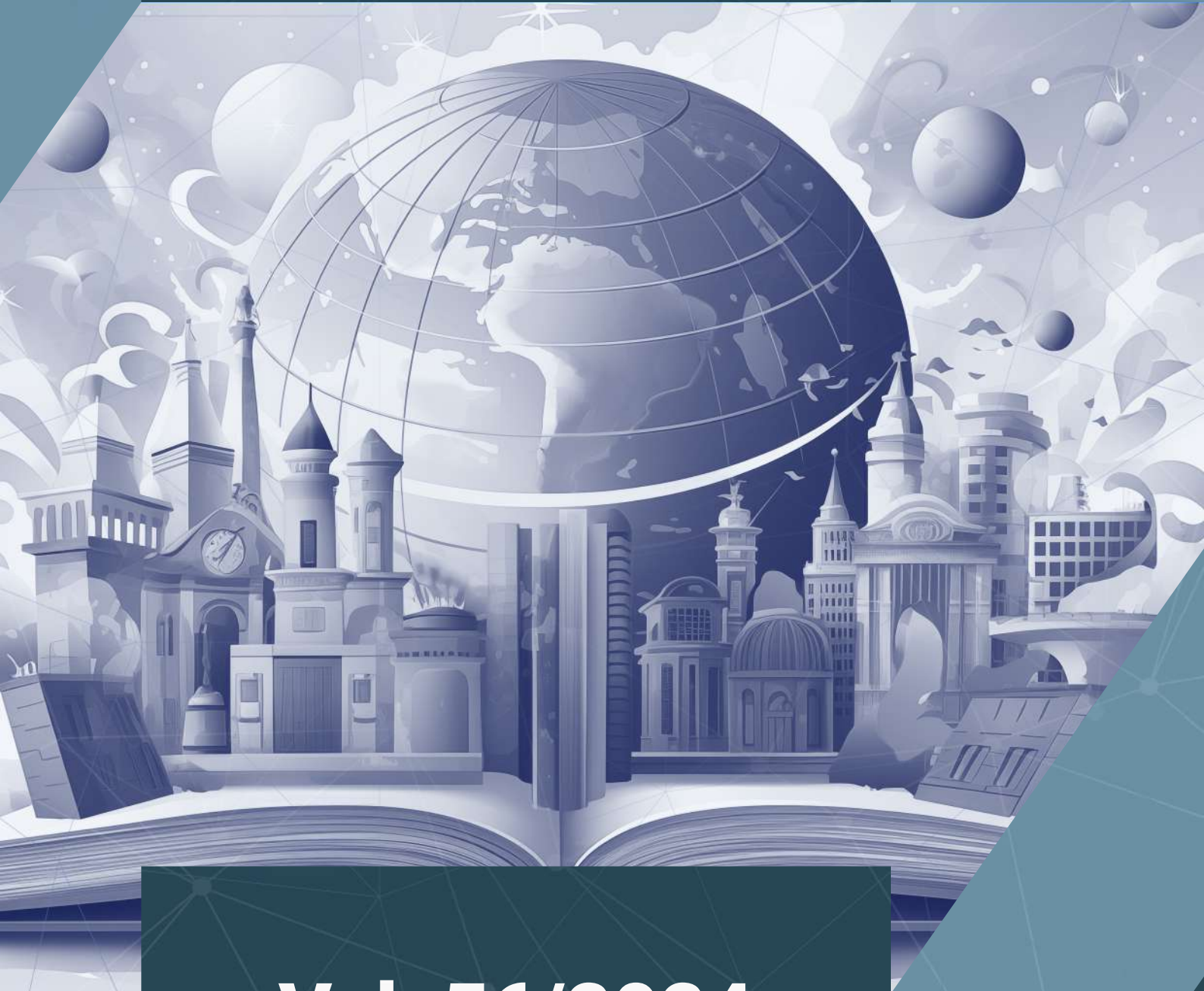




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The Complexities of SDGs Goal 5 and 13 in ASEAN Region: A Comparative Study between Balinese and Cambodian Women Campaign on Climate Action

