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ROLE OF FISHERMEN'S WIVES IN MANAGEMENT OF FISH CATCHES TO IMPROVE FAMILY WELFARE: A CASE STUDY AT SULAMU VILLAGE OF KUPANG DISTRICT

Arifin Hadjrah

Study Program of Fisheries Agribusiness, Muhammadiyah University, Kupang, Indonesia

*E-mail: hadjraharifin@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Case Study of the Role of Fishermen's Wives in Managing Fish Catches to Realize Family Welfare in Sulamu Village, Kupang Regency. The main problem of the research is "What is the role of the fisherman's wife in managing fish catches to improve family welfare in the Sulamu village, Kupang Regency". The purpose of this research is to describe the role of fishermen's wives in managing fish catches to improve family welfare. This type of research is qualitative with a case study approach. The subjects and informants of the fishermen's wives in the Sulamu sub-district, Kupang Regency were 38 people from the Bajo ethnicity, the Rote ethnicity and the Timorese ethnicity. Data collection was carried out by observation, interviews and group discussions. The research data were analyzed by descriptive quantitative and qualitative. The results showed that the fishermen's wives in the Sulamu sub-district had a very important role in helping their husbands carry out management activities for the fish catch produced by their husbands. Fish management is carried out in two ways, namely fish are sold raw. Raw fish is sold in both traditional and modern ways using kilograms and batches. One kilogram of raw fish depending on the type, type of tuna Rp. 35,000/Kg, grouper Rp. 38,000/Kg, snapper Rp. 40,000/Kg, yellow tail fish Rp. 37,000/Kg and skipjack fish Rp. 32,000. As for tembang fish and selar fish, they are sold as a group for Rp. 20,000 and the price is Rp. 50,000/collect. The level of income earned by the fishermen's wife's family was very low, namely 36 informants (94.73%), while the average income was 2 informants (5.27%). The welfare level of fishermen's families 2 informants (5.27%) were quite prosperous while the majority of fishermen's wives stated that with the level of income earned every month 36 informants (94.73%) were less prosperous.

KEY WORDS

Role of women, management, fish catches.

The women's empowerment program was initiated 44 years ago, in 1978 to be precise. At the beginning, women's empowerment was directed at encouraging the progress of women's lives so that they can play their dual roles well, namely as coaches, breadwinners, agents of development. In subsequent developments, the development program for increasing the role of women (P2W) is directed at realizing equal partnerships between men and women in various strategic lives, in essence the program's objectives are directed at developing and strengthening the various potentials that exist in women, which enable them to take advantage of their rights and equal opportunity with men to development resources.

This paradigm shift is gender-oriented development in all aspects of life. The 1999 State Policy Guidelines (GBHN) mandate that the development of women's empowerment is carried out by:

- Improving the position and role of women in the nation and state through national policies carried out by institutions that fight for gender equality and justice;
- Improving the quality of the role and independence of women's organizations while maintaining the value of unity and integrity, as well as the historical value of women's struggle in continuing women's empowerment efforts, as well as family and community welfare.

Characteristics of women still can not ignore the nature that is in him. Women have the nature of life in the form of a woman's nature as a mother, a woman's nature as a wife, as an individual woman and as a member of society. Each element of nature that is owned requires



different responsibilities. As a wife, her responsibilities are different from her role as a member of society, and will also be different from her role as an individual. Nevertheless, each of these elements should not conflict with each other. The interests of one element must not harm the interests of other elements because each element will support the formation of the "dignity and dignity" of women.

The role of women in efforts to fulfill household needs is also influenced by the socio-cultural structure of society. Culture within the framework of the social system of society is a form of communal identity and becomes a social symbol. Gender is also a work of culture so that social reality is heavily influenced by culture. In another perspective, culture is a source of problems for gender justice. On the other hand, culture in the study of social science is the basis for constructing a just and egalitarian social system. The issue of gender justice, which is based on the order of values, is very dependent on how these values are formed in society, so that it requires a cultural work to shape existing values in society, which are in accordance with gender fair values.

