



Wives' Independence and Responsibility for Children's Education in Aceh

Muliana^{1*}, Abdul Aziz², Fathimah³

¹Physics Study Program, Universitas Serambi Mekkah Banda Aceh, Aceh, Indonesia

²Finance And Banking Study Program, Akademi Keuangan Perbankan Nusantara Aceh Timur, Aceh, Indonesia.

³Family Law Study Program, STIS Dayah Amal. Aceh Timur, Aceh, Indonesia

*muliana@serambimekkah.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This research aimed to examine the independence and responsibility of wives in children's education in Aceh, which is influenced by local social, economic, and cultural factors. The role of the wife in the family is often debated by traditional norms in Acehnese society, which are related to the importance of the wife in children's education. This research aimed to find out how independent wives express their opinions regarding their children's education and their responsibility to help the children's educational development. The study method was carried out using a qualitative approach with a focus on case studies, data was collected through participant observation and in-depth interviews. The study findings showed that, although there has been some improvement in the development of self-control, the main factors influencing children's behavior are social and cultural. The wife's responsibilities can be seen more clearly in the aspect of mentoring children's education and daily supervision of the mentoring aspect. This study shows that although wives' independence and responsibility for Acehnese education are important factors in improving the quality of children's education, a more comprehensive social structure is still needed. These findings highlight the importance of improving wives' ability to raise children through policy and increased community awareness.

Keywords: *autonomy, wife's responsibility, child education, gender roles in Aceh*

1. INTRODUCTION

The role of women in the family, especially in the context of children's education, is a topic that has received a lot of attention in gender and education studies (Abdullah, 2019; Amaroh, et al. 2024). In Aceh, one of the regions that has special autonomy in implementing Islamic law, the role of the wife as the main caregiver in the family is not only a normative obligation but is also influenced by Islamic religious values, customs in society, and the local culture of the Acehnese people (Hasan, 2020). Acehnese women are not only responsible for serving their husbands in domestic life but also play a role in the education and moral development of their children independently so a wife is required to show independence in various aspects, to support the best education of her children (Sari, 2021; Mujiburrahman, et al. 2024).

Historically, the role of wives in Aceh in children's education is characterized by traditional views that place men as the head of the household and main breadwinners, while women, especially wives, are responsible for household affairs including children's education at home (Mujiburrahman, et.al. 2024); (Zamzami, 2018). However, along with the social and economic changes that have occurred over the last few decades, the role of the wife has undergone a significant transformation. Many wives in Aceh now act as breadwinners, both formally and informally, which allows them to become more economically independent and take a greater role in decision-making regarding their children's education (Nashrullah, 2022). This independence is often closely related to the education they provide to their children, especially in terms of access to better educational resources.

Children's education is a shared responsibility between the husband and wife's families. However, in many cases, Aceh plays a more dominant role in raising children and informal education, especially in moral and religious aspects (Firdaus, 2020; Syaridin et al., 2024). As time goes by and progress in the field of education, more and more Acehnese women are realizing the importance of educating their children independently and responsibly, even though in many cases they are still bound by a patriarchal social structure that places men as the main authority figures in government (Kurniawan, 2019; Ariftha & Azhar, 2023) and at home (Maulana, 2021).



In Aceh, religion-based education places great emphasis on the role of mothers in teaching Islamic values to children, which is often considered the main foundation in forming children's character (Safitri, 2019).

The approach used in this research is qualitative, which aims to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics of wives' independence and responsibilities in households in Aceh and how this role is translated into childcare situations. This study also explores how local religious and cultural values influence the way wives raise children and how they carry out their roles in the face of rapid social change.

Various previous studies show that women's independence in the family has a significant impact on children's education (Bakar, 2018; Subasman et. al. 2023). On the one hand, wives who have economic independence are better able to provide better educational resources to their children, such as access to books, educational tools, and quality educational institutions (Rahmah, 2020). On the other hand, the wife's moral responsibility in raising children, especially in teaching religious values and social ethics, also plays a very important role in shaping children's character (Zubaidah, 2017). In the context of Acehnese society, where religious norms are very strong, wives are expected to act not only as physical caregivers but also as primary spiritual teachers for their children.

