

BASIC FEMINISM EDUCATION IN WOMEN'S COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

The Community Service Program (PKM) aims to strengthen basic feminist understanding among women through education. The background to this activity includes the relevance of feminism in the social context of Indonesia, where data shows that despite the continued increase in the national Women and Development Index (IPP), gender inequality remains significant in education, economics, and political participation. According to the Statistics Indonesia (BPS) (2024), the female labor force participation rate reached approximately 52%, yet the wage gap and representation remain high. This community service activity is designed to provide an understanding of the history, principles, and practices of feminism and to encourage women's active roles as agents of change in their communities. Qualitative methods were used: participant observation, data collection (literature study), and interactive lectures. The results of this activity demonstrated an increased understanding of the basic concepts of feminism, women's rights and empowerment, and awareness of gender stereotypes. Participants were also more motivated to advocate for equality in their communities. Recommendations include expanding educational outreach, involving local partners, and aligning materials with local wisdom. This program is expected to inspire an inclusive and contextual feminist movement in Indonesia.

Keywords: Feminism, Gender Equality, Empowerment, Community.

1. INTRODUCTION

Women are a crucial element in every social dynamic worldwide. However, throughout history, they have often been placed in subordinate positions, whether in the family, work, or everyday life. Gender inequality is a major issue facing women and has been the driving force behind various movements aimed at changing women's views and roles in society. Gender inequality remains a significant issue in Indonesia. Data from the Global Gender Gap Report shows Indonesia ranked 87th out of 146 countries in 2023 (World Economic Forum, 2023).

Gender inequality in Indonesia remains a significant challenge. Indonesia's Gender Development Index (GDI) in 2023 reached only 91.63, indicating significant disparities between men and women, particularly in education, employment, and health (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023). The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) (2024) also noted that gender-based violence increased by 15% compared to the previous year, with 79% of cases experienced by women in the domestic sphere. On the other hand, the National Commission on Violence Against Women (2024) recorded 338,496 cases of violence against women, indicating that public understanding of gender equality and feminism is still low.

In Indonesia, feminism is often viewed negatively and considered a radical movement or one that conflicts with local culture. Yet, fundamentally, feminism aims to fight for equal rights between women and men. One way to introduce and foster a deeper understanding of feminism is through increasing awareness within the women's community. In this regard, the Perempuan Ungu community is a platform that can serve as an arena for exploring and expanding knowledge about feminism among women.

Feminism, in its simplest sense, is a movement that fights for equal rights for women in all aspects of life. This movement addresses not only political rights but also economic, social, and cultural rights. Feminism aims to ensure that women have equal access to education, employment, and healthcare, as well as the right to determine their own path in life without discrimination.

Understanding of feminism among Indonesian women, particularly in grassroots communities, remains limited. Yet, feminist literacy can help women understand their rights, gain economic, social, and political empowerment, and the courage to fight against discriminatory practices. Therefore, this program was initiated to strengthen the capacity of members of the Perempuan Ungu Women's Community, a community focused on empowering marginalized women, single mothers, and the elderly in urban and rural areas.

This activity aims to:

1. Provide a basic understanding of the concept of feminism and its historical development.
2. Raise critical awareness of gender inequality in the social environment.
3. Strengthen community capacity to advocate for gender equality at the local level.
4. Encourage community members to apply feminist values in their daily activities and community management.

The Purple Women's Community is a community focused on empowering women, particularly single parents, children, and the elderly, founded in 2006. The purpose of this community is to improve the quality of life of single mothers in the areas of education, finances, mental health, physical health, and spirituality. This community has a vision of creating women, especially single mothers, who are characterful, strong, and independent. To date, the Purple Women's Community has nearly 300 members spread across various cities in Indonesia. This community's members are single mothers who support their families alone or are heads of households. According to Alexandrina et al. (2021), the majority of single mothers are divorced (71.9%), and on average, they have been single parents for 5-10 years. Furthermore, in terms of income and economic stability, the majority do not have a steady income or salary (as many as 80%) because most members do not work in offices but rather run family businesses or own small businesses or are self-employed. Many women in this community experience structural inequality but lack a theoretical and practical understanding of the feminist struggle. Therefore, this community service was carried out to open up space for dialogue and learning about feminism from an inclusive perspective.

