

Gender Sensitive Policies during COVID-19: Experience from Asia

Rupa Nanda and Ella Prihatini

International Relations Department, Faculty of Humanities,
Bina Nusantara University
Jakarta, Indonesia 11480
rupananda@binus.ac.id, ella.prihatini@binus.edu

Abstract

COVID-19 has brought a substantial impact on women's livelihood around the globe, including women in Asia. Countries are trying to mitigate this disruption by applying various gender-sensitive policies and regulations during the pandemic. Yet, little is known about how Asian countries are prioritising this strategy. The current paper aims to navigate how countries are responding to the spread of the virus whilst ensuring women's welfare through gender-sensitive policies, programs, and regulations. Using a dataset created by UNDP and UN Women, gender response policies are characterised into four main areas, namely Social Protection Measures, Labor Market Measures, Fiscal and Economic Measures, and Violence Against Women Measures. In addition, this paper aims to analyze the correlation of women's leadership in the COVID-19 national task force towards the policies that advocate women's interests. The findings suggest that women's low representation in the COVID-19 national task force is resulting in the lack of gender-sensitive policies.

Keywords

Gender Sensitive Policy, COVID-19, Women Leaders, Asia and Women Representation.

1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive impact on the decline of all aspects of human life, such as economic, social, and political (Song et al. 2020). All crises have a different impact on gender, including the crisis experienced during COVID-19. There is a difference between the impact experienced by women and men due to COVID-19, such as biological vulnerability to infection, loss of social and economic implications, the vulnerability in gender equality, lack of participation of women in various groups, including politics as well as various adverse impacts on women thereby increasing vulnerability towards women and girls (World Health Organization 2021). Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified all gender inequalities (Wenham 2020). Economically, the COVID-19 crisis has caused a global economic downturn because of a decline in the economic activity of trading partners, a decline in commodity prices such as oil, and global supply chain disruptions (ILO 2020). Which will be most vulnerable to impact women who have less income, have jobs that are less secure or easily replaceable, do not have social protection, and cannot accept economic crises such as cuts and layoffs (UN Women 2021).

Women's jobs and livelihoods are more vulnerable during COVID-19, where the rate of female job loss due to COVID-19 is about 1.8 times higher than the global rate of male job loss (Madgavkar 2020). There are still few women in politics influencing policy outcomes during COVID-19 that are not gender-friendly (Abrams 2021). As a result, gender inequality in politics will shape gender differences in policy preferences so that it must be overcome by empowering and increasing women to become resources, politicians, and policymakers (Kabeer 2003). Some experts state that female leaders are better at taking policies to deal with COVID-19 than male-led countries; wherein 2020, the death rate due to corona cases will be lower than in male-led countries (Garikipati and Kambhampati 2021). However, women's barriers to political contribution are caused by the roles, opportunities, and perceptions of empathy for women leaders and the amount of political Violence against women leaders (Fraser 2020). On the other hand, the view is that tackling COVID-19 requires diverse and inclusive leaders to improve pandemic preparedness and response in conflict situations and reduce the impact on gender and produce gender-friendly policies and health security (Meagher 2020).

1.1 Objectives

The paper aims to answer a couple of questions, including: (1) which countries have their COVID-19 response policies using a gender perspective or are specifically aimed at helping women? (2) what are the programs that have a pro-gender dimension in Asia? and (3) is there a correlation between women's leadership or representation in the covid national task force towards gender sensitive policies in tackling the current health crisis. Asia as a case study offers important insights as almost 60% of women are living in Asia.

2. Literature Review

2.1 COVID-19 and Gender

The COVID-19 health crisis affects all aspects of human life, including economic, social, political, health, psychological, and other aspects (Clark and Gruending 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has had different impacts on women and men, from biological susceptibility to infection to social, security, political and economic implications (Nanthini and Nair 2020). COVID-19 exacerbates toxic social norms and gender inequality, increasing women's vulnerability to COVID-19 (Madgavkar 2020). The pandemic could reverse decades of achievements by the gender equality movement (Lewis 2020). Based on previous outbreaks of infectious diseases, it has been proven that women and girls face more negative impacts than men (World Health Organization 2021). The statement supports this that all crises caused by disease, natural disasters, climate change, or conflict exacerbate gender inequalities and affect men and women differently (Wenham 2020). In addition, people's gender norms exacerbate their vulnerability before, during, and after a crisis. Some researchers state that the crisis also affects the role of women in leadership tasks where the minimal contribution of women in development during a crisis (Moser 1993).

