

# The Multiple Role of Fisherman Women in the Covid-19 Pandemic in Jakarta

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**Abstract**— The total population of Indonesia is 265 million people, 131.9 million are women, and 30% of these live on the coast. Women on the coast of Indonesia have both strengths and weaknesses. Food security of coastal fishers' families in Indonesia is an essential issue because Indonesian coastal life in the fisheries sector contributes to non-tax state income (PNBP). However, most of the traditional fishermen and laborer who live on the coast are low-income families. This condition exacerbates during the Covid-19 pandemic, where families and women in coastal areas were also affected. In every crisis, women are the most vulnerable group. This study explicitly analyses fisherwomen's dual role during the Covid-19 pandemic in Muara Angke and Muara Kamal, North Jakarta. The qualitative research method through case studies with research informants is ten fisherwomen in Muara Angke and Muara Kamal, North Jakarta.

**Keywords**— *Multiple Role, Women, Coastal*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty and food are one of the biggest problems around the world. The urgency of overcoming poverty and food problems outline in the world development goals operationalized in the *Millennium Development Goals*, which have to renew to become *Sustainable Development Goals* in 2015. The government's current focus is on how to achieve sustainable food security for the community to the individual level. Of the total population of Indonesia of 265 million people, 131.9 million are women, and 30% of this number live on the coast. Women on the coast of Indonesia have both strengths and weaknesses. Food security of coastal fishing families in Indonesia is an essential issue because Indonesian coastal life in the fisheries sector contributes to non-tax state income (PNBP) [1]. However, most of the traditional fishermen and laborer who live on the coast are low-income families [2].

This condition exacerbates during the Covid-19 pandemic, where families and women in coastal areas were also affected. In every crisis, women are the most vulnerable group. In handling the Covid-19 pandemic, women have an extraordinary role and contribution that they cannot ignore.

First, women are the spearhead in accelerating the handling of Covid-19. Second, women have a strategic role in the community-based handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, such as PKK (Empowerment of Family Welfare). Third, women generally expect to contribute to family resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic.

If associated with the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), The fifth objective states gender equality in which women play a central role in food security in the scope of households, food producers, household food managers, and consumers [3]. In coastal women, their social role is assumed and rooted in the sexual division of labor in coastal communities. The social potential of coastal women, especially fishermen's wives, is not just cooking, giving birth but also as housewives who have an essential role but as a breadwinner outside life [4] as fishermen who are part of the division system of labour. Sexually in coastal communities [5]. Income as a fisherman has become uncertain due to the Covid-19 Pandemic to meet their daily needs. Fisherman families (Sitorus, 1999) use a strategy of implementing multiple livelihoods to overcome poverty and food security. This study aims to specifically analyze the dual role of fisherwomen during the Covid-19 pandemic in Muara Angke, North Jakarta

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Food Security

The World Food Organization (FAO) defines food security as a condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to food that is safe and nutritious so that it is sufficient to meet the needs of the body: according to their beliefs so that they can live an active and healthy life. Inability to access and control one of these dimensions will interfere with the fulfilment of food sufficiency, both at the family level and in the community [6]. In the macro context, every household can consume food that is safe, nutritious, and according to their choice to live productively and healthily [7]. Analysis of the issue of food security in sustainable development and gender equality has discussed in international conferences, The Fourth World

Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) and The World Food Summit in Rome 1996 [8], which identifies several factors for increasing and poverty eradication, namely:

- Limited access to subsystem farmers, especially women farmers, to all resources
- Lack of attention to the roles and responsibilities of women and men when formulating rural and agricultural development plans and policies
- Lack of gender-specific data and information, delaying and hindering decisions aimed at improvement of gender equality and political, economic and social justice
- The massive elimination of the population, which includes village women from the flow of information, communication processes, and decision making

### B. Understanding Women

In terminology, 'gender' can be defined as cultural expectations of men and women [9]. Another definition of gender put forward by Elaine Showalter. According to him, 'gender' is the distinction between men and women in terms of socio-cultural constructs [10]. Gender can also be used as an analytical concept to explain something [11]. It is more explicitly stated in the *Women's Studies Encyclopedia* that gender is a cultural concept that distinguishes the roles, behaviors, mentality, and emotional characteristics of men and women that develop in society [12]. equality and balance of conditions between men and women to get the opportunity and rights as human beings to play a role and participate in various fields of life [13]. States that terminologically, 'gender' can be defined as cultural expectations of men and women [14].

