

Fulfillment of Women's Basic Rights in the Correctional System at Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison

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Abstract. This study addresses the critical issue of bridging the gap between legal guarantees and practical fulfillment of women's rights in Indonesian prisons, focusing on the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison. The research aims to evaluate the extent to which basic rights—such as health care, nutrition, protection, and development—are realized for incarcerated women within the framework of national law and international standards. Employing a qualitative descriptive approach, the study involved in-depth interviews, participant observation, and document analysis, with a purposive sample of female inmates and correctional staff. Data were analyzed using the Miles and Huberman interactive model to ensure rigor and credibility. Findings indicate that the institution has made significant progress in providing comprehensive health services, tailored nutrition, secure and protective environments, and relevant rehabilitation programs. These advances reflect effective translation of regulatory ideals into operational practice, though some challenges in sustainability and resource allocation persist. The study concludes that a holistic, rights-based approach can substantially enhance gender-sensitive correctional services. The novelty of this research lies in its integrative assessment of rights fulfillment, highlighting the interaction of legal frameworks, institutional adaptation, and lived experiences. The study's contribution provides evidence-based guidance for policy development and scholarly discourse on gender justice and correctional reform in Indonesia and similar contexts.

Keywords: *Women's Rights; Correctional Institutions; Gender Equality; Qualitative Research; Indonesia*

INTRODUCTION

The issue of women's rights within correctional institutions is gaining growing international scholarly and policy attention, reflecting the evolution of human rights standards and increasing awareness of the unique vulnerabilities faced by incarcerated women. The principles of gender equality and non-discrimination have been recognized as central tenets in advancing a more just and inclusive society, as codified in multiple international conventions, declarations, and state commitments (Mashtalir et al., 2022; Teye, 2023). However, the implementation of these rights in practice, especially in the prison context, reveals persistent and multifaceted challenges. Women in prisons often encounter systemic barriers that hinder the fulfillment of their basic rights, including access to health care, protection from violence, the right to education, and the opportunity for rehabilitation and social reintegration (Dey & Tripathi, 2024;

Marquina-Luján et al., 2023; Chuldun et al., 2024). The urgency of this research is underscored by the complex intersection of gender, law, and institutional practice, which has prompted both international and national calls for reforms to ensure that the rights enshrined in legal frameworks are genuinely upheld within carceral systems (Toomey, 2021; Barman et al., 2025; Chernikov & Goncharenko, 2021; Tanu & Missbach, 2023).

Globally, there is broad consensus that ensuring the dignity and rights of women deprived of liberty is not only a legal mandate but also a moral imperative anchored in universal human rights discourse (de Gaay Fortman & Salih, 2024; Sgouraki-Kinsey, 2024; Maravall-Buckwalter et al., 2025). The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules) and the Bangkok Rules provide normative benchmarks for the humane and gender-sensitive treatment of women in correctional settings (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022). Despite these frameworks, mounting empirical evidence indicates that women in prison often remain marginalized, facing both overt and subtle forms of discrimination and deprivation, with adverse consequences for their health, well-being, and post-release reintegration (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Ramzan & Javaid, 2025; Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Lee, 2023). Research from diverse contexts highlights the urgency of improving prison conditions for women, as inadequacies in legal protection and implementation can exacerbate existing inequalities and perpetuate cycles of social exclusion (Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025; Kulesza, 2025; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025; Bozorgi-Saran & Koolae, 2023). For instance, studies have revealed that female prisoners are more susceptible to violations of their privacy, insufficient access to reproductive and general health care, exposure to gender-based violence, and limited opportunities for educational and vocational advancement (Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025; Raesi et al., 2023; Chulada, 2025; Gilmartin & Scull, 2022; Barata, 2025).

The primary research problem that emerges is the persistent gap between legal guarantees for women's rights and the actual fulfillment of those rights within correctional institutions. Although international and national laws—such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Indonesia's Law No. 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections—mandate the protection, respect, and fulfillment of female prisoners' basic rights, practical realization remains inconsistent and inadequate (Saraswati, 2022; Panasyuk, 2024; Heschl, 2025). Previous studies have extensively documented the structural and institutional barriers that impede the full realization of these legal guarantees, highlighting issues such as resource constraints, lack of gender-sensitive infrastructure, insufficient training for prison staff, and the absence of effective complaint and monitoring mechanisms (Mofokeng & Tlou, 2022; Harjono et al., 2023; Siahaan & Ahmad, 2025;

Amri & Dewi, 2024; Chuldun et al., 2024). These deficiencies often lead to a failure in meeting women's specific health needs, protecting their psychological well-being, and ensuring their dignity during incarceration (Raesi et al., 2023; Fleischer, 2024; Emmerich, 2024; Liyew, 2022).

