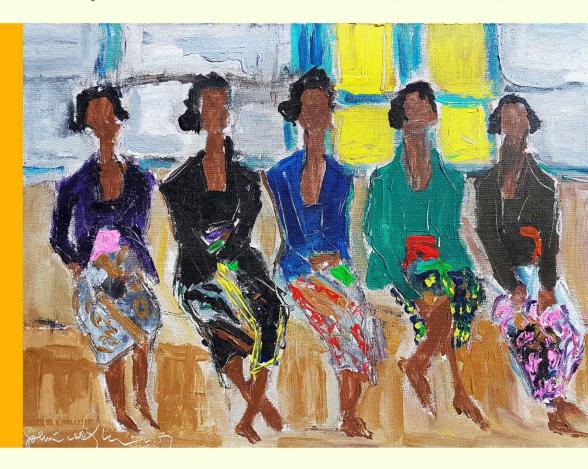
# Salasika

INDONESIAN JOURNAL OF GENDER, WOMEN, CHILD, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION'S STUDIES



VOL. 1 NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2018 A Road to the Recognition of Home-Workers: Transformation of POS Production Modes and Roles of Home-workers in Batik Industry in Central Java Arianti Ina R. Hunga

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# Advancing Women's Digital Skills and Economic Empowerment through Girls in Tech Indonesia: A Case Study

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The advancing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has massively supported the economy in the digital era as it disseminates, stores, brings added value and manages information to provide unlimited opportunities for economic development. However, ICT may contribute to discrimination and existing inequalities reinforcement so-called the digital divide. Since all aspects of human interaction with ICT are gendered, this study tackles the digital gender divide issue, that is, the gap between men and women regarding access to, content and use of ICT. Accordingly, in 2016, the gender gap of global internet users was 12% and it grows every year. In response to this condition, a global movement promoting women engagement in ICT has emerged. This study, therefore, depicts the role of Girls in Tech Indonesia community as a chapter of Global Girls in Tech movement in advancing women economic empowerment through ICT by implementing leadership and transformational concepts Longwe's empowerment framework. In the core of qualitative studies, this study shows that Girls in Tech Indonesia's leadership performance contributes positively to women empowerment.

KEYWORDS: Girls in Tech, ICT, Leadership, Empowerment

#### INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a diverse set of technological tools and resources that creates, disseminates, stores, brings added value and manages information. The basic components the ICT sector telecommunications, television and broadcasting, computer hardware, software and services and electronic media as well as the Internet and mobile phone. ICT stimulates economic growth via Information Technology (IT) as it enables services, especially in the

interconnected world. IT, however, does not only provide direct and indirect benefits but also plays a role as a catalyst for economic growth through various networks including microfinance, micro-enterprises and manufacture (UNIFEM, 2003). On the other side, ICT may also contribute to discrimination and existing inequalities reinforcement so-called the digital divide.

The digital divide is defined as who gets the benefit and shapes the content, development and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In a broader meaning, the digital divide is several gaps in one package. First, there is technological divide, which refers to the gaps in infrastructure. Second, content divide refers to web-based information that is simply not relevant to the real needs of people, as nearly 70 percent of the world's websites are in English. And the last one is gender divide; it is the fact that women and girls have less access to information technology than men and boys (Anan, 2003).

Since all aspects of human interaction with ICT are gendered, it is challenging to discuss the digital gender gap between men and women regarding access to, content and use of ICT. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) reported 12% global Internet user gender gap -the difference between internet user penetration rates for males and females relative to internet user penetration rate for maleswith 39.5% internet penetration rate for women and 46.1% for men in Asia (ITU, 2016). In Indonesia, APJII (2006) reported (Indonesia Internet Service Provider Association) that in the past two years, the internet penetration rate for women was 48% and for men was 52%. This trend shows that there is less women's engagement in ICT than in men.

