

The Rant of an Unheard Housewife

By: Nadia S

I am a housewife, a homemaker, a woman who works almost 24 hours without getting paid. So I myself wonder, is my opinion about democracy in the digital world matter?

Even in the eyes of our current president, his preference of men is so obvious. Since he prefers his son in law than his own daughter to run for mayor.

Whoa, what a jump from democracy to feminism. But is it really that far off?

Democracy, according to Merriam-webster.com, is a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.

Whilst for me, democracy is something that Indonesia claimed to be for over 70 years, yet it's just one dynasty after another. Just from one male president to another male president. The supreme power has always been vested in men, mostly.

Well, okay, not all men, but some specific men, and somehow Javanese.

Back then it was Soekarno (and his dynasty), then it was Soeharto (also with his dynasty, and now it is Jokowi and his family.

As a housewife, I want to say I'm happy that a fellow housewife, Megawati, became Indonesia's first female president. But it is such a mixed feeling, knowing that she is part of the dynasty. Maybe I should at least be grateful that no laws were changed for her?

What I know for sure is how democracy and feminism in Indonesia, makes me so powerless. Both just highlighted how my voice as an Indonesian and as a woman are not important at all.

Honestly, I wish the rapid development of digital world would help these issues. But the recent election result makes me wonder if it is just my wishful thinking.

I thought being in digital world, housewives like myself could voice our opinion. Well I could do that easily in social media. However, if I don't make it viral, it won't be heard. And if I do make it viral, there's no guarantee that I wouldn't get backlash and/or doxing.

And I don't want that. I don't want to be viral, I don't want to be famous, I don't want my family to get backlash and doxing. I just want free education for my two kids.

Of course there is some improvement in democracy, thanks to the digital world. Baiq Nuril is one of them. She was convicted of defamation against her alleged abuser and finally released after her case went viral.

Actress and mother of 2, Tsania Marwa, was not the lucky one though. She could not meet her kids for over 7 years even though she won the custody of them, and already went viral. The government does nothing.

I could mention more cases in which women, mothers, housewives' voices are not heard, but this opinion would turn into Harry Potter books.

In an ideal democratic country, I wish there are representative of housewives in the parliament. I wish the housewives have the opportunity to give input on some laws that impact them, like education or even energy saving (remember in 2022 when Mulan Jameela criticized induction stove?)

Somehow these government officials could not see that so many of their decisions impact the housewives. For example, the changing of curriculum that happens so fast, or when the government wants to change gas stove into induction stove.

Again, in some lucky occasion, the women voice are heard. Unfortunately it is rather rare.

Digital world really helps democracy better, but is the help applicable for all? Or only for the men?