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Abstract. Women tend to be object and victims of climate change impact. *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (IUCN) in 2020 found that gender-based violence was aligned with climate and environmental crisis in various developing countries. In addition, 9.9 women got affected heavily from natural disaster in Indonesia (BPS, 2017). Meanwhile, only 20% of women leadership constitutes the entire energy sector (WEF, 2022). Another important statement from IPCC (2022) said that women (particularly pregnant women) became highly impacted from climate crisis. The Assessment Report on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN (2022) built evidence on the importance of recognizing women's roles in climate action in ASEAN countries. In light to this background, this paper will analyse the critical complexities of ASEAN women leadership towards climate action in order to evaluating the implementation of SDGs goal 5 and 13. To have further deep analysis, this paper will explore the case study of Balinese and Cambodian women who have best practices of climate action, locally, nationally and globally, which also enhance ASEAN countries commitment on SDGs. Some of the best practices in Cambodia include a Renewable Energy (RE) programme that actively engaged with and promoted women-led energy enterprises by implementing "The Smoke Free Village" approach and training women as champions for gender-transformative Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Meanwhile in Bali, Balinese women play an important role in climate action by establishing the Bali Women Climate Entrepreneur Project that encouraged 10 start-ups joining the program and many other best practices to be explored further. As a methodology, the best practices of women leadership in both countries will be collected through literature reviews, interview, and statistics from Balinese and Cambodia government/SDGs centre, and other relevant documents' review. From those sources, this paper is expected to be the guidance of mapping women leadership in climate action and also become a guidance on how to develop effective communication for women in ASEAN region on climate change.

Keywords. climate action, women, effective communication, SDGs, Indonesia, Bali, Cambodia

1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the major issues that has become ASEAN's concern. ASEAN countries have taken significant measures to address the issue as reflected in the ASEAN Member States' country reports. It is in line with ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, the Sixth Assessment Report of IPCC gives valid evidence that climate change is real, and it impacts the most vulnerable sectors especially women because women tend to be object and victims of climate change impact. *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)* in 2020 found that gender-based violence was aligned with climate and environmental crisis in various developing countries. Indonesia has made important commitments to achieve its targets of climate action and development (World Bank, 2023).

In addition, 9.9 women got affected heavily from natural disaster in Indonesia (BPS, 2017). Meanwhile, only 20% of women leadership constitutes the entire energy sector (WEF, 2022). Another important statement from IPCC (2022) said that women (particularly pregnant women) became highly impacted from climate crisis. The Assessment Report on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN (2022) built evidence on the importance of recognizing women's roles in climate action campaign in ASEAN countries where most of the country adaptation strategies state assessment on the gender vulnerability. For example, the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) was developed to monitor the gender vulnerability although it is still not sufficiently user-friendly for governmental line ministries and sub-national agencies (ASEAN State of Climate Change Report, 2021).

This study focuses on identification of Cambodia and Balinese women leaders 'role in influencing and leading climate actions as well as the challenges they face to communicate climate change. Cambodia's National Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023 mentioned the need to expand involvement of women in making policy on climate. Best practices identified in the field show that Cambodian women leaders play an important role in influencing and leading climate actions across the country. Some of the best practices in Cambodia include a Renewable Energy (RE) programme that actively engaged with and promoted women-led energy enterprises by implementing "The Smoke Free Village" approach and training women as champions for gender-transformative Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Cambodia Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (ASEAN State of Climate Change Report, 2021). Another interesting and provoking story of women leadership in Cambodia is Kimsor Lim who created a network of women activists who challenged the existing gender stereotypes and eventually gained policy resonance (Mattina, 2022)

