelajarannya*, 6(01), 25-34
- Podunge, A. W., Hunawa, R., Paramata, A. M., & Nuna, M. (2022). Deconstruction Of Bapemperda's Functions In Improving The Effectiveness of Establishing Regional Regulations. *JURNAL LEGALITAS*, 15(1), 1-14.
- Soerdawo, V. S. D., Zuriah, N., Yumitro, G., & Jha, G. K. (2019). *Sensitivitas Gender Dalam Partai Politik Di Indonesia Dan India (Vol. 1)*. Ummppress.
- Silalahi, U. (2018). *Metode Penelitian. Jurnal Kebijakan Dan Pengembangan Pendidikan*, 216.
- Sugiyono. (2017). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, Dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta