

# Women and the Covid-19 Pandemic (The Dual Role of Women during the Covid-19 Pandemic)

**Muh. Khaerul Watoni A, Wilodati, Elly Malihah**

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Indonesia

Email: watoniberuntung@upi.edu, wilodati@upi.edu, ellyms@upi.edu

## Keywords

*Women, multiple roles, Covid-19*

## ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this paper is to determine the dual role of women during a pandemic and its causative factors, this study uses qualitative methods with literary study techniques, the findings of this discussion are that basically women have a major role as someone who works in the domestic sphere, but because of the pandemic. Covid-19 causes women to have educational and economic functions, which means that there is an additional dual role for women during the pandemic, who initially only became housewives and worked. The factors that cause the dual role of women are divided into 2, namely: internal and external factors, where internal factors include motivation and personality maturity. Then the external factors include economy, culture and environment.*

## INTRODUCTION

All agreed that the Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on life, causing all systems in life such as economic, educational, social and cultural to experience a very significant shift (Maqsood, Abbas, Rehman, & Mubeen, 2021). This raises a concern as expressed by Wenjie Yang et. al. (Citra & Arthani, 2020). "The recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has led to a major concern of the potential for not only an epidemic but a pandemic (Huang et al., 2020)." (The recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused great concern about the potential for not only an epidemic but also a pandemic.) Apart from the potential and impact of Covid-19, this outbreak has also never been predicted before. Reporting from the BBC (Li, 2022). Coronavirus: The world in lockdown in maps and charts (Sulaeman & Salsabila, 2020) that The number of people exposed to COVID-19 in the world is increasing day by day. More than 100 countries around the world have imposed full or partial lockdowns since the end of March 2020, including China, India, Indonesia, and the United States.

The Covid-19 outbreak certainly cannot be separated from the issue of gender equality. This is because the impact is always different between women and men in the midst of a patriarchal cultural system. (Elanda, 2021) Patriarchy itself is a system of social structure that prioritizes men as the central figure in a social organization including the family (Xheneti, Karki, & Madden, 2019). This is reflected in Bessler's opinion (Sulaeman & Salsabila, 2020) that how men have authority over their wives, children, and property. Men are considered stronger and superior, while women are always required to be subordinated beings. (Feagin & Ducey, 2017) As revealed by Mathur & Awasthi (2018) in their article Gender-Based Discrimination Faced By Females At Workplace: A Perceptual Study Of Working Females identifies various fundamental factors related to discriminatory issues

against female workers supported by gender stereotypes in job promotion and allocation where women are seen as weak workers who cannot contribute effectively, So most women are only placed in clerical work (not involved in the decision-making process).

It is undeniable that women and men are created different biologically but not in roles and functions.(Löffler & Greitemeyer, 2021) Women and men choose equal opportunities in society, but there are several factors that lead to the development of roles and functions between men and women.(Diehl & Dzubinski, 2016) As stated by Zuhdi (2018) in social life and social society, the difference in work owned by both is a necessity, the participation between men and women in managing the household is also different(Agung et al., 2022). The dynamics of the development of gender roles in society are motivated by several factors, including: the social environment of society, social structure and even stories and myths in the past to explain these gender differences.

Women are created with beauty and beauty as expressed by Jalil & Tanjung (2020) In general, women's nature is beauty, gentleness, and humility and nurturing(Vadaketh, 2012). Such is the image of women that are often heard around us. Anatomical and physiological differences also cause differences in behavior, and there are also differences in ability, selective of intentional activities that are purposeful and directed to women's nature(Dew, Ramesh, Read, Sarasvathy, & Virginia, 2018). Likewise, Ahdiah, 2011 (Darmawan, 2020) revealed that it has become a law of nature when a woman has a gentle, elegant, affectionate, beautiful, and emotional nature. Women are described as weak beings both physically and psychologically, therefore women are given different defense and treatment from men.

