
Autonomy Without Power Decision Making in Family Planning of the Rural Women: A Hermeneutic Phenomenology Study

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Background

- **Family Planning program in Indonesia has been claimed as the successful program in New Order era. Women have given great contribution to the success of Family Planning, yet they are merely treated as the object of development program.**
- **Women are the major users of FP but most of them suffer from the side effect of FP. They have very vital role in decreasing infant mortality rate but maternal mortality rate is the highest among Southeast Asian countries**

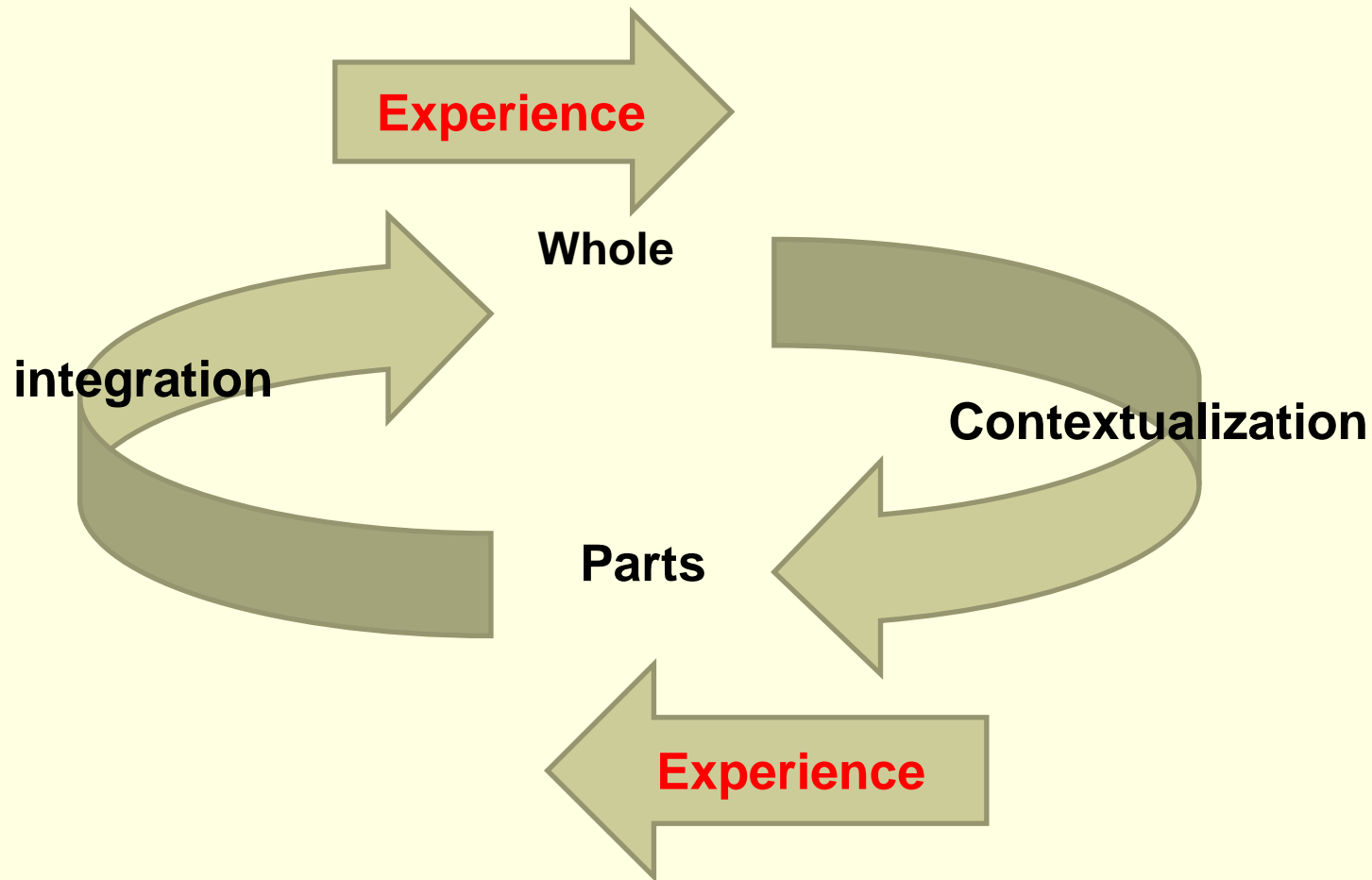
Objectives

- **to elaborate how the mechanism of decision making in family planning made by the women**
- **To elaborate the Javanese Islamic values relating to family planning decision making.**

Method

- **This is a qualitative research used hermeneutic - phenomenology approach to gain comprehensive knowledge on women's experience in performing family planning in rural area**
- **Hermeneutic phenomenology is an approach to express participant on interpretation of their phenomenal experiences.**

Hermeneutic Phenomology Circle



Data Collection

- The subject of study are 24 (Javanese) moslem women in rural area aged between 20 – 50 years who have used contraceptive device for more than 3 years.
- The method of data collection : participatory observation, deep interview and document study.