Another definition of gender put forward by Elaine Showalter. According to him, 'gender' is the distinction between men and women in terms of socio-cultural constructs [15]. Gender can also be used as an analytical concept to explain something [16]. It is more explicitly stated in the *Women's Studies Encyclopedia* that gender is a cultural concept used to distinguish the roles, behaviours, mentality, and emotional characteristics of men and women that develop in society [17]. From some of the definitions above, it can understand that gender is a characteristic that uses it to identify differences between men and women in terms of social and cultural conditions, values and behavior, mentality, emotions, and other non-biological factors. Gender is different from *sex*, which means the same as *sex*, namely sex [18]. In general, sex used to identify differences between men and women in terms of biological anatomy, while gender concentrates more on social, cultural and other non-biological aspects.

### C. The multiple roles of women

According to Soerjono [19], a person's position (status) is a dynamic aspect based on their rights and obligations according to their position in society. Multiple roles are two or more roles that are carried out simultaneously, as a wife for her husband and mother for her children and the role of a woman who has a career outside the home. This dual role carries out in conjunction with the role of women as wives and mothers in the family, such as being partners with

husbands in fostering households and caring for and educating children [20]. Women control and manage finances, income redistribution and consumption allocation [21]. Fishermen's wives take on the public role as the responsibility of women in maintaining the survival of their household through the division of labour [22]. The roles of coastal women are the optimal domestic and public roles as wives, mothers of children, and the pillars of the household economy [23]. Women have social capital or resources to use as the main actors of empowerment and development of coastal communities [24].

## III. METHOD

This study used a qualitative research method with a case study in two regions: Kamal Muara Angke and Muara, North Jakarta. A case study is a qualitative research that seeks to find meaning, investigate processes and gain a deep understanding and understanding of individuals, groups or situations [25]. The type of case study used is a type of case study *life history* where the study tries to reveal in full and in detail the story of a person's life journey according to the stages and dynamics of his life. The informants in this study were ten fisherwomen in the two regions through interview techniques and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). FGD was conducted once with several participants: fisherwomen, fishermen men, group leaders, community leaders, related agencies, shellfish entrepreneurs, buyers.

## IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Muara Angke and Muara Karang fishers are located in the coastal village of North Jakarta. Both Muara Angke and Muara Kamal fishers depend on fishing and other marine products for their livelihoods. There is an interesting difference between the two research locations: most Muara Angke fishers come from Indramayu, while Makassar dominates fishers in Muara Kamal. In addition, fishers at Muara Angke can take advantage of the location as a culinary tour that always crowded with people interested in tasting seafood.

Unlike the Muara Karang fishermen, they only rely on fish catching and fishing which is not far from the Muara Kamal fish auction location. However, the two regions have something in common: fisherwomen play a dual role in maintaining family food to erode green shells. Muara Kamal fisherwomen do public work as shell peelers or green shell scrapers after completing domestic tasks at 09.00 - 12.00 am.

Meanwhile, Muara Angke fisherwomen start their public roles at 13.00 - 17.00 even until evening, depending on fishermen's catch carrying green shells. Each work to scrape the green shells value at IDR 5,000 per bucket. Each fisherwoman can produce ten buckets. The results research found that two factors cause fisherwomen to play a dual role, and this has been going on for a long time, including:

Internal factors: internal factors become a reason for fisherwomen to play a dual role because; poverty and to fill spare time. Poverty in fishing villages because the income from fishing is uncertain and depends on the weather. If the sea weather is not friendly with high waves, fishers will not go to sea. So that fishermen men do not go to sea, only at home while fixing their nets.

So, the fisherwomen who are fishermen's wives take over the public role by helping with the scrapping of shells, shelling shells, processing sea fish into salted fish, crackers, fish paste in their respective regions (results of interviews with fisherwomen in two locations). Filling their spare time fisherwomen do after completing domestic work such as taking care of children and husbands, cooking, tidying up the house after they did, they continue their public roles.

Fisherwomen will include in the women's group who do work in their spare time, such as scraping shells, peeling shells or making salted fish. The work did voluntarily and happily because their time is filled with positive activities and earns money to help the family economy even though they can only buy rice and snacks for the children at home.

External factors; fisherwomen play a dual role because of the opportunity to help the family economy. This opportunity is the opportunity to work in seafood processing to help the family economy. This opportunity is an alternative besides not requiring skills, only willingness and effort. Some open businesses as fish traders, open seafood food stalls, sell fish brains (Muara Angke), etc. Fisherwomen contribute 48% of family income (Kiara, 2020) through production activities, namely catching and collecting fish / other marine organisms and post-harvest by providing and selling fish products.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Fisherwomen in Muara Angke and Muara Kamal play a dual role because they influence two factors, namely internal and external factors. Internal factors are due to poverty and available free time, while external factors increase income from processed marine catches.

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