



"Pabettang – Mabettang", The role of women in the Family Economy in South Nunukan

Luti Wiyani
Business Administration, Politeknik Negeri Nunukan,
Nunukan Indonesia
luti.wiyani@gmail.com

Abstract- This research aims to look objectively at seaweed binding workers in South Nunukan. The data used is primary data from filling out a questionnaire which is confirmed by data from interviews with respondents. The sample used in this research was purposive random sampling of 35 respondents. The criteria for the sample used were women who worked as seaweed binders. In this research, it was found that the aim of their work was to support the family economy. To build a family economy through the role of women, support from the parties involved is needed, especially in the policies and strategies used.

Keywords : Seaweed, women, economy

I. INTRODUCTION

Fulfilling women's economic rights is currently increasingly being felt as one of the priority needs to bring women to the level of struggle to realize justice and gender equality, especially to improve the level of family welfare. The role of women in efforts to increase family economic productivity is largely in the area of poverty reduction. With the implementation of women's economic rights, it is hoped that family income will increase, which in turn will increase the fulfillment of basic needs and social needs of the family, which in turn will support efforts to achieve development goals both locally and nationally. In the case of family poverty, women tend to be very vulnerable to being affected by conditions of family poverty. Girls in poor families will become "victims", for example, their educational needs will be neglected and sons will be prioritized, or daughters will be married off more quickly because of the family's poverty. To break the chain of family poverty, women will play a dual role. This dual role then targets informal work. Because the informal sector creates demand for semi-skilled or even unskilled labor. The ease of entering the informal sector is the reason many women work to help support the family economy. Apart from that, not being bound by working time is also an option, so that the domestic role can still be carried out.

This is also reflected in the social life of women in Nunukan. Many women take on multiple roles entering the informal world of work. The informal job that currently absorbs a lot of labor is the job of tying seaweed seeds. The absorption of female labor in this sector is in line with the development of seaweed cultivation businesses which are growing rapidly in parts of the Nunukan region. The designation of Nunukan as a Seaweed Cultivation Fishery Village is based on the Decree of the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia Number 16 of 2022 concerning Cultivation Fishery Villages (Attachment to Ministerial Decree No. 16 of 2022, serial number 97). The positive impact of the development of seaweed cultivation businesses in Nunukan Regency is the opening of job opportunities. One of them is the job of tying seaweed seeds on span rop. The term Mabettang is taken from the Bugis language, which means the work of tying seaweed seeds on a stretch of rope. Meanwhile, the workers are called Pabettang. This job can absorb labor specifically for women. The role chosen places women as the binders because this work is easier to do than other parts of the seaweed cultivation process.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

Nunukan Regency is located in the northern region of North Kalimantan Province and borders directly with Malaysia. The area of Nunukan Regency is 14,263.68 km² and the sea area 4 miles from the outer coastline to the sea is 1,408.758 km². Four sub-districts that have the potential for developing seaweed cultivation are Nunukan, South Nunukan, West Sebatik and Sebatik sub-districts.

This research uses qualitative methods, where in this research the existing problems will be described and explained objectively. The data used is primary data from the results of interviews given to respondents, which is supported and strengthened by observation and literature review. The sample used was purposive random sampling and the object of this research was women who worked as seaweed binders in South Nunukan. The location of this research is focused on the South Nunukan region with cultivation areas in South Nunukan with a total of 35 respondents

III. DISCUSSION

Family economics is a study of human efforts to fulfill their needs through activities carried out by someone who is responsible for the needs and happiness of their life. In this case, it is specifically aimed at husbands in supporting the household economy. However, with the difficulty of accessing decent work for most people, the role of seeking or meeting the family's economic needs has also shifted within the family, namely women. Especially women who are at a level of economic insecurity, prone to poverty. The contribution of women in increasing economic activity is a role that cannot be ignored. Because in reality women's motivation to work is not just to fill their free time but to help their family. Along with the development of seaweed export trade potential, seaweed cultivation has also developed in several regions in Indonesia. Several areas that are the largest producers of seaweed in Indonesia after South Sulawesi are North Kalimantan, especially Nunukan Regency and Tarakan City. For Nunukan Regency, the monthly seaweed trade can reach 5,000 – 6,000 tons per month with a circulation of money from this sector of IDR 25,000,000,000. This sector also contributes to the opening of informal jobs that support and become an unbroken chain of seaweed businesses. Mabettang is an unbreakable link in the seaweed cultivation process. Mabettang is the initial process before seaweed is planted in the sea. This job is dominated by women. Many women choose to work as Pabettang because this job does not require special skills or special skills, there are no binding working hours (hours and days). with high flexibility, it allows pabettang to carry out multiple roles.

