PROCEEDING
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ON GENDER

“WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATISATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY ASIA”

27-28 April 2018  I Widya Graha Building LIPI Jakarta, Indonesia

Editor:
Kurniawati Hastuti Dewi, Augustina Situmorang, Widjajanti M. Santoso
PAPERS IN PANEL WOMEN, DEMOCRATISATION
AND FAMILY CHANGING (FAMILY)

Prologue ........................................................................................................... 231

An Exploration of the Modern Family in Indonesia
Jooean Tan and Premchand Dommaraju ......................................................... 234

Woman as Family Head: Changing Roles of Woman in Indonesia
Layung Paramesti Martha ................................................................................. 243

The Position of Urban Women in the Family
Dini Safitri ........................................................................................................ 251

Women’s Role in Father Involvement in Indonesia: Lesson Learned from a Digital
Ethnography Study on Ayah ASI (Breastfeeding-Supporting Fathers)
Prisilia Riski .................................................................................................... 259

Structural and Cultural Violence Behind Triple Talaq in Indian Muslim Community
Azza Bimantara ................................................................................................ 276

The Changing Family Value: A Representation of Indonesian
Muslim Women in Television Commercials 2013-2017
M. I. Qeis, Ahmad Faiz Muntazori, Nuruljatmi Amzy ................................... 288

Female Workers versus Family Leadership in Muslim Community
Ulin Naimah ...................................................................................................... 295

Productive Homemakers: the Lived Experiences of Women
as Social Media Entrepreneurs
Aulia Rahmawati, Ade Kusuma, Sumardjidjati ........................................... 310
THE POSITION OF URBAN WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Dini Safitri
University Negeri Jakarta
Email: dinisafitri@unj.ac.id

Abstract

A viral message containing prose about Mother as master of all knowledge is always circulating at the Mother’s Day. The prose describes the position of urban women in the family. Therefore, the author is interested in further examining the position of urban women in the family, whether as described by the prose or is there any other findings. Using a phenomenological approach, this study obtained four results. First, the position of women in the family, in demand more dominant than men to be more active in the pattern of child care. In fact, the role of father and mother should be balanced in parenting. Second, the position of women who take over the role of father in making a living, even though the father remains in the family and remains a companion of women’s lives. Third, the position of women who dare decide to divorce and take care for their children. Fourth, the position of women who succumb to the integrity of the household.

Keywords: Women, Family, Dominant, Child Care

Introduction

To get an idea of the role of mothers in the family, the author is interested to caption an unknown article, but widely circulated in social media. Here is the text:

The text that became viral at the time of the mother's day, is a text that has various meanings. If we analyze the text above with general 'eyeglasses', the text above tells the role of a truly noble mother. The role, obtained because the mother has done so many roles at one time. These roles, among others, are mothers can act as family accountants, chefs, teachers, pharmacists, nurses, doctors, psychologists, communicators, and many more. But if we examine in the eyes of gender, will be a lot of critical questions are thrown.

Among the critical questions that will be ejected, approximately is, the mother looks great can do all the roles. But, whether it does not make, there is an element of exploitation in it. The demands given to mothers so much. Then the father role? Why should everything be done mom? Does not anyone help her? Although there is a last sentence that invites to sing the mother, but still it's just an invitation sentence.

Calling sentence in the sense of denotation is a sentence that invites a person to do something. Usually the purpose of inviting, because it is still at least participate, so it needs to be invited and influenced to be involved. Thus, the invitation to love the mother, comes from the lack of awareness the children to love his mother. Or if in critical thinking, still the lack of awareness of the child to treat the mother properly. Whereas in a whole family, children not only have a mother, but also a father.

In the family also, father and mother have an important role in parenting. Why? Because the role of both will produce the same effect on the child's behavior. One of them is the child will experience the case as Diana said in Safitri (2017). Diana said that when the role of father in the family is lost, then it can develop psychopathology.

According to Diana, children who lost the father figure in the family, will be very vulnerable to victims and perpetrators of sexual violence. Therefore, Father and Mother must work together in the care of their children. This is because both have the same role in raising children.

Furthermore, Diana says that children should be educated in balance. From the father, the child will learn about the strength and also the wider experience. While from Mother, Children can learn about the softness and the details. The presence of father and Mother is important for the development of children's mental health. And also to balance the dominance in nurturing. But in fact, the high divorce rate that happened lately, make the role of father and mother become unbalanced.

Imbalances in the role of father and mother in child care, very visible to the urban community or urban community. Based on research Safitri (2017), found the result that the role of father
care in urban families, less in the family. This is caused by the unharmonious communication between mother and father around parenting. This also ultimately affect the style of parenting. And the worst result is that children are trapped into drugs and become victims of divorce from both parents.

Short case exposure above, background of the author to further examine, the position of women in urban society. This is due to the role of women in the care of children more. In addition, the author will also focus on the position of women in the family in urban communities. From that position, the author will make a model about the position of women in urban society.

Research Methodology
This research uses phenomenology approach. Phenomenology approach is the approach used to create a picture of how individuals interpret the phenomenon experienced themselves. This approach attempts to describe in depth the experiences experienced by individuals in their own views as research respondents. According to Cresswell (2014) the study of phenomenology, used to find out the same experience and has an important meaning or beneficial to a group. Therefore, the focus of phenomenology studies is to find out the meaning of the same experience of some individuals to interpret the experience in their lives. In this study, phenomenology is used as a method to describe women's life experiences as an important part of the family in Urban society. The study was conducted on eight respondents representing urban women in Central Jakarta. Women who became respondents in this study were trainees of family communication held by researchers. In addition, they have a role in the family is very influential and complex.

In Giorgi & Giorgi in Fuadi (2011: 196), phenomenology research aims to clarify the situation experienced in one's life on daily experience. The research subjects in this study had criteria (a) of married women, and (b) had children aged 1-10 years, and (c) lived in Central Jakarta. Informants in this study were 7 women selected based on the level of activity in the event of community service that researchers conduct. Technique of collecting data in this research is done by observation, interview and documentation.

The data analysis in this research is taken from Moustakas (1994) in Fuadi (2011: 197) which performs data analysis with procedure of data analysis and interpretation with the following steps: (1) The research is done by making a description about the researcher's experience on the research phenomenon, (2) The researcher makes the research question in the form of interview guidance with the aim to know how the informant experienced the phenomenon, and developed the list of statements, (3) Statement obtained from the informants grouped into units of meaning, then the researchers made a list of the units of meaning derived from experience of the informant, then write the textural description of the experience, (4) The researcher made a reflection based on the description of the informant using the structural description. In this process, researchers seek to find all possible meanings with diverging perspectives. This is done with the aim of enriching the framework of understanding of the phenomena, and making a description of the phenomenon, (5) The researcher makes the overall description of the meaning and essence of experience, (6) The researcher makes a description of the textural-structural based on the meanings and essence of the informant's experience, thereafter integrating all individual structural descriptions into a universal description of experience, representing the informant as a whole.
Research Highlight

This study highlights the role of housewives in the family. Housewives are known as mothers who do not work. In fact, the housewife's duties at home, no less crowded and busy. Housewives have the duty to take care of children, take care of the house, children, and husband. Domestic work is not easy work, from start washing, scrubbing, cooking, sweeping, mopping and preparing for the needs of husbands and children. In addition, housewives in the urban community, it has many social duties, such as being asked actively in RT or RW activities and active in school activities of her children. This social task becomes increasingly complex, if the housewife has been made a leader or chairman by other housewives. Housewives have a burden to take care of the environment and take care of their families. And the problem of housewives is also widening, not just about children, but also husbands and friends who obtained from social duties.

Research Result

Broadly speaking, seven informants described how the role and position in the family, accompanied by problems faced concerning family problems, especially in conducting family communication. From the description of the seven informants, the researchers obtained the results there are four positions of women in urban families. First, the position of women in the family, in demand more dominant to be more active in the pattern of child care than men. In fact, on the background of the problem, it is explained that ideally the role of father and mother, should be balanced in parenting.

Second, the position of urban women who took over the role of father in making a living. Although men who have father status also work, but tend to have a lower salary than his wife. And tend to have non-permanent jobs. It thus makes men as a complementary position in terms of funding to the needs of families, especially in financing the cost of children's and daily needs. The position of men as fathers, is still a companion of women's lives. One of the reasons, so that children do not lose the figure of the father is at home.

Third, the position of women who dare to make decisions for themselves and take care of children from the results of previous marriages. This woman decided to live independently and dare to part with the man who previously became her husband. However, they remain in contact with the man who became her ex-husband. Just to fulfill the demands of the children to stay in touch with their father at any given moment.

Fourth, the position of women who succumb to the integrity of the household. The figure of this woman is a woman who actually was tired of the state of his household. But he persisted, for reasons still love the man he had chosen as husband. And willing to sacrifice feelings for the man. Although he knew, his position was not comfortable in the household. But for the sake of a promise, this woman persisted in her household. Another reason is for the sake of the child, and for the self-esteem of the extended family.

The example is, when women are with their spouses, they demand a lot of women. So, if they are both inside the house, men tend to give a reprimand or criticism of something judged less than the person of his wife. On the one hand, the wife feels less receptive to criticism and criticism
from her husband. Due to the existence of such communication problems, make the atmosphere of the house is not harmonious. Not to mention the added problems of children, while at home. In addition to problems with couples, urban women also have problems with children. Especially in communicating his wish to his son. So that desire turned into a demand.

On the one hand, the demands given by the mother to the child, make the child take other action. Children also tend to be rebellious children, because they do not want to obey the demands of his mother. In fact, sometimes, children deliberately do it to see her mother angry. One of the behaviors that the child deliberately does is to be a difficult child to fulfill the five day prayer obligations, when at home.

And for families who are experiencing problems, or are in the process of divorce, children are not only troubled at home but also at school. As one of the respondents said:

“Children seem to know that their parents are in trouble, or are happy. My child, when my household is still okay, is a good boy and has never done anything naughty in school. But when I had a conflict with his father, he became a very naughty boy, even at school. I also became endless thoughts and crying. And finally, forced to give in, ”he said.

While urban women who claimed not to have problems with their spouses, also admitted to feel difficult to be able to remind children to study back at home after getting a lesson at school. In addition, many things the informant wants to his son, but he is difficult to ask his son to obey it.

The informant confessed that the demand was born from his concern for the various phenomena he received through social media. As anxious children will be addicted to the cafe, so they forbid children to go spend time playing to go to the cafe. Sense of anxious informants also aimed at the association of children with peers. The informant is concerned about the surrounding environment, which he thinks is very dangerous for the child’s personality.

According to the respondents, many of the behavior of children who are not good, can be from the environment outside the family, especially from peers who live in the neighborhood where he lived. So he forbade his son to leave the house, for fear will bring bad influence. Alternatively, be replaced with smartphones for children. But it brings new problems, namely children become addicted to games that exist on the smart phone. Moreover, she is a working mother so there is no time to keep an eye on her child while at home.

The informant’s concern for the environment at his residence may have a negative effect, also triggered by family communication problems caused by the role of father in poor care. Women who work, if at home are required to continue to take care of children, and pay attention to children. And when he came home to work, he also felt good. So the solution is to give a smart phone to the child. With purpose, mother can rest.

While women who have unharmonious communication in the household with a partner, often showing how they quarrel. And it’s done anywhere, can be in front of the child, even in front of the house, and shown neighbor. Sometimes these emotional outbursts are blasted also in social media. And the worst consequence is the divorce and family runaway to the drug.

For the drug case, an informant said that her husband is a drug addict and often shows injecting injections in front of the child. But he persisted, for reasons still love, relented and other reasons. While informants who dare to decide to divorce their husbands, also remain in the position of succumbing to the child, when the child wants to meet their father.
Based on the above description, the author makes a model of how the position of women in urban families. Their position is still in the position of the defeated party, although they are some who have separated from her ex-husband. In women who have a whole family, the position of women is the mother figure in the family and mother in the community.

![Diagram: Women's Position as Mother in Urban Family]

**Figure 1.** Position Model of Women as Mothers in Urban Families

The female position model in the picture above shows there are four beehives seen in an egg shell. The form of a honeycomb that intersect with each other, means that the position of women in the family, also mutually to each other. They are not just mothers who bear children. But within the rules of Indonesian society in general, Mother is also burdened with the duty to care for her child well. Within the rule, Mothers, especially those with school-aged children, are asked to pay attention to their children's activities, control child activities, and guide children into good children.

In running the various tasks above, sometimes there are a number of problems in communication. Mother becomes a figure that many rules, and to be a figure who almost lost the respect of children, because many words of mother who is not obeyed by his son. This happens because of the wrong way and the pattern of communication from the mother. Though the mother was trying to be a good mother. From starting to take care of the child's needs while at home, dropping off to school, taking part actively in school activities, trying to meet the children's needs for school and other efforts to enable children to perform well at home and at school. Therefore, the demands as a housewife, not only take care of work at home but also take care of the needs and affairs of children and husbands.

Meanwhile, the role of husband in nurturing, felt less by housewives. The husband only went to work to earn a living, while for the affairs of children and schools handed over to housewives. When the husband at home, sometimes not much help mother in parenting. If you are tired of problems with children, sometimes your husband does not care. This then caused a commotion between husband and wife.
This commotion sometimes happens in front of the child, so the atmosphere of the house becomes unpleasant. Children are also not comfortable at home. They prefer to spend time with friends, whether it’s a schoolmate or a playmate at home. Various conflicts and unpleasant situations and occurrences within the home, making the position of urban women in the family become difficult. When the child is in trouble, the most highlighted is his mother, but the best parenting done by the father and mother. In this case, women are still being oppressed.

The position of women as a mother figure in the family, not only as a mother who gave birth to children. But within the rules of Indonesian society in general, Mother is also burdened with the duty to care for her child well. In the rule, Mothers, especially those with school-aged children, are asked to pay attention to their child’s activities, control child activities, and guide children into good children. In carrying out the task, sometimes there are a number of problems in communication.

Mother becomes a figure that many rules, and to be a figure who almost lost the respect of children, because many words of mother who is not obeyed by his son. This happens because of the wrong way and the pattern of communication from the mother. Though the mother was trying to be a good mother. From starting to take care of the child’s needs while at home, dropping off to school, actively participating in school activities, trying to meet the children’s needs for school and other efforts to enable children to perform well at home and at school. Therefore, the demands as a housewife, not only take care of work at home but also take care of the needs and affairs of children and husbands. And the role of husband in nurturing, felt less by housewives.

The husband only went to work to earn a living, while for the affairs of children and schools handed over to housewives. When the husband at home, sometimes not much help mother in parenting. If housewives are tired of problems with children, sometimes her husband does not care. This then caused a commotion between husband and wife. This commotion sometimes happens in front of the child, so the atmosphere of the house becomes unpleasant. The child is also uncomfortable to be at home and prefer to spend his time when not in school with a friend. Various conflicts and unpleasant situations in the home, making the position of urban women in the family becomes difficult. When the child is in trouble, the most highlighted is his mother, whereas the best parenting done by the father and mother.

Conclusion
The role of women as housewives in urban families, has its own challenges. These challenges if not properly implemented will also cause problems in family communication. The results show there are four positions and challenges faced by urban women. First, the position of women in the family, in demand more dominant than men to be more active in the pattern of child care. In fact, the role of father and mother should be balanced in parenting. Second, the position of women who take over the role of father in making a living, even though the father remains in the family and remains a companion of women’s lives. Third, the position of women who dare decide to divorce and take care for their children. Fourth, the position of women who succumb to the integrity of the household.
Reference