The natural role of modern women is to build their self-image on the basis of their increasingly diverse roles and conflicts. The natural roles and conflicts of modern women include: the nature of women as mothers, the nature of women as wives, the nature of women as women (as a person), the nature of women as members of society. All of these natures become the vision of society to place the "dignity and dignity" of women to be the best. This problem has until now become a polemic in people's lives so that various activities carried out by women often cause things that are dilemmatic (Budiman Kris, 1997).

Naturally and socio-culturally, women in the tribes in Sulamu (Rote, Bajo, Timor, and other ethnic groups) have similarities with women in various other areas, especially in coastal communities, having duties and responsibilities as babysitters, serving all husband's needs, managing the household, and strenuous physical activities in order to help husbands increase income, one of the reasons for which is low income and poverty.

Women's economic activity is a phenomenon that is common among the lower strata of society, including women whose status is fishermen's wives. Fishermen's wives in general, apart from having to deal a lot with domestic affairs, also continue to carry out economic functions, both in fishing activities in shallow waters (such as beach seine), fish processing, as well as service and trading activities. There is one formulation expressed by Pollnac (1988), namely the division of labor for the fishermen's family is that the men catch fish and the female family members sell the fish they catch. This role of women is an important factor in stabilizing the economy in some fishing societies because men may fish only occasionally while women work all year round. This is also in line with the research results of Andriati (1992) in Kusnadi (2000), which reveals that one of the adaptation strategies adopted by fishing households in overcoming household economic difficulties is to encourage their wives to join in earning a living. What's even more interesting is that the fisherman's wife is also dominant in managing daily household expenses. In this way, the role of fishermen's wives should be one of the considerations in every empowerment program. What's even more interesting is that the fisherman's wife is also dominant in managing daily household expenses. In this way, the role of fishermen's wives should be one of the considerations in every empowerment program. What's even more interesting is that the fisherman's wife is also dominant in managing daily household expenses. In this way, the role of fishermen's wives should be one of the considerations in every empowerment program (Anonymous, 1999).

There are two major streams that underlie the context of poverty as follows; First, is the flow of modernization which always assumes that the problem of poverty is caused by internal factors in society. This flow states that fishermen's poverty occurs as a result of cultural factors (laziness), limited capital and technology, management limitations, and natural resource conditions. Generally this type of poverty is called cultural and natural poverty (Anggraini Eva). Because of this, this school is always laden with proposals for the modernization of fishermen, namely that fishermen should change their culture, increase their technological capacity, and improve their business system. Second, is the structural flow which always assumes that it is external factors that cause fishermen's poverty. So,



according to this flow, poor fishermen are not due to culture or limited capital, but due to external factors that impede the process of vertical mobility of fishermen. These external factors are tiered, both at the microvillage and macrostructural levels. At the micro-village level, there are still a number of patterns of asymmetric patron-client relationships, namely a pattern of surplus transfer relationship from fishermen to patrons. Meanwhile, at the macrostructural level, there is no political support for marine and fisheries development so that the sector is unable to develop like other sectors (Satria, Arif. 2009). there are still a number of patterns of asymmetric patron-client relationships, namely a pattern of surplus transfer relationship from fishermen to patrons. Meanwhile, at the macrostructural level, there is no political support for marine and fisheries development so that the sector is unable to develop like other sectors (Satria, Arif. 2009). there are still a number of patterns of asymmetric patron-client relationships, namely a pattern of surplus transfer relationship from fishermen to patrons. Meanwhile, at the macrostructural level, there is no political support for marine and fisheries development so that the sector is unable to develop like other sectors (Satria, Arif. 2009).

According to Mashuri (1999), the weak bargaining position of fishermen or coastal communities is also caused by little production due to low productivity. Thus, producers do not have many choices to sell their products. As a result of pressing economic needs and high cash that sometimes appears every day, fishermen cannot speculate to get a higher or better selling price for their products. In this situation, fishermen accept the price offered by the market (price taker) and live their lives from day to day with the cash they get every day (short life subsistence strategy).

From these two perspectives, it appears that structural theory is closer to reality. So it's not that fishermen don't want to progress, but that fishermen don't have the opportunity to progress. To make fishermen progress, structural approaches are needed, both overcoming patron-client problems at the village level, as well as increasing political support for the progress of fishermen at the macro level. This means that affirmative policies are needed that in real terms encourage fishermen to carry out vertical mobility (Moleing, 2011).

