

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN BURUNDI, CENTRAL AFRICA

*¹FANY ANGGUN ABADI
²RIFQI ITSNAINI YUSUF

**¹Master of International Relations Study Program,*

Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Brawijaya Street, Bantul, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

²Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Peradaban, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: *¹anggunabadi1998@gmail.com; ²rifqi.itsnaini@gmail.com*

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Abstract Women can play a role in peacemaking and peacebuilding in real terms such as taking many actions, both in the political, social, and economic fields, including being involved in peace talks (negotiators), assisting the rehabilitation of child victims of armed conflict, bridging conflicting parties to discuss issues. However, the issue of peace and all efforts to make it happen are considered part of men's work. Thus, the role of women, in this case, is less significant. Women and children are the most victims when a conflict occurs. There are two characteristics of different views to be able to understand gender and conflict. The essentialist view is based on an ontology that states that the world is rule-governed, a construction view that is based on an ontology that states that an ever-changing world. The research method used in this study is a qualitative-descriptive approach. Data comes from various sources, such as obtaining the desired data through documentation studies and digital traces. This is an important force in peace, so women deserve to be called the agents of peace in its essence towards world security and peace. In the post-conflict recovery process in Burundi, women have an important and central role, namely as peacekeepers.

Keywords: Peacekeepers, women, conflict, Burundi, gender.

INTRODUCTION

Burundi is a country in the central part of the African continent. The country is bordered by Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. Since becoming independent on July 1, 1962, Burundi has only held elections in 1993. Burundi is famous for some of the chaos that existed there, such as poverty and rebellion. Between 1993-2003, more than 300 thousand people became victims in the civil conflict. More than 1.5 million people became refugees, and another million people became displaced in various regions and most of the victims of the conflict were women. Where peace operations initiated by the United Nations (UN) can prevent and restore conflict situations, but not the trauma experienced by women victims (Ben-Porath, 2006). This is where the role of women seems so significant that women can help alleviate the suffering of other women in a way that many peacekeepers (in this case men) may not be able to do.

Women can play a real role in peacemaker and peacebuilding efforts such as taking many actions, both in the political, social and economic fields, including being involved in peace talks (negotiators), helping to rehabilitate children victims of armed conflict, bridging conflicting parties to discuss shared issues such as access to clean water and advocating that the budget be prioritized for social services rather than for the military budget (Joanna, 1999). However, the issue of peace and all efforts to realize it are considered part of human work. Therefore, the role of women in this matter is considered less important. In fact, women and children are the most victims when a conflict occurs (D'Cozta. 2018). The discussion which later became quite significant in this regard was about the position of gender in an international peace operation.

One thing that is perhaps the least frequently brought up and discussed in any peace operations is the presence and role of women in the peace process and peacekeeping. The discussion which later became quite significant in this regard, namely what is the position of gender in an international peace operation? To aid our understanding of this, we will look briefly at the concept of gender.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. The Essential Approach

The essentialist view is based on ontology which states that the world is rule-governed and epistemological to open and identify world rules and systems. Essentialist thinkers assume that this thinking is based on philosophical ideas, in which any object described and defined is timeless and eternal. The essentialist view also assumes that gender identity is unchangeable. Gender identity and differences are seen as the result of underlying biological factors which then become important sources for explaining the differences between men and women in behavior, attitudes, and also thoughts (Skjelsbæk & Smith, 2001: Gender, Peace & Conflict, p.49).

In the concept of power (power), the essentialist position means something related to male power which means the basic nature of men. Gender then becomes a problem between nature and nurture. Thus, according to essentialists, all men are masculine, and all women are feminine in the sense that most individuals feel that there are certain fields that will only be carried out by men, and the role of women in them is considered insignificant.

2. Construction Approach

A very different view of construction from that of the essentialists. This view is based on ontology which states that an ever-changing world and epistemology to see change and the reality that is constructed. According to constructivists, an identity does not just appear, but is created through relationships in society through interactions between individuals. The interactions that occur afterwards will shape each individual's gender identity.

One constructivist thinker, Chyntia Enloe, also agrees, she said *“Conventionally, both masculinity and femininity are treated as ‘natural’ and not created. But today, there is increasing evidence that they are a collection of expectations created by specific decisions made by specific people,”* (Enloe, 1990).

METHODOLOGY

The research method used in this study is a qualitative-descriptive approach. According to John Creswell (2014), qualitative is a research approach whose process lies in the text and images in interpreting the data that has been obtained requires a researcher who already understands the subject. The data collection technique in this study is to collect the necessary data which comes from various sources, such as obtaining the desired data through documentation studies and digital footprints.

To obtain valid data from data sources, it is necessary to use data collection techniques used by researchers. Data collection techniques are an important factor in research because the main purpose of research is to obtain data (Sugiyono, 2010). The data collection technique that will be used by researchers is library research. Researchers collect data by examining literature in the form of books, journals, articles, papers, pages or official websites related to the issues to be discussed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Position of Women in Peace Negotiations

Based on the perspective of feminism in general, which is a series of thoughts that explicitly recognizes women who are subordinated to men. Feminism is aware of the division of roles between men and women which is a construction of society and is not natural or innate. Feminism is a concept that believes that women's voices are valuable, and women's voices must be represented by women as well (Azizah, 2017).

Views regarding honour and protection of human dignity show that characteristics such as race, gender, social position, and citizenship is irrelevant for discussion. This also implies that the rights are applicable worldwide (Retno, 2010).

Women must take part in aspects whose impact directly involves women, for example in the context of conflict resolution or war. Women directly receive the adverse effects of conflict, so it is only natural that women are also involved as important actors who officially participate in peace initiatives and peace negotiations and contribute directly to activities to maintain and maintain peace.

The belief that women's involvement in conflict negotiations will have a different, more positive impact is believed to be because first, naturally women do have an innate nature that is peaceful and loves peace. Second, women have gone through a different character-building process when compared to men. The biological character of men makes them tend to be more aggressive and have the ambition to dominate others. These characters are two characters that represent war. Not only that, but the tendency also to rape and conquer women comes from the biological characteristics of men over women (Palmer, 2000). In fact, the act of rape is often used as a weapon to paralyze opponents in war situations.

Furthermore, researchers also see that Burundi women make a major contribution to the post-conflict recovery process by acting as women peacekeepers. The role of women becomes even more significant after being directly involved in government which can make regulations for the good of women and children in Burundi. This role is a mandate given through the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (United Nations, 2005).

Like other regulations, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an international agreement adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and became a point against gender discrimination. This convention is considered as an international charter of rights for women. In gender equality all individuals have the same level of power and treat others with respect and consideration, regardless of their gender (Nelson & England, 2002).

This convention defines the principles concerning Women's Human Rights as Human Rights, norms and standards of obligations, and the responsibility of the state to eliminate discrimination against women

(Marsha A. Freeman et al., 2012). The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has three main principles, including:

- a. To incorporate the principle of equality between men and women into their legal system, abolishing all discriminatory laws and adopting appropriate laws prohibiting discrimination against women.
- b. Establish courts and other public institutions to ensure effective protection of women from discrimination; and
- c. Guarantee the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women carried out by individuals, organizations, or companies.

2. The Role of Women and Peace Restoration in Burundi

In 2004, the UN took over the responsibility of the African Union (AU) to encourage and assist the peace process in Burundi through the United Nations Operation in Burundi (UNOB) Peace Operation. Where at that time the mandate UN was in accordance with the UN charter Chapter VII namely supervising ceasefires, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration of former combatants, supporting humanitarian assistance and refugees, overseeing elections, protecting international representatives and Burundian civilians, assisting reform in the field of constitution, law, military and the police (Howard, 2008. UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars, p.317).

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno LP Marsudi at a virtual seminar with the theme “*The Role of Women Negotiators and Mediators in the Maintenance of Regional Peace and Security*” in which Indonesia continues to strive to realize the role and contribution of women as agents of peace at the global level through three main points. First, people’s perceptions need to be changed about women’s participation. Second, it is important to strengthen capacity to promote the role of women in building and maintaining peace. Third, it is necessary to build a network where ideas and experiences can become a place for exchanging thoughts and experiences.

The role of women in resolving conflicts and building peace is increasing, especially in multilateral political discussions. Referring to the

1995 Beijing Platform for Action which aimed to increase the presence of women in conflict resolution and decision making, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on 31 October 2000 by mutual agreement, which focused on the role of women in maintaining international peace and security (Mumtazinur, 2017).

In 2006, the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) peacekeeping mission ended with satisfactory results. The humanitarian operation in Burundi is one of the most successful because it has completed the task in accordance with the assigned mandate and helped create lasting peace. Of the many UN missions that have been carried out, the ONUB is the only multidimensional mission that has a short duration but can be said to be a long-term success.

ONUB's success in achieving peace in Burundi is inseparable from the role of women as civil society and agents of peace. After years of being sidelined from opportunities to speak for peace, Burundian women are finally getting a chance to fight for their right to vote related to the peace process.

