



The Farmers' Women's Group Dadi Makmur: Social Laboratory of Learning Resources for Community Economy

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ABSTRACT: The Women Farmers Group is one of the productive groups formed to empower women. This role is very visible starting from planning, implementation and evaluation. Some of the activities carried out are: vegetable plantation, catfish farming and laying hen rearing. The activities carried out by KWT Dadi Makmur can be one of the materials integrated in learning people's economy. The purpose of writing this article is 1) to know the role of KWT in strengthening people's economy, 2) to know the material about KWT Dadi Makmur that can be used as a learning resource in populist economic lectures. The research method used is qualitative research method. The results obtained are the aspects taught in class are the community economic empowerment model in KWT, 2) the role of KWT is as a forum for rural women to be sovereign from the food sector by using their resources. The research recommendations are to strengthen the KWT programme, integrate with community economic learning, increase market access, regular monitoring and evaluation, and document and disseminate best practices.

Keywords: community economy, KWT, learning resources, social laboratory

1 INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment in the agricultural sector is one of the important strategies in the effort to improve the welfare of rural communities. Women Farmers Group (KWT) is an effective platform to empower women farmers, improve their knowledge and skills, and encourage active participation in local economic development (Elizabeth, 2007). The Women Farmers Group (KWT) is a forum for the community, especially women, to manage and express various thoughts in the field of agriculture. KWT also serves to gain knowledge and insight for group members. Thus, the activities of this group are expected to be creative and keep up with the times (Margayaningsih, 2020).

The Women Farmers Group (KWT) has a close relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Women Farmers Group (KWT) has a close relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Bappenas, 2020). KWT activities directly contribute to the achievement of several SDGs, including poverty alleviation, food security, gender equality, and women's empowerment (Handayani et al., 2023).

Women Farmers' Groups (KWT) have a strategic role in women's empowerment in the agricultural sector and rural economic development (Pratley, 2016). KWT Dadi Makmur is one example of a group that has successfully carried out its role not only in increasing agricultural productivity, but also as a forum for empowerment and a source of learning for the surrounding community (Putri et al., 2019).

Women's empowerment through KWT is in line with efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the aspects of poverty alleviation, food security, and gender equality (Astuti & Yulianto, 2016). KWT Dadi Makmur has shown its contribution in realizing these goals through its various programs and activities.

One KWT that has successfully played its role in women empowerment and community economic development is KWT Dadi Makmur, Wedomartani, Sleman. KWT Dadi Makmur not only focuses on increasing agricultural productivity, but also acts as a learning resource for the surrounding community. Through various programs and activities, this KWT has contributed to increasing the knowledge, skills, and income of its members and the surrounding community (Anwas, 2013). The success of KWT Dadi Makmur in empowering its members and becoming a learning resource for the community makes it an interesting model for further study (Sofiani, 2019).

As a learning resource, KWT Dadi Makmur plays a role in increasing the knowledge and skills of its members and the surrounding community in agriculture, agricultural product processing, and entrepreneurship (Kabeer, 1999). This is in line with the concept of empowerment proposed by (Anwas, 2013), where empowerment does not only focus on economic improvement, but also on individual and group capacity building.

The Dadi Makmur Women Farmers Group (KWT) has played a significant dual role in community empowerment and as a learning resource, which in turn contributes to the economic improvement of the local community. As an agent of empowerment, KWT Dadi Makmur has successfully mobilized and organized farm women to be actively involved in farming and agro-processing activities. This has not only increased agricultural productivity, but also opened up opportunities for the women to earn additional income and improve the welfare of their families (Astuti & Yulianto, 2016).

The Dadi Makmur Women Farmers Group (KWT) not only serves as a means of empowering women through agricultural and productive economic activities, but also acts as a social laboratory for students in learning about the people's economy (Anwas, 2013). Through direct involvement with KWT Dadi Makmur, students can observe and understand the dynamics of an inclusive and sustainable community economy. This practical experience allows them to see how economic theories are applied in a real context, helping them to develop insights into

resource management, collective decision-making, and equitable distribution of economic benefits (Spash, 2020). In addition, students can also learn about the importance of active participation and leadership in building resilient and self-reliant community economic power (Widodo & Susilowati, 2018).

Student participation in KWT Dadi Makmur activities provides multiple benefits; in addition to gaining practical learning, they can also make positive contributions through research and mentoring that can strengthen the group's capacity. This collaboration creates a mutually beneficial learning environment, where science and field practice combine to create innovations and solutions to the economic challenges faced by the community. Thus, KWT Dadi Makmur not only enriches students' education but also advances the cause of local economic empowerment. The relevance and impact of this role can be seen in various studies that emphasize the importance of community-based education and practical involvement in community economic development (World Bank, 2009).

In addition, KWT Dadi Makmur also serves as an effective learning resource for the community. Through various training and mentoring programs, the group has facilitated the transfer of knowledge and skills in agriculture, agro-processing, and entrepreneurship. This learning process not only increases the capacity of group members, but also encourages innovation and development of value-added local products. As a result, there has been an increase in the income and economic competitiveness of the community (Widodo & Susilowati, 2018).

