

Women's Independence in Strengthening the Economy in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The proclivity to address primary and secondary wants goes hand in hand with the rising level of demand. However, initiatives to generate more money have generally failed to satisfy society's expectations. The cash collected by Makassar city inhabitants has primarily been used to cover basic needs. A phenomenological technique was employed in this work to conduct qualitative research. This sort of study is qualitative research, which is carried out spontaneously and naturally under objective conditions in the field to solve an issue in-depth in the context of the period and situation in question. The theoretical foundation serves as a guide for the research, allowing it to focus on the facts on the ground. The wife's role in increasing the family's welfare is shown in three ways: the household environment, the economy, and society. The wife's responsibilities in the home encompass anything from laundry, sweeping, cooking, and cleaning to caring for her children. This study also discovered no difference between men and women, implying that liberal feminist parties that oppose full equality between men and women are incorrect. A women's movement to transform the economy of low-income families is the establishment of women's groups in society. Because he is the family's head, a husband should be entirely accountable for supporting his family's needs, including providing family income. Though, wives and other family members assist, depending on their respective capacities.

Keywords: *Women, economy, strengthening, independence, position*

1. INTRODUCTION

The city of Makassar has approximately 1,423,877 people [1]. The population has various activities, namely civil servants, private employees, business people, and Small and Medium Enterprises, where their activities are more dominant in seeking income to meet family needs. In general, it can be understood that the income level of the population of Makassar is still below the standard, so many people are still unable to buy economic needs, nutritious food. There are still many people who buy cheap food so that it affects the level of health where many people need adequate rest hours. Longer, due to difficult economic conditions, many people work late at night searching for additional income.

The tendency to meet primary and secondary needs goes hand in hand with the level of need that tends to rise. However, activities in seeking additional income have not met society's expectations in general. Until now, the income earned by the residents of Makassar city is still primarily focused on meeting primary needs [2]. At the same time, along with the rapid development, there is an increase in community needs ranging from education living costs while salaries tend not to increase, so to meet the needs of life in the city of Makassar, many women do home industry businesses where the choice of home

industry is considered not burdensome. The community has been able to sell small businesses, women and homemakers generally carry out home industry activities intending to help husbands' incomes that are considered insufficient for daily needs.

Women and mothers are two figures who are never separated from our lives. Without a mother figure, we would never exist in this world. Many great people will never be great without being supported by a great woman behind them. There are so many definitions and meanings of women, but all the meanings and definitions come from one conclusion: women are significant figures regardless of all the shortcomings they have.

Role in a family is a dynamic aspect of position [3]. If a person carries out rights and obligations according to position, then she/he carries out a role. The difference between position and role is for the sake of science. The two cannot be separated because one depends on the other and vice versa. There is no role without position or position without role.

The role inherent in a person must be distinguished from her/his position or place in social interaction. The position or place of a person in society is a static element that shows the individual's place in the organization of the community. The role refers more to function, adjustment,

and as a process [4], so precisely is someone occupying a position or place in society and carrying out a role.

Women play an essential role in forming healthy family life [5], [6] so that they are not negatively affected by the change and achieve a healthy, prosperous and happy state, thus supporting the creation of a prosperous society, both physically and mentally. Adequate ability and potential of women, as wives and homemakers, are essential in determining the success (direct support for the success strategy) of a household (especially the future of children/the next generation). Therefore, it is necessary to innovate and adopt related strategies to increase women's ability and potential to play an optimal role in the domestic sector in a professional manner.

This study is rooted in Structural-Functional Theory or a sociological theory applied to family institutions. This theory departs from the assumption that a society consists of several parts that influence each other. This theory looks for the essential elements that influence society, identifies each element's function, and explains how these elements function in society. Many sociologists have developed this theory in family life [7], [8].

Structural-Functional Theory recognizes all diversity in social life [9]. This diversity is the primary source of the structure of society and determines the diversity of functions according to a person's position in the structure of a system. For example, there must be members who can become leaders in a social organization, some are secretaries or treasurers, and some are regular members. This difference in function aims to achieve organizational goals, not individual interests. The structure and function of an organization cannot be separated from the influence of culture, norms, and values that underlie the social system.

