



Analysis of The Role of Gender in Increasing Family Economic Income in Lopo Village, Batudaa Pantai District, Gorontalo Regency

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Abstract. *This study aims to analyze the role of gender in increasing family economic income in Lopo Village. The research method used is a qualitative approach with the research population being families in the village. Samples were taken using purposive sampling techniques, and data was collected through interviews and observations as well as data from documentation. The research location is located in Lopo Village, Batudaa Pantai District, Gorontalo Regency. The results of the study show that the traditional division of roles between men and women affects access to economic resources, where men play the role of the main breadwinner. Although women have a significant contribution to the management of family finances, their participation in formal economic activities is still limited. This study concludes that women's empowerment through education and employment opportunities can improve family economic welfare. The recommendations given are the need for policies that support women's involvement in economic activities to achieve a better gender balance.*

Keywords : *Gender, Economic Income, Women's Empowerment, Family Welfare*

1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of gender equality has been a global concern for the past few decades. Various efforts have been made to promote gender equality and justice in various sectors of people's lives. One of the sectors that is an important focus is the family economy, where gender roles can affect access control and the distribution of economic resources in households.

The term gender was introduced by social scientists to explain the difference between women and men that are innate as God's creations and that are culturally formed that are learned and socialized since childhood. This distinction is very important, because so far it has often mixed natural and non-natural human characteristics (gender). This difference in gender roles really helps us to rethink the division of roles that has been considered to be inherent in female and male humans to build a picture of gender relations that is dynamic and appropriate and suitable for the reality in society. The difference in the concept of gender socially has given birth to differences in the roles of women and men in society.

In general, the existence of gender has given birth to differences in roles, responsibilities, functions and even spaces where human activities are conducted. In such a way that this gender difference is inherent in our perspective, so much so that we often forget as if it is something permanent and eternal as the permanence and permanence of biological characteristics possessed by women and men. (Puspitawati, 2013)

In Lopo Village, Batudaa Pantai District, Gorontalo Regency, there is a distinctive social structure where gender roles greatly affect the economic dynamics of the family. Men dominate the activities of earning a living as fishermen. They are often considered the primary breadwinners, while women more often play the role of housewives. Early observations show that although women have great responsibilities at home, their contribution to economic activities is often not officially recognized.

The role of men is very important to provide a balanced perspective in research. Men usually dominate the role of primary breadwinners, thus involving them makes researchers understand their views on the division of gender roles in the context of the family economy. Men can provide insight into the impact of the division of roles on economic well-being, especially in situations of uncertainty, such as fluctuations in fishermen's catches.

In addition, they often have a role in decision-making related to the family economy, so that their point of view can identify the dynamics of power in the household. By explaining their skills and contributions to economic activities, male informants help create a more complete picture of the challenges and potentials faced by families. Their involvement is also important for understanding the interactions between the genders, which will provide deeper insights into how both genders interact with each other in social and economic contexts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Gender Theory

According to Rhoda K. Unger in (Fujiati, 2014), the difference between biological anatomy and body chemistry has an effect on the cognitive and emotional development of men and women, which has an impact on the behavior and gender roles that must be played in social structures. Men are masculine with various behaviors attached to them, such as aggressive, rational, intelligent, etc., and women are feminine with various behaviors that are also attached to them. Unger found that men and women have differences in mind and emotions. With a variety of characters, male characters stand out more than female characters.

There is no theory that specifically addresses gender issues. On the contrary, the theories used to look at gender issues are mostly taken from expert theories in fields related to gender issues, especially in the fields of social and psychological affairs. Although there

are many theories developed by experts, especially feminists, to address gender issues, we will select some that we consider important and popular (Marzuki, 2007).

Feminism Theory

By writing the history of women's struggles, this research is seen from the perspective of feminist theory. It illustrates how women deal with colonial rule, nationalism, and power after independence. There are many branches of feminist legal theory that can be used as a reference to see how women's justice has been received. In addition, international literature can be used to look at the Indonesian women's movement from the perspective of several women observers who see various issues related to women's rights. One of the most famous Indonesian women who fought for the right to education is RA Kartini. RA Kartini is one of the Indonesian women fighters who fought for women's rights before independence. We can know the history of women's struggle since before independence, during the Japanese colonialism, and until now. The theory of feminism, a new discipline, emerged with the times and aimed to strengthen patriarchal social relations in the relationship between men and women. (Fauzia, 2022)

a. Liberal Feminism

The research shows that gender injustice, which mostly affects women, is still very concerning. Therefore, it is necessary to critically analyze the theory of liberal feminism in relation to Islamic education from the point of view of gender equality, which means providing opportunities and opportunities for women to obtain education both individually and in groups. Because women are rational beings, they have the same potential and abilities as men. Thus, education is a process of restoring human values that have been eroded by dominant social relations. In this case, Islamic education must be able to function as the main vehicle, both conceptually and practically, to play an active role in overcoming the problem of gender injustice in society. (Robi'ul Afif Nurul, 2018)

b. Radical Feminism Theory

Gender-based violence can be caused by a variety of reasons. One of them is the abuse of power by a person or group, which is criticized by radical feminist theories. In addition, Syria is witnessing the abuse of this power, with Syrian women being sexually exploited only for humanitarian assistance. (Gulia Ichikaya Mitzy and Silfanny Zahirah, 2011)

c. **Socialist Feminism Theory**

Broadly speaking, this article denounces feminism in Indonesia's national inheritance law, which sees women's rights and positions as heirs. Most people in Indonesia can be categorized as adherents of socialist feminist theory, which means that the society adheres to a patriarchal family system, which is a form of discrimination against women's rights and positions. In this patriarchal system, widows and daughters cannot become heirs. In the context of pluralistic laws, Indonesia does not yet have a clear law on the issue of inheritance. There are many regulations that cover gender equality, but customary law in patriarchal societies often conflicts with inheritance issues. (Pattiruhu, 2021)

Male and Female Role Theory

Two opposing theories about the roles of men and women are the nature theory and the nurture theory. The theory of nature, which is supported by biological theory and structural functionalism theory, says that biological differences between men and women cause differences in gender roles. The nurture theory, which is supported by conflict theory and feminist theory, says that gender role differences between men and women are not the result of biological differences (Purnomo, 2012).

Family Economic Income Theory

Family economic income is one of the key factors in improving people's welfare and quality of life. According to research by Sri Rianita Tilohe, Irwan Yantu, Meyko Panigoro, Frahmawati Bumulo, and Ardiansyah, the income of the fishing community in Batu Hijau Village, Bone Pantai District, Bone Bolango Regency has a positive effect on economic improvement. This study shows that 18.6% of the variability of economic improvement in the area can be explained by fishermen's income, while the rest is influenced by other variables that are not studied (Ardiansya et al., 2023).

According to research by Rini Lukum, Radia Hafid, and Melizubaida Mahmud, family economic income can be affected by various factors, including capital and work experience, as revealed in the Madingo et al. (2023) research. In the context of fishermen, the theory of Human Capital explains that a person's knowledge and experience can contribute to productivity and income. In this study, it was found that working capital and work experience significantly affected fishermen's income, where the capital factor

functioned as an important input in fishing activities, while work experience increased the efficiency and skills of fishermen in going to sea (Lukum et al., 2023).

3. METHODS

The research method used in this study is through the use of a qualitative approach. Margono (2010) stated that a qualitative approach means a research procedure that produces descriptive data, namely in the form of words or oral words from people and observed behaviors. This study only describes a situation that exists in the field in accordance with what the researcher obtains in the form of a number of written words or behaviors.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher will present the results based on the research sub-focus on the analysis of the role of gender in increasing family economic income in Lopo Village, Batudaa Pantai District, Gorontalo Regency, namely:

Division of Roles between Men and Women

In Lopo Village, the division of gender roles is very clear, where men generally function as the main breadwinner. The profession of fishermen dominates the economic activities of men in this village, which makes them the main source of income for the family. Meanwhile, women are often stuck in more traditional domestic roles, such as taking care of the household, caring for children, and doing other jobs. Although this work is essential for maintaining the well-being of the family, women's contribution in this regard is often not officially recognized in the existing economic structure.

This inequality creates a gap in access to economic resources. While men get recognition for their work, women often don't get the rewards or rewards they deserve for their contributions. This study shows that although women have a very important role in family financial management, such as managing household spending and supporting their husbands' activities, their contributions are often overlooked. This leads to a lack of women's access to assets and resources that can increase family income.

Women in Lopo Village also play an active role in informal economic activities, although they are not recognized as significant economic contributors. For example, many women run small businesses, such as selling food, crafts, or participating in agriculture. However, because this role is not considered a formal job, women do not get the same

access to economic opportunities, training, and support that are usually available to men. Thus, this unbalanced division of roles not only limits women's economic potential, but also affects the overall economic stability of the family.

The division of gender roles is not only related to work and income, but also covers broader social and cultural aspects. Existing social norms often reinforce the view that men are the main breadwinners and women are the housekeepers. This creates a cycle where women feel they do not have the opportunity to participate in economic activities outside the home, even though they have great skills and potential. Therefore, it is imperative to change this view and provide space for women to contribute more actively to the economy.

The Impact of the Division of Gender Roles

Dependence on one source of income, especially from fishermen's catches, can have serious consequences for the economic stability of families in Lopo Village. When families rely solely on the income earned from fishermen's work, they become highly vulnerable to a variety of external factors that can affect the catch. Volatile fish catches, often affected by weather, ocean conditions, and ecosystem changes, put these families at risk of a significant economic crisis. In a situation where catches are declining, many families are unable to meet their basic needs, such as food, education, and health.

The economic crises that arise due to this income instability often impact all members of the family, with women and children being the most vulnerable. When incomes are reduced, women often have to take steps to manage household finances more strictly, often at the expense of children's health and education needs. In these conditions, the role of women in financial management is becoming increasingly important, even though they do not have adequate access to resources that can help them improve the situation.

The importance of involving women in broader economic activities as one of the strategies to increase family economic resilience. By giving women the opportunity to participate in economic activities, such as small businesses, agriculture, or other informal sectors, family incomes can be diversified so that they do not depend on fishermen's catches. These various sources of income will help reduce the risk faced by families when one source of income decreases.

Therefore, it is very important to develop policies and programs that support women's empowerment in the economy, which will not only help families in facing economic challenges but also contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable economic

development in Lopo Village. By reducing dependence on a single source of income and actively involving women in economic activities, we can increase family economic resilience, reduce poverty, and improve the overall quality of life. Investment in women's empowerment is not only an investment in individuals, but also an investment in the future of a stronger society and economy.

Women's Economic Contribution

Although women are often considered not to contribute significantly to the economy, this study shows that they are actually involved in a variety of economic activities that can have a positive impact on family income. In Lopo Village, women are involved in small businesses, such as food sales, handicrafts, and other activities in the informal sector. These activities, although often not officially recognized, make an important contribution to the local economy and the well-being of families.

Women play a key role in household financial management, although often this role does not receive the recognition it deserves. They are responsible for managing the family budget, making purchases of daily necessities, and planning expenses for children's education and health. With good managerial skills, women are able to use existing resources in an efficient way, helping families to survive in difficult economic situations.

Women's involvement in economic activities can also help reduce the gender gap that exists in society. When women are empowered to take part in the economy, they not only gain access to income but also improve their position in decision-making at the family level. This creates positive social change, where women's roles and contributions are beginning to be recognized and valued.

When women are given the opportunity to contribute economically, they tend to invest their income in children's education and health. This creates a sustainable effect that can improve the quality of life of future generations. When women have control over their income, they are more likely to make decisions that support family well-being, including ensuring that their children get a good education and access to adequate health care.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on research conducted on the role of gender in increasing family economic income in Lopo Village, there are several important findings that can be concluded. The division of gender roles in Lopo Village shows the inequality where men function as the main breadwinners, especially as fishermen, while women are trapped in traditional domestic roles that are not officially recognized. Although women's contribution to managing family finances and running small businesses is crucial, they often do not have equal access to the economic resources and opportunities available to men, creating a dependency on unstable incomes. Existing social norms reinforce this traditional view, limiting women's potential to participate in broader economic activities. Therefore, collaborative efforts from governments, communities, and non-governmental organizations are needed to develop women's empowerment programs that emphasize skills training, access to capital, and support for small businesses.

The division of gender roles in Lopo Village has a significant impact on the economic stability of the family, especially because of the dependence on one source of income from fishermen's catches. When families rely solely on this income, they become vulnerable to external factors such as weather and ecosystem conditions that can affect catches. This uncertainty has the potential to lead to an economic crisis, where families struggle to meet basic needs such as food, education, and health when catches decline.

The economic contribution of women in Lopo Village is often overlooked, even though they are involved in various activities that have a positive impact on family income. Women participate in small businesses, such as food sales and handicrafts, as well as activities in the informal sector, which, although not officially recognized, play an important role in the local economy and family well-being. They also play a key role in managing household finances, regulating budgets and expenses, which helps families survive in difficult economic situations. Women's empowerment through education and access to paid work is key to increasing their contribution to family income.

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