Some challenges have been identified in a gender policy assessment by the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Cambodia, which revealed that traditional stereotypes and gender norms became the main constraints in obtaining wider chances in various aspects including economics, education, and politics. According to the UN, it is estimated that globally women and girls are 14 times more likely than men to die during a climate crisis and 80% people that are displaced due to climate change are women (Mattina,2022). The UN State of World Population Report (2009) stated that the sex differences in climate-related mortality are directly influenced by "the degree to which women enjoy social and economic rights" and in Southeast Asia women represent a disproportionate percentage of the poor population. Therefore, it is critical to have more women leaders in climate action. At the national and sub-national levels, Indonesia has strong women leaders in climate actions. In Bali Province, the role of women leaders in climate action even become more significant nowadays. It is reflected, for example, in the Bali Women Climate Entrepreneur Project that has encouraged 10 start-ups joining the program of New Energy NEXUS Indonesia supported by Climate works Foundation (Empowering Women Climate Entrepreneurs to Accelerate Clean Energy Space in Bali, 2022).

This paper analyses the critical complexities of ASEAN (Cambodia and Bali astudy case) women leadership towards climate action and to enhance ASEAN countries commitment

on SDGs goal 5 and 13. This study include 4 (four) climate action projects led by women leaders in Bali including the start-ups of organic rice program, coral reef restoration, mangrove restoration and women capacity building on climate change through trainings of Rural Climate and Economic Resilience (RuCLER) from Women's Earth Alliance. The researcher explores on the scope of their projects, how those selected women leaders communicate climate change to the community and relevant stakeholders, how they have influenced and led the climate action effectively and identify the challenges for a better implementation in the future.

2. Literature review

Feminist perspective

Before diving into the context of climate change projects from feminist perspective, a theory that supported the relation between ecology and feminism has appeared in 1974 by Françoise d'Eaubonne that created a theory of ecofeminism or ecological feminism. Ecofeminism is not about a theory of the equality between women and men with the touch of ecological or environment, but with the concrete idea at that time, such as the link between the oppression of women and the destruction of nature. According to Françoise d'Eaubonne, if humanity is to be rescued, the two battles - ecological and feminist - must intersect, because patriarchy is responsible for both ecological catastrophes (Goldblum, C. 2017).

American feminist philosopher Greta Gaard said that ecofeminism involves redefining feminism as a movement to end all forms of oppression. She examines liberal and cultural ecofeminist viewpoints, underlining how women have been excluded from climate change policy talks while also being disproportionately affected by climate change phenomena. Many studies revealed that how gender equality and climate changes is interconnected, it shows in the incapacity of women to survive when disasters strikes due to long-standing gender gaps in knowledge, mobility, decision-making, and access to resources and training as well as limited access to services and health care, also raising hazards associated with maternal and child health (UNWomen. 2022). In short, Gaard believed the involvement of women that capable in "tracking and promoting climate justice economic practices at every level, from local to global" is an answer to tackle the climate change (Gaard, 2015).

In the context of climate change projects, feminist perspective encompasses a range of approaches and understandings that highlight the intersectionality of gender and environmental issues. It acknowledges that climate change and its impacts are not gender-neutral or even gender bias. Women, as one of the vulnerable/marginalised communities tend to be a subordinate subject and a disproportionate burden towards climate change impacts. The role of feminist approach in the context of climate change projects can be theoretically structured into three mains of literatures: feminist participatory action research, women empowerment, and gender narrative. **First**, the feminist participatory action research framed and recognised the specific vulnerability and crisis that women experience in relations to climate change (Chakma, 2016). This research gave the understanding of the gendered dynamics of environmental degradation and climate change. It also recognizes that traditional gender roles and power imbalances can contribute to environmental exploitation and unsustainable practices. For example, women's roles as caregivers and primary providers of food and water often make them more attuned to environmental changes and more likely to adopt sustainable practices. Integrating feminist perspectives in climate projects involves valuing and supporting these local knowledge systems and empowering women to participate in decision-making processes.