This research will make a significant contribution to understanding gender roles in children's education in Aceh, especially in the context of wives' independence and responsibilities. By examining these dynamics, it is hoped that more effective strategies can be found to support the role of wives in raising children and strengthen educational policies based on family empowerment. Apart from that, this research will also focus on the challenges faced by wives in Aceh in carrying out their role as main educators in the household, especially in the context of a patriarchal culture that is still deeply rooted (Rizki, 2019).

In general, this research aims to study three main things. First, the independence of wives in Aceh influences the formation of children. Second, it has an impact on the development of children's nature as it is women's responsibility in children's education, especially in moral and religious aspects. Third, his wife's independence and responsibility interact with cultural and religious norms in Aceh. Therefore, it is hoped that this research can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the role of wives in their children's education in Aceh and can be used as a guide in developing more inclusive and sustainable education policies.

Based on the description of the problem above, the basis for this research is how independent and responsible the wife is in children's education in Aceh, and how the wife contributes as the main caregiver at home. This is important considering that the mother's role as the child's primary educator is not only visible in formal environments such as school.

2. METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method to gain an in-depth understanding of wives' independence and responsibilities in caring for children in Aceh. Qualitative research was chosen because it can explore in detail the views, experiences and meaning that wives give to their role in raising children, especially in the social and cultural context of Aceh which is strongly influenced by religious norms

2.1 Location and Research Subjects

This research was conducted in two main locations, namely Aceh Besar Regency and Banda Aceh City. The choice of this location was based on the socio-cultural representation of the Acehnese people, and the strong influence of religion, which plays an important role in family structure and children's education. The research subjects were 20 women who had children from schools selected based on the target sample. The themes raised come from various social and economic perspectives to capture various opinions regarding women's independence and responsibility regarding children's education.

2.2 Data Collection Instruments



Data was collected through in-depth interviews and participant observation. Interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner, guided by open questions designed to explore the wife's experiences regarding her role in children's education, both aspects of economic independence and moral responsibility. Key questions asked include: (1) What is the wife's role in educating children at home, especially in terms of religious and social values (2) To what extent does a wife's economic independence affect her children's education, (3) What challenges do wives face when fulfilling responsibility for caring for children in the context of patriarchal culture in Aceh. Furthermore, participation was observed within six months, and researchers directly observed the interaction schemes and educational practices implemented by women in the family environment.

2.3 Data Analysis

The data obtained was analyzed using the theme analysis method. This allows researchers to identify the main subjects from interview and observation data. The analysis process involved several steps: (1) interview transfer, (2) reading and understanding the data in general, (3) initial coding to determine the model or category, (4) main subject, and (5) data interpretation.

During the analysis process, the researchers triangulated the data by comparing the results of interviews and observations and discussed the results with several research participants to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. The results of this analysis are categorized into several main themes, such as wives' economic independence, moral responsibility in raising children, and socio-cultural challenges faced by wives in Acehnese society.

2.4 Data Reliability

To maintain the reliability and reliability of the data, this research applies a triangular survey strategy in both sources and methods. Source triangulation was carried out by comparing interview data with observation data, while method triangulation was carried out using different data collection methods (interviews and observations) to ensure consistency of results, and validity checking was carried out by cross-checking with the subject (member check) their interpretation. Data to avoid researcher bias.

By using this method, this research aims to comprehensively explore the role of wives' independence and responsibility in raising children in Aceh and understand the social dynamics that influence this role.

3. RESULTS

This study identified two main themes related to wives' independence and responsibility in children's education in Aceh: (1) wives' economic independence and (2) moral responsibility in children's education.