TABLE 1. REASONS FOR PABETTANG MABETTANG

Reason		
Information	Amount	percentase (%)
Education	22	62.86
Daily Needs	7	20.00
Fill the free time	6	17.14
	35	100

In table 1, the Pabettang's reasons for doing work, meeting daily needs and school fees are the main reasons for the Pabettang, as many as 65.86%. while as many as 17.14% said they did this work to use their free time. Women's motivation in this work is to meet their daily needs. Women's involvement in meeting household needs can be due to the lack of income of the head of the household (husband/parents) in meeting the living needs of family members. Such as the husband's lack of income, many family responsibilities, the head of the family does not have a job and a fixed income. When compared with education level data, Pabettang with a high school education level of 37.14% is in the highest position among other education levels.

Meanwhile at the elementary school level it was 34.29%. The high level of high school education is not due to the educational standards set by Pabettang, but rather among the workers are children who are still attending high school level. These children work as Pabettang because they are considered capable enough to help the family economically, especially to meet their school fees.

TABLE 2. PABETTANG'S EDUCATION LEVEL

Education		
Information	Amount	Persentase (%)
Elemntery school	12	34.29
Junior High School	10	28.57
Senior High School	13	37.14
Universty	0	0.00
	35	100

Pabettang school children, usually they will work in Mabettang after school or during school holidays with their parents. Because of the nature of casual daily labor, mabettang work can be done by anyone who wants to do it, this gives school children more freedom to work as Pabettang. Because Pabettang are casual daily workers, wages are paid on the same day when they complete their work. Mabettang wages are calculated based on how many spans of rope they can work on. 1 span of rope is approximately 20 -25 meters long, while the wage for completing 1 stretch of rope is IDR 10,000. Monthly income is obtained from the number of spans they can produce in 1 working day. The average worker works 6 days a week. 1 month's income is the average wage received in 1 day multiplied by 6 days and multiplied by 4 weeks. The daily wage is the wage for how much

Pabettang can complete the bond in 1 day. As many as 42.86% of workers can earn wages of IDR 4,000,000 to IDR. 5,000,000. while 31.43% earned wages of IDR 3,000,000 to IDR 4,000,000. Pabettang's income in Nunukan is relatively large compared to the wages received by similar workers in Arungkeke, Jeneponto, where they only earn IDR 27,000 a day. while in Nunukan it is calculated per unit of rope. In one day, Pabettang can usually complete at least 5 rope stretches, at least they can take home IDR 50,000.

TABLE 3. INCOME IN A MONTH

Monthly Income		
Informastion	Amount	persentase (%)
100.000 - 1.000.000	6	17.14
> 1.000.000 - 2.000.000	2	5.71
> 2.000.000 - 3.000.000	1	2.86
> 3.000.000 - 4.000.000	11	31.43
> 4.000.000 - 5.000.000	15	42.86
>5.000.000	0	0.00
	35	100

In table 4, the range of wages received by Pabettang is between IDR 100,000 – IDR 1,000,000 in one month, usually Pabettang is a school child who only works on Saturdays or Sundays.

TABLE 4. LONG TIME WORKING PABETTANG

Leght of Work		
Information	Amount	persentase (%)
1-3 years	12	34.29
> 3 - 6 years	14	40.00
> 6 - 9 years	5	14.29
> 9 years	4	11.43
	35	100

There are almost 40% of Pabettang's length of work has worked for more than 3 years to 6 years, while 34.29% have worked for 1 to 3 years. Only 25.72% of people work continuously for more than 6 years, meaning that not many people work in this job for a long period of time.

IV. CONCLUSION

Mabettang is an informal sector that is the focus for some women in Nunukan Regency who do not have special formal skills. Mabettang workers are mostly women with low levels of education and the results of mabettang are to meet the needs of life for the majority.

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