Through various activity programs, this community strives to provide support and education to its members, as well as creating a safe space for women to share experiences and learn from each other, so that the purple women's community plays an important role in increasing awareness and understanding of gender issues in society with a feminist approach.

Figure 1. Several Webinar Educational Activities held by the Purple Women's Community



2. METHOD

The activities use a qualitative approach, including:

- Observation: Observing social conditions and the dynamics of community members.
- Data Collection: Reviewing gender inequality data from the Statistics Indonesia (BPS), the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), and academic reports.
- Interactive Lectures: Providing basic feminist education, complemented by group discussions and case studies.
- Joint Reflection: Exploring participants' understanding after the activity to evaluate the program's sustainability.

To implement the method, the following PKM activity processes and stages were carried out:

- Analyze the problem more accurately by collecting data and information related to the issue raised by the partner, namely the lack of education on feminism.
- Develop an activity plan with the partner through discussions involving administrators and community members via online meetings. The activity plan received support and agreed upon solutions to the problem.
- Develop the activity plan, then created in strategic planning matrix tables containing the activity's objectives, location, scope, roles of relevant parties, planned costs, success indicators, and post-education sustainability processes.

4. Create a technical implementation plan in a large table containing detailed time allocations. This way, all stakeholders can understand the plan, involving all resources in the management process, including planning, organizing, reporting, and supervision.

5. Implement the activities planned and agreed upon with the partner.

6. Evaluate, monitor, and prepare reports. The proposer will report on the results of the activity implementation and disseminate them, allowing for a comprehensive evaluation, discussion of sustainability, and development efforts. The dissemination results will serve as a learning process for other activities. Furthermore, the publication of scientific articles on the results of the activity at the national level will have a positive impact on the promotion of the partner's program.

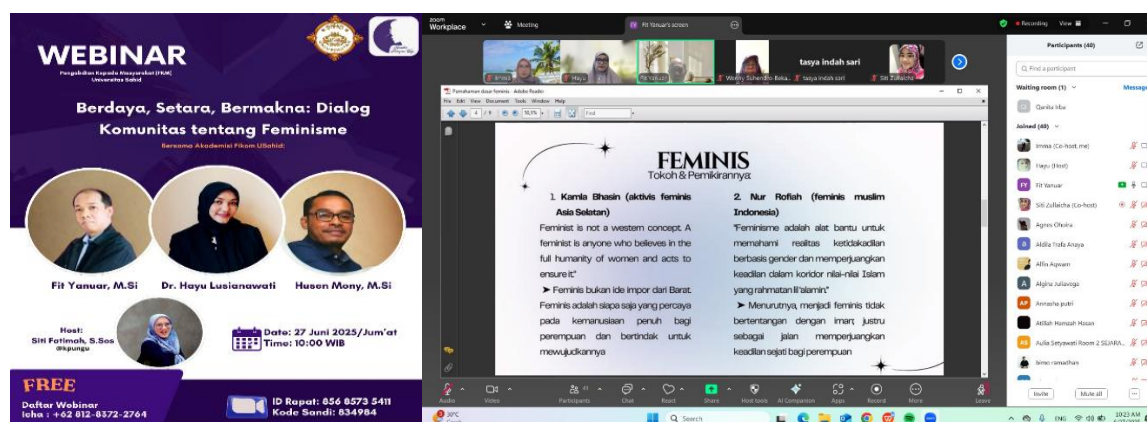
This partnership activity was conducted using a hybrid method (online and offline) in June 2025. Approximately 70 participants attended, consisting of active members of the Ungu Women's Community, the Communication Networking Community (COMMNET), the Family Education Community, the Mental Health Community, and others. The implementation method included:

1. Presentation: Three speakers delivered presentations on the following topics: "Feminism and Women's Empowerment" by Dr. Hayu Lusianawati, M.Si, "Basic Understanding of Feminism" by Fit Yanuar, M.Si, "Feminism and Social Media" by Husen Mony, M.Si.