Other literatures that supported Chakma (2016) were the necessitates the inclusive engagement from diverse gender representations in effective crisis prevention and disaster preparedness ([Bishu et al., 2021](#); [Farhall et al., 2022](#)). Women-based grassroots research into climate action illustrates that women from the Asia-Pacific region, the region home to more than half of the world's population, are suffering disproportionately and that there is a need for more involvement in climate change research and action that focuses on their local experience ([Chakma, 2016](#)). Especially indigenous women have a unique role to play as they have a deep connection with nature and often take on the role of custodians, revealing that more diverse voices within women's advocacy are needed for comprehensive climate change adaptation and mitigation ([Whyte, 2014](#)). *L'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale* (AQOCI), which is a group of over 70 Quebec organizations working abroad and in Quebec to promote sustainable, human development also assessed from their study stated that “women are key to strategies to combat climate change” (CQFD, 2016). As an example, Wangari Maathai became the first African woman to win the Nobel Prize, the award was given in honour of her environmental, social, and political involvement, which was distinguished by a long-term, comprehensive, and inclusive approach to development. With the Green Belt Movement, which she is initiated in Kenya, she encourages woman to secured food and energy needs of their families by fosters forest protection and replanting and enhances rural communities' resilience to climate change (CQFD, 2016). The role of woman as an agent of change in combatting climate change is the prove that woman is not only a victim of climate change. In short, feminist participatory action research addressed inequalities of climate change impacts and ensured that women's voices/experiences were taken into account in climate mitigation and adaptation action/strategies/policies.

Second, the women empowerment concept highlighted the need for gender-responsive policies and programs in climate projects. This entails considering the specific needs, priorities, and capacities of women and girls in developing climate resilience strategies. It involves promoting women's access to education, financial resources, and technology, as well as their involvement in leadership and decision-making roles. Winther et al. (2017) define empowerment as:

a process towards gender equality, understood as women's and men's equal rights, access to and control over resources and power to influence matters that concern or affect them.

In history, women's empowerment¹ was framed primarily through an economic lens whereby empowerment was viewed as ‘economic activity’ or ‘economic advancement’, focused specifically on ‘increasing the ability of poor women to earn better incomes’ ([Smillie 2000: 211](#); see also [Gardener 1997](#)). Feminist scholars in the past have also problematised women empowerment as being limited to questions of uniform access only.

Over time, its meaning has been challenged. This challenging perspective of women empowerment reflected to ASEAN women, which for instance “Women entrepreneurial leaders', in consequence, came to be viewed as subordinate and positioned as ‘lacking’, within a dichotomous framework when compared to “omniscient (male) exemplars” ([Harrison et al., 2015, p.706](#)). This framework engendered a tendency within the literature whereby all individuals were compared to this established masculine norm ([Ahl & Marlow, 2012](#)). As one

¹ For further reading on women empowerment and energy sector, read these references [Cecelski 2005: 35](#); [Chant 2014](#); [Clancy & Feenstra 2006](#); [ENERGIA 2019](#); [Moser 1989](#))

of the case study, Philippines is the only region of Southeast Asia, even on the Asian continent, which is ranked in the top 10 globally for gender equality (Majalah CSR.id, 2018). Study from Apriani & Zulfiani (2020) stated that Southeast Asian achievement of gender equality in every country stands out in the achievement of the education sector. However, achievement in economic participation and opportunities as well as achievements in political empowerment, are still low. In Southeast Asia, opportunities for developing women's involvement still depend on democracy and gender responsive governance (Apriani & Zulfiani, 2020).

Third, the gender narrative concept was derived from patriarchal culture factor and homogenised construction of women. Patriarchal culture has a significant impact in hindering women's political participation towards active citizenship because it has been institutionalized through: (i) political party practices; (ii) tradition, religious, and customary laws; and (iii) gender segregation in the society (Intentilia, 2020). The patriarchal culture thus gives a negative influence on the notion of "active citizenship".

