

# THE ROLE OF SUNDANESE WOMAN IN OLD SUNDANESE MANUSCRIPTS

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# INTRODUCTION

This research discusses the resilience of women as reflected in Old Sundanese manuscripts. This issue is particularly interesting to study because several Old Sundanese manuscripts that are still legible today are linked to the role of women. The discourse on gender equality, a pressing issue today, can be enriched by studying these old manuscripts, most of which date from the 15th to 16th centuries AD, in which women's roles are prioritized.



# LITERATURE REVIEW

- The role of Sundanese women has been extensively researched and examined from various cultural and literary perspectives. However, research on the role of Sundanese women as recorded in Old Sundanese manuscripts has not been thoroughly examined. Therefore, this research focuses on five Old Sundanese manuscripts dating from the 15th to 17th centuries AD. These manuscripts are Sons of Rama and Rawana (SRR), Carita Parahiyangan (CP), Carita Ratu Pakuan (CRP), Sanghyang Swawar Cinta (SSC), and Kawih Pangeuyeukan (KP).

# METHOD

- The method used in this research is a literature review of published Old Sundanese manuscripts through philological studies.
- To comprehensively examine the data obtained from the texts, a contextual interpretation method is used. This method examines the text comprehensively from various aspects surrounding it.



# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The results of this research, in these texts we found female characters who have important roles, namely Manondari and Deuwi Sita (SRR), Pwah Rababu (CP); Ratu Pakuan's wives (CRP), Ompoy (SSC), and Deuwi Rasa Teuing Sakean Adi Larangan (KP). After the texts related to these female characters were analyzed, we found a distinctive role behind the stories of the texts.

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Manondari and Deuwi Sita (SRR) are two female figures who overcame hardships caused by slander and war. They wholeheartedly educate their children to become leaders capable of overcoming lust and embracing peace.

Pwah Rababu (CP) is an intelligent and visionary woman. She is willing to sacrifice herself to have better offspring and continue the dynasties of two kingdoms.



# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Ratu Pakuan's wives (CRP) were the wives of King Siliwangi, daughters of various kingdoms subordinate to the King of Sunda. They willingly entered into polygamy to produce better offspring and inherit the reins of leadership.

Ompoy (SSC) and Deuwi Rasa Teuing Sakean Adi Larangan (KP) were two women deeply devoted to their husbands, endowed with high skills and intelligence.

# CONCLUSION

- The roles of mediator in an enemy, connector of the next generation, and good household manager are depicted in the female characters mentioned. The emphasis on the important role of characters in Old Sundanese manuscripts underscores an underlying cultural perspective in which women held an important and respected position in Sundanese society.



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