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THE ROLE OF WOMEN-CRAFTSMEN OF PURUN (*LEPIRONIA ARTICULATA*) FOR REPRODUCTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE ASPECTS IN THE CONDITIONS OF SOUTH KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Discrimination against women's roles in development must be eliminated because women have equal opportunities in various activities. It is important to conduct research on the roles and participation of women in reproductive and productive activities related to a specific job. This research aims to analyze the roles of women who are craftsmen of *Lepironia articulata* in reproductive and productive activities. The object of research was the community of *L.articulata* craftsmen residing in the Pabaungan Hulu village in South Kalimantan, Indonesia. Data collection methods include interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with the respondents. Data analysis regarding involvement in reproductive and productive aspects consists of 2 categories: active (value=1) and inactive (value=0). Role analysis used variables related to reproductive (10 indicators) and productive (13 indicators) activities. The analysis of the participation of *L.articulata* craftsmen used 3 categories. Women's involvement in reproductive activities have averages value= 86.5%, and in productive activities, it is 88.46%. The average involvement of men in reproductive activities is only 27%, and in productive activities, it is 9.23%. Women's roles in reproductive and productive activities have value= 17.3%, 17,69% respectively. Men have roles in reproductive and productive activities = 5.4%, 1.85% respectively. Women craftsmen's participation in reproductive and productive aspects has a value of 20.15 (high category), while men's participation is only 3.9 (low category). These findings provide important evidence of the significance of women's roles and participation in the management and operational aspects of *L.articulata* crafts.

KEY WORDS

Lepironia articulata, women, craftsmen, activities.

Discrimination based on gender still occurs in many aspects of life. The World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2020 stated that Indonesia ranked 85th in global gender inequality (Lawi G.F.K, 2020). Indonesia's Gender Inequality Index (GII) in 2012 was still relatively high at 0.421 (Jayani D.H., 2020). The general perception in society is that women are considered to have limitations, while men are given more priority in opportunities for education, leadership in organizations, and job opportunities. This phenomenon further exacerbates the existing gender gap (Incing V., et al. 2013).

Gender equality continues to be a global concern and has been incorporated into one of the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreement. Goal 5 on gender equality reads, "Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls." BPS data for the year 2020 shows that Indonesia has a large human resource base, with a population of 270,203,917 in 2020.

The male population is equivalent to 50.58%, and the remaining 49.42% are females. This population data indicates that women are a significant human resource asset and have the potential to support Indonesia's development. It is a challenge to reduce the gender gap and achieve gender equality so that the potential of women for development and strengthening family economies can be enhanced.

The involvement of women can be seen in various fields such as participating in preserving natural resources and strengthening family economies. Craft making is one example of an enterprise that has the potential to involve women. As much as 80% of the



process of making pottery crafts takes place in the village of Banyumulek in West Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

The village of Pabaungan Hulu in the Candi Laras District of Tapin Regency is a village where some of its residents are craftsmen/women specializing in weaving “purun”. Purun (*Lepironia articulata*) is a type of weed that naturally grows in peat swamp areas. Purun (*L.articulata*) is commonly found growing in the Candi Laras district. The presence of the *L.articulata* plant as the main material for crafting creates a strong connection to the peat swamp land, forming the basis for the community to continue preserving the peat swamp.

Similar to many handicraft activities, the majority of *L.articulata* weavers are women. This activity has been passed down through generations. Women in this weaving group utilize the plant as a material for weaving bags, hats, mats, and other products. Women in the village of Pabaungan play two important roles, serving as both homemakers and *L.articulata* weavers. Women engage in daily reproductive household activities, a role that is often overlooked when assessing the significant role of women. The *L.articulata* weaving craft in Pabaungan is believed by the community to contribute to the family's income. This indicates that family economic resilience is closely tied to the role of women in the family, without neglecting their primary role as homemakers.

Family economic resilience is the starting point for the overall well-being of the community. It is crucial to continue maintaining this phenomenon. Strengthening the role of women as *L.articulata* weavers can be achieved through various analytical approaches. The purpose of this research is to analyze the role of women in both reproductive and productive activities in the management of *L.articulata* weaving.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The research object is the families of *L.articulata* weavers located in Pabaungan Hulu Village, South Candi Laras Subdistrict, Tapin Regency, South Kalimantan. The research was conducted from April to November 2023. The selection of the research location and respondents was done using purposive sampling methods. The criteria for selecting the research village were: 1) having a group of female *L.articulata* weavers; 2) having the potential for strengthening family economics. Respondent determination used the saturated sampling technique. The research employed interview methods and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). A list of questions was used to guide the researcher during the study. Interviews were conducted using both structured and semi-structured interview techniques.

The role of gender is analyzed using the variable of participation, which is divided into productive activities and reproductive activities (Table 1).

Table 1 – The role of the family in the craft of *L.articulata* weaving handicrafts

Productive Activities	Reproductive Activities
Harvesting <i>L.articulata</i> in the field	Washing clothes
Pounding <i>L.articulata</i>	Cooking
Coloring <i>L.articulata</i>	Taking care of children
Buying coloring materials	Assisting with children's learning
Mixing colors	Folding and/or ironing clothes
Sun-drying <i>L.articulata</i>	Hanging clothes to dry
Designing <i>L.articulata</i>	Taking children to school
Cutting <i>L.articulata</i>	Buying household necessities
Transporting <i>L.articulata</i> to the pounding area	Sweeping the house and yard
Taking <i>L.articulata</i> to the market	Repairing broken appliance
Choosing/Selecting the quality of <i>L.articulata</i>	
Smoothing <i>L.articulata</i>	
Boiling <i>L.articulata</i>	

The assessment for each indicator in reproductive activities with the following provisions: a score of 0 for respondents not involved in the activity and a score of 1 for respondents involved in the activity. The intervals used are as follows:



Table 2 – The categories for each indicator in reproductive and productive activities

Range of value	Categories
0 - 4	Inactive
>4 - 8	Less active
> 8 - 12	Moderately active
> 12 - 16	Active
> 16 - 20	Very Active

Class width is determined to group the levels of participation. The level of participation is classified into 3 classes (low, middle, high) with 10 indicators for reproductive activities and 13 indicators for productive activities. A total of 23 indicators are used:

$$\text{Class width} = \frac{\text{The highest observation value} - \text{The lowest observation value}}{\text{The number of classes}}$$

Table 3 – The level of participation of *L.articulata* weavers

Class Interval	Level of Participation
0 - 7,67	Low
> 7,67 - 15,33	Middle
> 15,33 - 23	High

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reproductive activities within households are closely related to the maintenance and development aimed at ensuring the continuity of human resources carried out within the family. These activities do not directly generate income and are usually carried out concurrently with domestic or community responsibilities. The involvement of women and men in reproductive activities are described in table 4

Table 4 – Involvement of Women and Men in Reproductive Activities

Reproductive Activities	Women's role		Men's role	
	Active (%)	Inactive (%)	Active (%)	Inactive (%)
Washing clothes	100	0	0	100
Cooking	100	0	5	95
Taking care of children	75	25	50	50
Assisting with children's learning	60	40	40	60
Folding and/or ironing clothes	95	5	5	95
Hanging clothes to dry	100	0	5	95
Taking children to school	100	0	5	95
Buying household necessities	90	10	65	35
Sweeping the house and yard	95	5	10	90
Repairing broken appliance	50	50	85	15
Mean	86,5	13,5	27	73

Women's involvement in reproductive activities shows an average of 86.5% (± 17 respondents) engaging in reproductive activities, with only 13.5% (± 3 respondents) not participating in household activities. On the other hand, the average involvement of men in reproductive activities is 27% (± 5 respondents engaging in reproductive activities) and as much as 73% (± 15 respondents) not participating in reproductive activities. Men contribute less to reproductive activities.

Women play a significant role in all indicators (10 indicators) used in the assessment. This indicates that women have a significant contribution to reproductive activities. Men involvement in reproductive activities is represented by 27% of respondents engaging in reproductive activities, while 73% of respondents do not engage in reproductive activities. Men do not contribute much to reproductive activities.

Men are quite extensively involved in reproductive activities in four indicators, namely repairing damaged tools, purchasing household necessities, taking care of children, and assisting in children's learning activities. Men have very low involvement in the remaining six indicators.



Table 5 – Values and categories of reproductive activities

Indicators of Reproductive Activities	Score Assessment of Reproductive Activities			
	Women		Men	
	Value	Category	Value	Category
Washing clothes	20	Very Active	0	Inactive
Cooking	20	Very Active	1	Inactive
Taking care of children	15	Active	10	Moderately Active
Assisting with children's learning	12	Active	8	Less Active
Folding and/or ironing clothes	19	Very Active	1	Inactive
Hanging clothes to dry	20	Very Active	1	Inactive
Taking children to school	20	Very Active	1	Inactive
Buying household necessities	18	Very Active	13	Active
Sweeping the house and yard	19	Very Active	2	Inactive
Repairing broken appliance	10	Moderately Active	17	Very Active
Mean	17,3	Very Active	5,4	Less Active

Women have higher scores in 9 assessment indicators, while men have only one higher score in the indicator 'repairing damaged household tools.' The level of activity for women falls into the category of very active, while men fall into the category of less active. This indicates that the majority of women play a very active role in reproductive activities

The production of woven crafts from *L.articulata* is a productive activity carried out by the residents of Pabaungan Hulu Village. Productive activities are those undertaken by the community to generate income or family revenue.

The process of making woven *L.articulata* involves several stages, namely:

- Harvesting *L.articulata* plants from peat forests or *L.articulata* gardens around the settlement of Pabaungan Hulu Village, using a tool commonly known as "Jukung" or "kelotok," a type of small boat;
- The harvested *L.articulata* undergoes the process of cutting the tips and roots;
- Drying process for *L.articulata* for 3-5 days;
- Sorting *L.articulata* according to size;
- Coloring process;
- Beating process for *L.articulata*;
- Boiling/dipping in water and then drying again to ensure the color is completely dry;
- Determining the quality class of *L.articulata*;
- Weaving process;
- Varnishing process to enhance the durability of *L.articulata* material;
- Addition of decorations (if necessary), commonly done for women's bags.

The involvement of women and men in *L.articulata* craft activities is assessed through 13 indicators. The participation of women in productive activities shows an average of 88% of respondents involved in all productive activities, with only 12% of respondents involved in some productive activities. Some female respondents are not involved in buying dye materials, mixing dyes, and boiling *L.articulata* with dye.

Table 6 – Involvement of Women and Men in Reproductive Activities

Productive Activities	Women's Role		Men's Role	
	Active (%)	Inactive (%)	Active (%)	Inactive (%)
Harvesting <i>L.articulata</i>	85	15	55	45
Pounding <i>L.articulata</i>	95	5	5	95
Coloring <i>L.articulata</i>	95	5	10	90
Buying dye materials	60	40	15	85
Mixing additional dye	65	35	5	95
Drying <i>L.articulata</i>	100	0	0	100
Designing <i>L.articulata</i>	100	0	0	100
Cutting <i>L.articulata</i>	95	5	10	90
Transporting <i>L.articulata</i> to the machine	100	0	5	95
Transporting <i>L.articulata</i> to the market	95	5	5	95
Selecting the quality of <i>L.articulata</i>	100	0	0	100
Weaving <i>L.articulata</i>	100	0	5	95
Boiling <i>L.articulata</i>	60	40	5	95
Mean	88,46	11,54	9,23	90,77



Men's involvement in productive activities averages only 9%, with 91% of respondents not participating in productive activities. Men contribute significantly to the *L.articulata* harvesting process in peatland locations but have a limited contribution to the overall productive activities in *L.articulata* craft enterprises.

The involvement of women in the *L.articulata* handicraft business ranges from 60% to 100%. All female respondents are engaged in 5 indicators, namely drying *L.articulata*, designing *L.articulata*, transporting it to the pounding machine, selecting the quality of *L.articulata*, and weaving *L.articulata*. The involvement of men in the *L.articulata* weaving craft is quite significant, as observed in 55% of the respondents participating in the activity of "harvesting *L.articulata* plants to peatland forest locations." This is because this activity is quite strenuous, involving the use of small boats (canoes) to reach the location of *L.articulata* plants, so female *L.articulata* artisans are often assisted by men (husbands/sons) in harvesting *L.articulata*. Men are also involved in activities such as purchasing dye materials, coloring *L.articulata*, and cutting *L.articulata*. Men are not involved in three indicators of productive *L.articulata* craft activities, namely drying, designing, and selecting the quality of *L.articulata*.

Table 7 – Productive activity assessment score

Indicators of Productive Activities	Productive Activity Assessment Score			
	Women		Men	
	Value	Category	Value	Category
Harvesting <i>L.articulata</i>	17	Very Active	11	Inactive
Pounding <i>L.articulata</i>	19	Very Active	1	Moderately Active
Coloring <i>L.articulata</i>	19	Active	2	Less Active
Buying dye materials	12	Active	3	Inactive
Mixing additional dye	13	Active	1	Inactive
Drying <i>L.articulata</i>	20	Very Active	0	Inactive
Designing <i>L.articulata</i>	20	Very Active	0	Active
Cutting <i>L.articulata</i>	19	Very Active	2	Inactive
Transporting <i>L.articulata</i> to the machine	20	Very Active	1	Inactive
Transporting <i>L.articulata</i> to the market	19	Very Active	1	Inactive
Selecting the quality of <i>L.articulata</i>	20	Very Active	0	Inactive
Weaving <i>L.articulata</i>	20	Very Active	1	Inactive
Boiling <i>L.articulata</i>	12	Moderately Active	1	Inactive
Mean	17,69	Very Active	1,85	Inactive

Table 8 – Score of *L.articulata* Craftsmen's Participation

No	Indicators of Participation Activities	Activity Assessment Score	
		Women	Men
1	Washing clothes	1	0
2	Cooking	1	0,05
3	Taking care of children	0,75	0,5
4	Assisting with children's learning	0,6	0,4
5	Folding and/or ironing clothes	0,95	0,05
6	Hanging clothes to dry	1	0,05
7	Taking children to school	1	0,05
8	Buying household necessities	0,9	0,65
9	Sweeping the house and yard	0,95	0,1
10	Repairing broken appliance	0,5	0,85
11	Harvesting <i>L.articulata</i>	0,85	0,55
12	Pounding <i>L.articulata</i>	0,95	0,05
13	Coloring <i>L.articulata</i>	0,95	0,1
14	Buying dye materials	0,6	0,15
15	Mixing additional dye	0,65	0,05
16	Drying <i>L.articulata</i>	1	0
17	Designing <i>L.articulata</i>	1	0
18	Cutting <i>L.articulata</i>	0,95	0,1
19	Transporting <i>L.articulata</i> to the machine	1	0,05
20	Transporting <i>L.articulata</i> to the market	0,95	0,05
21	Selecting the quality of <i>L.articulata</i>	1	0
22	Weaving <i>L.articulata</i>	1	0,05
23	Boiling <i>L.articulata</i>	0,6	0,05
Total		20,15	3,9



Men have 1 indicator (10%) very active, 1 indicator (10%) active, 1 indicator (10%) fairly active, 1 indicator (10%) less active, and a total of 6 indicators (60%) inactive. This indicates that the majority of men have an inactive role in productive activities. The role of women in productive activities includes 9 indicators very active (70%), 2 indicators active (20%), and 1 indicator fairly active (10%). Women have a "very active" role in productive activities, while men fall into the "inactive" category.

The role of women in the productive activities of woven *L.articulata* crafts shows a very active role, with the majority of women (84.62%) falling into the very active category. No women fall into the inactive and less active categories. The role of men in the productive activities of *L.articulata* crafts is inversely proportional to the role of women. Men fall into the inactive category dominated by scores of 0 to 2 in productive activity indicators. This can be seen from the percentage of men falling into the inactive category, which is 92.31%. Participation assessment based on gender overall in productive and reproductive aspects is also analyzed. The results of women's and men's participation in the households of *L.articulata* craftsmen with 23 indicators are presented in Table 8.

Women enter at the 'High' participation level with a score of 20.15, while men fall into the 'Low' participation range with a score of 3.9. These results indicate that women have participation in both reproductive household activities and productive activities in the field of *L.articulata* handicrafts. Women contribute to efforts to increase household income by engaging in *L.articulata* handicrafts amid the busyness of household chores. Efforts in the field of *L.articulata* weaving crafts are not time-bound, allowing them to be undertaken without disrupting women's household activities

CONCLUSION

The level of activity of women from the *L.articulata* craftsmen's families in reproductive activities is classified as very active, unlike men who show less active participation in reproductive activities. Similarly, in productive activities, the level of activity of women is considered very active compared to the less active involvement of men. Overall, the role of women from craftsmen's families in various reproductive and productive activities is very high. These findings serve as evidence that the role of women is crucial for the sustainability and continuity of the *L.articulata* crafts in the village.

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