During this pandemic, of course, women who have the status of housewives have a bigger job than usual, in addition to taking care of the household, a housewife also has to accompany her child who is studying online / online, not infrequently a housewife also helps a husband in finding nafkan for his economy. Based on the phenomena described above, the formulation of the problem in this study is how is the dual role of a woman (housewife) during a pandemic? And what are the causative factors?(May & Perry, 2022)

## **METHODS**

discusses the dual role of women, in this case, housewives during the Covid-19 pandemic and the factors that cause a woman to have a dual role during the pandemic(Andrean, Adinugraha, & Surur, 2022). Data collection techniques are from journals and electronic articles that are relevant to the discussion in this study.(Moises Jr, 2020) The data obtained, processed and presented in an analytical descriptive manner to get an idea of the role of housewives and their causal factors.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

According to Soekanto, 2015 (Rostiyati, 2018) the role of designating as a function, adjustment, and process. This means that women are able to show their roles in accordance with their functions as wives and mothers in the household and try to adjust to the social and economic environment of the household. Role is defined as a process in carrying out functions and adjusting to the domestic and public environment(Sönnichsen & Clement, 2020)

According to Horoeopetri (Mustadjar, 2013. Kamila, 2020), Some role dimensions are as follows:

- a. Role as a policy, that is, the role in a policy that is appropriate and good to be implemented.
- b. The role as a strategy is the role of getting public support in access to decision making and concern at a well-documented decision-making level, so that the decision will have credibility.
- c. Role as a communication tool, namely the role used as an instrument or tool to obtain input in the form of information in the decision-making process.
- d. The role as therapy is carried out as an effort to treat psychological problems of the community such as feelings of powerlessness, insecurity and feelings that they are not important components in society.

The role of women in this case during the Covid-19 pandemic is very large, where mothers must provide more time and must be able to share with other tasks.

If elaborated, in this Covid-19 pandemic, the dual role of women in this case mothers includes centered on educational and economic functions. The function of education here is The pattern of

parenting children who are closer to the mother causes the mother to have additional tasks while the child is studying at home. The patriarchal culture that has occurred so far puts domestic responsibility on a wife who is also a mother. When the child studies at home, the task of mentoring is carried out by the mother. Mothers as parents who interact more often with children and do parenting, of course, now have additional duties as learning companions for children's Homeschooling programs while doing SFH (Study from home).

However, this creates a problem where with this educational function there are many things that are left behind because they have to divide their time, according to a survey from the Trades Union Congress (Sulaeman & Salsabila, 2020), working mothers in the UK lost childcare places during the pandemic, so they were forced to work and take care of children to the end of their means. As many as 3 in 10 of them said they had to work from the morning (before 8 a.m.) or late evening (after 8 p.m.) to balance work and childcare. As a result, some experts warn that the pandemic could set the situation for women back decades and increase the gender pay gap. The survey found that one in six women said they worry doing both childcare work will affect their manager's performance appraisal. Meanwhile, one in six women worry it affects their chances of getting a job promotion in the future.

If you are also currently an employee who must continue to work at home and do WFH (work from home), then you are required to be a multitasker. Become a companion for children's learning while doing their office work. For most people, this is a change that can be a new stressor. Accompanying a child in online learning, taking care of the house, husband and others sometimes makes a woman (mother) a little stressed. In addition, economic demands sometimes make a woman have to step down to help her husband.

Of course, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many challenges that must be faced by women, both career women and housewives. However, all these challenges can be passed well. When there are difficulties in managing the family, of course, there is an influence on work, and vice versa. This is the hardest thing that career women have to manage. Likewise, housewives when the economy experiences a downturn, they must be able to divide between accompanying a child and helping to earn a husband's income. So that at this time, women have multiple roles, namely in addition to being women workers outside the home, being housewives, women must also be able to be accompanying teachers for their children in online learning. So at the same time a woman must be able to do it simultaneously.

### **Next is the factor of occurrence of multiple roles is as follows:**

#### **Internal factors**

Internal factors are factors that come from within a person including motivation and personality maturity

#### **Motivation**

This means that a woman has a dual role as a mother as well as a worker not solely because of economic needs but because of motivation as expressed by Novari, et al (Zuhdi, 2018) mentions, women work certainly not solely for reasons of family economic factors that are so difficult, but also several other motivations, such as husbands not working / less income, wanting to earn their own money, Fill free time, seek experience, want to participate in the family economy, and there is a desire to self-actualize.

