

Woman Surgeon: Case study at Third Referral Hospital in Surabaya, Indonesia

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Abstract— The option to pursue a career as a specialist is the most widely chosen by a general practitioner. Although every specialist education program never required interns to have certain gender, however some courses have their own trend intern registries, such as surgical education programs that are dominated by man. Longer study periods, heavier educational burdens and more emergency cases make surgical department's intern spent more time in the hospital than non-surgical's intern. Given that interns are usually mature and most of them married, the decision to become a surgeon is certainly a big deal especially if the interns are woman. But even so there are also a handful of women who take intern in the field of surgery. The selection of social setting in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital under some facts that Dr. Soetomo General Hospital is the largest hospital in East Java which is the last reference hospital for eastern part of Indonesia and has complete specialist doctor's education program in surgical field. This study is a descriptive study, with qualitative analysis using social construction theory on the reality of Peter Berger. This study occurred about 2 months and obtained 4 informants, dr. E and dr. I, both are interns of General Surgery Specialist Education Program, dr. A, intern of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialist Education Program and dr. S, intern of a Pediatric Surgery Specialist Education Program. From the results of this study, authors found the construction of woman who took intern in the field of surgery could be seen from the behavioral aspect that showed if they were prepared with all the risks that had been taken when choosing field of surgery and construction about surgeon. The decision to become a woman surgeon has created an objective social reality through 3 (three) simultaneous dialectical moments, Externalization which is the attitude of self-expression reinforces the existence of individuals in society, Objectivities is the interaction between woman surgeons with an institutionalized intersubjective world or experience, the Institutionalization that causes them to be aware and convinced that the surgeon is not a job that only men and the Internalization which is the process of self-identification of the woman physician into her socio-cultural world.

Keywords—surgeon, woman surgeon, woman, intern

I. INTRODUCTION (HEADING I)

After completing degree as a general practitioner, the option of continuing career as a specialist is the most commonly chosen. Although every specialist education program never required applicants to have certain gender, however some courses do have their own registrant trends, such as surgical education programs that most of the interns

are men who make surgical education look tough and manly. This is not happening only in Indonesia, but also in other countries, such as Greece¹ and USA² which is a leader of medical surgery field is also more dominated by man intern. In addition, the longer of study period, the higher education burden become because there is a competence of operation that have to be mastered and qualified, also more emergency cases make intern spend longer time in the hospital when compared to intern of Non-Surgical Program. Given that Specialist Education intern are usually mature and mostly married, the decision to become a surgeon is certainly a big deal especially if the intern are woman. The facts that when women enter a marital institution, the absolute duty attached to the women is to become a housewife with a series of domestic jobs waiting. Domestic work wrapped around women, when it begins to enter at this marriage level in community construction has been regarded as a social contract that does not seem to give women the opportunity to have an option, because it is always spiced on behalf of the obligation. In Indonesia, the situation seems to be confirmed and legalized by the applicable law. In the Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974 it is clearly said that the husband is the head of the family and the wife as the housewife, who has the duty to take care of the household. But even so there are also a handful of women who take specialist education programs in the field of surgery. Based on the facts and observations the author then motivated to examine the construction of surgeons at woman intern who take Specialist Education Programs in the field of surgery.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a field study which the research procedure is descriptive, with qualitative analysis. This study uses the theory of social construction of the reality of Peter Berger for basically the concept proposed in the theory is very relevant to the reality to be studied by researchers. The researchers want to conduct an in-depth assessment of the surgeon's perception of a woman intern who's taking a specialist education program in the field of surgery. Berger has argued that basically the reality contained within society is constructed by society itself. In this case the reality of a surgeon at a woman intern who's taking a specialist education program in the field of surgery is built simultaneously as Berger described through his dialectic

triad through the process of Externalization, Objectification and Internalization³.

The research information was obtained primarily through primary sources with in-depth interviews of informants from intern of specialist surgical education in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital. This method is also accompanied by observation and literature study. Selection of social settings in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital is due to

1. Dr. Soetomo General Hospital is the largest hospital in east java which became the last reference for eastern Indonesia
2. Dr. Soetomo General Hospital has a complete Specialist Doctor's Education Program in the field of surgery
3. There are woman doctors who undergo intern in Specialist Surgical Education Programs.

III. RESEARCH RESULT

This study occurred about 2 months. There are 4 informants; Dr. *E* and Dr. *I*, both are interns of General Surgery Specialist Education Program, Dr. *A*, intern of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialist Education Program and Dr. *S*, intern of a Pediatric Surgery Specialist Education Program.

From the results of this study, researchers found that the construction of surgeons in woman intern who took a Specialist Surgical Education Program, could be seen from the behavioral aspect that showed if they were prepared with all the risks that had been taken when choosing their surgery and construction field of the surgeon.

Dr. *E* said that being a surgeon is cool. She pictures the job as a surgeon is handy, not only can prescribe but also can handle patients from the beginning of the diagnosis until the final treatment after operation. She also said if the surgeon is a doctor who is quite psychologically prepared, shameless, reckless, over confident, and even arrogant. There is no gender difference, because it only depends on the ability.

Dr. *I* said that being a surgeon is cool compared to non-surgical. Characteristics of a surgeon are firm and should not hesitate, physically strong due the activities are not only serve patients in the outpatient clinic but also in the operating theatre, confident is a must, and fast in decision making. Although dominated by man, general surgery should be held by woman because it is smoother and painstaking, whereas areas such as orthopedic surgery are more suitable for man because their jobs are heavier.

Dr. *A* said that the surgical area is more identical with man, but even so when a woman chosen so, that does mean she should be ready to be considered as a man too. Although he thought to be a surgeon was a challenging thing, there was no difference between the surgical and non-surgical fields because the choice had to fit the passion. He also said if a surgeon should be alert and tough because it will work in emergency who cannot ask the patient to wait.

Dr. *S* says if the surgeon is so cool. Let alone the children surgery because she felt very challenged.

It was visible if the 4 doctors consider that although the job as a surgeon is better suited for man, but if done by woman will make them seemed to have more value. This phenomenon can be explained using the social construction theory of Berger which they say if the public institutions are created and preserved or altered through human action and interaction, even though society and social institutions are visibly objective but in reality, all are constituted in subjective definitions by process interaction. Objectivity can occur through the repeated affirmations given by others, who have the same subjective definition. In this phenomenon, the 4 doctors admitted to wanting to become a surgeon since they became a medical student. Repeated exposure to a surgical case during becoming a general practitioner and the construction of a surgeon's personality forms the basis of a decision to become a surgeon manifested in the selection of a specialization program in the field of surgical.

Berger also say that individuals cannot be separated from society. The decision to become a woman surgeon has created an objective social reality through 3 (three) simultaneous dialectical moments, namely Externalization which is the attitude of human self-expression into the world, to strengthen the existence of individuals in society, Objectivities is the interaction between woman surgeons with An institutionalized or institutionalized intersubjective world that causes them to be aware and convinced that the surgeon is not a job solely owned by man and that Internalization is the process of self-identification of the woman physician into her Socio-Cultural World.

IV. CONCLUSION

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