The social position of fishermen in society is also interesting to observe both culturally and structurally. This is because in most communities, fishermen have a relatively low status. Just look at India, in general fishermen belong to a lower caste (Pollnac 1988). Currently, in Japan, the status of fishermen is also experiencing a status degradation, so they are experiencing problems with the regeneration of fishermen. As a result, a small number of young people are willing to become fishermen even though they were promised to receive various subsidized facilities from the government. The declining status of fishermen in Japan is also indicated by the declining interest of Japanese women in getting a fisherman's husband. The low position of fishermen culturally is also described by Firth (1971) in his famous book *Malay Fishermen: Their Peasant Economy*.

The low social position of fishermen is also caused by the alienation of fishermen. This alienation causes non-fishing communities to not know more about the world of fishermen and the lack of time and opportunities for fishermen to interact with other communities. Of course, this is due to the large amount of fishermen's time allotted for fishing activities rather than for socializing with non-fishing communities who are geographically relatively far from the coast (Ruth and Tiffany, 1988).

Fishermen's social position can also be seen in socio-cultural and political terms. Interesting a thesis put forward by Goodwin (1990) in Satria (2001), namely one of the characteristics of small scale fishermen is the lack of ability to influence public policy, as a result fishermen continue to be in a dependent and marginal position. This thesis implies that capital is very dominant in determining the position of fishermen. The greater the mastery of capital, the greater the opportunity to influence the political process. Economic power or capital has a very important role and determines political, legal and social life.

If we use a Marxist perspective, the capital factor is indeed the key in the formation of social classes. The greater the mastery of capital, the greater the opportunity to occupy the upper class. The higher the social class, the greater the opportunity to influence political processes, public policies, and so on. Such a view of the Marxists is a derivative of the



materialist philosophy developed by Karl Marx and Engels. In essence, society actually consists of two main components, namely (1) infrastructure (a method of production consisting of productive forces-in the context of fishermen in the form of ships, fishing gear, and capital-and production relations which refer to ownership of productive forces), and (2) superstructure (aspects of social life, such as politics, law, religion, etc.). It is said that it is the infrastructure that will determine the superstructure, and not the other way around. That is, it is economic forces that actually determine political, legal and other social life (Wula, 2020).

The social structure in fishing communities is generally characterized by strong patron-client bonds. The strong patron-client bond is a consequence of the nature of fishing activities which are full of risks and uncertainties. For fishermen, establishing a bond with a patron is an important step in maintaining the continuity of their activities because the patron-client pattern is a socio-economic security institution. This happens because until now fishermen have not found alternative institutions that are able to guarantee their socio-economic interests (Wula, 2017).

The natural social role that a wife has besides accompanying her husband to plan a household trip to a better future, a mother as the main teacher in educating and guiding children or the next generation of the nation towards goals or expectations that do not harm the nation and state because the family is a small institution or an ark that is piloted by a father and a mother. Therefore, men and women working together to increase family income must make every effort so that family income can change to a more adequate level so that the needs of family members can be properly guaranteed.

Kusnadi (2000) emphasized how important the role of a fisherman's wife is, that fishermen's wives generally only carry out domestic and economic functions, and do not extend to the socio-political area. However, if you look closely, fishermen's wives are also creative in creating social institutions that are important for social stability in fishing communities. This can be seen, for example, in recitation events, social gatherings, and savings and loans, which also have an important meaning in helping to overcome the uncertainty of economic income. Therefore, the social role of the fisherman's wife cannot be underestimated.

The existence of fisherwomen's wives in Sulamu, Kupang Regency, socially functions to help support family life, to help husbands outside the home. In general, all ethnic groups will accept this statement. his family's needs. In this connection, women of the Rote tribe are quite good at understanding their roles as wives, housewives, farmers, breeders and in other informal sector activities to increase family income and welfare.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The substance of this research is the role of fishermen's wives in managing fish catches to improve family welfare in Sulamu Village, Kupang Regency. The main problem of research.

In accordance with the substance of this research, this type of research is qualitative research with a case study approach (Wula, 2017). The subjects of this study were all housewives whose husbands work as fishermen catching fish as many as 38 people and representing the Rote ethnicity, Bajo ethnicity, and Timorese ethnicity. The informants in this study were 38 fishermen's wives in the Sulamu village.

Data collection was carried out by means of observation, namely observing the activities carried out in their daily life as a housewife whose husband works as a fisherman starting from the arrival of fishing boats at the port to handling fish management activities. Interviews and focus group discussions were conducted to find out in detail about the profession as a fisherman, the socio-economic and cultural roles of housewives whose husbands work as fishermen, fish catches, income earned and obstacles faced in managing fish catches. The research results obtained through observation, interviews and group discussions will be analyzed qualitatively (Moleong 2011).



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sociologically, coastal communities are different from the characteristics of agrarian societies because of the different characteristics of the resources they face. An agrarian society represented by peasants faces controlled resources, namely land management for the production of a commodity with relatively predictable results. Such a nature of production allows the fixed location of production. This causes relatively low business mobility and not a large element of risk.

These characteristics are completely different from fishermen. Fishermen face resources that are still open access. Characteristics of resources like this cause fishermen to have to move around to get maximum results, thus the element of risk becomes very high. This risky resource condition causes fishermen to have a tough, firm and open character.

However, not a few fishermen also double as farmers so that during the West monsoon (in the term of the Sulamu people) which lasts from January to the end of February, fishermen do not go to sea and if they have to go to sea they do not get their catch due to high waves, heavy rains and the transition season which is difficult to predict. Besides that, during the bright moon, the catch is less than optimal, so you don't have income. Therefore, many fishermen work as fishermen but also with other additional jobs as farmers and breeders.

This is in line with what was conveyed by the informant that "the social life of fishermen is like that because it is supported by ecosystem conditions that are indeed possible, such as the availability of agricultural land and rice fields that are not far from settlements" (Interview with informant AF, May 15, 2022)

In addition, there were several informants who said that "the Slamtu sub-district is one of the sub-districts that has a very large area, apart from being an agricultural and rice field area, it is also a livestock area, so that this area has lots of cattle, campers, chickens and other domesticated animals. With a side job as a fisherman, it allows the community to be able to increase their income both as farmers and livestock. This situation has a significant impact, at least being able to slowly sustain income levels and fulfill other necessities of life" (interview with DP, MP, DL and EF, May 15, 2022).

From the description above, it shows that fishermen in the Sulamu sub-district have quite good side jobs, even though the way of managing the agricultural and plantation systems is traditional and the results are for their own needs, except for livestock products which can be sold to various existing markets but the livestock system is also still very limited, so the results obtained are also not satisfactory when compared with the needs of everyday life.

The results of the study show that in order to improve the standard of living of fishermen's families, fishermen's wives in Sulamu do not only carry out domestic functions and work or as housewives, but fully assist with the work of husbands as fishermen, namely by utilizing, managing and marketing their catch. fishing done by her husband as a fisherman.

From another point of view, a wife is a housewife and also plays a role in helping her husband to increase family income. Meanwhile, marine catches are sold in kilograms and at retail. Fish catches consist of various types, including skipjack, tuna, grouper, snapper, tembang and trevally with prices that vary according to the type of fish. Apart from being sold in kilograms/per kilogram, fish are also sold in groups/gatherings with a certain amount of rupiah, as follows:

Table 1 – Types of fish and selling price of raw fish

No	Fish type	Price / Per kg	Information
1	Tuna fish	35,000	-
2	Snapper	40,000	-
3	Grouper fish	38,000	-
4	Skipjack Fish	32,000	-
5	Yellow tail fish	37,000	-

Source: Primary Data, processed by the author, 2022.



Based on the table above, it shows that the fishermen's catch consists of various types of fish, namely tuna, snapper, grouper, skipjack and yellow tail fish. These types of fish also have price variations, namely raw tuna sold at a price of Rp. 35,000/kg, snapper has a more expensive price of Rp. 40,000/Kg, grouper fish at a price of Rp. 38,000/Kg, skipjack fish Rp. 32,000/Kg and yellow tail fish Rp. 37,000/Kg.