2. Interactive Discussion: Participants engaged in active dialogue with the speakers, discussing their personal and community experiences and deconstructing myths surrounding feminism.

3. Reflection & Evaluation: At the end of the session, a quantitative evaluation was conducted through simple pre- and post-tests, as well as narrative reflection to determine the impact of the knowledge imparted.

Figure 2. Eplanation of Feminism



The Community Service Program (PKM) with the theme "Educating the Basics of Feminism" in the Ungu Perempuan Community focuses on five key aspects of understanding, measured by outcome targets, success indicators, and structured evaluation methods. These five aspects are:

1. Definition of Feminism

One of the main achievements of this activity is to ensure that community members understand the basic concepts of feminism. The success target is set at 80% of members being able to correctly define feminism, as measured by pre- and post-training questionnaires. This outcome is crucial for establishing a shared understanding of the meaning of feminism, so that it is no longer viewed with a negative stigma (Fakih, 2013).

2. History of Feminism

Participants are also equipped with an understanding of the historical development of the feminist movement. At least 70% of participants are expected to be able to explain three important events in the journey of the feminist movement, both at the global and national levels. Evaluation is conducted through written or oral tests, referring to historical literature on the women's movement (Tong, 2014).

3. Key Issues of Feminism

The next topic focuses on understanding the key issues raised by the feminist movement, such as equal rights, the elimination of gender-based violence, and reproductive justice. The target is for 75% of participants to identify and explain at least three key issues, which will then be assessed through group discussions and

evaluation sessions (National Commission on Violence Against Women, 2024).

4. Women's Rights

Participants were also encouraged to understand women's rights in various aspects of life, from education and employment to health and political participation. The expected outcome was that 85% of participants would be able to name and explain five key women's rights, which were assessed through presentations and a question-and-answer session. This understanding aligns with the Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Index (GEM) released by the Statistics Indonesia (BPS) (BPS, 2024).

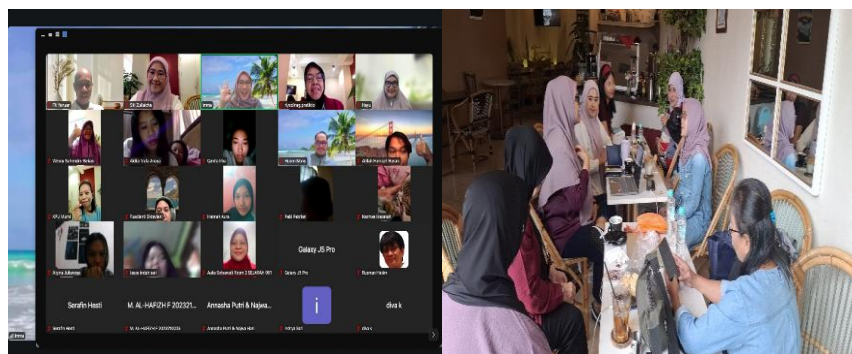
5. The Role of Women in Society

The final aspect was recognizing and valuing the role of women in various sectors of society. Through observations and interviews, success was measured by 80% of participants demonstrating a positive attitude towards women's roles. This is crucial for building collective awareness regarding women's contributions to social and economic development (UN Women, 2023).