Another theory rooted in this study is *Liberal Feminism Theory* [10]–[12]. This theory assumes that there is no difference between men and women. Therefore, women should have the same rights as men. However, liberal feminist groups reject complete equality between men and women. In some respects, there are still distinctions between men and women. However, the function of the reproductive organs for women brings logical consequences in social life. This group theory is among the most moderate among feminist theories. Followers of this theory want women to be integrated into all roles, including working outside the home. Thus, there is no longer a dominant sex group. Reproductive organs are not a barrier for women to enter roles in the public sector.

Various research results show that poverty among women affects the health and development of children more than men [13]–[17]. Because if women's income increases, the number of poor women will decrease. Children also benefit from this development because women spend more money on their families, especially children, compared to men. In other words, reducing the

number of poor women will have a multiplier effect in improving the welfare of children who are the nation's future. Therefore, we must also address unequal gender relations in poverty alleviation because gender inequality has resulted in the decline of women in all economic, social, political, and educational sectors.

The family consists of two or more people bound by blood ties, marriage, or adoption and live together [18], [19]. Sociologists argue that the origin of family grouping stems from marriage. However, family origins can also be formed from the relationship between men and women with different statuses, then they live together and have children, children resulting from living together. The children resulting from this cohabitation are called descendants of the group. This is where the notion of a family can be understood in various ways, such as people who carry out legal marriages and are blessed with children. It can also be in the form of men and women who live together and have a child but never married. The other ways are distant relationships between family members, but still, have blood ties and families who adopt other people's children. Therefore, this study explored the form of women's participation in improving the family economy.

2. METHOD

This study used a type of qualitative research through a phenomenological approach. This type of research is qualitative research, which is research to answer a problem in-depth in the context of the time and the situation concerned, carried out naturally and naturally under the objective conditions in the field. The theoretical basis is used as a guide so that the research focuses on the facts on the ground [20].

The research process includes observing the sources, interacting with them, and understanding their language and interpretation. For this reason, researchers must be directly involved in the field for a long time. This research has characteristics, namely, (1) this research deals directly with text and numbers, (2) data is ready to use, meaning that researchers can do research without going anywhere, and (3) data generally comes from secondary data or data obtained from second hand.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Women's Participation in the Family Economy

The wife's participation in improving the family's welfare is manifested in its three roles in the household environment, the economy, and society [21]. The wife's role in the household includes activities ranging from washing, sweeping, cooking, and cleaning the house to taking care of her children.

This work is not valued in terms of money, but it dramatically influences the achievement of family

welfare [22], [23]. They do this activity before doing activities outside their home. Although this activity is carried out with family members, the wife's activities still have a reasonably high portion. Before carrying out activities in the economic field, the wife has finished her household work, so it is not strange if a mother wakes up earlier than her husband.

Washing, cooking, taking care of, cleaning, and tidying the house are the routine activities of wives before they work outside the home [24], [25]. The economic life for the community is not a new thing if the father and mother both feel responsible for the economic continuity of their household. Ideally, a husband is fully responsible for meeting his family's needs, including supplying family income, because he is the head of the family. However, wives and other family members also help according to their respective abilities. In the case of the wife helping to earn and increasing family income, she gets support from her husband because, in addition to this work, it does not interfere with the mother's duties as a housewife. It is also an effort for the wife to earn additional income because husbands are aware of their inability to fulfill their daily needs. Days because of their small income.

3.2. Wife and Husband Equality in Family

This finding is supported by the previous theory raised by the researcher. There is no difference between men and women and can reject the perspective of liberal feminist groups that reject full equality between men and women. The formation of women's groups in society is a women's movement to change the economy of low-income families. In addition to being able to take care of all household matters, women are also proven to support the economy in the family. Women here play a role not only as mere observer objects but also as subjects in every development. Women's participation in the economy is essential. Women reduce poverty among their members and as an essential step to increase household income [26]–[28].

In the explanation above, it is a manifestation of the dual role of women in improving the family economy, especially fishers' wives, where there are no restrictions on the roles that men and women are placed in the public sector while women are in the domestic sector. Ideally, a husband is fully responsible for meeting his family's needs, including supplying family income, because he is the head of the family. However, the wives and other family members also help, of course, according to their respective abilities.

4. CONCLUSION

Women generally act as husband companions where the husband is the head of the family who works to meet the family's needs while women as wives act to manage their husbands' income. Women have a strategic and vital

position in supporting the family economy. Many women work intending to have additional income. This is done to cover the husband's lack of income or salary as the head of the family. The activities of women in helping the husband as head of the household are known as home industry to back up the husband's income, in the general home industry is mainly done in their respective homes, In the end, home industry activities can support the family economy.

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