

ABSTRACT

Inclusive and gender-equitable development is a key priority of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasizes the importance of gender equality across all aspects of life. Although Java Island serves as the center of Indonesia's national economic growth with relatively advanced infrastructure and access to basic services, gender disparities remain evident in many of its regencies and municipalities. This study aims to analyze the influence of women's participation in parliament and the labor market on the Gender Development Index (GDI) across regencies and municipalities in Java during the 2017-2023 period.

Women's participation is represented by two indicators within the Gender Empowerment Index (GEI), namely Women's Representation in Parliament (KPP) and Women as Professional Workers (PTP). In addition, this study incorporates the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and the percentage of women aged 25 years and above with at least a senior secondary education (PEND) to capture health and education aspects that affect women's quality of life and opportunities. The Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) at constant prices is included as a control variable to reflect the real economic capacity of each region. Panel data analysis with a Fixed Effect Model approach is employed.

The results reveal that the variables KPP, PTP, and MMR do not have a significant effect on the GDI. This indicates that women's presence in political and professional spheres remains symbolic without sufficient institutional and social support, while maternal mortality is not yet a determining factor in advancing gender equality. Conversely, the variables PEND and GRDP show a significant effect on the GDI, underscoring that educational attainment and regional economic capacity are fundamental to strengthening gender development in a more substantive and sustainable manner.

Keywords: *Gender Development Index, women's participation, parliament, professional workers*