Economically, the COVID-19 crisis has caused a global economic downturn because of a decline in the economic activity of trading partners, a decline in commodity prices such as oil, and global supply chain disruptions (ILO 2020). Which will be most vulnerable to impact women who have less income, have jobs that are less secure or easily replaceable, do not have social protection, and cannot accept economic crises such as cuts and layoffs (UN Women 2021). There are still few women in politics, indicating that COVID-19 policies are not gender-sensitive (Abram 2021). As a result, gender inequality in politics will shape gender differences in policy preferences so that it must be overcome by empowering and increasing women to become resources, politicians, and policymakers (Prihatini 2021). Some experts state that female leaders are better at taking policies to deal with COVID-19 than male-led countries.

In 2020, the death rate due to corona cases will be lower than in male-led countries. However, women's barriers to political contribution are caused by the roles, opportunities, and perceptions of empathy for women leaders and the amount of political Violence against women leaders (Funk 2020). On the other hand, tackling COVID-19 requires diverse and inclusive leaders to improve pandemic preparedness and response in conflict situations and reduce the impact on gender and produce gender-friendly policies and health security (Meagher 2020). The impact of women's security from COVID-19 on gender is the increase in gender-based Violence or Violence against women globally during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic and social pressures and lockdowns Sri et al. (2021).

Violence against women and girls is carried out with full awareness of the perpetrators who are influenced by products of power and control rooted in inequality, discrimination, gender norms, and patriarchal culture between men and women (UN Women 2020). Violence against women and children is a violation of human rights that has severe and long-term impacts on survivors, families, and communities (Funk 2020). The impact of COVID-19 on gender inequalities and health disparities causes significant humanitarian and economic losses (United Nations 2021). Gender inequality is the minimal opportunity for women to access rights and opportunities in social life (Arora 2021). Thus, gender inequality can increase health disparities, especially during COVID-19. As a result of the impact of COVID-19, responses or policies to COVID-19 must be based on solid gender analysis or policies that are gender-sensitive and have strong participation from the most affected groups, such as in decision making and implementation regulations Su et al. (2022).

2.2 Gender Sensitive Policy

The gender-sensitive policy focuses on analyzing gender mainstreaming in policies and programs to address gender inequalities resulting from crises that harm women or minority groups (Ravindran and Kelkar-Khambete 2008). The gender-sensitive policy is to implement and monitor the achievement of gender equality with the primary value that

demonstrates a commitment to gender equality by developing policies to address women's health, education, political and economic empowerment, and violence (Gill and Stewart 2011). National policies or laws need to be complemented by adequate resources and programs for awareness, staff training, counselling, support, and monitoring. Policy implementation and monitoring are essential factors in the policy analysis process to ensure the long-term and sustainable impact of gender-sensitive policies to see the effectiveness of the results. Therefore, the collection, analysis, and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age, socioeconomic status, education, ethnicity, and geographic location should be carried out systematically to monitor progress Lindsay et al. (2020).

In gender-sensitive policy, there are three main objectives in gender mainstreaming: establishing a particular national government agency, integrating gender perspectives in-laws or public policies and programs, and producing gender data and information for planning and evaluation (Rodríguez-García and Donati 2021). The gender-sensitive policy is budgeting based on a gender perspective, gender-sensitive collective work contracts, and women's support centers as local-level resources for women's empowerment as part of the struggle against violence against women, which empowering women as a process to gain access to resources that encourage women to become independent and get agents at the individual and collective levels for the elimination of gender inequality, here with a particular focus on violence against women (Kabeer 1994). On the other hand, gender mainstreaming in policy is difficult to achieve due to the lack of representation of women in politics (Halder 2004). In other words, the pattern of gender inequality that prevails across societies and political institutions in Asia and other regions of the world presents women with several obstacles that result in women remaining under-represented, especially at the local government level (Seibel and Iwanaga 2008). The lack of representation of women in politics in the Asian Region is also supported by campaigns to increase the responsiveness of political institutions and the promotion of social equality more broadly by women's rights advocates and international aid organizations, such as UN Women and the Global Fund for Women (Hawkesworth 2012).