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This Community Service (PKM) activity was carried out as an effort to increase feminist literacy among members of the Purple Women's Community, the majority of whom are single mothers, marginalized women, and community-based empowerment activists. Feminist literacy is important for building critical awareness of gender equality issues, structural injustice, and community-based empowerment strategies (hooks, 2000). According to the National Commission on Violence Against Women (2024), cases of gender-based violence in Indonesia increased by 5% compared to the previous year, with a total of 503,000 reports of violence, including domestic violence, online violence, and violence in the workplace. This demonstrates the importance of education and critical awareness regarding the concept of feminism in various levels of society.

Figure 3. PKM activities to Increase Feminist Insight which took place in a Hybrid



Resource person Dr. Hayu Lusianawati opened the session with an introduction to the basic concepts of feminism, understood as a social, political, and intellectual movement to fight for equal rights between men and women (Tong, 2014). Hayu emphasized that feminism in Indonesia has a unique context, as it is closely related to local culture, social norms, and the history of women's struggles, from the Kartini era to the contemporary women's movement. According to her, understanding feminist literacy is not only about theory, but also practice, such as understanding women's rights in the legal realm, access to education, and equality in the workplace (Nugroho, 2018). Participants were invited to reflect on their personal experiences related to gender inequality and how to address it through a feminist perspective.

Feminism as a Tool for Analysis and Empowerment, presented by speaker Fit Yanuar, M.Si., highlighted how intersectional feminism (Crenshaw, 1991) can help understand the multiple vulnerabilities experienced by marginalized women, such as single mothers who also live in poverty or experience social discrimination. Fit provided examples of how an intersectional-based approach can be used to identify the root causes of injustice and design more inclusive empowerment programs. He also emphasized the importance of integrating feminist literacy into community programs so that members have critical analytical skills, including understanding media bias, systemic discrimination, and unequal gender narratives in public spaces (hooks, 2015).

The final speaker, Husen Mony, M.Sc., discussed how feminism needs to be understood within the Indonesian social and cultural context. He argued that the success of the feminist movement in Indonesia depends heavily on the ability to accommodate local values while still championing the principle of equality (Suryakusuma, 2011). Husen also highlighted data from the Statistics Indonesia (BPS) (2023), which shows Indonesia's Gender Inequality Index (GNI) at 0.452, indicating significant gaps in women's education, health, and economic participation. The female labor force participation rate is recorded at only 54.5%, far below that of men, which stands at 83% (BPS, 2023).

The interactive discussion with him also highlighted the growing phenomenon of digital feminism on social media, where many women use platforms like Instagram and TikTok to voice their experiences, share education, and build solidarity networks.

This activity yielded several key findings and impacts, namely:

- a. Increased Feminist Literacy: Participants understood basic feminist concepts such as feminist history, feminist schools of thought, equal rights, participation, and empowerment. Participants were also able to relate these concepts to their social realities.
- b. Critical Awareness: Members began to recognize forms of gender injustice in their environment, such as discrimination in the workplace or domestic violence.
- c. Analytical Skills: Participants were able to analyze the phenomenon of gender injustice in their environment using a feminist perspective.
- d. Strengthened Community Network: An internal discussion group focused on gender issues was formed to ensure the program's sustainability.
- e. Recommendations for Real Action: Participants proposed follow-up programs, including advocacy training, digital literacy, and social media-based equality campaigns.
- f. Follow-up Plan: The community plans to hold regular discussions and establish a community-based feminist study group.

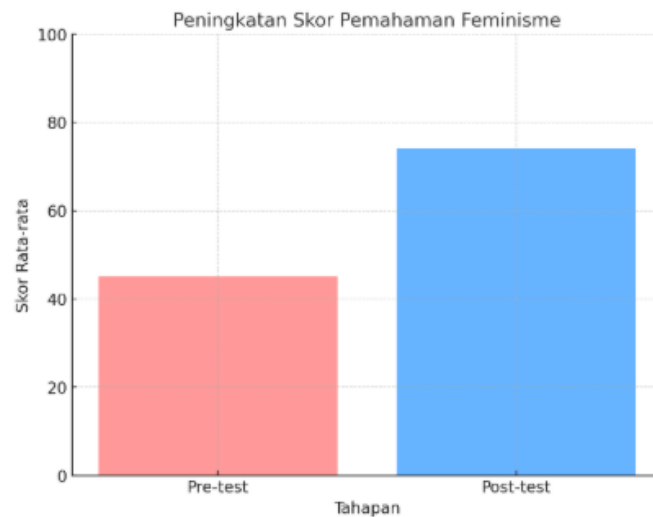
Table 1. Participants in the Feminist Basic PKM Activity