In response to these documented challenges, a range of general solutions have been proposed and implemented, both globally and within specific national contexts. These include the adoption of gender-responsive policies and standards (Shemiakin et al., 2024; Solymosi-Szekeres, 2025), the mainstreaming of human rights education for correctional officers (Erten & Keskin, 2022), the integration of community-based rehabilitation models (Subroto & Admirad, 2025), and greater engagement with non-governmental organizations to supplement institutional efforts (Allen et al., 2024; Chuldun et al., 2024). Several jurisdictions have attempted to address the unique needs of incarcerated women by providing specialized health care, implementing tailored educational and vocational programs, and ensuring the availability of complaint mechanisms to safeguard against abuse and discrimination (Barus et al., 2025; Nankan, 2022; Toomey, 2021). However, the literature also indicates that such reforms are frequently uneven and hampered by institutional inertia, sociocultural biases, and limited resources, leading to ongoing rights deficits for female inmates (Gilmartin & Scull, 2022; Fleischer, 2024; Subroto & Gussandrino, 2024).

A closer examination of solutions that focus specifically on the Indonesian context reveals additional complexities. Despite Indonesia's ratification of CEDAW and the existence of a robust constitutional and statutory framework aimed at ensuring the fulfillment of women's rights in all spheres, practical implementation in correctional settings remains partial and inconsistent (Raharjo & Subroto, 2022; Saraswati, 2022; Subroto & Gussandrino, 2024). Prior research has shown that Indonesian female prisoners often face inadequate access to health services, including reproductive and maternal health care, lack of privacy, and exposure to psychological and physical abuse (Hamzah, 2024; Prihananti, 2022; Siahaan & Ahmad, 2025). Studies have also noted the absence of comprehensive rehabilitation and vocational programs, which are essential for promoting social reintegration and reducing recidivism (Barus et al., 2025; Mufty, 2025; Yani, 2018). Moreover, challenges related to child care within prisons, stigmatization, and lack of access to mental health support continue to hinder the realization of holistic rights for women deprived of liberty (Harjono et al., 2023; Balu, 2024; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022; Choi & Ahn, 2022).

Solving these multifaceted problems requires the design and implementation of specific, context-sensitive interventions. Studies have demonstrated the potential of integrating comprehensive health care services in prisons, including partnerships with external health providers, the provision of gender-specific facilities and resources, and the development of skills-

training and educational opportunities aligned with the needs of women inmates (Marquina-Luján et al., 2023; Pastori et al., 2021; Constant, 2020; Ospina-Escobar & Ponoroba, 2023). The implementation of anonymous complaint mechanisms and regular monitoring by independent bodies has also proven effective in enhancing accountability and protecting inmates from abuse (Kulesza, 2025; Subroto & Sukmawijaya, 2022). In Indonesia, some women's prisons have piloted innovative programs focused on maternal and child welfare, vocational training, and psychosocial counseling, though coverage and sustainability remain significant challenges (Prihananti, 2022; Harjono et al., 2023; Chuldun et al., 2024). International evidence further supports the need for trauma-informed approaches, intersectional sensitivity, and community reintegration programs to address the complex realities faced by incarcerated women (Mohammadi, 2025; Cavazzoni et al., 2023; Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Barbour et al., 2021).

A review of the literature reveals both successes and shortcomings in these targeted interventions. In some cases, women inmates have reported improved access to health care, better nutrition, enhanced protection, and greater opportunities for self-development as a result of new policies and programs (Chuldun et al., 2024; Barus et al., 2025; Subroto & Gussandrino, 2024). However, persistent gaps remain, particularly regarding the provision of reproductive health services, the quality of complaint mechanisms, and the adequacy of resources allocated to rehabilitation and education (Shemiakin et al., 2024; Raharjo & Subroto, 2022; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022). Comparative studies also point to the need for a more nuanced understanding of the intersectionality of gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and other factors that shape women's experiences within correctional systems (Pan, 2025; Balu, 2024; Machacha, 2023; Wilde & Fish, 2025; Chulada, 2025). These gaps signal the necessity for sustained empirical research and policy innovation, as well as the development of monitoring systems that ensure the translation of legal guarantees into everyday practice.

The present study is distinguished by its focus on bridging the gap between legal guarantees and their actualization in the Indonesian correctional context. While prior research has contributed valuable insights into the challenges and solutions associated with women's rights in prisons, this study aims to offer a holistic and empirically grounded assessment of the implementation of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections in the specific setting of the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison. The novelty of this research lies in its comprehensive evaluation of the four key pillars of rights fulfillment—health and medical services, food and nutrition, protection and security, and development programs—while contextualizing these within broader international standards and comparative experiences (Chuldun et al., 2024; Toomey, 2021; Marquina-Luján et

al., 2023). This approach facilitates a deeper understanding of both the achievements and the persisting gaps in the practical realization of women's rights in Indonesian prisons.