2.3 Women Leaders in COVID-19 Task Forces

The crisis due to COVID-19 has created a higher level of inequality in social, class, political, economic, and other women's lives. Thus, this impacts the quality of life of women and other vulnerable groups (Doward 2020). Women are under-represented in the highest political positions in most countries, both in national politics and at the local level (Kanthak and Woon 2015). Therefore, the importance of the role of women's representation in making decisions in the COVID-19 task forces to create gender-friendly policies to provide advanced planning and preparation and a central design and strategy to take the necessary actions to minimize negative impacts on women or vulnerable groups (Saidi et al. 2020). Several studies suggest that women's representation will play a social role with women in defending issues related to social protection and care work and in opposing discrimination and inequality (Hernández et al. 2018), this proves that female politicians tend to pursue policies that are considering the impact on gender. Thus, the resulting policy will be gender-sensitive (Bhalotra and Clots-Figueras 2014).

Women's participation in politics is not only a means to promote democratic representation but also a means of giving women a voice and the right to defend policies that favour them. Thus, encouraging women's participation in politics is a tactic to push for a gender-responsive budget. They were proven by countries led by women successfully limiting the negative impact of the coronavirus, such as New Zealand, Norway, Germany, Denmark, Taiwan, Finland, and Iceland (Wittenberg-Cox 2021). compared to countries with low representation of women in responding to the coronavirus, they have higher mortality rates, more extended emergency periods, negative impacts on women related to economic aspects, work balance, and domestic violence, such as Italy, England, and the United States (Priola and Pecis 2020).

In addition, other research states that the representation of women in India in parliament supports women-friendly policies (Clots-Figueras 2011). On the one hand, Anthony Downs in 1957 states that female leaders will not be different from male leaders in policy making. There will be no difference in COVID-19 outcomes between male-led and female-led countries. In addition, women's access or political representation in leadership positions has not increased attention to gender-related issues (Hessami and Mariana 2020). There is no influence of gender on policy decisions, but the most significant influence comes from party decisions (Chattopadhyay and Esther 2004). They were supported by research relating to the absence of the influence of politicians' gender on policies, not focusing on specific policies that systematically support policies that prioritize women as in Spain (Ferreira and Gyourko 2014).

3. Methods

This study focuses on the Asian region. Data from the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker by UNDP and UN Women shows that out of 1,605 gender-sensitive policies. Asia has a total of 1,605 policies with 360 gender-sensitive policies. The impact of COVID-19 on women in Asia includes increasing inequality, gender norms, economic vulnerability, women's representation in policymaking, and increasing violence against women in Asia. The type of research used in Gender Sensitive Policies during COVID-19: Experience from Asia is qualitative research. This paper shows data related to gender-sensitive policies and the role of women as decision-makers for each policy during COVID-19 in Asia. The writing method used by the author is descriptive and related to the distribution of gender-sensitive policies. The data that the authors of this research have processed will focus on explaining which countries have their covid response policies using a gender perspective or specifically aimed at helping women, what programs have a pro-gender dimension, and focus on correlation with women's leadership or women's representation in the covid national task force.

4. Data Collection

In this research, data collection from the gender-sensitive policies during COVID-19: Experience from Asia uses a dataset of gender-friendly policies in Asia created based on information from the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker website UNDP and UN Women. The dataset contains data related to gender-sensitive policies with various policy categories covering types of VAWG policies, Strengthening of Service, Awareness-raising campaigns, collection and use of data, and other measures during COVID-19 in the Asian region. The data sources are from various official government websites, UN Women, UNDP, and other credible sources.

5. Results and Discussion

The COVID-19 Health Crisis impacts human life, including economic, social, political, health, psychological, and other aspects (Clark and Gruending 2020). On the other hand, the pandemic could reverse decades of achievements made by the gender equality movement (Lewis 2020). Based on previous outbreaks of infectious diseases similar to COVID-19, it has been proven that women and girls face more negative impacts than men (World Health Organization, 2021). Therefore, policies to address the impact of COVID-19 must have gender-sensitive indicators. Gender-sensitive policy focuses on analyzing gender mainstreaming in policies and programs to address gender inequality resulting from crises that harm women or minority groups (Ravindran and Kelkar-Khambete 2008). In the gender-sensitive policy, there are three main objectives in gender mainstreaming: establishing a particular national government agency, integrating gender perspectives in-laws or public policies and programs, and producing gender data and information for planning and evaluation (Rodríguez-García and Donati 2021). The gender-sensitive policy is budgeting based on a gender perspective, gender-sensitive collective work contracts, and women's support centers as local resources for women's empowerment as part of the struggle against violence against women. Thus, for gender-sensitive policies in the Asian region, the authors divide the dataset based on four policy categories with different fields in the Asian region as follows:

1. Social Protection Measures
2. Labour Market Measures
3. Fiscal and Economic Measures
4. Violence Against Women Measures

Table 1. Women's share in COVID-19 national task force

| Sub region | Number of Task Force | Women as Member (%) in Average | Women as Leaders in Average |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Central Asia | 8 | 6.80 | 1 |
| Eastern Asia | 11 | 24.09 | 2 |
| South-eastern Asia | 14 | 21.35 | 1 |
| Southern Asia | 30 | 27.47 | 3 |
| Western Asia | 32 | 24.01 | 3 |
| Total | 95 | 20.74 | 10 |

Table 1 displays the distribution of women in various COVID-19 national task force groups across Asia. On average, women comprise 21% of all members, and only a handful are leaders. Almost 30% of task force members in Southern Asian countries are women, making this sub-region the highest proportion of women participating. On the other hand, Central Asia has the smallest share of women's representation in national COVID-19 task force groups (6.8%). As a task force member, the Role of Women in the National Task Force has 95 task forces throughout the Asian region. The most prominent Women as Member in the Southern Asia region at 27.47%, with the country having the most female members, namely Bhutan with 62.5%. The Southern Asia region has three women leaders from the State of Bhutan, two female leaders as Minister of Health, Lyonpo Dechen Wangmo and Dr. Karma Lhazeen, and from the Maldives, the Minister of Defense, Mariya Didi.

Eastern Asia region with women as members at 24.09% with countries with many female members, namely Hong Kong at 40%, Japan and China at 16.67%, and the Republic of Korea at 15.79%. In addition, the Eastern Asia region has two women as Leaders from China, namely Sun Chunlan as Vice Premier, and Hong Kong, namely Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-Ngor as Chief Executive. The Western Asia region with women as members is 24.01%, with countries with many female members, namely Israel at 57.14%, Turkey at 43.24%, and Georgia at 36.36%. In the Western Asia Region, one female leader, Ekaterine Tikaradze, was Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from Georgia's Occupied Territories, Labor, Health, and Social Affairs. The Southeastern Asia region with women as members is 21.35%, with countries with many female members, namely Timor-Leste at 42.86%, Singapore at 33.33%, and Cambodia at 25%. The Southeastern Asia region has two female leaders, namely Aung San Suu Kyi as State Counselor Daw and H.E Chanthana Neav as Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia. The Central Asia region with women as members is 6.80%, with a country with many female members, namely Tajikistan, at 9.38%. The Central Asia region has one female leader, namely Sattoriyon Matlubahon Amonzoda, as Deputy Prime Minister.

Based on the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker by UNDP and UN Women, the ratio of women and men in the task force totals 95. The total number of female members is 14%, and male members are 86%. Proves that men in the Asian region dominate the dominance of an essential role in policymaking. In addition, it also proves that the lack of representation of women in the policy task force during COVID-19 impacts the low level of gender-sensitive policies. The different needs of women and men lead to the importance of a balance of representation in ensuring the formation and implementation of laws and other regulations that are friendly to the interests of women so that the principles of political equality and social justice will be realized as principles. Central to the democratic political system (Paxton and Hughes 2007). In addition, based on Ballington (2005), equality represents men and women in the decision-making process and opportunities to achieve goals.

Table 2. Social protection measures

| Sub region | Total Number of Policies (in percentage) | Gender Sensitive Policies (in percentage) |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Central Asia | 7.48 | 6.60 |
| Eastern Asia | 13.85 | 15.09 |
| South-eastern Asia | 25.63 | 21.69 |
| Southern Asia | 16.40 | 20.75 |
| Western Asia | 36.62 | 35.84 |
| Total | 19.99 | 23.34 |

Table 2 depicts the percentage of gender-sensitive indicators in the Social Protection policies category. On Average, The category of social protection measures policy shows that there are 628 total policies or 20% in the category of social protection measures, with 106 or 23.34% of gender-sensitive indicators that help women:

1. Western Asia has a comprehensive social protection policy of 36.62%. Countries in western Asia with the highest total are Azerbaijan with 30 policies, Jordan with 26 policies, and Palestine with 18 policies. In the Western Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator in western Asia is 35.84%, with the country with the most gender-sensitive status being Palestine.
2. South-eastern Asia has a social protection policy of 25.63%. Countries in South-eastern Asia with the highest total are Malaysia with 34 policies, the Philippines with 26 policies, and Thailand with 22 policies. In the

South-eastern Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator is 21.69%, with the country with the most gender-sensitive indicators being Myanmar.

