

## THE MEANING OF FEMINIST ECONOMICS FROM THE BALINESE WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

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### ABSTRACT

This study as the aims to understand the meaning of feminist economics from the perspective of Balinese women. Transcendental phenomenology is used as a research approach through interviews with informants to reveal the meaning and reality of the Balinese women's life experiences themselves. The results show that Balinese women are economically independent besides being the housewives also have professions in other fields. Women work according to their dreams or willingness so that in working out with all their heart, work can give self-satisfaction. Balinese women have the right to have the ability to express themselves and to have the same position in every line of pride in their family. Working out-of-home for women is a major contributor to the family economy, earning income can also be useful for paying off the daily needs, health, unexpected needs and child education costs, which is a valuable future investment. In the eyes of the Balinese women community, there is a special award that boasts of the family itself. Today, Balinese women have the same position as men, wanting to achieve a bright future, so in every endeavor they have to be tenacious, diligent and reluctant to give up in the process of struggle to succeed. Cheer up and work hard as a capital to withstand all obstacles to get through. The meaning of feminist economics for Balinese women is the equality of men and women in economics.

**Keywords:** Feminist Economics, Family Economy, Balinese Woman.

### INTRODUCTION

The economy that upholds the principles of democracy can provide everyone with equal opportunity to participate in economic activities. Strength is needed to interact and adapt to each situation. The support of various elements of society is essential in equality of conditions for men and women in obtaining opportunities and human rights, to be able to play a role and participate in political, legal, economic, social and cultural activities, education, defense and security as well as to enjoy developmental outcomes. Men and women also have equal access to use of resources and authority to make decisions about how to use and produce those resources (Nugroho, 2008).

The movement of women is, in essence, a transformative movement to create better and new relationships between men and women. These include economic, political, cultural, ideological and environmental relations. Feminists are a movement for women to reject everything that is marginalized, subordinated, and degraded by dominant culture, in politics, economics or social life in general. Marital status, occupation, socio-economic status, socialization, gender stereotypes, and mental concepts related to gender inequality, Sarah (2016). Talking about feminist economics does not detract from the role of the feminist movement. The feminism movement arises because of a female mind who wants to be more open in developing her potential, given equal opportunities to men, and not always in

oppression and pressure. Feminists oppose the division of gender for work because there is no biological reason why women should raise children and do housework while men work outside the home to earn for living, making the wife dependent on their husbands good intentions for survival (Agger, 2014 ).

Feminism can also be said to be a movement for women to become independent in the economy. Women play an active role in the economic activity of the household, this can be seen from the participation of women in meeting household needs especially in the purchase of consumer goods. This is in line with Lakshmi et al (2017) 's view that gender is a factor that plays a very important role in purchasing decisions. Consumption activities are important for the survival of the population considering the importance of their consumption and must be selective in their consumption. Everyone should create a priority scale for their needs that are tailored to their income with the aim of avoiding income inequality by prioritizing their most important needs.

Balinese women are multidimensional women who play the role of family members, social members, family breadwinners and active in religious activities making banten (sacraments) for the holy day of Hinduism. Balinese is known for its strong tradition that almost every day there are sacred days of Hindu worship in worship of God Almighty. Balinese women are able to maintain the traditions and traditions of Balinese custom. The Hindu religious practices and customs of Bali are almost certain to be practiced by the majority of Balinese women. Regular Balinese work hard for example living as farmers, which in turn will help their husbands work in the fields and even raise livestock to help better the family economy. In addition to having duties in the kitchen preparing meals for the husband and children also carrying out the task of assisting the husband and performing religious ceremonies. Women are able to play a balanced role as both a housewife and a breadwinner for the family (Indrayani, 2015).