Accordingly, the digital gender gap is mainly caused by the cultural divide in a patriarchal society. The World Bank (2016) reported that women and men's access to ICT is rooted in behavioral, cultural, and religious traditions. Some of them are: (1) cultural and social attitudes are often unfavorable to women's participation in the fields of science and technology, which limits their opportunities in the area of ICT; (2) women often financially are

dependent on men or do not have control over economic resources, which makes accessing ICT services more difficult; (3) allocation of resources for education and training often favors boys and men; (4) in some societies, women's seclusion from the public arena makes access to community telecenters difficult. This condition then results in structural inequalities of literacy, education, employment and income level that contribute to gender inequality and the digital gender gap (ITU, 2016).

Filling the digital gender gap is, somehow, a pressing concern. It is not just about a moral imperative but also a significant opportunity for growth in today's digital economy and an essential pathway for United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (2005) No. 5: to "achieve gender equality and empower all girls and women" to progress. Therefore, the efforts should lie on education, and promotion of girls' increased engagement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. Governments and enterprises also need to be more proactive in helping women thrive in the ICT workforce (ITU, 2016).

To do that, global movements promoting women's engagement in ICT have emerged to counter the solid bias. Girls in Tech is one of them. Known as a global movement to empower women in ICT, Girls in Tech has raised 60 chapters all around the world including Girls in Tech Indonesia (GIT-ID) as national level community that empowers and creates more woman leaders in ICT.

This study, therefore, reveals the role of Girls in Tech Indonesia in

advancing woman's economic empowerment by engaging them with ICT through its annual program, Womenpreneur Digital Acceleration. In doing so, the study adopts contemporary leadership concept specifically that refers transformational leadership to examine Girls in Tech Indonesia's performance leadership Longwe's empowerment framework to weigh up Girl in Tech Indonesia's leadership performance's impact on women empowerment.

#### **METHODS**

Conducting a case study of Girls in Tech Indonesia community, this study is qualitative research. This study involves two groups informants; the leaders/initiators and members/participants of Girls in Tech Indonesia. The data collected through in-depth interviews with selected informants. In selecting the informants, the researcher involved two groups. The first group was Girls in consisting members five of informants with the following criteria:

- 1. Woman,
- 2. 19 35 years old,
- 3. Has experience in Girls in Tech Indonesia's empowerment program: coaching classes, mentor dinners and startup competition, and
- 4. Owns a startup business/digital platform.

The second group was Girls in Tech Indonesia's leaders/initiators: Aulia Halimatussadiah/Ollie (Co-Founder & Chief Content Officer of Zetta Media) and Anantya Van Bronckhorst/Anan (Co- Founder & Co-CEO of Think.Web).

#### **GIRLS IN TECH INDONESIA**

Girls in Tech is a global organization initiated by Andrea Gascoigne in 2007 aiming to give space for women to develop their ideas and careers, as well as to learn new things related to technology. Girls in Tech provides several activities such as Lady Pitch Night, Catalyst Conference, Coding and Bootcamps, Hackathons, Design XChange, Global Classroom and GIT WORK to empower, educate, engage and empower women in digital tech. Nowadays, Girls in Tech has 60 chapters all over the world including Indonesia—Girls in Tech Indonesia.

In line with global Girls in Tech, in Tech Indonesia is Girls community that aims to empower, educate and engage women and girls who are passionate about ICT. Girls in Tech Indonesia was initiated in 2011 by Aulia Halimatussadiah (Co-Founder & Chief Content Officer of Zetta Media). Anantva Van Bronckhorst (Co-Founder & Co-CEO of Think.Web) and Rya Aryanie (Managing Director of Talk Link). Girls in Tech Indonesia is a nonprofit organization funded by some donors including Facebook.

Girls in Tech Indonesia has some efforts in increasing women's participation in ICT through its program, Womenpreneur Digital Acceleration (WDA). This program is designed for women who have digital platforms for business. WDA focuses on maximizing the use of digital technology for women's business by providing seven classes, mentoring dinner and Pitch Night within a year.

#### 1. WDA Classes

WDA classes are seven combined classes held every week two for months to coach approximately 50 women to get closer digital literacy to concerning digital marketing knowledge to help them induce their business. The selected women who have already had digital platforms are coached to maximize their platforms by equipping them with knowledge about finance, market promotion and leadership through these following classes:

- a. Digital Presence for Business
- b. Winning with Social Content
- c. Finance 101 For Small Medium Business
- d. Social Engagement That Matters
- e. Think Big: Optimize Your Business
- f. Understanding Your Leadership Style
- g. Promo to the Right Market

The seven coaching classes help leaders improve participants' self - awareness and self management by learning through direct practice. This enables them to make better decisions for themselves and their organizations as well as their business in facing uncertainty since the coaching process allows be better women to interpersonal, communicating, delegating, time management, emotional self -management, or other soft skills offered by the thematic coaching series given. For instance, with the coach's help on how to set up social media

advertising i.e. Instagram and Facebook ads (Promo to the Right Market), some feedback loops are created after trying out new creations. It is followed feedback and reflection and try new creations again to improve the effectiveness of digital platforms for promotion. As a result, participants know better about how to advertise in social media ads, especially in terms of the content developed and other strategies.

#### 2. Mentoring Dinner

Dinner Mentoring mentorship program set up for seven selected mentors who are women pioneers in business with 21 selected participants who are women starting up their business and have digital platforms as the media to develop the business. Dinner Mentoring aims facilitate discussion and share knowledge about business between mentors and mentees conducted in an in-depth and intimate sharing between both parties in one and a half hours. This activity facilitates discussion and knowledge sharing about business utilizing digital platforms between mentors and mentees by presenting success woman entrepreneurs as role models to inspire.

There are several benefits of mentoring activity such as sharing the experience with other women, recognizing the wide range of diversity among women and gaining realistic feedback (Valerio, 2009, p. 41). In fact, mentoring dinner helps mentees to learn from their mentors'

background experiences and during the session. Mentors' experiences and backgrounds can be inspiring motivation for the After sharing, the mentees. give the mentees mentors feedbacks that women have more power than what they realize. Consequently, the mentees will see this action as constructive criticisms to succeed in their business.

#### 3. Pitch Night

Pitch Night is a competition for women who have digital platforms for their business. In this pitching competition, women are selected to present their digital business platforms in front of judges. The top three winners are picked, awarded a generous amount of Facebook Ads credit and be mentored to accelerate their startups/business. Under the frame of leadership development practice, pitching competition allows participants to learn a lot since the judges will assess how presenters respond to challenges, how they make decisions, handle risks, and manage relationships. This can accelerate their development as leaders in ways that no other method accommodate.

The composition of activities in WDA program is expected to increase the number of woman entrepreneurs who use digital technology as a media to grow the business, increase the knowledge of woman entrepreneurs about the concept of product marketing (branding) /business, increase the knowledge of woman

entrepreneurs about the concept of product promotion via digital platforms (such as Instagram, Facebook for business), and to increase women's ability to promote their products/businesses via digital platforms.

# GIRLS IN TECH INDONESIA'S LEADERSHIP STYLE

Since the leadership concept of Girls in Tech Indonesia is from women to women, this study adopts contemporary leadership theory that differentiates behavioral leadership styles based on gendered behavioral differences into the dichotomy of transactional and transformational style. Contemporary leadership rose in the early 1970s when gender differences theories marked a shift in the leadership literature, as the behavior, skills and attitudes of women were considered, recognized and evaluated. It then perpetuated leadership styles that were evaluated through the perspective of gender differences, and the focus began to shift to a desire to understand how men and women led their followers (Avolio & Bass, 2002).

Comprehensive leadership underlying gendered behavioral differences was introduced by James MacGregor Burns (1978) as he proposed the terms "transactional" and "transformational" leadership. He defined transactional leaders as people who emphasized work standards and assignments and had task-oriented aims. Therefore, these leaders' focal points were believed to be on finishing tasks with rewards or disciplining subordinates in order to influence and improve their performances (Burns, 1978).

Transactional leadership is more likely performed in strong masculine qualities, as it is distinguished by 'competitiveness, hierarchical authority and high control for the and analytical problem solving" (Klenke, 1993) which is more typical of male behaviors. In contrast, women more likely fit into a "feminine model of leadership built around cooperation, collaboration, lower control for the leader and problem solving based on intuition and rationality" (Klenke, 1993). This style of leadership is closely aligned to transformational leadership with effective leaders being described as those who inspire their followers and enable them to achieve the goals (Bass, 1985).

In some practices, transformational leaders motivate their followers to do something that they think they cannot by giving them such a challenging expectation with high standard performance. Transformational leaders motivate their followers to go beyond their self-interests by addressing each follower's sense of self-worth in order to engage the follower in true commitment and involvement in the effort at hand (Shamir, 1991).

Further, Bernard M Bass (2006) transformational has divided leadership into four performances: influence, idealized inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation and individualized consideration. The study uses these four transformational leadership performances to reveal Girls in Tech Indonesia's leadership style.

#### 1. Idealized influence

Aulia Halimatussadiah explained that "trust" is the most important thing to

enforce the followers (GIT-ID's participants) to fight the doubt constructed in women's minds, to make them believe that they can do the tasks given. The leaders (mentors) then ought to delegate the work to the followers by giving trust that they are able to do the work (Aulia Halimatussadiah. personal communication, June 2017). From this explanation, it can be assumed that the leader is responsible for assisting and coaching the followers, instead of doing those tasks herself.

#### 2. Inspirational motivation

Inspirational motivation is when leaders motivate followers by creating expectations, setting example to be followed by setting a high standard of performance and demonstrating determination and confidence by modeling appropriate behavior. Role modeling, somehow, is always performed by GIT-ID through its WDA program where all the mentors of coaching classes, mentor dinner, pitching night and those who are listed in **#WHYNOT** success storybook women in tech. For instance. when GIT-ID participants were introduced the Head of Product Manager of Gojek, who is a woman who manages millions driver and financial transactions with a very big responsibility, they saw that a woman was able to handle the big responsibility. This role

modeling aims to show more women that digital technology mastery is not difficult.

#### 3. Intellectual stimulation

Intellectual stimulation is when leaders help followers become more creative and innovative bv continually challenging followers, giving them respect and consideration (intellectual stimulation). Aulia shared her experience when challenged one of GIT-ID GIT-ID's members after mentorship. The member was once a financial talk writer, who is a content writer for Rula.com. She is now able to write about not only financial talk, but also other themes like relationship, inspiration, health, beauty, and men's corners—the things she had dealt with before never (Halimatussadiah, personal communication, June 23. 2017).

#### 4. Individualized consideration

Individualized consideration occurs when leaders pay personal attention to the developmental needs of followers, give them respect and consideration concerning to education and empowerment.

#### GIRLS IN TECH INDONESIA LEADERSHIP'S IMPACTS ON EMPOWERMENT

Longwe's women empowerment framework examines to what extent equality between women and men has been achieved conventional sectors of economy and society. Longwe's framework aims to reveal women empowerment and equality in practice and to critically assess to what extent development intervention is supporting empowerment. Furthermore, framework comes with the idea of women's empowerment as enabling women to take an equal place with men and to participate equally in the development process in order to achieve control over the factors of production on an equal basis with men (March. Smvth. Mukhopadhyay, 1999, p. Longwe's framework also enables gender and development workers to analyze the development commitment organizations' to women's equality and empowerment in terms of control, participation, conscientization, access and welfare. Using this framework, the research examines Girls in Tech Indonesia's leadership performance by "does questioning GIT-ID's performance enable women enhance their control, participation, conscientization, access and welfare?

#### 1. Control

In this regard, control refers to women's control over the decision-making process through conscientization and mobilization to achieve equality of control over the production factors and the distribution of benefits.

According to five participants, the classes equip them with best practices through case study and hands-on exercises to understand how best practices work. As a result, they can run their own digital platform/business and manage them for a sustainable period.

#### Informant 1:

"I run divaart.co with my friends. As one of the founders, I have control over our business' growth."

#### Informant 2:

"As the only founder and owner of Etnika.co I have control over the business and growth."

#### Informant 3:

"I produce knitting products and manage a digital platform @rajutanotentik to promote my products."

#### Informant 4:

"I have and manage Siswawirausaha.com; a marketplace for students to market their products. The profits are used to support student's study cost in PKBM Itaco (SMK Itaco)."

#### Informant 5:

"I own and manage a digital platform to promote the local richness and I do it by myself. I also build the marketplace for tour guides, I work with a team, and I am involved in the decision making."

#### 2. Participation

Participation refers to women's participation in the decision-making process, project planning making, administration. Accordingly, equality of participation means involving women in making the decisions by which their community will be affected, in a proportion that matches their proportion in the wider community.

Women-Central to the preneur Digital Acceleration's approach is the idea to accelerate the use of digital platforms. In this case, women must diagnose what they want and need in order to develop their startups. The project gives attention increasing women's participation in the decision-making processes related to their digital platform development through #WhyNot Initiative campaign. Women Women attend Digital Acceleration classes before they are selected to join mentor dinner session. Women **Digital** In Acceleration classes, they are coached not only on digital literacy but also on leadership and decision making. This activity is considerably successful enhancing women's participation in tech. In relation to this, five informants highlighted that there were significant differences they experienced after joining the Womenpreneur Digital Acceleration.

#### Informant 1:

"After joining WDA, I am more engaged with digital platforms as tools for promotion and networking."

#### Informant 2:

"GIT-ID's facilitators really help us master digital platform, so I can use it more than before."

#### Informant 3:

"WDA has its continuous activities, the seven correlated combined classes, then mentoring session and pitching competition. The activities are arranged in order, and we do not just stop at a certain program. Interestingly, these classes provided in-depth discussion related to how to maximize social media platforms as promotion tools including how to make good social media content. Therefore, we can maximize the use of digital platforms."

#### Informant 4:

"Ollie shares to me how to build a business and how to make it grow, so I can do more with my platforms."

#### Informant 5:

"The classes give us good materials to build up our digital platforms; we can learn more to engage digital platform in our business."

#### 3. Conscientization

Conscientization refers to the raising awareness of gender issues in digital media. As mentioned before, Girls in Tech's objective is to provide women with general education, increase their selfconfidence and awareness, and make them realize that they can use and maximize ICT to themselves. empower empowering women, Girls in Tech Indonesia creates more

women role models in ICT since cultural divide is considered as the main barrier. According to Aulia, Indonesia needs more women role models in ICT in order to overcome male domination: if more women take part in ICT, other women might no longer consider it unusual to see women in ICT, which is deemed as men's world. Role modeling can be seen as a way to strengthen women's confidence and gender awareness in using ICT. In relation to this role modeling, Girls in Tech Indonesia campaigns #Whynot Initiative as an effort to raise gender awareness ICT in personal (Halimatussadiah, communication, June 23, 2017)

#### Informant 1:

"I am getting to know more that women can do and develop their platforms even though technology relates to men."

#### Informant 2:

"GIT-ID's campaign on #WhyNot really teaches us that we can deal with tech."

#### Informant 3:

"After joining GIT-ID, I know that we can do tech."

#### Informant 4:

"Technology is not about men, all GIT-ID's mentors are women."

#### Informant 5:

"The mentors are top leading women in tech, so #WhyNot really impacts us to deal with tech without hesitation".

#### 4. Access

Access refers to women's access to economic resources to production factors i.e. access to ICT literacy, business information, finance, land, labor, credit, training, marketing facilities and all public services and benefits.

As previously mentioned, Womenpreneur **Digital** (WDA) Acceleration program aims to support women to be involved in productive digital activities. In 2017, two-month classes were held, followed by a dinner and pitch mentor competition. Here, the program can be seen to be working at the 'access' level of equality, since it is increasing women's access to the source of related information i.e. how to promote their products through digital platforms and access to capital venture as well as investor or funding supports

#### Informant 1:

"GIT-ID gives us materials on how to master digital platform including promotion and access to finance, and it helps us."

#### Informant 2:

"One of the classes provides knowledge about financial access—venture capital—in a corporation delivered by Kinara venture capital."

#### Informant 3:

"GIT-ID's WDA gives me access especially to networking."

#### Informant 4:

"It helps us grow the business as WDA opens access to certain information on business strategy."

#### Informant 5:

"It provides good materials and how to access them. It offers not only knowledge but also networking."