3. Southern Asia has a social protection policy of 16.40%. Countries in Southern Asia with the highest total are India with 23 policies, Nepal with 19 policies, and Sri Lanka with 16 policies. In the Southern Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator in Southern Asia is 20.75%, with the country that has the most gender-sensitive India.
4. Eastern Asia has a social protection policy of 13.85%. Countries in Eastern Asia with the highest total are China at 34, the Republic of Korea at 23, and Japan at 17. In Eastern Asia, the gender-sensitive indicator in Eastern Asia is 15.09%, with Japan having the most gender-sensitive indicators.
5. Central Asia has a social protection policy of 7.48%. Countries in Central Asia with the highest total are Uzbekistan with 20 policies, Kyrgyzstan with 11 policies, and Tajikistan with eight policies. In the Central Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator is 6.60%, with the country with the most gender-sensitive indicators, namely Uzbekistan.

Table 3. Labour market measures

| Sub region | Total Number of Policies (in percentage) | Gender Sensitive Policies (in percentage) |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Central Asia | 7.48 | 22.2 |
| Eastern Asia | 16.57 | 22.2 |
| South-eastern Asia | 25.13 | 11.1 |
| Southern Asia | 10.16 | 0 |
| Western Asia | 40.64 | 44.4 |
| Total | 19.99 | 19.98 |

Table 3 displays the percentage of Labor Market policies. On average, the Labor Market Measures policy category shows 187 or 20% policies with 27 gender-sensitive indicators. The area with the highest percentage of Labor Market category policies. First, Western Asia with a labor market policy of 40.64%, with the countries with the most comprehensive policies being Turkey with 16 policies, Saudi Arabia with ten policies, and Azerbaijan with nine policies. The gender-sensitive indicator is 44.4% in the Western Asia region, with countries with two gender-sensitive indicators, namely Turkey, Palestine, Georgia, and Bahrain. Second, South-eastern Asia has a labor market policy of 25.13%, with the country with the most comprehensive policies being Singapore with 17 policies, Malaysia with 12 policies, and the Philippines with five policies. The South-eastern Asia region has a gender-sensitive indicator of 11.1%, with countries having one gender-sensitive, namely Cambodia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Third, Eastern Asia has a labor market policy of 16.57%, with the countries with the most comprehensive policies being China with 16 policies, the Republic of Korea with eight policies, and Japan with four policies. The Eastern Asia region has a gender-sensitive indicator of 22.2%, with countries with two gender-sensitive indicators, namely the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. Fourth, Southern Asia has a labor market policy of 10.16% with countries with four comprehensive policies, namely Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and the Maldives. The Southern Asia region does not have gender-sensitive indicators. Fifth, Central Asia has a labor market policy of 7.48% with countries with four whole policies, namely Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In the Central Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator is 22.2%, with the country having the most gender-sensitive indicators, namely Uzbekistan.

Table 4. Fiscal and economic measures

| Sub region | Total Number of Policies (in percentage) | Gender Sensitive Policies (in percentage) |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Central Asia | 2.40 | 10 |
| Eastern Asia | 23.07 | 40 |
| South-eastern Asia | 24.51 | 16.6 |
| Southern Asia | 3.36 | 6.6 |
| Western Asia | 46.63 | 26.6 |
| Total | 19.9 | 19.96 |

Table 4 depicts the percentage of total gender-sensitive policies and indicators in the economic sector. The Fiscal and Economic Measures policy category in the Asian Region shows that 208 or 20% of Fiscal and Economic Measures policies are categorized with gender-sensitive indicators that help women's economic security. As many as 30 out of 208 policies in that category:

1. There are 46.63% fiscal and economic policies in Western Asia with the countries with the most comprehensive policies, Turkey with 14 policies, Israel with 13 policies, and Saudi Arabia with 11 policies. In the Western Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator is 26.6%, with the country with the most gender-sensitive status being Armenia.
2. There are 24.51% fiscal and economic policies in South-eastern Asia, with countries with the most comprehensive policies being Malaysia with 15 policies, Indonesia with 11 policies, and Thailand with ten policies. In the South-eastern Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator is 16.6%, with the country having the most gender-sensitive is Malaysia.
3. There are 23.07% fiscal and economic policies in Eastern Asia with countries with the most comprehensive policies, Hong Kong with 18 policies, China with 14 policies, and Japan and Mongolia with six policies. The gender-sensitive indicator is 40% in Eastern Asia, with the country with the most gender-sensitiveness being Hong Kong.
4. Southern Asia has a fiscal and economic policy of 3.36%, with the country having comprehensive policies being India with three policies, Iran with two policies, and Afghanistan with one policy. In the Southern Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator is 6.6%, with the country with the most gender-sensitiveness being Afghanistan Fifth, Central Asia with fiscal and economic policies of 2.40%, with the country with the most comprehensive policies being Kazakhstan with three policies, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with one policy. In the Central Asia region, the gender-sensitive indicator is 10%, with the country with the most gender sensitiveness being Kazakhstan.

Table 5. Violence against women measures

| Sub region | Total Number of Policies (in percentage) | Gender Sensitive Policies (in percentage) |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Central Asia | 12.18 | 12.18 |
| Eastern Asia | 3.55 | 3.55 |
| South-eastern Asia | 24.87 | 24.87 |
| Southern Asia | 36.04 | 36.04 |
| Western Asia | 23.35 | 23.35 |
| Total | 19.99 | 19.99 |

Table 5 displays that the percentage of total gender-friendly policies and indicators in the Violence Against Women Measures category shows that the total policies in the Violence Against Women Measures category with gender-sensitive indicators are 197 or 20%. Countries with the most Violence Against Women Measures category policies:

1. Southern Asia has a Violence Against Women Measures category of 36.04% policy. The Southern Asia region has countries with the most comprehensive gender-sensitive policies and indicators, namely Bangladesh and Nepal with 14 policies, India and Pakistan with 11 policies, and Sri Lanka with nine policies.
2. South-eastern Asia has a Violence Against Women Measures category of 24.87% policy. The South-eastern Asia region has the most comprehensive gender-sensitive policies and indicators: Cambodia with nine policies, Indonesia with eight policies, and Singapore with seven policies.
3. Western Asia has a Violence Against Women Measures category policy of 23.35%. The Western Asia region has the most comprehensive policies and gender-sensitive indicators, namely Palestine and Lebanon with seven policies, Armenia and Turkey with five policies, and Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Jordan with four policies.
4. Central Asia has a Violence Against Women Measures category of 12.18% policy. Central Asia has countries with comprehensive gender-sensitive policies and indicators, namely Kyrgyzstan with nine policies, Uzbekistan with eight policies, and Kazakhstan with six policies.
5. Eastern Asia has a Violence Against Women Measures category policy of 3.55%. Eastern Asia has countries with comprehensive gender-sensitive policies and indicators, namely Mongolia with three policies, Japan and China with two policies.

6. Conclusion

COVID-19 has an impact on gender vulnerability, especially in women and children, such as biological vulnerability to infection, loss of social and economic implications, a vulnerability in gender equality, lack of women's participation in various groups, including politics as well as various adverse impacts on women thereby increasing vulnerability and inequality against women and girls. Therefore, to overcome the massive impact on women, the importance of a response or policy to COVID-19 is based on solid gender analysis or gender-sensitive policies and strong participation from the most affected groups, such as in decision making and implementing regulations. Based on an analysis of the low level of gender-sensitive policies in the Asian region in 4 policy categories with different fields in the Asian region, namely Social Protection Measures, Labor Market Measures, Fiscal and Economic Measures, and Violence Against Women Measures. Due to a lack of representation or the role of the Women's Share in the COVID-19 National Task Force in decision-making. There are significant impacts of the low gender-sensitive indicators in Asian regional policies.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Research and Technology Transfer Office (RTTO), BINUS University, as part of the Student Thesis Article Publishing Scheme (STARS) 2022.

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Biographies

Rupa Nanda is in her last year undertaking a bachelor's degree in International Relations at Bina Nusantara (Binus) University, Jakarta, Indonesia. Her research interests include gender, women's representation, and COVID-19.

Ella Prihatini teaches International Relations at Bina Nusantara (Binus) University, Jakarta, Indonesia. She received her PhD in political science and international relations from the University of Western Australia (UWA). She holds a BA in International Relations (University of Gadjah Mada/UGM, Yogyakarta) and Master of Development Practice (University of Queensland/UQ, Brisbane). Her research interests focus on women's political participation, digital diplomacy, comparative studies, and electoral politics in Indonesia. She also serves as an honorary research fellow at the University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth.