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Paper title: "Gender, School Choice and Equity: Delving the Emotional Experiences of Female School Principal in Leading Prestigious Co-Educational Islamic Boarding School in West Sumatra- An Autoethnographic Case Study Approach"

This article explores the personal experiences of the second author as a female school principal of a prestigious co-educational Islamic boarding school in the province of West Sumatra, highlighting the various challenges and difficulties faced related to gender issues, the choice of running an elite school, and achieving equality. A case study with an autoethnographic approach was used to delve into the emotional experiences of the research subject, a Minangkabau woman, in carrying out her duties as a school principal. In-depth interviews conducted by the first author with the second author were narrated and validated by the second author to extract relevant themes, illustrating her emotional experiences while interacting with students in the boarding programs, teachers, parents, and the local education office. Findings reveal feelings of anxiety and dilemmas faced by the female school principal in guiding co-educational boarding students, particularly regarding issues such as LGBT concerns and unrestricted opposite-sex interactions. Gender biases were also identified in the organization of non-academic programs, where female students were not given opportunities to lead class or student council organizations. Despite these challenges, the article identifies many best practices demonstrated by a female school principal that could serve as valuable considerations for managing co-educational Islamic boarding schools in Islamic educational institutions.