Because this motivation makes women more enthusiastic in working so that they have a dual role between family (domestic) and public. Therefore, dual roles are actually not a problem if we look at the value of complementarity, as expressed by Wibowo (2011), The discussion about women's discourse, which mostly revolves around the assumption of dichotomous sorting of domestic and public areas, turns out to have a lot of confusion. This happens not only to the traditional perception of the sexual division of labor, but also to the perception of women's multiple roles. It all happens because the domestic and public spheres are seen as two diametrically separated sides. In fact, if it were viewed as two points connected on a continuum, of course such a dichotomy would not arise. Between the domestic and the public is like between the home and the world. Home is also part of the world. It is impossible for a man and woman to discover the

meaning of his presence in the world until he finds the meaning of his presence in the home. Home and world are not two names of two types of space.

### **Personality Maturity**

Jamuati (2001) Personality is a dynamic psychophysical system that determines the peculiarities of individuals in adjusting to the environment. There are also aspects consisting of: intellectual aspects, drives, emotions and social relations. A person's personal maturity can be seen from the extent of maturity in the aspects of his personality, namely:

#### **(1) Intellectual Maturity**

A person's ability to think rationally and act effectively in adjusting to the environment is an indication of intellectual maturity. A woman who has intellectual maturity is able to reason and solve the problems she faces rationally. In addition, he also has skills that he can use to get around the difficulties faced in adjusting whether in the family environment, in the work environment or in the community in general. This maturity can be increased through continuous seeking and developing knowledge, as well as skills.

#### **(2) Maturity in the Encouragement aspect**

Impulse is a kind of inner energy that demands immediate gratification. Women who mature in this aspect will be able to suspend the fulfillment of needs that demand immediate gratification. In fulfilling what he wants, he considers the values he adheres to and sees the reality at hand. His behavior is patient and not impulsive.

#### **(3) Emotional Maturity**

The benchmark of emotional maturity can be seen from the extent to which a person is able to realize his emotions, control his emotional reactions, remain able to motivate himself in pleasant and unpleasant emotional states, able to understand others and be able to adjust himself to others. Women who are emotionally mature have emotional sensitivity to be able to live various types of sad, happy, moved, difficult feelings that exist in her. He can process and control these feelings so that the behavior he displays is not emotional. In cases where she is in a state of sadness because her child is sick or feels pressured to be treated unequally with men by her superiors, she is still able to maintain her work motivation so as not to reduce her performance. Women's emotional maturity is also reflected in their understanding of the feelings of others. He understands the offence that concerns a man's self-esteem when with his higher position women display attitudes that men perceive as arrogant. The woman, even though she feels that the man's treatment of her is not in place, she still shows wise behavior, in the hope that the man realizes his attitude, is willing to partner equally or compete fairly without feeling harassed by women.

#### **(4) Social Maturity**

A person who is socially mature in behaving is more other-oriented. Socially mature women do not display an egocentric attitude, namely an attitude of self-interest. She will seek efforts to prosper others, including men while still paying attention to the fulfillment of her rights as a female person.

### **External factors**

External factors are factors that come from outside a person. These factors include economic, cultural and environmental.

As stated by Zuhdi (2018) in social life and social society, the difference in work owned by both is a necessity, the participation between men and women in managing the household is also different. The dynamics of the development of gender roles in society are motivated by several factors, including: the social environment of society, social structure and even stories and myths in the past to explain these gender differences. The dual role of women will never be separated from the environment and culture because it is in culture and society that stereotypes are raised.

### **Economics**

Economic factors are one of the factors that greatly influence the dual role of a woman, this is due in addition to the need and the assumption that women have power as expressed by (Kusumawati, 2013) that in the family, women have the power or power to actively participate in every decision that will be made even though work as a tea picker has not been able to change the

family's economic conditions for the better Because the wages obtained from the results of work, can not help meet various kinds of family needs.

## Culture

The shift in values and culture opens opportunities for a woman to participate and participate in the public sphere, although by nature women should be in the domestic sphere, but cultural values that have begun to shift slightly allow a woman to play a double role as expressed by (Zuhdi, 2019) that the shift is the impact of women's participation in economic roles, So that it becomes an industrial society based on money oriented, this participation results in family conditions and community social relations, if they can respond and overcome problems that arise well, the effects of work participation become good, and vice versa if they cannot respond wisely it will damage family and social community relationships.

## Milieu

The influence of the environment on women's dual roles can be seen from the many demands that must be met by women both in the domestic and professional spheres. This can affect the balance between family roles and careers carried out by women, and can worsen conditions for gender equality. Some environmental factors that can influence women's dual roles include patriarchal culture, lack of adequate policy and social system support, and gender norms that place women in a lower position compared to men.