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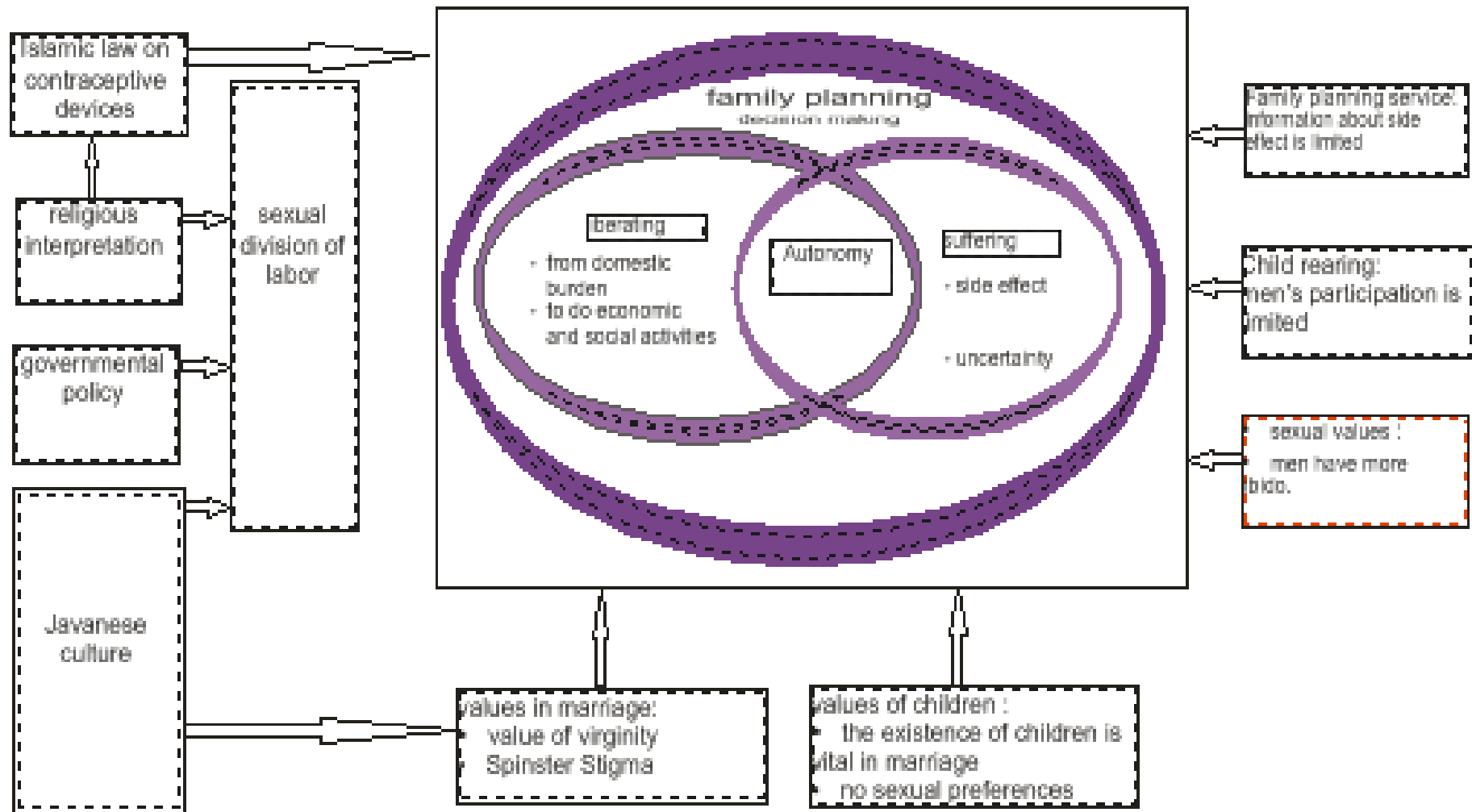
Results

- **Women take their own decision in using contraceptive devices does not mean that they have absolute authority to control their body. Since their decision should obey “the Islamic rules” established by their husband. (*Halal & haram*)**
- **The women experience that all contraceptive devices are inconvenient, except for sterilization. However, sterilization is considered illegal according to some Islamic sects.**

Results (cont')

There were several values of the “Javanese Islamic” culture regarding family planning, such as:

- 1). Men are viewed to have higher sexual libido than women do, consequently, 'naughty' men are considered natural, and this drives women to refuse sterilization on men.**
- 2). Bringing up children are women's responsibilities, and thus the husband's involvement is limited.**
- 3) Men are viewed as the head of the family, so the husbands determined the choices of Family planning devices.**



Picture 1. Family planning decision making mechanism

Conclusion

- **Women decide to use, terminate or change the types of contraception by themselves, but they do not have any power. Since most of the husband control the types of contraceptive used by the women based on the Javanese Islamic values favor men.**



THANK YOU