Patriarchal challenges were also further characterised by structural exclusion from decision-making processes which can prevent women from gaining access and ownership to various material endowments such as energy technologies and infrastructure (Orlando et al. 2018).

Meanwhile, most narratives of women in energy-and-development sector for instance tend to present a homogenised construction of women, which essentialises women's domestic roles and paints women as passive victims of energy poverty (Listo, 2018). These limited constructions problematically overlook women's heterogenous experiences based on their varying gendered (and other) identities and power relations. In this regard, intersectional feminism provides a much needed lens that accounts for how gender interacts with other social categories of difference, such as income, class, ethnicity, education, geographical location, etc that produce gendered energy inequalities (Cho et al., 2013).

In connecting those three concepts above into this research, the feminist approach was being the basis thinking of reasoning the complexities of ASEAN women in doing climate change projects. In addition, the case studies of Balinese and Cambodian women were analysed through the women empowerment concept by exploring, identifying, and developing the indicators of ASEAN women leadership in conducting and implementing SDG goal 5 and goal 13. Furthermore, the gender narrative enriched deeply the challenging factors of Cambodian and Balinese women in making climate change projects and gender equality more relevant and meaningful towards ASEAN sustainability.

Effective communication

Effective communication is essential for women to express themselves, build relationships, and achieve their goals. While there isn't a specific communication theory exclusively for women, there are several key principles that can empower women to communicate effectively (Ashcraft, 2020): using affection-based communication, increase engagement of intrapersonal approach, expand what counts as communication beyond human language and social interaction. In the case of empowering Balinese or Cambodian women, this effective communication could help identifying the indicators or possible condition of women's assertiveness, behaviour on active listening and sharing their empathy and emotional intelligence, and also develop the spirit of collaboration among women peers or other vulnerable stakeholders.

Building relationships with eye contact, seeking support, and engaging in constructive dialogue with others by controlling women's tone and pitch can lead to valuable opportunities, mentorship, and the exchange of ideas. Women can benefit from forming networks that empower and uplift each other. The effective communication theory applied to the ways of identifying and explaining ASEAN women using effective communication as their strength towards their gender equality and climate change projects. By enhancing their communication skills, women can break down barriers, overcome biases, and make a meaningful impact in their personal and professional lives of doing climate action.

3. Method

This research used a qualitative method, which entailed data collection from in depth interviews as the primary resource and the use of a literature and document review as the secondary data source. For data collection, various sources were consulted. There were government documents/regulation including national acts from Cambodia and Indonesia, some journal articles related to ASEAN women leadership and women in climate action, and other relevant references to this research. Furthermore, this research was also conducted by a comparative study of two case studies of Balinese and Cambodian women in either doing their climate change projects or empowering gender equality.

There were two reasons for comparative study in this research. First, researcher easily identified the institutional and non-institutional factors through comparison. A comparative study also allows the researcher to identify whether an institution was responsible and to delineate which institutional features were "active ingredients" in an agreement's success and which were superfluous (Mitchell, 2006, p. 74). Second, a comparative method also carefully selected cases based on the presence or absence of a certain stimulus (Burnham et al., 2008, p. 72). The strengths of qualitative approaches lied in attempts to reconcile complexity, detail, and context. Comparative research is to reason (Burnham et al., 2008, p. 69) instead in terms of variables (Przeworski and Teune, 1970), which reflected into these two case studies in reasoning the determining factors of Cambodian and Balinese women managing their leadership of climate change projects.