Accordingly, this study addresses the scope of legal, institutional, and social factors influencing the fulfillment of women's basic rights within correctional institutions. It recognizes the intersectionality of gender, health, education, and socio-economic vulnerability, drawing upon national laws, international human rights norms, and empirical data from the Indonesian correctional system (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022; Mashtalir et al., 2022). By critically examining both regulatory frameworks and on-the-ground realities, this research seeks to clarify the conditions under which legal guarantees are translated into substantive rights for incarcerated women. The study further justifies its hypothesis by highlighting the persistent, yet addressable, gap between legal mandates and practical implementation—an issue that has far-reaching implications for justice, equality, and the prospects of successful social reintegration.

The principal objective of this study is to evaluate the extent to which the basic rights of female prisoners are fulfilled in practice at the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison, and to analyze the institutional mechanisms, challenges, and opportunities that shape this process. Specifically, the research seeks to answer the following questions: To what extent are health care, nutrition, protection, and development rights realized for women in this facility? What are the main barriers to full rights fulfillment, and how can policy and practice be improved to achieve greater gender sensitivity and justice within the correctional system? By addressing these questions, the study aspires to contribute to the scholarly literature and inform policy reforms aimed at ensuring that the ideals of gender equality and human rights are meaningfully realized for women in Indonesian prisons.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a qualitative research design with a descriptive approach, aligning with the established tradition in social science research that seeks to deeply understand social phenomena by capturing the complexity, context, and processes surrounding the object of study (Moleong, 2019; Ardiansyah et al., 2023). The choice of a qualitative approach was grounded in the need to investigate the lived experiences and institutional practices related to the fulfillment of women's rights in correctional settings—an area that demands rich, contextualized, and interpretive data (Pastori et al., 2021; Chuldun et al., 2024; Ramzan & Javaid, 2025). Qualitative research has been recognized as an effective methodological framework for analyzing social justice issues, institutional practices, gendered experiences, and rights fulfillment due to its ability

to reveal nuanced patterns, power dynamics, and systemic barriers (Sanders & Jenkins, 2025; Cavazzoni et al., 2023; Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025).

The specific research site for this study was the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison in Gowa Regency, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, selected through purposive sampling to ensure maximum relevance to the research focus (Prihananti, 2022; Chuldun et al., 2024). The selection was justified by the facility's representation of both national legal obligations—especially those articulated in Indonesia's Law No. 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections—and international standards for women's rights in custodial settings (Raharjo & Subroto, 2022; Saraswati, 2022). The research participants included a diverse range of actors: female inmates, prison officers, supervisors, and structural officials, all of whom were directly engaged with rehabilitation programs and institutional policies. This heterogeneity of informants reflects best practices in qualitative sampling, which prioritizes the inclusion of multiple perspectives and stakeholders to achieve depth and credibility in data interpretation (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Mohammadi, 2025; Barus et al., 2025).

In terms of data collection, the primary instrument was the researcher, supported by structured and semi-structured interview guides, voice recorders, and field notes. The use of the researcher as a key instrument is consistent with qualitative methodology, enabling responsiveness, adaptability, and reflexivity throughout the research process (Moleong, 2019; Saadah et al., 2022; Pastori et al., 2021). This study employed multiple methods of data collection—specifically, in-depth interviews, participant observation, and document analysis—to enable triangulation and strengthen the validity of findings (Citriadin, 2020; Toomey, 2021; Erten & Keskin, 2022; Fleischer, 2024). In-depth interviews were conducted with key informants to capture detailed narratives regarding institutional practices, perceived rights fulfillment, and barriers faced by female prisoners. This method has been shown to elicit rich data on subjective experiences and institutional contexts (Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Sheren, 2025; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022).

Participant observation, as a complementary strategy, allowed the researcher to directly witness daily practices, interaction patterns, and the implementation of rehabilitation and rights-protection programs (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Chulada, 2025). Observation in naturalistic settings is widely acknowledged in the literature as a means to enhance ecological validity and generate insights that might not be accessible through self-reporting alone (Cavazzoni et al., 2023; Wilde & Fish, 2025; Chuldun et al., 2024). Document analysis—comprising review of institutional work programs, statistical data, and administrative records—provided a secondary

source for data triangulation, supporting both the interpretation and verification of field findings (Kulesza, 2025; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022; Chuldun et al., 2024).

The procedures for conducting the research were systematically organized, starting with gaining ethical clearance and institutional access to the correctional facility. This was followed by preliminary fieldwork to establish rapport with participants and key stakeholders, enhancing the quality and authenticity of data collection (Saadah et al., 2022; Fleischer, 2024). The research process was iterative, involving cycles of data collection, coding, and analysis, allowing for the refinement of interview questions and observation focus based on emerging insights (Sanders & Jenkins, 2025; Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025).

Data analysis was carried out using a descriptive-analytical framework grounded in the Miles and Huberman interactive model, which encompasses four interconnected stages: data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification (Ardiansyah et al., 2023; Citriadin, 2020; Susanto et al., 2023). Data reduction involved the selection, simplification, and abstraction of raw data, focusing on salient themes such as health services, nutrition, protection, rehabilitation, and institutional challenges. These themes were then presented narratively and, where relevant, with the aid of matrices or charts to facilitate synthesis and pattern identification (Barus et al., 2025; Marquina-Luján et al., 2023; Lee, 2023). Conclusion drawing was conducted through an iterative process, with findings continuously verified and cross-checked using multiple sources and perspectives—a process reinforced by the use of triangulation to increase credibility and trustworthiness (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Nankan, 2022).

Establishing data validity and reliability was a critical component of the methodology. The study adhered to four widely recognized criteria in qualitative research: credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability (Saadah et al., 2022; Susanto et al., 2023). Credibility was pursued through prolonged engagement, persistent observation, and member-checking with informants to confirm the accuracy of interpreted findings (Sheren, 2025; Cavazzoni et al., 2023). Transferability was enhanced by providing detailed contextual descriptions of the research setting and participants, allowing for the assessment of applicability to other correctional contexts (Barus et al., 2025; Wilde & Fish, 2025). Dependability was addressed by maintaining a comprehensive audit trail of all research activities, decisions, and data transformations, while confirmability was pursued by documenting reflexive considerations and analytic decisions throughout the study (Chuldun et al., 2024; Fleischer, 2024).

Additional methodological rigor was achieved through the incorporation of established ethical protocols for research with vulnerable populations, including voluntary informed consent, confidentiality, and the protection of participants' privacy and well-being (Shaheen & Al-

Zubaidy, 2025; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025). The study also recognized the importance of intersectionality in the analysis and interpretation of findings, acknowledging the ways in which gender, health, age, socioeconomic status, and institutional context interact to shape the lived experiences of incarcerated women (Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Pan, 2025; Balu, 2024; Wilde & Fish, 2025). This intersectional lens is increasingly acknowledged as crucial in the global literature on women's rights and correctional research.

Furthermore, the methodological justification for this approach lies in the ability of qualitative research to inform both theory and policy by generating contextually rich and actionable insights that extend beyond surface-level description (Ramzan & Javaid, 2025; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025; Teye, 2023). By employing a holistic, multi-method strategy and embedding rigorous procedures for data collection and analysis, this study provides a robust empirical foundation for evaluating the practical fulfillment of women's rights in Indonesian prisons, while also contributing to the broader discourse on gender justice and institutional reform (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022; Prihananti, 2022; Barus et al., 2025).

RESULT

The results of this study provide a comprehensive evaluation of the fulfillment of women's basic rights in the context of the Indonesian correctional system, focusing on the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison. The analysis is structured around four principal pillars: health and medical services, food and nutrition, protection and security, and development facilities and programs. These pillars were selected in accordance with both national legal frameworks and international standards for the humane treatment of incarcerated women (Raharjo & Subroto, 2022; Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022). The study's findings are interpreted in light of prevailing research and international recommendations, allowing for both a critical assessment of empirical patterns and meaningful comparisons with prior studies.

The provision of health and medical services emerged as a central dimension of rights fulfillment within the facility. Data from in-depth interviews and participant observation demonstrate that the prison has succeeded in establishing a robust partnership with local community health centers (Puskesmas), ensuring the routine presence of qualified medical personnel and readily available health care for female inmates. This approach resonates with global best practices that call for accessible, gender-sensitive health services in correctional institutions (Marquina-Luján et al., 2023; Toomey, 2021; Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025). The policy of covering all medical expenses further reinforces the commitment to equitable access and non-discrimination, as also emphasized in international frameworks such as the Bangkok

Rules (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022). Consistently, respondents reported that the mechanism for obtaining health care was simple and efficient, removing financial and administrative barriers that often hinder timely treatment in other settings (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Fleischer, 2024). Inmates described their experiences as overwhelmingly positive, indicating not only high satisfaction but also a strong sense of security regarding their health—a finding that aligns with previous research underscoring the psychological importance of reliable medical care in custodial contexts (Barus et al., 2025; Hamzah, 2024; Mohammadi, 2025).

The success of this health care system is particularly notable given persistent global reports of inadequate health services in prisons, especially for women with complex needs such as reproductive health, pregnancy, and lactation (Raesi et al., 2023; Prihananti, 2022; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022; Chulada, 2025). In contrast, the Sungguminasa Women's Prison proactively accommodates the specific needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women, ensuring comprehensive maternal care and support. The positive perception among inmates regarding their access to health care signifies the realization of substantive rights, not merely formal entitlements—a distinction often highlighted as critical in gender and human rights literature (Chernikov & Goncharenko, 2021; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025).

