

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In this last chapter, it consists of conclusions, implications and recommendations for further research specifically in the gender studies field. This section of the research aims to answer the objectives about how housewives in the rural area who are also farm workers experience power dynamics. This conclusion will also be continued by raising theoretical implications, practical implications and academic implications. The last part would be ended with recommendations for further research related to this topic

5.1 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 POWER DYNAMICS OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES BEFORE MARRIAGE

Finally, the pre-marital decision-making processes of these five housewives were strongly influenced by their parents and external factors such as the patriarchal structures, social norms, and cultural traditions that undermined their autonomy and personal choices. Despite the fact that two of the informants had the opportunity to choose their partner, general social expectations and parental pressure played a dominant role in their marriage decisions, reflecting the silenced voice of women and lack of freedom of choice in that time and context, mentioning age and religion as an influence to agree on marriage.

5.1.2 POWER DYNAMICS OF POST-MARITAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

In conclusion, the transition from independent individuals to submissive housewives after marriage was a profound change characterized by a loss of autonomy and decision-making power. All of the informant was obliged to move to their husband's home, mentioning that the tradition of the Javanese culture was to follow their husband or as they call it Boyongan. They even had to navigate complex power structures, adapt to new roles dictated by patriarchal norms, and often had their voices overshadowed by established family members such as their in-laws. Two of the informant had to take care of her sick mother in-law and one out of the two informant experienced physical abuse due to her mother in-law provoking her husband of the things she did domestically. Their experiences illuminate the entrenched power imbalances and inequalities that permeated their marriages and households.

5.1.3 POWER DYNAMICS OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS DURING PREGNANCY

In short, it can be said that the experiences of these rural women during pregnancy shed light on the multifaceted power dynamics and decision-making difficulties they face. While some spouses offered support, others were absent or even abusive, highlighting the unpredictability of power dynamics. Decision-making processes related to family planning and contraceptive use showed agency, but were also influenced by socio-economic realities, highlighting the complexity of their lived experiences

5.1.4 POWER DYNAMICS OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE DIVISION OF HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES

In short, it can be said that despite efforts to negotiate and divide household responsibilities, the prevailing social norms and gender roles have maintained the underlying power dynamics. that maintained the perception of housekeeping mainly as the responsibility of a woman. Economic decision-making processes showed varying degrees of autonomy, with some women controlling the economy while others remained under the authority of their husbands. This complexity underscores the need to address systemic inequalities and strengthen women's influence in all areas of decision-making.

5.1.5 POWER DYNAMICS OF THE DUAL ROLE OF HOUSEWIFE AND FARM WORKER

In conclusion, the dual role of housewife and farm worker exposed these rural women to a multifaceted web of oppression, including gender discrimination. work, patriarchal structures of the home and the burden of dual responsibility. Their experiences are a poignant reminder of the intersectional forms of oppression that must be addressed to achieve true gender equality, economic empowerment, and social change that values and respects women's contributions and autonomy.

5.2 IMPLICATIONS

5.2.1 ACADEMIC IMPLICATIONS

The study of power dynamics and gender inequality among working housewives in this country has several important academic implications. First, it brings academic implications to the fields of gender studies and rural development literature, deepening our understanding of gender relations and rural experiences. Second, findings can inform and refine academic implications about household power dynamics, gender roles, and decision-making processes, allowing for more

nuanced conceptual models. Finally, this research informs the long-term effects of the intersection of gender, rural and other social identities, and power imbalances on the well-being and economic outcomes of rural women.

5.2.2 SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this study on power dynamics and gender inequality among rural housewives who are also agricultural workers have profound social implications. Essentially, it sheds light on general gender norms and social expectations that shape and maintain unequal power relations in households. The prevalence of powerlessness and exploitation experienced by some of the women in the study reflects deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and the devaluation of women's roles and contributions, despite their importance in agricultural and domestic work. But cases of empowerment and equal power sharing also offer hope, showing that social change is possible when traditional gender roles and norms are challenged and changed.

Addressing these social impacts requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of gender inequality. This includes challenging harmful socio-cultural norms, promoting gender equality and fostering an environment that values and respects the diverse roles and contributions of women in rural communities. Ultimately, this research serves as a catalyst for societal reflection and action, reminding us of the urgent need to eliminate systemic gender bias and create more inclusive and just social structures that empower and elevate all people, regardless of their gender or social status.

5.2.3 PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

This research carries significant practical implications by informing policies, programs, and interventions aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering rural women, especially those who are housewives and farm workers. Policymakers can leverage these insights to develop targeted policies addressing

the unique challenges faced by this population, such as ensuring fair wages, access to resources, and equal opportunities.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

While this study provides valuable insights into the power dynamics and gender inequalities experienced by rural women who are also agricultural workers, further research is needed to deepen our understanding and develop more comprehensive solutions. Future research should examine the intersection of gender and other social identities such as caste, ethnicity, and economic status to explore how these intersecting factors shape power relations and experiences of inequality in rural households.