2 METHOD

This research used a qualitative approach with an involved observation method, in which the researcher is directly involved in the social setting under study (Somantri, 2005). The researcher participated in various activities of KWT Dadi Makmur, including meetings, agricultural activities, and informal conversations (Sugiyono, 2020). This method allows for a deeper understanding of the dynamics and role of KWT in the socio-economic context of the local community. In this study, the researcher was directly involved in KWT activities. The researcher participated in KWT meeting activities, planting and tending the KWT garden, and participated in various informal conversations. Qualitative data analysis used Miles and Huberman's (1994) approach which consisted of data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing (Miles & Huberman, 1994).

3 RESULT

The role of KWT tani illustrates that KWT is a social laboratory that has many aspects that can be utilized in learning community economy (Purwanto, 2023). The following is an example of material that can utilize KWT material as a learning resource. On the material of community economic empowerment:

Table: Women's Empowerment at KWT Dadi Makmur

Domain	Indicator	Definition of <i>adequacy</i>	The case of women empowerment at KWT Dadi Makmur
Production	Input in productive decisions.	Sole or joint participation in <i>at least one</i> decision related to food and cash-crop farming, livestock farming, and fishery production.	Single participation in planting aloe vera in their respective homes or together in caring for aloe vera plants is at least one decision related to food and cash crop agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishery production.

Resources	Asset ownership	Sole or joint ownership of <i>at least one</i> major household asset	Jointly responsible for KWT assets such as garden, chicken, and catfish. The members take turns taking care of the garden once a week 1-2 times. For members who work, they will be assigned to picket on their days off (Saturday/Sunday).
	Access to and decisions on credit	Sole or joint control or participation in decision-making on credit from <i>at least one</i> source	All KWT members are PKK members. They have the right to access savings and loans from the PKK on Sundays.
Income	Control over use of income	Sole or joint control over income for <i>at least one</i> of food and cash-crop farming, livestock farming, and fishery production	The members have the right to the profits obtained by KWT. For example, if there is a catfish harvest, each member will get a share. According to their contribution to KWT. If the management manages every day, the profit will be more. Ordinary members only get 1 kg of catfish. While those who are active by the chairman will be given more. Not only at harvest time, but even on daily basis they are welcome to take as needed.
Leadership	Group membership.	Active member in <i>at least one</i> formal or informal group	The KWT head is active in every activity both inside and outside the village. So when there are members of the DPRD who are on recess, they are asked to come to the village.
Time	Workload	Spent <i>less than or equal to 10.5 hours</i> on paid and unpaid work during the previous day.	The KWT members on average make up the KWT for about 2 hours, the rest of the time they work on their main tasks, as housewives, employees, informal workers or government or private employees.

Adopted by: Diiro, G. M., Seymour, G., Kassie, M., Muricho, G., & Muriithi, B. W. (2018).

The data shows the domains and Indicators of Success in KWT Dadi Makmur. In the production domain with the input indicator in Productive Decisions shows that KWT members participate in decisions related to food and cash crop agriculture, such as planting and caring for aloe vera plants. They are involved both individually and collectively in caring for the plants. In the resource domain, the asset ownership indicator shows that KWT members are jointly responsible for group assets such as the garden, chicken, and catfish. Garden maintenance is done in shifts one to two times a week, with special pickets for members who work on holidays. While on the access and decision to credit indicator, all KWT members are part of the PKK and have access to the savings and loan program held every week.

Income domain with variable indicators of control over Use of Income, KWT members have rights to profits generated by the group, such as from catfish harvesting. Profit sharing is based on members' contributions, with administrators getting a larger share than ordinary members. In addition, members are also allowed to take daily proceeds as needed. In the leadership domain with the indicator of membership in the group, the KWT chairperson is active in various activities both inside and outside the village, and plays an important role in bringing attention from outside parties, such as DPRD members on recess. While in the time domain with the workload indicator, KWT members spend an average of about 2 hours per day on group activities. The rest of their time is used for their main tasks as housewives, employees, informal workers, or government/private employees.

Thus, KWTs demonstrate active participation and shared responsibility in various aspects of production, resources, income, leadership, and time management. Participation in productive decisions and asset ownership and access to credit indicate good and inclusive management. Active income management and leadership also demonstrate the organization's ability to leverage resources for the welfare of its members. A well-distributed workload allows members to continue to fulfill their roles at home and at work.

The Farmers' Women's Group Dadi Makmur can be considered a social laboratory that reflects the above characteristics in the context of developing community economic learning resources. Here are the links:



Figure 1. KWT Dadi Makmur as a social laboatory

By reflecting the characteristics of a social laboratory, The Farmers' Women's Group Dadi Makmur not only serves as a learning laboratory for its members, but also as a model for participatory and sustainable approaches to improving community economies.

4 CONCLUSION

The Dadi Makmur Women Farmers Group has successfully established itself as a significant force in the community, playing an important role in empowerment and as a source of learning for the local economy. Through active participation in agricultural production, asset management, income control and leadership roles, the group has created a supportive and productive environment for its members.

The group's structured approach to asset ownership and access to credit ensures that resources are available to all members, promoting financial stability and growth. In addition, the equitable distribution of income based on contributions highlights the group's commitment to fairness and shared prosperity.

Leadership within the group is strong, with active involvement in community activities and collaboration with external entities, which increases the group's influence and reach. The balance between work within the group and members' personal responsibilities reflects a well-managed workload that sustains productivity and personal well-being.

Overall, the Dadi Makmur Women Farmers Group serves as an exemplary model of community-based economic empowerment and development, demonstrating the positive impact of collective efforts and resource management in driving sustainable local economic growth and resilience.

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