Food and nutrition constitute the second pillar of rights fulfillment addressed by this study. The results reveal a strong congruence between institutional policies and the lived experiences of female inmates. Daily meals consistently meet established nutritional standards, with supplementary and specialized menus provided for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. This approach embodies both the legal and ethical mandates of substantive equality, recognizing women's unique physiological needs (Amri & Dewi, 2024; Siahaan & Ahmad, 2025; Maravall-Buckwalter et al., 2025). Inmates universally reported that both the quantity and quality of food were satisfactory, reinforcing the value of a nutrition program that moves beyond minimum standards to embrace inclusivity and health promotion (Hall-Faul et al., 2024; Drèze et al., 2021).

Comparative studies in other jurisdictions have noted frequent deficiencies in nutrition, with incarcerated women experiencing malnutrition, food insecurity, or inadequate consideration of special needs (Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Vamstad et al., 2024; Liyew, 2022). The present findings, by contrast, illustrate that the Sungguminasa Women's Prison is effectively implementing a rights-based approach to nutrition management, a model that is widely endorsed but not universally practiced (Javed et al., 2024; Ramzan & Javaid, 2025). The provision of additional nutrition for vulnerable groups aligns with both domestic legislation and CEDAW's call for special protection and care (Saraswati, 2022; Panasyuk, 2024). This success is illustrated in Table

1, which summarizes the nutritional program provided for inmates, including special provisions for mothers and children (see Table 1).

Table 1. Nutrition Management and Special Provisions for Vulnerable Groups in Sungguminasa Women's Prison

Category	Standard Provision	Special Provision
General inmates	Standard menu, 3 meals/day	None
Pregnant women	Standard menu + supplements	Additional nutrition
Breastfeeding mothers	Standard menu + supplements	Additional nutrition
Children (residing with mothers)	Child-appropriate menu	Immunizations, snacks

Source: Empirical data and institutional records; interpreted using (Amri & Dewi, 2024; Hall-Faul et al., 2024; Siahaan & Ahmad, 2025).

Protection and security, the third empirical pillar, were shown to be effectively managed through a combination of strict operational procedures and a gender-sensitive approach. Routine patrols, the presence of female officers in women's blocks, and accessible complaint mechanisms have together created an environment characterized by both actual and perceived safety (Subroto & Sukmawijaya, 2022; Harjono et al., 2023). The system allows for the immediate reporting of violations, with inmates able to communicate complaints directly or via anonymous suggestion boxes—an important procedural safeguard supported in international best practices (Kulesza, 2025; Chuldun et al., 2024; Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025). This emphasis on proactive and accessible protection not only fulfills the legal requirements for the prevention of violence and harassment but also supports psychological well-being and institutional trust (Prihananti, 2022; Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Raesi et al., 2023).

A distinctive strength of the Sungguminasa Women's Prison is its provision for mothers and children residing within the facility. The prison demonstrates strong institutional commitment to the rights of children, providing dedicated playrooms, beds, and freedom for children to play, as well as ensuring immunizations, education, and nutritious food (Harjono et al., 2023; Choi & Ahn, 2022; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022). The support extends to the holistic development of children—both psychological and psychomotor—aligning with evidence that maternal support and child welfare programming within prisons can mitigate negative developmental outcomes for children (Lee, 2023; Barus et al., 2025; Subroto & Gussandrino, 2024). Inmates' accounts confirm the adequacy and positive impact of these facilities, suggesting that child-related rights are given genuine institutional priority, despite broader constraints.

The final pillar, development programs and rehabilitation, reflects a clear institutional effort to prepare inmates for successful reintegration into society. The Sungguminasa Women's

Prison offers a range of skills-development opportunities, including sewing, crafts, and cooking, all tailored to women's interests and future livelihood prospects (Barus et al., 2025; Mufty, 2025). High participation rates, as revealed in interviews, indicate a strong demand for such programs—a trend also observed in international research on women's correctional rehabilitation (Wignall et al., 2023; Constant, 2020). The programs contribute not only to skill-building but also to inmates' confidence and autonomy, which are critical for reducing recidivism and fostering economic independence after release (Javed et al., 2024; Tanu & Missbach, 2023). The focus on women-specific needs within these programs illustrates a practical application of gender-responsive correctional policy (Mashtalir et al., 2022; Shemiakin et al., 2024).

In comparing these empirical results to the broader literature, the Sungguminasa Women's Prison emerges as a model in several domains of rights fulfillment. The facility demonstrates the translation of legal and policy frameworks into practical, rights-based outcomes, achieving measurable advances in health, nutrition, security, and rehabilitation (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022; Barus et al., 2025). This finding is further reinforced by inmates' direct testimonies, which consistently highlight the accessibility, adequacy, and relevance of the services provided. Nevertheless, the literature and empirical data suggest ongoing challenges, such as the sustainability of resource-intensive programs, the need for continual staff training in gender-sensitive approaches, and persistent stigma attached to incarcerated women (Mohammadi, 2025; Wilde & Fish, 2025; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022).