Beside comparison, this research was doing case study approach that was appropriate when undertaking research that mostly asked 'how' or 'why' questions (Yin, 2003). Case study was used for investigating contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context (Schoh, 2020). Through the case study of Balinese and Cambodian women, the two case studies-triangulation (Paros, 2021) was needed in order to develop a comprehensive and valid analysis based on qualitative method, which in particular through interviews and document/literature studies. The semi-structured interviews were conducted with five various background of women (four Balinese women and one Cambodian woman), which aimed for gaining illumination of the research question (Kimbu et al.: 2021, Jackson: 2021). Interviews also became useful to confirm the data or statements from certain actors in the public sphere. In relations to this research, the interviews with five different women were conducted in exploring their women leadership and communicative management, how they managed climate change or gender empowerment projects, how they perceived and thought ASEAN women in achieving SDGs.

The research scope helps to emphasise and focus that the research on the right track. This research was limited to the case of Balinese and Cambodian women who had done climate change projects or gender empowerment through SDG goal 5 and 13 with the timeline between 2018-2023. The main reason those two specific women were chosen because of their high

numbers of initiatives and leadership in climate actions (ASEAN Report, 2022). Through this scope, the research limitation also faced technical and substantial challenge of the interview. It was not easy to conduct more interviews with Cambodian women because there were a very few women there dared to speak up and share thoughts on climate projects. The limited access of information from Cambodian government/ASEAN Secretariat elites also became other challenges of gaining primary resources of this research. Therefore, the research of Cambodian women was mostly analysed and corroborated through literature/document reviews. This challenge could be a potential research expansion on comparing other ASEAN women leadership in other sector of environmental sustainability program.

4. Results and discussion

This study aimed to gain illumination of the research questions through semi-structured interviews. The questions were designed to explore the 5 selected climate action women leaders who participated voluntarily on their project scope, the strategies, and challenges along with 1 Cambodian women leader and 1 academia. They all have various backgrounds and experiences, therefore, the semi-structures interview allowed the researchers to explore their communicative management, to learn the strategies to manage the climate action projects and empower gender and also to understand their perceptions or thoughts in achieving SDGs goal 5 and 13. The effective communication theory applied to the ways of identifying and explaining ASEAN women in using effective communication as their strength towards their gender equality and climate change projects.

The Scope of Balinese and Cambodian Women Leaders in Climate Action

This study carefully selected several women leaders in climate action in Cambodia and Indonesia (specifically in Bali). The first informant (Informant C1) in Bali is leading a women climate entrepreneurs project, which brings gender equality to climate solutions start-ups as one of the ways to improve women response and adaptation to climate change so they can accelerate the development and scale the solutions effectively. The project cultivates and nurture Bali-based women energy and climate start-ups, entrepreneurs and innovators, the project duration is August 2022 up to July 2023. They are building a sustainable start-up to promote organic rice produced by farmers aimed to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and encourages women to participate actively. They are making sure that women get support system from the communities.

Furthermore, Informant C2 from ROLE Foundation stated that the designs of climate actions have not targeted women specifically, although in reality, more women are participating than men. One of the main challenges is that women sometimes are considered to be underestimated in term of their capacity. Actually, women who experience the impacts of climate change are often become the leaders to develop coping strategies and build resilience (WEF,2022). During the Women in Finance Climate Action Group, COP26 in 2021, Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF UK said:

“climate change is the greatest environmental challenge humankind has ever faced, and the impact will be most severe for the world’s poorest and most marginalised, including women. However, women are not just victims; given the opportunity they are powerful agents of change...”

The ROLE Foundation program has 20 or more students of marginalized Indonesian women. They need to prove that women can have effective influence in climate action by

creating sustainable climate action programs. They were given knowledge about climate change, environment, and marine conservation and most of them are from Bali and they can be agents of change to communicate the climate change effectively. Another program of Zero Waste Centre gives lessons for Bali WISE consisting of 22 women participating with 10 of them being Balinese. ROLE Foundation climate action have empowered marginalized women as one of their biggest visions, every 3 months they have 20 or more new woman students, climate change and coral started in 2018. Later on the informant became Coral Watch Ambassador.