Then the Arusha Peace Accord agreement was signed which refers to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which emphasizes gender mainstreaming. As for the signing of the Arusha Peace Accord agreement, a joint agreement was reached, namely:

- A. Their rejection and disappointment with the slow participation of women in the peace process.
- B. It is recommended to integrate Burundian women's rights into the Burundi peace process, including the implementation of legal mechanisms to eliminate gender discrimination and gender impunity based on war crimes.
- C. Set a 30 per cent quota for women's roles in government.
- D. Guarantee greater protection for women and children, including refugees.
- E. Guarantee women's rights to property, land, and inheritance.

Burundian women's rejection and disappointment with the slow involvement of women in the peace process shows how high integrity women have towards peace. This further adds to the general public's belief, especially men, that women also have a strong will and desire so that conflicts can be resolved as soon as possible.

Another role of Burundian women in efforts to create peace in their country is to advocate for the integration of Burundian women's rights into the Burundian peace process, including the implementation of legal mechanisms to eliminate discrimination based on sex and gender immunity based on war crimes. Women are often victims of war and suffer the most because they experience depression not only mentally but also physically. What's interesting about the role of women in the peacebuilding process in Burundi is that they can mobilize other women in their country to participate in development by establishing women's institutions and forums in Burundi that are able to advocate for women's human rights, gender equality and contribute to the constitution. The role of women in this incident was not only as a victim, but also as one of the main actors in the massacre. They collaborated with the rebels and participated in several torture activities. In their role as peacebuilding agents, women play a major role in several key areas. Among them in the field of Politics, Social and Economics.

Not only in the social realm, but in the political realm where women can elevate the role to be more optimal to create peace. Giving a 30 per cent quota for women to be involved in government has also become an important instrument in creating peace and conflict resolution in Burundi. Through the government, Burundi women try to raise the dignity that may have faded during the long journey of civil conflict in their country. Various bills were drafted to guarantee protection for women and children in Burundi so that they have an equal and important role with men in all fields without gender discrimination. Furthermore, women do not only play their roles in the home and social environment, but also in government. This confirms that the role of women is not only as a victim of conflict, but their role is far greater as an agent of peace.

Based on an analysis from UN Women, of the 1,187 peace agreements in 1990-2018, women only made up 3 per cent of the mediators; 13 per cent of negotiators and 5 per cent of witnesses and signatories in all recorded peace processes. This number certainly needs to be increased because women can play a key role in maintaining peace through their roles in the economic, social, and cultural fields. According to UN Women statistics, women's representation can guarantee the sustainability and increase the quality of peace agreements by 35 per cent; Peace agreement outcomes generally last 15 years longer than before the presence of women in the peace process. and the terms of the agreement covering political reform and development are 40 per cent higher. The special role played by female peacekeepers is believed to have the potential to complement humanitarian roles, particularly in communicating with women and children (Firohmatillah et al. 2019).

Basically, there are three main factors that influence each person's negotiating style, including character/traits/personality, culture, and gender. In the negotiation model, women are considered more cooperative while men are more competitive. Women negotiate based on justice for both parties, while men negotiate to win (Dobrijevic, 2014). There are five differences in the negotiation model based on gender, namely:

- A. In the context of negotiation, women are more focused on relationships while men are on tasks.
- B. Women and men have different communication styles. Men focus on position while women focus on personal information and emotions.
- C. There are some facts on the ground that prove that women are often treated worse than men in negotiations.
- D. Using the same tactic often leads to different results, between men and women. Women who use exchange tactics are often not as successful as men.
- E. Stereotyping of gender will affect the negotiator's performance in negotiations. Generally, negotiators will act according to the stereotypes they believe.

CONCLUSION

UN peacekeeping operations help conflict-torn countries create conditions for lasting peace. Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the UN's most effective tools in helping host countries achieve peace. Women's participation then becomes a very representative issue and can add a gender perspective to the main content of negotiations, and the role of women in peace building is multidimensional in the sense that women can contribute greatly to social, cultural, and economic recovery, condition, and political issues. Situation after conflict this is an important force for peace, so that women deserve to be called agents of peace who are embedded in the field of global security and peace.

In the post-conflict recovery process in Burundi, women play an important and central role, especially as peacekeepers. The existence of Burundian women is important because of the 30 per cent quota for women in government, which can set rules that prioritize women and children, especially after the war. The existence of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 provides legitimacy for the formation of female peacekeeping forces who have never been involved, especially after conflict.

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