In addition to fish sold raw by the kilogram method, there are two types of fish that are marketed using batches as shown in the following table:

Table 2 – Types of fish and selling price of raw fish

No	Fish type	Price/rupiah/gathering	Information
1	Song fish	Rp. 20,000 sd. Rp. 50,000	-
2	Salmon	Rp. 20,000 to Rp. 50,000	-

Source: Primary Data, processed by the author, 2022.

Based on table (2), an illustration is obtained that the fishermen's wives in Sulamu apart from selling fish using kilogram rods, also market certain types of fish in the traditional way, namely a collection of several fish and converted in rupiah. The results showed that the selling price of tembang fish in a bunch ranged from Rp. 20,000 up to Rp. 50,000. In addition to tembang fish, which use the traditional way of marketing, namely selar fish, which is marketed by associations starting at Rp. 20,000 to Rp. 50,000. For gatherers the number of fish varies greatly and is adjusted to the supply of fish, if there is a large supply, then the number of fish can be even greater. This was conveyed by the informants as follows: "

"That the selling price of fish generally depends on supply, and what type of fish and this will affect the selling price of fish. If during the dark moon season the supply of fish is very large and that affects the price, but for the selling price of fish, the average price for tembang and selar fish is around Rp. 20,000 to Rp. 50,000. The purpose of sales like this is to help people who have financial limitations, so those who want to buy a price of 20,000 can and those who want 50,000 can too. So the price varies with the amount of fish it also varies according to the price offered" (Interview with AF, NT and MS fishermen's wife, May 27, 2022).

The description above shows that the selling price of fish is never stable for one month, meaning that the increase or decrease in fish prices is very dependent on the supply of fish according to the monthly cycle, where in the dark month the fish will experience an increase due to large catches, whereas in the middle of the month the supply of fish began to decrease because the catches of fishermen also decreased. In addition, weather factors, rain, wind and waves also affect the catch. This shows that the level of people's income is highly dependent on fish catches and also those related to climate, weather and lunar circulation conditions.

The results showed that the role of the fisherman's wife apart from selling the caught fish in raw condition by kilos and assemblies, was also carried out by processing raw fish into dried salted fish and selling them to various traditional markets in Kupanh Regency, traditional markets which were the locations for selling fish namely Takari market, Camplong market, Oesao market. The distance between the residential location and the traditional market is very far, namely tens of kilometers. However, this condition, which is far enough, does not dampen the intention of housewives and fishermen's wives to sell their catch of fish with the aim of increasing the income and welfare of their family. The following table describes the selling price of dried salted fish as follows:

Table 3 – The price of dried salted fish according to the type

No	Fish type	Price / Per kg	Information
1	Tuna fish	33,000	-
2	Snapper	42,000	-
3	Grouper fish	40,000	-
4	Skipjack Fish	31,000	-
5	Yellow tail fish	40,000	-

Source: Primary Data, processed by the author, 2022.



Based on the table above (table 3) it shows that the selling price of dried salted fish has increased and there are even types of fish that have experienced a decrease in price, for the selling price of foreign fish types of tuna per kilogram of Rp. 33,000, this type of snapper experienced a price increase of Rp. 42,000/kg, the type of dried salted grouper fish also experienced a price increase of Rp. 40,000/kg, the type of dried salted skipjack fish experienced a decrease of Rp. 31,000/kg and the yellowtail fish experienced an increase of Rp. 40,000/kg.

The type of fish that has experienced an increase is caused by the quality factor of the fish and the delicious taste when eaten by the community, which is usually fried, made in the form of dried fish sauce and in the form of salted fish mixed with tomato sauce. The most delicious types of dried salted fish are grouper, snapper, yellow tail fish so that if these types of fish are salted and dried, the selling price will be higher compared to other fish and can be stored for a long time.