#### 5. Welfare

This term refers to the level of women's material welfare. Girls in Tech Indonesia's activities are simply designed to increase women's access to material resources relative to men that might impact their welfare level. For example, Womenpreneur Digital Acceleration (WDA) classes provide materials on how to win with social media content. This equips participants to promote their business that will impact their sales and profit. When the women's business is growing, consequently, the profit will increase, and it will impact their welfare level.

#### Informant 1:

"And Ollie is my mentor, she really inspires me and helps me develop my school in terms of funding and promote my products."

#### Informant 2:

"Girls in Tech program really helps promote my business and impacts my sales."

#### Informant 3:

"As the program provides access to knowledge and information related to digital literacy to develop our digital platform as well as business, it impacts our business financially."

Informant 4:

GIT-ID's program gives an impact on my platform, on how to grow it."

However, the benefit of Womenpreneurs Digital Acceleration classes is not only in the form of financial profit but also other kinds of benefits such as networking, access to related information in order to develop their digital platform. In this context, three participants admitted that they did not get direct financial benefit since their platforms are non-profit. The benefits that they get are in terms of networking and access to the resources.

#### Informant 5:

"The significant transformation that I experienced related to social media management skill. I never used Instagram, right now I have an account Instagram for business platform. Having Instagram might significantly promote your business since it also provides ads for promotion. my startup/digital Somehow, platform is nonprofit, so it is not affected financially. However, it helps promote my program".

From all the above explanation, it can be concluded that Girls in Tech Indonesia's leadership performance through Womenpreneur **Digital** Acceleration program has good impacts on empowerment as it positively enables women achieve better access, control, participation, conscientization and welfare. Hence, we can argue that Girls in Tech Indonesia has succeeded in addressing woman

issues through their program, Womenpreneur Digital Acceleration.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Digital gender divide caused by cultural divide has segregated occupation into the dichotomy of male and female's domain. It then impedes women to take part in ICT related work (including commerce) since it is considered men's field. In order to counter the Girls in Tech Indonesia. however, has shown a contribution to women economic empowerment through ICT education and through engagement Womanpreneur Digital Acceleration. Interestingly, by addressing woman through Womenpreneur issues Digital Acceleration, Girl in Tech Indonesia successfully has a transformational implemented leadership performance that impacts positively on women economic empowerment through ICT mastery.

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#### **ABOUT**

SALASIKA etymologically derived from Javanese language meaning 'brave woman'. SALASIKA JOURNAL (SJ) is founded in July 2019 as an international open access, scholarly, peerreviewed, interdisciplinary journal publishing theoretically innovative and methodologically diverse research in the fields of gender studies, sexualities and feminism. Our conception of both theory and method is broad and encompassing, and we welcome contributions from scholars around the world.

SJ is inspired by the need to put into visibility the Indonesian and South East Asian women to ensure a dissemination of knowledge to a wider general audience.

SJ selects at least several outstanding articles by scholars in the early stages of a career in academic research for each issue, thereby providing support for new voices and emerging scholarship.

#### **AUDIENCE**

SJ aims to provide academic literature which is accessible across disciplines, but also to a wider 'non-academic' audience interested and engaged with social justice, ecofeminism, human rights, policy/advocacy, gender, sexualities, concepts of equality, social change, migration and social mobilisation, inter-religious and international relations and development.

There are other journals which address those topics, but SJ approaches the broad areas of gender, sexuality and feminism in an integrated fashion. It further addresses the issue of international collaboration and inclusion as existing gaps in the area of academic publishing by (a) crossing language boundaries and creating a space for publishing and (b) providing an opportunity for innovative emerging scholars to engage in the academic dialogue with established researchers.

#### STRUCTURE OF THE JOURNAL

All articles will be preceded by an abstract (150-200 words), keywords, main text introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion; acknowledgments; declaration of interest statement; references; appendices (as appropriate); table(s) with caption(s) (on individual pages); figures; figure captions (as a list); and a contributor biography (150 words). Word length is 4,000-10,000 words, including all previous elements.

#### **TIMELINE AND SCHEDULE**

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