A further notable outcome is the facility's effective complaint mechanism, a feature identified in the literature as essential for institutional accountability and the protection of vulnerable populations (Kulesza, 2025; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025; Toomey, 2021). The anonymous suggestion box, in particular, serves as a vital channel for reporting abuses, reducing barriers related to fear or stigma—a best practice that is not universally implemented in correctional settings (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Chuldun et al., 2024). Moreover, the institutional focus on rehabilitation and preparation for reentry, combined with gender-responsive strategies, has been demonstrated in comparative literature to significantly lower rates of recidivism and improve post-release outcomes (Ramzan & Javaid, 2025; Subroto & Admirad, 2025; Matlabe-Danke, 2025).

Despite these strengths, several limitations remain. The provision of specialized health facilities—such as lactation rooms or private medical spaces—is still less than optimal, reflecting findings in the broader literature about systemic under-resourcing in women's prisons (Prihananti, 2022; Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022). Budgetary constraints and fluctuating external support may also threaten the continuity of quality programming (Harjono et al., 2023;

Barus et al., 2025; Fleischer, 2024). Additionally, while the institutional environment is largely supportive, challenges persist in changing broader societal perceptions of incarcerated women, which often impede reintegration and the realization of full citizenship after release (Tanu & Missbach, 2023; Wilde & Fish, 2025; Ramzan & Javaid, 2025).

The results of this study demonstrate the importance of a holistic and rights-based approach in women's correctional facilities, as advocated in the international and Indonesian literature (Chuldun et al., 2024; Raharjo & Subroto, 2022; Saraswati, 2022). The four empirical pillars—health and medical services, food and nutrition, protection and security, and development programs—are shown to be interconnected in shaping the lived experience of inmates and the realization of legal guarantees. The study's findings also validate the research methodology's appropriateness, as qualitative approaches are particularly adept at revealing institutional dynamics, personal experiences, and systemic patterns that are otherwise difficult to quantify (Moleong, 2019; Cavazzoni et al., 2023; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025).

In summary, the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison has made significant progress in fulfilling the basic rights of female inmates through innovative policies and practical interventions, aligning with international standards and scholarly recommendations. This achievement is reflected in both quantitative outcomes—such as program participation and health metrics—and qualitative indicators of well-being and empowerment. Yet, sustained efforts and continual innovation are needed to address remaining gaps and ensure that legal rights are fully realized in everyday practice, particularly for the most vulnerable subgroups. The facility's experiences thus offer valuable insights for policy makers, practitioners, and researchers seeking to bridge the persistent gap between legal guarantees and the lived realities of women in correctional institutions (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022; Barus et al., 2025; Matlabe-Danke, 2025).

DISCUSSION

The discussion of this study's findings situates the empirical evaluation of women's rights fulfillment at the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison within a broader theoretical and comparative context. This analysis critically interprets the study's four main empirical pillars—health and medical services, food and nutrition, protection and security, and development programs—by juxtaposing them with established literature and theoretical frameworks concerning gender, justice, and correctional practice. Through this lens, the study not only affirms but also interrogates the extent to which institutional practices reflect the normative ideals

outlined in national laws, international standards, and gender-focused rights discourses (Mashtalir et al., 2022; Saraswati, 2022; Chuldun et al., 2024).

The consistently positive accounts from inmates regarding access to health care at Sungguminasa Prison reflect the operationalization of legal mandates and international recommendations advocating for gender-sensitive, equitable, and accessible medical services in correctional settings (Marquina-Luján et al., 2023; Raharjo & Subroto, 2022; Toomey, 2021). The empirical evidence underscores how collaborative arrangements with local community health centers and comprehensive internal policies can bridge the gap between legal guarantees and real-world practice. This finding resonates with global research showing that when prisons establish direct partnerships with external health institutions and cover medical costs for all inmates, significant barriers to health care access—especially for women—are effectively minimized (Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025; Raesi et al., 2023; Barus et al., 2025). However, despite this success, critical literature cautions that many correctional institutions elsewhere still fall short, particularly in reproductive health and trauma-informed services, exposing persistent gaps in the global movement toward substantive equality (Prihananti, 2022; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022; Fleischer, 2024; Mohammadi, 2025). The experiences at Sungguminasa Prison thus provide a counterpoint, illustrating the feasibility of integrating legal norms and best practices, while highlighting the necessity for continuous innovation and resource allocation to sustain such achievements (Chuldun et al., 2024; Cavazzoni et al., 2023; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025).