Information	Amount	Persentase
Total Participants	70 Participants	100 %
1. Peserta Online/ zoom	50 Participants	71,4 %
2. Peserta Offline/ tatap muka	20 Participants	28,6 %
Participants by age		
▪ 18-25 years	15 Participants	21,4 %
▪ 26-40 years	30 Participants	42,9 %
▪ 41-60 years	20 Participants	28,6 %
▪ >60 years	5 Participants	7,1 %
Participants based on background		
▪ Single Mothers	25 participants	35,7 %
▪ Activist	15 participants	21,4 %
▪ Academician/ Student	20 Participants	28,6 %
▪ Others (privat/umkm)	10 Participants	14,3 %

Evaluation Results

- Increased feminist literacy:
- Pre-test and post-test results showed an average increase of 65% in understanding of basic feminist concepts.

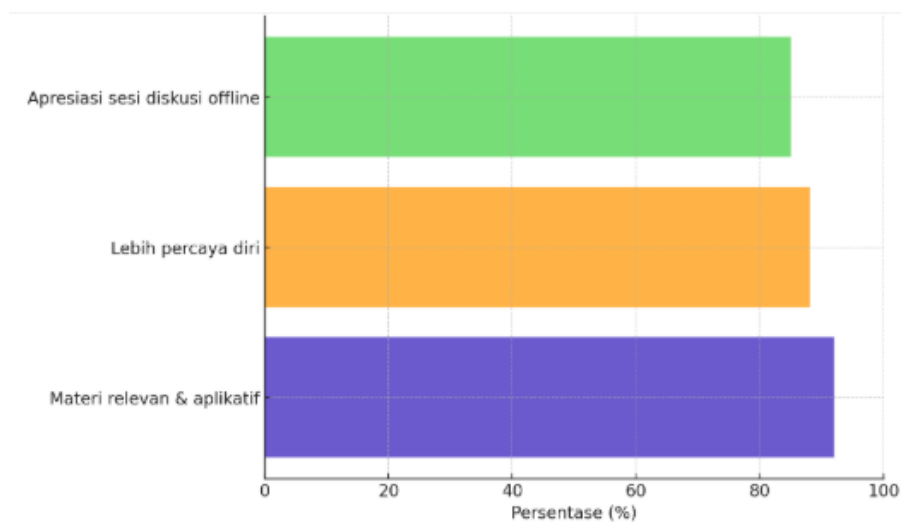
- average value pre-test: **45/100**
- average value post-test: **74/100**



Grafik 1. Improvement in Participants' Understanding of Feminism Scores

- **Feedback Participants:**

- 92% of participants stated that the material was relevant and applicable to their daily lives.
- 88% of participants felt more confident using feminist terms and understanding them contextually.
- 85% of offline participants appreciated the live discussion sessions with the resource persons.



Grafik 2. Feedback Webinar Participants

7. CONCLUSION

This activity demonstrates that increasing feminist literacy at the community level can be an effective strategy for strengthening women's positions in facing various forms of injustice. With a deeper understanding of feminist theory and practice, members of the Purple Women's Community now have greater capacity to play an active role in gender equality advocacy.

Through measurable success indicators, this activity demonstrated a significant increase in feminist literacy. Participants not only understood theoretical concepts but were also able to relate the material to their daily lives, supporting the formation of a more critical and empowered women's community.

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