3.1 Wife's Economic Independence

Most respondents indicated that their wives' economic independence made a significant contribution to their children's education. Women who work and have their income tend to give their children the best access to educational resources. For example, capital (45) explained:

“My income from selling cakes means I can buy books and stationery that the children need at school. I am more confident in supporting their education.”

Based on interview results, 70% of respondents who work have the best academic achievements compared to women at home who are completely dependent on their husbands. This shows that there is a positive relationship between economic independence and children's school results.

3.2 Wives' Moral Responsibility for Children's Education

My wife's moral responsibility in educating children is also an important factor. The wife plays an active role in instilling religious and ethical values in her children. The interview results showed that almost 85% of the interviewees believed that the moral and religious education they received from their partners had a significant impact on their children's personalities and behavior. For example, Farida (38) said:



"I always try to teach my children the importance of honesty and discipline. I am sure these values will help them in the future.

The informal education that the wife receives at home, including religious teachings, religious practices, and character education, is considered more influential than the formal education she receives at school. Respondents reported that children who receive moral guidance from their mothers tend to behave well in society.

3.3 Challenges Faced by Wives in Aceh

Although many wives try to support their children's education, they also face various challenges. Some wives express difficulties in balancing work and domestic responsibilities, which can reduce the time they can devote to raising their children. For example, Yuni (32) noted:

"I often feel tired after work, and sometimes it's hard to focus on helping the kids with their homework."

Other challenges include the social stigma against working wives, where society often still views the wife's main role as being at home. However, despite facing these challenges, these wives remain committed to carrying out their role in their children's education.

4. DISCUSSION

The results of this research show that in Aceh, the wife's independence and responsibility for children's education play a very important role in shaping children's personalities and academic abilities. Wife independence, which is often realized in the form of economic independence, is very useful in providing adequate educational resources such as books and stationery, as well as providing access to quality educational institutions. This is by previous research which shows that mothers' economic independence has a positive effect on children's education (Abdullah, 2019; Safitri, 2020).

A wife's independence does not only include financial independence but also independence in making decisions regarding her child's education. In Aceh, where patriarchal values are deeply rooted, wives often face difficulties in carrying out this role. However, research results show that wives who have a higher level of education tend to be more independent in determining the direction of their children's education. They not only act as educators at home but are also actively involved in choosing the right school and teaching methods for their children. Furthermore, their responsibility for their children's education in Aceh can be seen from the way they teach moral and religious values. Home education they provide is not only limited to formal subjects but also includes the teaching of religious values. Religious values and social ethics. This is especially important in the Acehese context, where religious education is highly valued and considered the basis for forming children's character. This research found that wives who are proactive in teaching religious values contribute to children's moral development, which has implications for their social behavior and attitudes in society.

However, despite their important role in terms of independence and responsibility, they still face challenges, such as being trapped by social norms that limit their roles in the family and society. In some communities, there is an opinion that children's education is entirely the husband's responsibility, which leads to fraudulent division of roles. Therefore, it is important to provide training to the community about the importance of the role of wives in children's education and support the implementation of initiatives in the field of children's education.

Understanding the importance of wife independence, education policy in Aceh must focus more on increasing access to education for women and economic empowerment programs. These programs can help women become more financially independent and provide the moral support necessary to serve effectively as educators at home.

Overall, this research confirms that a wife's independence and responsibility in raising children is not only an individual responsibility, but is also related to social support, culture and government policies. Recognizing and strengthening the wife's role in raising children will have a positive impact not only on the family but also on society as a whole.



The results of this research show that the independence of wives in Aceh has a fairly large role in children's education. This independence is not only economic, but also contains moral and social aspects which have a direct impact on the education scheme used by the family. In the Acehnese cultural context, where religious values and social norms have a strong influence, the role of the wife as the main teacher in the house is very important.