In the area of food and nutrition, the facility's proactive provision of special menus for pregnant and breastfeeding women represents a concrete application of substantive equality and the principle of non-discrimination, principles that have long been central in the literature on gender justice (Amri & Dewi, 2024; Siahaan & Ahmad, 2025; Saraswati, 2022; Hall-Faul et al., 2024). This approach is reinforced by international human rights instruments that call for the specific accommodation of women's biological and reproductive needs within carceral environments (Saraswati, 2022; Panasyuk, 2024; Maravall-Buckwalter et al., 2025). The positive assessments from inmates regarding both the adequacy and quality of nutrition not only validate the institutional policy but also stand in contrast to numerous reports from other jurisdictions where nutritional neglect, food insecurity, or lack of dietary differentiation for vulnerable groups are persistent problems (Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Liyew, 2022; Vamstad et al., 2024). In this respect, Sungguminasa's model supports the broader theoretical proposition that the realization of women's rights in prison must be based on an individualized and context-sensitive approach rather than mere formal equality (Mashtalir et al., 2022; Teye, 2023). Nevertheless, the literature underscores the importance of systematic monitoring and adaptability in prison food policies,

particularly as resource constraints or population shifts can quickly undermine nutritional standards if left unchecked (Harjono et al., 2023; Hall-Faul et al., 2024).

The empirical results on protection and security reveal a robust institutional commitment to violence prevention, gender-sensitive supervision, and complaint resolution. The daily presence of female officers, strict monitoring protocols, and the implementation of both direct and anonymous complaint mechanisms together construct an environment where inmates report a strong sense of safety and protection from both physical and psychological harm (Harjono et al., 2023; Subroto & Sukmawijaya, 2022; Kulesza, 2025; Chuldun et al., 2024). Literature in this domain consistently emphasizes that effective complaint procedures—especially those which protect anonymity—are critical in overcoming barriers associated with stigma, fear of reprisal, and power imbalances (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Shaheen & Al-Zubaidy, 2025; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025). Comparative studies, however, indicate that many prison systems globally lack robust protections, with complaints either not acted upon or resulting in further victimization of the complainant (Toomey, 2021; Fleischer, 2024; Lee, 2023). Sungguminasa's approach, as evidenced by the positive inmate feedback and effective use of suggestion boxes, demonstrates the potential of institutional design and procedural safeguards to actualize the right to security, lending credence to arguments for the mandatory inclusion of anonymous complaint mechanisms in correctional policy (Kulesza, 2025; Chuldun et al., 2024).

Child-centered facilities within Sungguminasa Prison—such as dedicated playrooms, child-appropriate nutrition, and routine health checks—represent an innovative response to the dual vulnerability of incarcerated mothers and their children. The literature is unequivocal in its assertion that children residing in correctional institutions with their mothers are at particular risk of developmental, psychological, and social harm (Stewart & Cloutier, 2022; Harjono et al., 2023; Choi & Ahn, 2022). In this context, the prison's commitment to providing holistic support not only complies with legal and ethical imperatives but also aligns with best practices identified in global comparative research (Barus et al., 2025; Subroto & Gussandrino, 2024; Lee, 2023). The findings suggest that by integrating child welfare into women's correctional policy, institutions can significantly mitigate the intergenerational effects of incarceration, as has also been suggested by theoretical analyses emphasizing the role of family and psychosocial stability in rehabilitation (Chuldun et al., 2024; Wilde & Fish, 2025).

Development programs tailored for women—encompassing vocational, creative, and life skills—stand as a hallmark of Sungguminasa's rehabilitative model. The strong participation rates and the alignment of programs with women's interests are corroborated by international studies indicating that gender-responsive, interest-driven training enhances both the effectiveness of

rehabilitation and post-release social integration (Barus et al., 2025; Mufty, 2025; Wignall et al., 2023; Constant, 2020). These findings challenge earlier correctional paradigms that have often overlooked the specific needs and aspirations of women, echoing the growing body of scholarship advocating for intersectional and holistic correctional education (Ramzan & Javaid, 2025; Tanu & Missbach, 2023; Wilde & Fish, 2025). Moreover, empirical and theoretical work underscores that such programs are instrumental in reducing recidivism, promoting autonomy, and building confidence among female inmates—outcomes also observed in this study (Javed et al., 2024; Mashtalir et al., 2022; Shemiakin et al., 2024).

Nevertheless, this study's findings must be interpreted in the context of persistent structural and institutional challenges. The literature recurrently points to issues of resource limitations, fluctuating external support, and the need for ongoing staff capacity-building in gender-sensitive and trauma-informed approaches (Harjono et al., 2023; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022; Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Fleischer, 2024). While Sungguminasa Prison appears to be a positive outlier, its continued progress will require sustained political commitment, adequate funding, and a culture of continuous improvement—a point repeatedly emphasized by both empirical and theoretical contributions in the literature (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025; Subroto & Admirad, 2025). Furthermore, the effective implementation of rights-oriented policies at the institutional level must be complemented by broader societal efforts to reduce the stigma and social exclusion faced by formerly incarcerated women, an issue that remains deeply entrenched and insufficiently addressed (Tanu & Missbach, 2023; Wilde & Fish, 2025; Mohammadi, 2025).