This was confirmed by several informants who emphasized that: the village community where we sell dried salted fish has its own assessment, even though it is a farming community and is still underdeveloped, the community also has knowledge about various types of dried fish and how to process dried fish for consumption. Even the knowledge about quality dried fish is also known by the community, so the price of several types of fish, including cakalang fish and tuna fish, if they have been dried, experience lower prices when compared to when they are sold in a condition that is still raw. The dried fish is processed in a variety of dishes, including fried, re-fried tomato and chili sauce, cooked in coconut milk sauce, coconut milk mixed with other vegetables and cooked in the form of broth with tomato and tamarind spices (interview with fisherman's wife: YF, MR, TN and JS, May 21, 2022).

Based on the description above, it shows that the knowledge of the village community, both at the periphery and in the depths, really understands the good and bad taste of various types of fish so that it affects the selling price of fish and for the community they even have knowledge not just whether fish is good or not but contains nutrients, certain proteins in fish . Apart from the types of fish mentioned above, other types of dried salted fish are tembang fish and selar fish, the method of selling them is also the same, namely not using kilo meat but by batches, and the prices for these two types of fish range from Rp. 20,000 to Rp. 50,000.

Table 3 – Family Income Level

No	Average level of income	Frequency	(%)
1.	High: More than IDR 2,000,000/month	-	-
2.	Medium Rp. 1,200,000 – Rp. 1850.00/month	2	5,27
3.	Low: Less than 750,000/month	36	94.73
	Amount	38	100%

Data source: Primary data processed by the author.

Based on the table, the data shows that of the 38 informants who answered high income levels were not found, informants who said that income levels were moderate were 2 people (5.27%), while 36 (94.73%) informants said that they had low income levels . Factors causing the low level of opinion are caused by several factors, namely very high operational costs, diesel prices and several components related to fishing gear, maintenance of boat engines by owners, and components related to fishing gear. The increase in other components is related to the marketing aspect, namely the increase in fuel prices has an impact on increasing transportation financing.

Table 4 – Family Welfare Level

No.	Average level of income	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Prosperous	-	-
2.	Fair enough	2	5,27
3.	Less prosperous	36	94.73
	Amount	38	100%

Data source: Primary data processed by the author, 2022.



Based on the table above, it shows that out of 38 fishermen's wives in Sulamu, 2 informants (5.27%) said that with this level of income they were quite prosperous, while 36 informants (94.73) said that with this level of income they earned every month they not prosperous. Welfare is closely related to economic life which is reflected in employment and income levels and other social aspects, so that people have a prosperous life, namely the fulfillment of clothing, food and shelter as well as other social needs.

The results of the study show that the welfare of fishermen's households is still difficult to realize, the causative factor is that fish catches are very dependent on natural conditions; climate, wind, rainfall and lunar position, in addition to operational costs in catching fish and managing and selling fish, both wet fish and dried salted fish. This is reflected in daily life in fulfilling the primary basic needs of clothing, food and shelter which also affect other social life.

CONCLUSION

The fishermen's wives in the Sulamu sub-district, Kupang Regency, have a very good role in helping their husbands to carry out management activities for the fish catch produced by their husbands.

Fish management is carried out in two ways, namely fish are sold raw. Raw fish is sold in traditional and modern ways, namely by using kilograms. One kilogram of raw fish depending on the type, type of tuna Rp. 35,000/Kg, grouper Rp. 38,000/Kg, snapper Rp. 40,000/Kg, yellow tail fish Rp. 37,000/Kg and skipjack fish Rp. 32,000. As for tembang fish and selar fish, they are sold as a group for Rp. 20,000 and the price is Rp. 50,000/collect.

The level of income earned by the fishermen's wife's family is very low, namely 36 informants (94.73%), while the average income is 2 informants (5.27%).

The welfare level of fishermen's wives 2 informants (5.27%) were quite prosperous while the majority of fishermen's wives stated that with the level of income earned every month less prosperous 36 informants (94.73%).

The low level of income and welfare is affected by the lack of catches during the bright moon, meaning that each month produces a lot of fish when the dark moon ranges from the first month until 10 pm. Other factors are climate, weather, waves, rising fuel prices (BBM). if it starts to be high or the moon is bright, fish are difficult to obtain and result in a drastic decrease in income. Another obstacle is the capital aspect and the marketing aspect where the distance between homes and traditional markets is quite far, the Camplong markets, Takari and Oesao markets, with distances of tens of kilometers, have an impact on expensive transportation costs.

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