Fortunately, the coral rehabilitation projects gained some financial support from various governments and non-governmental institutions. Informant C2 said:

“There are still a lot of Balinese people, especially older people that do not really care about the environment and refuse to hear or take seriously of women leaders”.

They only care about more benefits for themselves and all the activities that they have done since many years ago. The informant added some other challenges including on the careless attitude of fishermen who ignore the regulation not to fish in the rehabilitation area. To overcome this particular challenge, the project leader should communicate effectively with empathy and emotional intelligence to prevent further damage of the rehabilitation area.

Furthermore, informant C2 criticized on the lack of Bali Government’s and media involvement especially the making of the rules and the monitoring as it will be easier to reach more people to spread awareness if the government is involved. This statement is reflected in the Assessment Report on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN (2022) stating that women in Southeast Asia are significantly underrepresented in government resulting unrecognized lived experiences of women and girls in addressing their particular needs. The informant C2 also mentioned that sometimes there are some irresponsible private sectors that only use conservation NGOs for their publicity but do not actually help the NGOs with their environmental projects. The government, donors, and private sectors also need to feel responsible for the climate change projects.

Informant C3 stated that they involve women in their project activities including trainings of Rural Climate and Economic Resilience (RuCLER) from Women’s Earth Alliance. The program facilitates women leaders in 9 locations in Indonesia to establish sustainable businesses. The program was designed to give access for women leaders and artisan especially in rural areas. One of the programs is Balini Organic in Jembrana, Bali. In addition, they run ‘Inkubasi Usaha Lestari’ for 12 start-ups established by youth (18-24 years old) who are mostly women. They monitor the impact of their trainings but still facing difficulties because the result is still intangible. The informant emphasised on the role of government to provide safe employment for women is critical to for women empowerment as well as community support. The project leader is communicating the climate crisis through social media and sharing news on their effort to mitigate climate change. They developed ‘Inkubasi Usaha Lestari’ (INKURI) to empower 15 women and youth entrepreneurs so that they can give impacts for the community and environment. They are leaders that received funds from Canada Fund for their initial capital. The informant C4 stated that she has been leading a climate action project by planting mangroves in the mangrove forest area of Tahura Ngurah Rai Bali aimed to maintain forest areas as the lungs of the city and to encourage the community to carry out mangrove rehabilitation with intensive maintenance until the growth rate is better.

Mean whilst, informant C5 is a Cambodian woman who is currently becoming the Executive Director of Silaka. It was incorporated as a non-political, non-sectarian local

Cambodian NGO in January 1997 registered with the Ministry of Interior (<https://www.silaka.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/>, 2023). As a NGO, Silaka also created and developed goal to promote the implementation of democracy in Cambodian society for sustainable development which includes the economic development, including caring for the environment, and social justice (ibid). Within their practice, Silaka aims for empowering Cambodian society with equally participating manner of men and women and also supporting good governance. In the context of the importance of ASEAN women leadership in sustainable development or climate change project, informant C5:

“we have some traditional belief and culture that had been conservative from certain generations to the others, and this shows how inequality happened. Empowering ASEAN women by putting their achievement and leadership is part of human rights. It is hard to ensure women’s ownership in the decision-making process but that’s how women utilise their empowerment”.

According to the statement above, it is clear that ASEAN women had been trapped into conservative cultural barrier and it is challenging for them (including Cambodian women) to have their ownership and access as basic human rights. This barrier was reflected during informant C5’s career journey when she firstly started doing job at Silaka until becoming the top position now, dealing with male supremacy in decision making process and some cultural stereotypes that hinders women’s ability to empower their community/team.

