

REPORT OF SDGs 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Advancing Gender Equality at USK: Key Initiatives and Activities for SDG 5



UNIVERSITAS SYIAH KUALA
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
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5 GENDER EQUALITY



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Universitas Syiah Kuala (USK) has committed to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), which aims to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. Through a range of initiatives, USK is actively addressing barriers to gender equality, providing critical support services, and raising awareness of gender-based issues within the campus and the wider community.

1. Mentoring UP3AI for New Students

USK's sustainable priority program for new students includes the *Unit Pengembangan Program Pendamping Mata Kuliah Agama Islam* (UP3AI), or the Islamic Religion Course Companion Program Development Unit. This mentoring initiative aims to empower students, especially women, by offering support, guidance, and mentorship in academic, personal, and professional development. A core focus of the program is to prevent sexual violence and bullying on campus, fostering a safer and more supportive environment. On August 27, 2023, UP3AI presented on "Optimizing the Role of Character Development in the Academic World to Welcome the Era of Indonesia's Golden Generation." This session highlighted the importance of fostering holistic character growth among students, preparing them to actively contribute to Indonesia's future. It urged students to not only achieve academic success but also develop into ethically responsible leaders, ready to engage with the demands of an increasingly advanced, interconnected world. This focus aligns with Indonesia's vision for its Golden Generation, aspiring to cultivate individuals who combine intellectual strength with integrity, essential for national advancement by 2045.



2. Empowering Resilience: USK and UNPATTI Collaborate on Enumerator Training to Study Women's Role in Crisis Management

Universitas Syiah Kuala, through its Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC), successfully conducted an enumerator training program for students at Universitas Pattimura (UNPATTI) on August 12-13, 2023. This training was part of the 2023 Domestic Cooperation Research Program (PKDN) under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (DRPTM Kemdikbudristek), focusing on a study titled "The Role of Women in Banda Aceh and Ambon in Building Community Resilience Across Three Crisis Phases: Conflict, Tsunami, and the COVID-19 Pandemic." The training aimed to equip students with skills in conducting in-depth interviews and gathering qualitative data on the contributions of women during these crisis phases. Additionally, the program provided insights into gender issues, the role of women, and disaster management. Held in the ICT room at Universitas Pattimura, Dr. Rina Suryani Oktari, the lead researcher, stated that the study aims to analyze the unique ways in which women contribute to strengthening community resilience in Banda Aceh and Ambon across the three crisis phases.



3. Empowering Female Students through Scholarship Opportunities at USK"

USK is deeply committed to promoting gender equality and empowering female students through various initiatives, including scholarship opportunities. A key example of this is the *Bidikmisi* Scholarship Program, which has significantly increased access to higher education for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2023, a total of 7,918 students received *i* scholarships at USK, with 5,967 of those being female students, making up 75.4% of the total recipients. This high percentage demonstrates USK's dedication to ensuring that female students have equal access to financial support, allowing them to focus on their studies without the added stress of financial limitations.

The *Bidikmisi* Scholarship Program is designed not only to provide financial aid but also to support timely graduation, making it an essential tool for helping female students complete their academic programs and enter the workforce. By prioritizing female students in the allocation of scholarships, USK ensures that women, regardless of their socio-economic status, can pursue higher education and reach their full potential.

Furthermore, this commitment to inclusive scholarship access fosters a more supportive and equitable academic environment, where female students can excel academically, build professional networks, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. USK's focus on

empowering women through education aligns with its broader mission to promote gender equality and social development, helping to bridge the gap in opportunities and giving female students tools they need to succeed both during their studies and in their future careers.

4. USK Launches Daycare Meutuah to Support Academic Community Families

The Daycare Meutuah at Masjid Jamik USK has officially opened to support faculty, staff, and students with young children, helping them focus on their academic and work responsibilities in a comfortable and supportive setting. Established through Rector's Decree No. 432/UN11/KPT/2023 on January 30, 2023, this facility is part of USK's Family Resilience and Development Center (FRDC). The FRDC, a key initiative for enhancing family well-being within the university, includes Daycare Meutuah as one of its primary services. The daycare has operated in collaboration with Dharma Wanita USK and is overseen by Drg. Armi Amanda Daulay. Daycare Meutuah provides care for children in age groups 0-1 years and 1.5-2.5 years, focusing not only on child-minding but also on fostering child development. Programs include an introduction to Islamic prayers, educational and creative play that encourages motor, cognitive, and creative skills, and healthy snacks, prepared according to nutritional standards. Through these services, USK is committed to creating a family-friendly campus environment, promoting a healthy work-life balance for its entire academic community.