From a theoretical standpoint, the integration of intersectionality in policy and practice is highlighted as a necessary precondition for the realization of women's rights in prison (Matlabe-Danke, 2025; Pan, 2025; Cavazzoni et al., 2023; Chulada, 2025). The findings from Sungguminasa lend support to arguments that policy effectiveness is contingent upon responsiveness to the complex interplay of gender, health, class, age, and institutional context (Wilde & Fish, 2025; Mohammadi, 2025; Barus et al., 2025). This intersectional perspective challenges correctional institutions to move beyond uniform solutions toward a differentiated, needs-based approach, as consistently advocated by international human rights bodies and gender scholars (Mashtalir et al., 2022; Teye, 2023; Maravall-Buckwalter et al., 2025).

Comparative analysis with other empirical studies reveals both alignment and divergence in outcomes. Sungguminasa's holistic approach mirrors international best practices but contrasts with facilities where legal guarantees remain largely declarative, unaccompanied by substantive reform or operational change (Chuldun et al., 2024; Saraswati, 2022; Toomey, 2021). The positive

impact of comprehensive health care, special nutrition, robust protection, and tailored development programs observed here supports the argument that meaningful rights fulfillment in prison is achievable when policy, practice, and resource allocation are aligned (Marquina-Luján et al., 2023; Barus et al., 2025; Chuldun et al., 2024). However, challenges in the scalability, sustainability, and transferability of such models remain widely acknowledged (Harjono et al., 2023; Hall-Faul et al., 2024; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025). Lessons from the present study therefore underscore the value of adaptive learning and context-sensitive innovation, as called for in critical corrections literature (Fleischer, 2024; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025).

The discussion also highlights the necessity of integrating external stakeholders—such as non-governmental organizations, community groups, and health professionals—into the correctional ecosystem. Literature consistently affirms that multi-sectoral collaboration amplifies the effectiveness and sustainability of rights-based interventions (Allen et al., 2024; Nankan, 2022; Subroto & Admirad, 2025). Sungguminasa's experience with local health centers demonstrates this point, suggesting that public-private and community partnerships should be institutionalized and expanded (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Barus et al., 2025). In light of persistent resource constraints, such collaboration offers both material and technical support while facilitating smoother reintegration for women upon release (Mufty, 2025; Wilde & Fish, 2025).

A further implication drawn from the literature is the critical role of effective monitoring and evaluation systems, both internal and external, in sustaining progress toward rights fulfillment (Kulesza, 2025; Toomey, 2021; Sanders & Jenkins, 2025). The study's finding of an accessible complaint system reinforces arguments that transparency, accountability, and institutional responsiveness are foundational for safeguarding women's rights in prison (Guerrero-Romera et al., 2025; Subroto & Sukmawijaya, 2022; Chuldun et al., 2024).

Conceptually, the results of this study support recommendations for an integrated, gender-sensitive correctional policy that explicitly recognizes the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women. Literature advocates for embedding intersectionality, continuous staff education, and the systematic provision of tailored services—ranging from maternal health to vocational training—into the core functions of women's prisons (Mashtalir et al., 2022; Shemiakin et al., 2024; Barus et al., 2025). Additionally, policy reforms should ensure that complaint mechanisms, participatory decision-making, and post-release support are not exceptional but institutionalized as fundamental rights (Teye, 2023; Nankan, 2022; Stewart & Cloutier, 2022). Finally, the study underscores the need for a research agenda attentive to the lived realities of women inmates, thereby contributing to the ongoing refinement of theory, policy, and practice in this vital field (Cavazzoni et al., 2023; Wilde & Fish, 2025; Chuldun et al., 2024).

CONCLUSION

This study provides a critical synthesis of the fulfillment of women's basic rights in Indonesian correctional institutions, with specific attention to the multidimensional practices implemented at the Class II A Sungguminasa Women's Prison. The findings underscore the centrality of integrating legal norms with practical institutional arrangements, highlighting substantial progress in areas such as health care access, nutrition management, protective security, and gender-responsive rehabilitation. These advancements, rooted in both national law and international standards, reveal the transformative potential of rights-based, intersectional policies for incarcerated women. In the theoretical context, the results validate the importance of institutional adaptation and stakeholder collaboration in translating abstract rights into lived realities, while practically, the empirical model demonstrates the value of targeted, context-sensitive interventions. The study's contribution lies in its holistic analysis that bridges regulatory ideals and operational realities, offering evidence-based insights for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars seeking to strengthen gender justice within the carceral system. Importantly, the research identifies ongoing challenges, such as resource sustainability, stigma reduction, and the need for continuous institutional learning, that must be addressed to ensure the durability and expansion of rights fulfillment. For future research, it is recommended to undertake longitudinal and comparative studies, explore the experiences of other vulnerable subgroups within prisons, and investigate the broader societal and policy ecosystems that influence post-release reintegration. Such endeavors will enrich the scholarly understanding of gender, justice, and correctional reform, and contribute to the development of more inclusive, equitable, and humane penal systems.

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