In supporting the statement above, informant C6 agreed that women, especially Balinese women was trapped by conservative/ancient tradition cultural barriers, for instance in the case of ‘Subak’ (irrigation system in the rice field), Balinese women have dominant role to manage the agricultural system, but its system somehow hinders their leadership with women’s domestic image as inferior subject of the development. This situation adds the critical view of lack of women ownership through their domestic image and the ancient tradition/beliefs that embedded permanently into the current development. In the context of policy making process, in particular the smart urban farming or agricultural system, there are nowadays more equipped and empowered women who lead and manages certain unproductive land/hydroponic agriculture as the alternative modern urban farming. These activities also enriched Balinese women’s skills in improving economic benefit and wealth for their family or even increase regional income of Bali province.

Thus, through the interview results above, it is concluded that ASEAN women (particularly Cambodian and Balinese women) have done and got various role, tremendous activities that improve the sustainable development (for instance in food security/urban farming, leadership in climate action/projects, being activist). However, these great initiatives were not coherent and synergised with government’s gender-based policy and media involvement meaningfully. The women leadership in ASEAN have got challenging ownership in acknowledging and actualising their real leadership in society, which their personal and professional improvement were hindered by cultural and tradition pitfalls.

The Challenges for Opportunities

Some informants revealed that the projects have not officially recorded women participation in the form of segregated data of genders. The need for gender-disaggregated data to better track progress of gender equality and all of SDGs goals has been highlighted in the 2021 ASEAN Gender Outlook, a collaboration with UN Women (Duerto-Valero et al, 2021). Informant C1 mentioned the challenges of Balinese women in communicating climate change

include lack of infrastructure and opportunities for women to perform and call for women empowerment in the community and lack of acceptance due to tradition and social stigma from the community that are still not open against climate change issue.

However, informants mentioned that there is no obstacles from men. Balinese women leaders are able to influence community/religious/customary leaders in Bali who are mostly men. Media and government are supporting the existence of women's role in taking actions against climate crisis although still lack of funding from government side. It is recommended to all relevant stakeholders to have a more women-inclusive at the level of decision making and implementation to fight climate change. The project faced many obstacles affecting the rehabilitation activities, one of the biggest being the environmental factor where the success rate of growing from mangroves was very small and even tended to fail.

On the other hand, the Tahura Ngurah Rai Bali mangrove forest area is a forest area that is in the middle or the heart of tourism area, namely Denpasar and Badung. The target of mangrove rehabilitation activities is a company's CSR programs in the form of environmental responsibility. The project successfully involves tough women in the coastal area who voluntarily help to implement and maintain the program activities. They become agents of change in climate action in Bali.

5. Conclusion

The best practices of women leadership in Cambodia and Indonesia (Bali as the study case) that have been identified in this study can serve as the guidance of mapping women leadership in climate action and also become a guidance on how to develop effective communication involving all vulnerable groups including women and girls in ASEAN region. The women leaders have shown the best practices in implementing their respective program. As women they naturally have equipped with effective communication traits became their main strength during the development and implementation stages. The challenges they have been facing in implementing the project can be used as an opportunity to negotiate with different stakeholders including government and key community leaders. Their communication skills can break down barriers, overcome biases, and make a meaningful impact in their personal and professional lives of doing climate action. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct further research on how to replicate the best practices, how turn the challenges into opportunities, which eventually will help to solve the complexities in achieving SDGs 5 and 13.

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List of Interviewee

- [1] Informant C1: Lala Maelani from Gunitri. She was interviewed on 1st July 2023
- [2] Informant C2: Keiza Sitompul from ROLE Foundation. She was interviewed on 30th June 2023
- [3] Informant C3: Naila Mutiara. M from Bumi Pratisara. She was interviewed on 5th July 2023
- [4] Informant C4: Nyoman Sweet Juniartini, environmental activist in Bali. She was interviewed on 1st July 2023
- [5] Informant C5: Mrs. Sent Reasey, Executive Director of SILAKA Cambodia. She was interviewed through Gmeet on 26th June 2023
- [6] Informant C6: Dr Widhianthini, Lecturer of Udayana University – Bali. She was interviewed through Zoom meeting on 23rd June 2023