

Progress towards Gender Equality: A Study of Women in Indonesia

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Abstract

Indonesia presents itself as an example of a diverse multi-cultural state struggling to adapt to the progressive currents of liberalism and modernity concerning women rights. The present study seeks to trace this arduous journey from the colonial times till today beginning from the valiant attempts by first-generation gender warriors like the legendary Kartini till the “3Ends” policy of the present government few years back. Despite the fact that Indonesia has outflanked its competitors in the regional South East Asian theatre, its progress on gender equality has stagnated because of numerous constraints. The study seeks to identify and analyse these complex challenges that inhibit the efforts of Indonesian women towards gender equality. The study concludes that the government has to legislate on the issue and ensure compliance of diverse regions to such laws cutting across cultural and geographical barriers through efficient and effective enforcement of the principles these laws enunciate. Apart from such intervention by the executive, the judiciary, the public and the emerging private sector in business need to recalibrate their approach towards this issue and ensure gender diversity in all fields of human activity.

Key Words: Gender Equality, Gender Justice, Women Rights, Sexual Harassment, Work-Life Balance

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