Economic Independence and Children's Education

It turns out that the wives' economic independence in Aceh is an important promotional factor in supporting children's education. This research shows that a wife with her income can better provide for educational needs, such as books, stationery, and access to additional courses. This is in line with research conducted by Abdullah (2019) and Fadhli et al. (2023) which shows that economic independence strengthens women's position in the household and allows them to play a more active role in their children's education process.

Becoming financially independent also allows wives to make bolder educational decisions, such as choosing schools that meet their children's needs and provide additional support beyond the formal curriculum. This shows that financial support obtained through economic independence has a positive impact on children's academic development.

Moral Responsibility in Education

Apart from the economic aspect, wives' moral responsibility in children's education is also very important. This research shows that wives play a central role in instilling religious and ethical values in children. Most respondents emphasized that they taught their children the values of kindness, discipline, and responsibility from an early age. This process does not only include homeschooling but also involves active participation in the community, for example by inviting children to take part in recitation activities and religious events. The presence of these values in the education of Acehnese children is greatly influenced by the strength of their cultural and religious background. As stated by Safitri (2020), teaching religious values at home is an important foundation for building children's character so that they grow into responsible and ethical individuals. This study confirms that wives' moral autonomy in raising children contributes not only to formal education but also to lasting character development.

Issues of Independence and Responsibility

Although wives' independence and responsibility are very important, this research also found problems they face in the role of teacher. The normative patriarchy that still dominates Acehnese society often limits wives' freedom of movement in decision-making, especially those related to children's education. Wives often have to negotiate educational opportunities with their husband, which can make them feel less powerful.

However, many wives successfully overcome these challenges and become more financially and socially independent. Several respondents shared their experiences of how they became involved in entrepreneurship and community organizations that support women and grew more confident in their roles as educators in their homes.

The findings of this research have important implications for education policy in Aceh. Efforts are needed to strengthen their economic independence, including through increasing access to training and financial resources. In addition, to create an environment that encourages children's growth and development, it is necessary to strengthen systems that support women's participation in caring for children at home and in the community.

Overall, the wife's independence and responsibility for caring for children in Aceh is not only influenced by economic aspects, but also by the moral and social values that develop in society. It is expected that this research can provide input for other research and policies that support expanding the role of wives in raising children.



4. CONCLUSION

This research highlights the role of wives' independence and responsibility in children's education in Aceh, which is an area with unique social and cultural characteristics. From the results of the analysis, several conclusions can be drawn as follows:

1. A wife's financial independence plays an important role in improving the quality of children's education. A wife who has a job or owns a business can provide better access to education for her children, both in terms of educational materials (books, stationery, access to quality educational facilities, etc.) and moral support during the learning process. This shows that financial independence not only improves the economic situation of families but also leads to better education for their children.
2. A wife's responsibility in educating children does not only include academic aspects but also moral and religious education. In Aceh, which adheres to Sharia values, wives play an important role in passing on religious values to their children. This process is the basis for forming their personalities and preparing them to become responsible and moral human beings.
3. Acehese wives play an important role in their children's education but also face serious challenges. Strong patriarchal structures often limit wives' freedom to contribute to their children's education and freedom of movement. However, many wives have succeeded in overcoming this challenge by making innovations in their children's education, including utilizing communities and social media to support their children's education.
4. This research recommends that education policy in Aceh pay more attention to the role of the wife as the main educator in the household. Programs to train and increase the educational capacity of wives, as well as support for their economic independence, need to be improved. Apart from that, involving wives in decision-making regarding children's education is also important to create a more inclusive and effective educational environment.
5. The findings of this study not only deepen our understanding of the role of wives' independence and responsibility in their children's education in Aceh but also open the door to further discussion regarding the role of gender in education. In Aceh, a region with a deeply rooted patriarchal culture. It is hoped that this research can be mentioned in additional research in other areas that have similar social contexts and the role of education in other areas.

Overall, this research highlights the importance of wives' independence and responsibility in raising children in Aceh and how this can be a key factor in producing a future generation of quality, ethics, and character.

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