

Papuan Women in Sustainable Development: A Thematic Analysis and Policy Recommendations

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Keyword:</p> <p>Papuan women; Women empowerment; Sustainable development; Equality; Political participation</p>	<p>This research aims to analyze women's involvement in sustainable development in Papua and formulate local policy recommendations that support women's empowerment. The research method uses a thematic analysis approach by examining previous research documents and online sources, focusing on searching for the keyword "Papuan women," the data is analyzed using Nvivo 12 Plus. The findings highlight the challenges of women's engagement in Papua, including limited access to education, employment opportunities, and political participation. Policy recommendations include increasing access to education, economic empowerment, women's political participation, and integration of gender perspectives in development planning. The research conclusion emphasizes the urgency of empowering women as agents of change in sustainable development in Papua. The implication is that inclusive and sustainable development requires the involvement of all parties, taking into account the critical role of women in realizing equitable and sustainable development goals for the entire community.</p>

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development in a region is a cross-sector effort that aims to balance economic growth, social justice, and environmental preservation. This involves developing environmentally friendly infrastructure, increasing access to education and health services, and empowering the economy of local communities. Sustainable development also emphasizes the importance of active participation from various stakeholders, including government, the private sector, civil society, and local communities, to formulate policies that take into account long-term needs and maintain environmental and cultural sustainability (Bhammar et al., 2021; Regmi & Walter, 2017; Suriyankietkaew et al., 2022). With a holistic and sustainable approach, regional development can provide equitable and sustainable benefits for the entire population and future generations (Khajuria et al., 2022; Kutty et al., 2020; Roseland, 2000).

On the other hand, women are often seen as a vulnerable group in various social and economic contexts. They often face discrimination, violence, and limited access to resources and opportunities (Carpenter, 2005; Póltorak & Topa, 2021; Schiller, 2007; Tinner & Alonso Curbelo, 2024). This can become more complex due to factors such as gender inequality, limited access to education and health services, and the impact of conflict and uneven development. Therefore, it is essential to encourage efforts to recognize and overcome the inequalities experienced by women, as well as strengthen their role and contribution to an inclusive and sustainable society.

Women and sustainable development are two things that are fundamentally interrelated in efforts to achieve sustainable social, economic, and environmental progress throughout the world (Adeleye et al., 2024; Chiara et al., 2023). Women play a central role in the development process as agents of change and beneficiaries (Baharuddin & Purwaningsih, 2017; Handoko et al., 2024; Khare & Mishra, 2023). They are the main pillars in the family, society, and economy and have great potential to drive positive transformation in various development sectors. In the context of sustainable development, women can influence political decisions, manage natural resources sustainably, and support gender equality and social inclusion broadly (Khare & Mishra, 2023; Ogbonnaya & Okechukwu Ann, 2023). Therefore, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment are crucial in achieving inclusive and sustainable development goals.

On the other hand, sustainable development demands a holistic approach that takes into account social, economic, and environmental aspects (Kong et al., 2024; Rifaid, Abdurrahman, et al., 2023; Rifaid, Rachman, et al., 2023). This confirms that a balance between economic, social, and environmental interests is essential to create a sustainable future for future generations. Women have an important role in promoting this harmony, as they often have a deep understanding of local needs and are involved in a variety of economic and social activities that create a direct impact on community well-being (Adeleye et al., 2024; Amanuma et al., 2023). Therefore, actively involving women in planning, implementing, and monitoring sustainable development programs is crucial in ensuring the success and sustainability of development efforts worldwide.

The involvement of women has become a significant highlight in the sustainable development agenda because it has broad implications for the effectiveness, inclusiveness, and sustainability of development efforts (Aluko & Okuwa, 2018; Bakare et al., 2024; Gaur et al., 2023). Research and field experience show that when women are economically, politically, and socially empowered, they tend to play a more active role in fighting for their rights, managing resources wisely, and contributing significantly to economic growth and social stability. By integrating a gender perspective in the planning and implementation of development policies, society can ensure that development efforts not only take into account the interests and needs of women somewhat but also produce more sustainable and inclusive outcomes for all members of society.

In Papua, women's involvement is in the spotlight in the context of sustainable development (Ginting et al., 2022). The region faces complex challenges, including limited access to viable health, education, and economic services (Tjolli et al., 2021). Not to mention that this area is identified as a conflict-prone area (Karso et al., 2024). In Papuan society, women often face discrimination, limited access to education and employment, and a lack of decision-making in matters relating to their lives. However, Papuan women have great potential to act as significant agents of change in the development of their region (Ginting et al., 2022; Karim, 2012; Mandacan et al., 2022). By increasing their access to education, skills training, and economic resources and empowering them socially and politically, Papuan women can become essential in advancing inclusive and sustainable development in the region. Encouraging the active involvement of Papuan women in decision-making, economic empowerment, and access to essential services is the key to achieving sustainable and equitable progress throughout Papua.

The involvement of women in sustainable development, including in the Papuan context, plays a crucial role in achieving inclusive and sustainable progress. Even though they face complex challenges, Papuan women have great potential to become significant agents of change in advancing the development of their region. By increasing access to education and skills training and empowering socially and politically, Papuan women can significantly promote inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development in the region. Support for the active involvement of Papuan women in decision-making, economic empowerment, and access to essential services is an important key to achieving sustainable progress in Papua.

This research research aims to conduct an in-depth thematic analysis of women's roles and challenges in the context of sustainable development in Papua. This research aims to thoroughly understand how the involvement of Papuan women influences the regional development process and identify the factors that influence their access to education, the

economy, and political decisions. Through a thematic analysis approach, this research aims to provide in-depth insight into how Papuan women can be empowered more effectively in supporting inclusive and sustainable development in the region.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research method adopts a qualitative approach focusing on searching and analyzing previous research documents and online documents, especially news, using the keyword "Papuan women." The search and data collection process will be carried out systematically to identify and collect relevant information regarding women's roles, challenges, and issues in Papua. The collected data will be transferred into Nvivo 12 Plus qualitative data analysis software for in-depth thematic analysis. This approach is expected to provide comprehensive insight into Papuan women's condition and contribute to formulating more effective strategies and policies for empowerment and sustainable development in the region.

Using Nvivo 12 for qualitative data analysis, researchers began by importing relevant data, such as previous research documents and news articles that included the term "Papuan women." Next, the data is organized, classified, and analyzed using various tools provided by this software. Through the analysis process, researchers can find the main themes, patterns, and relationships between concepts that emerge from the data. Nvivo 12 facilitates data visualization through diagrams, graphs, and concept maps, which helps researchers better understand and effectively present their findings. Next, researchers can interpret their findings and prepare informative research reports based on the results of the analysis and visualization that have been carried out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The urgency of development in Papua

Development in Papua is a complex issue and demands serious attention from various parties. This region has excellent natural resource potential but also faces severe challenges in terms of access to essential services such as education, health, and infrastructure. Geographical, social, and political factors are the leading causes of uneven development in Papua. Social conflict, cultural diversity, and lack of local community participation in the development process are significant obstacles (Ginting et al., 2022; Karso et al., 2024; Tjolle et al., 2021). The importance of sustainable development in Papua lies not only in the economic aspect but also in efforts to improve the quality of life and welfare of the Papuan people.

In the development context in Papua, it is essential to implement an inclusive and sustainable approach that involves active participation from various stakeholders, including government, the private sector, civil society, and local communities. Substantial investment is needed in infrastructure development, increasing access to essential services, and economic empowerment of local communities. Apart from that, efforts to promote intercultural dialogue, build cooperation between agencies, and prioritize the principles of justice and sustainability in every development policy are the keys to achieving significant progress in Papua. Only a holistic approach that considers social, economic, and environmental aspects of development in Papua can be more inclusive and sustainable and provide equitable benefits for the entire community.

Development in Papua is a complex challenge and requires the involvement of all parties to achieve sustainable and inclusive progress. This region has excellent natural resource potential but is often faced with problems such as economic inequality, limited access to essential services such as education and health, and social and political conflict. To overcome these challenges, active involvement is needed from the government, private sector, civil society, and local communities (Anugerah, 2019; Msiren & Yuwono, 2018). The government needs to provide a solid commitment to prioritizing development in Papua and formulate policies that consider the Papuan people's needs and aspirations. The private sector can play a role in developing the local economy through responsible and sustainable investment. Meanwhile, civil society and local communities have an essential role in expressing their aspirations, building capacity and being

involved in decision-making processes that affect the future of their region. Collaboration between all parties will enable the creation of equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development in Papua (Ismail, 2015; Navoleon et al., 2023).

Women's involvement is also a critical factor in the development of Papua. Papuan women have great potential as change agents who can holistically strengthen the development process (Afriansyah, 2023). Through active participation in decision-making, economic empowerment, and equitable access to education and health services, Papuan women can create sustainable positive change in their society and economy. By strengthening the role of women in development, both at the household and community levels, Papua can utilize its full potential to realize inclusive, sustainable, and equitable development for all levels of society. Thus, women's involvement is essential for achieving a better development vision in Papua.

Development in Papua is a complex challenge requiring active involvement from all parties. This region has excellent natural resource potential but faces problems such as economic inequality, limited access to essential services, and social and political conflict. To overcome these challenges, the government, private sector, civil society, and local communities need a solid commitment to prioritize development in Papua and develop inclusive and sustainable policies. Women's involvement is also a critical factor in achieving equitable and sustainable development, so strengthening women's role in decision-making, economic empowerment, and access to services is very important to achieve the vision of better development in Papua.

Challenges of women's involvement in Papua

In Papua, women's involvement in the development process faces several complex challenges. However, women have great potential to act as significant change agents in advancing the region's development. Existing obstacles prevent Papuan women from making maximum contributions to their region's social, economic, and political development. Therefore, it is essential to address these challenges and encourage the active involvement of Papuan women in the development process to achieve sustainable and equitable progress throughout Papua.



Figure 1. Common challenges identified

Source: Processed using Nvivo 12 Plus by the author, 2024

Common challenges women face in Papua include limited access to education and decent employment opportunities. Limited access to education often prevents Papuan women from fully developing their potential and skills. The general challenges faced by women in Papua in terms of limited access to education and decent employment opportunities are the main obstacles to developing their potential and independence. Limited access to education for Papuan women is often caused by a variety of factors, including geographical distance to schools, lack of adequate educational facilities, and social norms that prioritize education for boys over girls. As a result, the literacy rate and education level of women in Papua tend to be lower than that of men. This

limited access prevents Papuan women from developing their academic potential and limits their opportunities to obtain decent work. The lack of decent work opportunities is also a serious problem, considering that many economic sectors in Papua still need to be developed, and there is a lack of formal employment opportunities for women. In this regard, inclusive and sustainable steps need to be taken to ensure that Papuan women have equal access to quality education and fair employment opportunities to contribute significantly to their region's development (Solaiman, 2019; Tebay, 2020; Widjojo, 2012).

In addition, women often face discrimination in the world of work and have difficulty in obtaining decent work commensurate with their qualifications. Social, cultural, and economic factors also affect Papuan women, including high rates of violence against women, limited access to reproductive health services, and obstacles in obtaining ownership of assets and property rights. In addition, women are often underrepresented in political and societal decision-making processes, which prevents them from actively participating in development and fighting for their interests and rights effectively (Selly et al., 2023; Solaiman, 2019; Tebay, 2020; Widjojo, 2012). Inclusive and sustainable social, economic, and political transformation in Papua requires solving these challenges and empowering women as an integral part of the process.

Challenges to the involvement of women in Papua in the development process include limited access to education and decent employment opportunities, as well as the various forms of social, cultural, and economic discrimination they face. These limitations prevent Papuan women from developing their potential to the maximum and contributing significantly to the development of their region. Inclusive and sustainable steps need to be taken to ensure that Papuan women have equal access to education and fair employment opportunities and to fight for their interests and rights effectively in political and societal decision-making processes. By paying attention to these challenges and encouraging women's empowerment, Papua can achieve more sustainable and equitable progress in the future.

The challenge of involving women in Papua in the development process requires active participation from women themselves and a strong and sustainable response from the government. Even though women have great potential to become significant agents of change in advancing the region's development, the government's response to improving access to education, decent work opportunities, and protecting women's rights is critical. Inclusive and gender-supportive policy steps need to be taken to address the problems of discrimination, violence, and inequality faced by Papuan women. With active involvement and strong government support, Papuan women will have more significant opportunities to play an influential role in their region's social, economic, and political development, thereby creating sustainable and equitable progress throughout Papua.

Women's involvement in Papua: Local policy recommendations

In the Papuan context, the involvement of women in the development process is essential to achieve inclusive and sustainable progress. To overcome the challenges faced by Papuan women, local policy recommendations are crucial in ensuring women's empowerment and increasing access to education, decent work, and participation in decision-making. By formulating supportive policies, Papua can optimize the potential of women as agents of change in realizing sustainable development for its entire community.

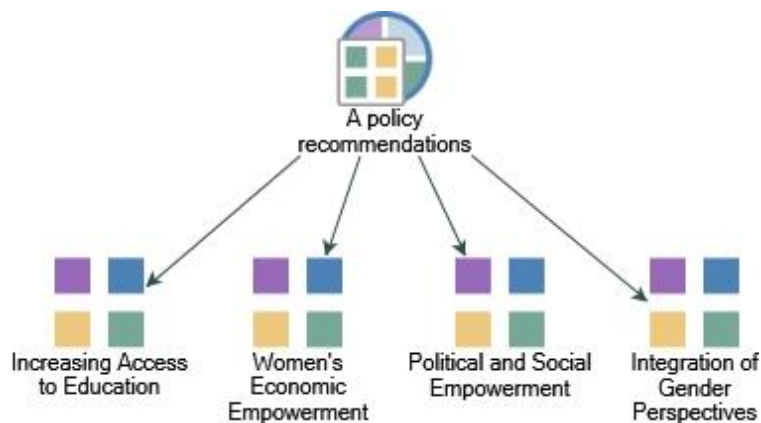


Figure 2. Mapping of policy recommendations

Source: Processed using Nvivo 12 Plus by the author, 2024

Increasing Papuan women's access to education is crucial in building the foundation for sustainable progress in the region (Afriansyah, 2023; Kahar et al., 2019). Policies focused on expanding access must cover various aspects, from building educational infrastructure in remote areas often overlooked to providing scholarships to help Papuan women overcome financial barriers in pursuing quality education. In addition, it is essential to adopt inclusive education approaches that accommodate the unique needs of women, such as literacy and skills programs that are appropriate to the local context, thereby enabling Papuan women to develop their potential optimally and contribute significantly to the development of their region.

Women's economic empowerment in Papua requires strong support from local policies that accommodate various important aspects (Abdurrahman & Tusianti, 2021; Iriawan & Edyanto, 2022; Muchlashin et al., 2022). Such policies should focus on establishing and improving micro and small businesses owned by women and providing entrepreneurship training that enables them to manage their businesses effectively. In addition, access to capital and markets must be made more accessible through various financial support and training programs. Furthermore, to create a conducive environment for women in business, it is essential to remove legal and administrative barriers that often limit women's asset ownership and property rights. Through these steps, women's economic empowerment can be a key driver in achieving inclusive and sustainable economic progress in Papua.

Political and social empowerment of women in Papua requires progressive and inclusive policy design (Ekawati, 2019). Local policies must recognize and strengthen the importance of women's participation in political and societal decision-making processes. One crucial step is ensuring women's quotas in legislative institutions to increase their representation. Apart from that, providing leadership training for women and efforts to build awareness of women's rights and gender equality in society must also be the main focus of policy. In this way, women in Papua can actively formulate policies that affect their lives and realize more inclusive and sustainable development for the entire community.

Integrating a gender perspective in local development planning in Papua is essential for creating sustainable and inclusive policies (Hidayat, 2018; Yuliantri et al., 2021). Development policies must take gender differences into account in data collection, impact analysis, and policy evaluation to ensure appropriate responses to the needs and challenges faced by women. In addition, increasing the bureaucratic capacity to understand and respond effectively to women's needs is critical to implementing policies that properly integrate gender perspectives. In this way, development policies in Papua can provide more equitable and sustainable benefits for the entire community while ensuring the involvement and empowerment of women as an integral part of the development process.

Overall, efforts to increase access to and empower women in Papua through development policies are a crucial step and have the potential to have a significant positive impact. However, several challenges must be overcome to ensure the success and sustainability of the plan. First,

policy implementation must be supported by a strong commitment from the government and adequate resource allocation. With adequate support, existing policies may become rhetoric with real impact. Second, it is essential to pay attention to the unique cultural and social context in Papua so that the policies designed can be truly relevant and effective in overcoming the problems faced by women.

Third, active participation from communities and local stakeholders is also essential to ensure that adopted policies reflect the needs and aspirations of all parties (Batista et al., 2023; Overton & Stokan, 2023; Vaz, 2020). Finally, regular evaluations of policy implementation should be conducted to evaluate its impact and effectiveness, as well as to identify and address any obstacles or weaknesses that may arise during the process (He & Chen, 2023; Ykylas et al., 2023; York & Hahn, 2007). With a critical and comprehensive approach to policy formulation and implementation, Papua has excellent potential to achieve significant progress in women's empowerment and involvement, which will, in turn, contribute to more inclusive and sustainable development in the region.

The implications of efforts to empower and involve women in Papua for future sustainable development are very significant. By increasing women's access and empowerment in education, economics, and politics, Papua has the potential to create a more inclusive and sustainable society. Educated and empowered women will be potent agents of change in overcoming various development challenges, from improving social welfare to preserving the environment. In addition, through active participation in decision-making processes, women can ensure that the development policies adopted reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire community, thereby creating more just and equitable development. Thus, women's empowerment in Papua will not only bring direct benefits to women themselves but will also significantly contribute to achieving overall sustainable development goals in the region.

CONCLUSION

Development in Papua is a complex challenge that requires the involvement of all parties to achieve sustainable progress. Women's involvement in the development process is also critical in achieving the vision of inclusive and sustainable development in the region. Development in Papua requires a holistic approach involving active participation from various stakeholders, investment in infrastructure development, economic empowerment of local communities, and special attention to gender equality. With cross-sector collaboration and empowerment of all communities, Papua can achieve more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable development for all communities. With increased access and empowerment of women in education, economics, and politics, Papua has the potential to create a more inclusive and sustainable society. Educated and empowered women will be powerful change agents in overcoming various development challenges. At the same time, their active participation in decision-making will ensure that development policies reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire community. Thus, empowering women in Papua will significantly contribute to achieving sustainable development goals in the region.

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