It shows the character of Balinese women who are tenacious, self-reliant, hard-working and highly committed to the family. They deserve to develop as a professional in their careers and dedicated to the family. But often, the heavy burden that most Balinese women bear is not the same as the rights they have earned. Although Balinese women have relatively little independence and freedom to get education and employment, this independence does not affect the sense of justice of the Balinese women's rights. Many Balinese women are also entrepreneurs to stay employed and work outside home. Financial independence is the most motivating factor for women to participate in social entrepreneurship (Yee et al, 2019). Thus entrepreneurship empowers independent women (Eib & Siegert, 2019). As well as other factors that play a role in entrepreneurship, socio-cultural factors, education, experience, personal and financial factors influence growth of female entrepreneurs (Nasir et al, 2019). Thus women's commitment to having the same job as men is important to do with all their heart. Understanding the meaning of feminist economics is important to study in the everyday life of Balinese women. With this exposure, the author seeks to understand the meaning of feminist economics from the perspective of Balinese women.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Feminist economics according to Nelson (1995) covers the role of gender in the economy from the perspective of liberators and works critically in the discipline of economic science. Women here, want to recognize their role in all fields not just domestic affairs but economic affairs outside their home. Essentially, the feminist economy of altruism means that it puts

others' interests ahead of itself. Similarly, Jennings (1993) argues that in addition to having an important contribution to economic development, the role of feminist economics also emphasizes equality and equal opportunities with men. Female worker participation has a positive impact on economic growth (Appiah, 2018). The opinion of Berik, et al. (2009) that the feminist economy has the goal that as a woman, they should maintain the same responsibilities as a true woman, manage a family home and also have the same gender equality and opportunities to gain the same knowledge and education as men. -Men. Feminist economics reflects the unity in human life in relation to the economic system that provides for human needs and analyzes the complex relationships between factors of production, namely capital, labor, land, and technology. Feminist economists have created a strong foundation for the desired economy (Togrul & Memis, 2011).

Kristeva (1994) stated that feminism is moving in waves. He said female subjectivity was related to cyclical repetition and monumental time (eternity). Both are ways of conceptualizing time based on the perspective of motherhood and reproduction. Time in history on the other hand is linear time, time as project, progress, arrival and so on. There are three waves of feminism according to Kristeva are as follows: (1) Egalitarian feminism demanding equal rights to men, in terms of their rights to obtain a linear place and time, such as liberal feminism and marxism, (2) The second generation is which emerged after 1968, emphasizing the radical differentiation of women from men and demanding women's rights to remain beyond the linear and historical times, such as radical feminism, (3) Third-wave feminism is the driving force of parallel existence that combines the three approaches feminism that allows individual differences to exist without losing its ideals, for example, postmodernism feminism.

This division creates the impression that this wave of feminism has a progressive narrative to position women not only within the domestic sphere, but also in the public, as do men. We can see in many fields such as politics, social, cultural and economic that women are now going public aligning themselves with men. In this research, study will be discussed from the perspective of the economic perspective of feminism. These perspectives are more inclusive of understanding the impact that men and women have on gender-based formulation than on gender-neutral policy responses to recession and recovery. Miodrag (2016) found equality between women and men in improving the lives of their children and their families and society at large.

Liberal markets expand the economy around the world, one of the biggest challenges is maintaining a more responsive economic system for all individuals within it, reducing socioeconomic inequalities, and breaking stereotypes that have kept women from engaging in Carvajal activities outside (2002). The feminist economy strives to achieve all of these goals, stipulating that in order to change the patterns of male domination in economic disciplines, basic economic units have been socially constructed by those who have the opportunity to participate in the public space, and their way into the decision-making model. The same treatment at work for men and women will help achieve a higher level of satisfaction (Marasinghe & Wijyaratne 2018). Thus organizations can facilitate the process of advancing women into leadership positions (Islam & Men, 2017).

The feminist economy by Sethi (2011) made a significant contribution to the understanding of gender equality. This essay has shown its relevance to the work of feminist economics in the context of globalization and development. Feminist economics has played a role in the analysis and recognition of women's contributions to society and the economy, the issue of

which has been ignored. The context of feminist economics is examined in this essay but only a small portion of the work done by many feminist economists is to contribute to the understanding of gender equality. In globalization and development alone these essays can be illustrated through examination of global masculinity, global chain treatment, macro and micro-economics, and so on. Future analyzes may consider the contribution of feminist economics to the understanding of gender roles in the 2008 Global Economic Crisis. However, the clarity of the information we conclude that feminist economics has made great contributions to understanding gender equality, but there is still a way to go between theories and practice. Discriminatory issues should be prioritized because women are also equal to men which means increasing their labor orientation towards gender sensitivity for women (Tiwari, et al. 2018). In every job you do, you will definitely get a reward for your work. Workplace compensation for female workers in the workplace will provide the satisfaction of encouraging their attitude to work better (Siahaan, 2017), as well as time management and motivation having a positive and significant relationship with performance among female workers (Kamaruddin et al, 2017).

In line with Toğrul and Memiş's (2011) view of feminist economics, it seeks to revolutionize economic discipline especially by incorporating multidisciplinary methods, methodologies and philosophies into the field. This article covers the many contributions of feminist economics, so much has been done. Feminist economists have dreamed big and created a strong foundation for their desired economy. The development of feminist economics is to bring together new literature and knowledge while pursuing a solid feminist pedagogy in the process of learning to teach economics without a doubt. These pathways will provide the exemption for bullying within and outside the education system and maintain social order and well-being at economic research centers. There are still major obstacles to overcome. However, these constraints can be used as motivation to build innovative ways to continuously revolutionize economic discipline. The economics of feminism directly or indirectly, play an important role for women who are housewives or those working outside the home. They not only take care of domestic affairs but they also deal with public affairs like men. The existence of these feminist economies has enabled women to further explore their capabilities to help men meet their needs and regulate the family's economy. Women strive to strike a balance between their work and family life (Nepali, 2018)

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study explores the meaning of feminist economics from the perspective of Balinese women who are involved in qualitative research (Moleong, 2012) by interviewing 15 Balinese women about their experiences in working in economics. (Creswell, 2014); Triyuwono et al, (2016); Indrayani & Musmini (2016); Musmini & Sirajudin (2016). Various professions were attended by Balinese Women who became informants. The information provided concerns the importance of knowing the equality between men and women economically, so that they continue to have dual activities as housewives and working women. Based on their expressions, it is important to support this research.

## **RESULTS**

Every woman who runs a business in the various professions according to her skills and the reason they struggle in that field. Here are some of the different renditions of the Balinese Women:

*"I've been working in accounting because since high school, I loved to do accounting stuffs so I wanted to jump into this field and make accounting as my profession".*

This means that a woman works in accordance with her dreams so that in her work to be done with all her heart, work can personal satisfaction.

*"Working in the field of manufacturing for different types of chips to be sold in stores and people, because my hobby is cooking and making chips".*

This woman trader has a hobby that not only satisfies her but is also economically proven by making her food able to raise the family income to meet her need for living. This activity is well worth it as a potential business opportunity with considerable profitability. This is where a strong, diligent and reluctant woman is required to give in to every struggle. With passion and hard work all these obstacles can go well.

*"According to my educational background, I work as a primary school teacher and I also have a husband who works outside home".*

Women who work in this field are well suited to their educational background which means that their ability to apply can be applied in the world of work. These women educators are responsible for educating each generation so as to produce an intelligent and capable nation's successor. The position of the teacher is respected in society as a stimulus and inspires his students to achieve their goals. In addition, they also serve as a bridge that conveys the knowledge they possess to achieve a better student future. As teachers they are proud to see their students go beyond their reach, as this woman has done something useful to everyone with her knowledge. This woman has the idea that equality in all spheres can be done in proportion to men. This profession shows that women can also work and earn a living for their families. That means there is no assumption that only men have the right and the ability to express themselves in the same way in every line.

*"I work as a tailor, I work in this field because I have expertise in sewing".*

In the sewing industry women have their own art. They use their patience to create tailor-made patterns that fit their customers size. Sewing is a continuous process of learning that will make your customers happy with the results, so they will come again to sew their next clothes. These women should also be careful in designing patterns that consumers are interested in. This is something every tailor must do. However, the beauty and versatility of sewing is an important thing that cannot be missed. Each tailor's expectations and challenges are of course the customer's satisfaction, which is reflected in the quality of the stitches according to the cost paid for sewing. It is expected that consumers will not be disappointed with the work they produce, thus consumers will eventually promote their relatives.

*"I work in people's homes as a housekeeper because my skills can only take care of and clean the house".*

The economic pressure required this woman to do housework. However, not everyone can do this as a whole. Special skills are also needed to make the housework so neat that the person who works is also satisfied.

*"I work in the trading industry, open a coffee shop in front of the house and sometimes when it is 2 a.m in the morning, I go to the next village to do trading for daily supplies, fruits and any kind of orders from friends like chips. Since I have been doing trading since early age, this all what I can do at this time".*

This woman has the skill at selling goods, either around the corner or in her stall. When selling goods in her stall, it is not necessary to carry the goods everywhere and only takes time

to serve the buyer all the time. This venture is ideal for women who focus more at home while taking care of their families. The business also uses part of the house so she doesn't have to rent a place. These housewives also sell in the market, with many people passing by trying to make a fortune to sell the goods. Therefore, this effort needs to be done to obtain the right income.

*"I work in education field because my family background is being teachers, so I'm interested in becoming a lecturer and have the opportunity to work on it".*

In addition to being a housewife, she also became a lecturer. This profession is done because the environment and previous education support it. At first, it was a very family-driven motivation but as time went on this job provided its own comfort. In addition to developing knowledge as well as a vehicle to enhance the vision of the community in attending seminars and other activities in accordance with the *"Tri Dharma Perguruan Tinggi"* which is conducted at all times.

From the various jobs that every Balinese Female does, it is very important to show her self-esteem and position in society. This statement was shared by several women:

*"Because women also need to be respected in terms of social status, and support the family economy by having a regular job".*

Respect from the public is also important with the goal of earning a decent respect. Women are not only capable of being housewives but are also capable of double working for the family.

*"I want to be respected by others and not want to be said to be dependent only on a husband because usually unemployed housewives are often considered having low status. By working, I can also help the family economy".*

This woman wants to dispel the notion that her status cannot be underestimated simply by being a housewife. This means that some people still think that even a housewife should have a side job to improve their social status.

*"I think because housewives also need to have their own income to not always ask from the husband, sometimes always asking the husband for money will make myself feel embarrassed or underestimated by my mother-in-law, by having a job, I can increase the family's economic needs. Even my social status in society will be more respected".*

This means that in addition to increasing their income, work can also raise social status in society. People will appreciate women who are capable of dual roles in the household. Thus, society will consider the woman capable and worthy of the higher esteem than the others.

These women give the impression that they have the freedom to act outside their responsibilities as wives and mothers of their children.

*"It's free, because I help improving the family's economy".*

Support is provided fully by the family in the sense that working can help the family economy.

*"It is definitely free because this activity is the source of our family's economy, so I'm the backbone for my family".*

That means the family has high hopes of supporting them to keep their jobs. If not for sure then family life will be disrupted due to the depleted economic resources.

The importance of working for a family is also the reason women have their own careers. This is based on the expression of some women:

*"For the sake of family economy to be warranted, in addition to the skills that I have, I also directly channel my skill and getting paid from it".*

This indicates that not everything in the business is valued with money. The evidence is that there are women who choose to work outside the home to prove their skills can continue to be economically empowered. In addition to earning money by working, you can also get your satisfaction.

*"It's very important, because I'm the backbone of a family to meet daily life".*

Making a living for a family is an obligation that must be met to fulfill the rights of each family. Working together can bring happiness to the family as the family is naturally dependent on the income they earn.

*"Yes it's very important because with my work, I can help my husband meet our household expenses and ease my medical expenses".*

In addition to meeting the needs, the income earned is also used for medical expenses. Family finances are carefully considered so that unexpected needs can be fulfilled.

*"It is very important that if I do not work, my family will be in trouble. By working, I can help my husband to fulfill household expenses, meeting my children's and parents' needs".*

This shows that housewives should work outside home, in addition to helping husbands in earning money to meet their daily needs, as well as caring for their own needs such as clothing, makeup and more. In today's World, if only a husband who earn the bread, the daily needs may not be enough. A woman should be able to make money in order to raise up the status and not just be dependent on her husband's money to buy her own need. If women is working, not only their own needs are fulfilled but they can give money to their own parents. Although not much, at least it can reduce the parents'burden. Therefore, a woman really needs to work outside the house whether she is just doing casual work or office work in order to make women self-sufficient in economics especially managing family finances.

Various views of women's equality with men in economics were also presented by each informant found. Here are some female expressions:

*"In my view, equality between men and women in the economy is legitimate, especially in facing the nowadays or millineal demands. On the one hand, women can also prove that they can compete with men in terms of economic well-being, the point is that all genders now prove themselves to be worthy of living regardless of their gender".*

This proves that in the millennium, women also want to live a productive life by working. Men and women today are in a position of one another, wanting to have a bright future. It does not mean that women lower men's earnings but career women want to reduce the costs that men later bear. Even, if a woman works, she never forgets their duties in the family.

*"When it comes to economic equality for men and women in terms of economics, looking at this era, women can have their own income in the family, because women also have to fulfill the desire for something, not to rely solely on their husband's income, so self-reliant women will be of added value in the eyes of society and may also improve the family's economy".*

Gender equality between men and women in today's economy is no longer a barrier, in the sense that women today are not just housewives but also play a role as breadwinners in the family as men. Considering that in the field if only one party is working then the economic well-being of the family will not be stable. In the eyes of the community women will have a special appreciation for the family itself.

*“I think that equality between men and women in the economy is very advanced, in today's era women should not always depend on men, because women should also be independent, by opening up business opportunities for example with PKK mothers”.*

Women are no longer considered a burden, but they have tremendous potential for economic growth. Therefore, there is no difference between men and women economically; even sometimes women earn more than men. This will open up female employment opportunities that contribute to higher economic growth.

*“Today's, women and men can pursue careers without regard to gender. In addition, to helping in the economy of women can also create prosperity, currently women have a positive impact on the economy”.*

Gender equality means that women and men have the same conditions and potential to contribute to national development and realize their human rights. This can be achieved without any discrimination in the opportunity to participate in any field. It has proven that many women have potential in various sectors including the economic sector. Women who already know the importance of education to get a better job. Appropriate support for women to work needs to be appreciated, so that every woman has a high level of confidence in her career.

## DISCUSSION

The feminist economy of Balinese women is very important and meaningful. This is reflected in the views of Balinese women as they are economically independent despite being housewives while Balinese women also work outside the home. They have the same opportunities as men to work. They work in different sectors of life for a variety of reasons in economics. This is in line with the opinion of Jennings (1993) who argues that in addition to having a significant contribution to economic development, the role of feminist economics also emphasizes equality and equal opportunities with men. She does not forget her role as a housewife who helps meet basic needs such as clothing, food and boards from the work she has acquired. They also contribute to the household finances like a working husband. Sethi (2011) also reinforces that feminist economics make a significant contribution to the understanding of gender equality. Similarly, Berik, et al. (2009) have revealed that the feminist economy has the goal that as a woman, they should maintain obligations such as true women, take care of family households and should also have the same gender equality and opportunity to obtain as much knowledge and education as possible.

Working out-of-home for women is a major contributor to the family's economy, earning income is also useful for the unexpected needs and costs of child education, which is a valuable future investment. This statement is similar to the expression that the feminist economy has created a strong foundation for the economy desired by Togrul & Memis (2011). Likewise, Miodrag's (2016) opinion finds equality between women and men in improving the lives of their children and their families and society in general.

From the results it can be concluded that the economic meaning of feminism for Balinese women is the equality of men and women in economics. The equality is now clearly evident, and the evidence is that women are not just housewives but can also supplement the family income. Men and women these days are in a position to be with each other, want to achieve a bright future. Women also want to have a happy life by working. Women are no longer considered a burden, but they have tremendous potential for economic growth. This will open up female employment opportunities that contribute to higher economic growth. It is with



Agrawal (2018) that women's status and the work they do are indicative of a country's overall progress. According to Ceperkovic & Šiljak (2017) who stated that working women can significantly influence the economic growth of one country. Appropriate support for women to work needs to be appreciated, so that every woman has a high level of confidence in her career. In the eyes of society women have a special award that boasts of their own family.

## CONCLUSION

Balinese women are economically independent as well as housewives also have professions in other fields. They work in different sectors of life for a variety of reasons in economics. Working outside the home for women is a huge boost to the family's economy, earning income is also useful for unexpected needs and the cost of child education that is a valuable investment in the future. In the eyes of society women have a special award that boasts of their own family. Appropriate support for women to work needs to be appreciated, so that every woman has a high level of confidence in her career. The meaning of feminist economics for Balinese women is the equality of men and women in economics. The equality in economic sector should be maintained and improved in order that women could expand their career and economic prosperity.

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