As revealed by (Braimok, 2017) that women farmers in Kenya face difficulties in utilizing information and communication technology to develop their agricultural businesses. One influencing factor is women's lack of access to technology and training as well as women's traditional role as housekeepers which limits their time and energy to engage in agricultural businesses. In addition, (Prabawanti & Rusli, 2022) revealed that family and environmental support can affect women's success in entrepreneurship in Indonesia. This article shows that the social support and human capital possessed by women have a positive impact on the success of women entrepreneurs.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the dual role of a woman during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased which was previously only in the domestic sector and work has increased into an educational and economic function which makes housewives stressed in dividing time between accompanying children and work so that it becomes a dilemma that must be prioritized.

Then there are factors that cause the dual roles of women to be divided into 2, namely: internal and external factors, where internal factors include motivation and personality maturity. Then external factors include economy, culture and environment including the availability of technology and family support.

## REFERENCES

- Agung, Iskandar, Capnary, M. Calvin, Zuhdi, Widodo, Sofyatingrum, Etty, Hidayati, Sri, Ahmad, Israr, & Iskandar, Mohd Lutfi. (2022). IMPACT OF LEARNING FROM HOME ON MENTAL EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS, PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING, AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: A CASE STUDY. *Journal of Management Information & Decision Sciences*, 25.
- Andrean, Rizky, Adinugraha, Hendri Hermawan, & Surur, Achmad Tubagus. (2022). Women's role in family economic resilience in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic according to Islamic perspective. *Review of Islamic Social Finance and Entrepreneurship*, 141–150.
- Dew, Nicholas, Ramesh, Anusha, Read, Stuart, Sarasvathy, Saras D., & Virginia, Virginia. (2018). Toward deliberate practice in the development of entrepreneurial expertise: The anatomy of the effectual ask. *The Cambridge Handbook of Expertise and Expert Performance*, 2018, 389–412.
- Diehl, Amy B., & Dzubinski, Leanne M. (2016). Making the invisible visible: A cross-sector analysis of gender-based leadership barriers. *Human Resource Development Quarterly*, 27(2), 181–206.
- Elanda, Yelly. (2021). The construction of an ideal mother amid the Covid 19 pandemic: Gender

- injustice experienced by career women while working from home. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 5, 24–39.
- Feagin, Joe R., & Ducey, Kimberley. (2017). *Elite white men ruling: Who, what, when, where, and how*. Taylor & Francis.
- Huang, Jianping, Zhang, Li, Liu, Xiaoyue, Wei, Yun, Liu, Chuwei, Lian, Xinbo, Huang, Zhongwei, Chou, Jifan, Liu, Xingrong, & Li, Xun. (2020). Global prediction system for COVID-19 pandemic. *Science Bulletin*, 65(22), 1884.
- Li, Ruobing. (2022). Fear of COVID-19: What causes fear and how individuals cope with it. *Health Communication*, 37(13), 1563–1572.
- Löffler, Charlotte S., & Greitemeyer, Tobias. (2021). Are women the more empathetic gender? The effects of gender role expectations. *Current Psychology*, 1–12.
- Maqsood, Aneela, Abbas, Jaffar, Rehman, Ghazala, & Mubeen, Riaqa. (2021). The paradigm shift for educational system continuance in the advent of COVID-19 pandemic: mental health challenges and reflections. *Current Research in Behavioral Sciences*, 2, 100011.
- May, Tim, & Perry, Beth. (2022). *Social research: Issues, methods and process*. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).
- Moises Jr, C. (2020). Online data collection as adaptation in conducting quantitative and qualitative research during the COVID-19 pandemic. *European Journal of Education Studies*, 7(11).
- Sönnichsen, Sönnich Dahl, & Clement, Jesper. (2020). Review of green and sustainable public procurement: Towards circular public procurement. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 245, 118901.
- Vadaketh, Sudhir Thomas. (2012). *Floating on a Malayan Breeze: Travels in Singapore and Malaysia*. NUS Press.
- Xheneti, Mirela, Karki, Shova Thapa, & Madden, Adrian. (2019). Negotiating business and family demands within a patriarchal society—the case of women entrepreneurs in the Nepalese context. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 31(3–4), 259–278.