

# The Role of Coastal Women in Coastal Environmental Management

Heni Nopianti, Sri Handayani Hanum

Department of Sociology

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Bengkulu University

Bengkulu, Indonesia

nopiantiheni@gmail.com

**Abstract**—This paper aims to identify and describe the role of coastal women in coastal environmental management. The study was conducted on coastal communities living along the Malabro Beach Area – Tapak Padri in Bengkulu City. Collected based data from some informants selected by snowball sampling techniques including groups of women traders, fishermen, and village tourism management groups. Meanwhile, the required data is collected through group focused discussion techniques, interviews, and observations. Data analysis was done out simultaneously along with the process collecting data using analytical techniques that are commonly applied in qualitative research. Research produces information that the role of coastal women in coastal environmental management includes; (1) efforts to institutionalize values in the community and future generations, namely the efforts made by coastal women to socialize as well as pass on values about environmental cleanliness to community members and future generations, (2) behavior keep to maintain environmental cleanliness, namely the form of coastal women's behavior in maintaining the cleanliness of the environment as one of the coastal environmental management efforts. Forms of behavior to maintain environmental cleanliness are: waste management and not throwing garbage, arranging business premises, not polluting sewers, and providing clean water sources, (3) complying with prevailing restrictions, namely is attitude and behavior of coastal women to the rules and applicable sanctions, including not throwing garbage in coastal areas, both on the beach, the sea and even sewers around their homes; no longer “membuang air besar” (BAB) on the beach, not allowed to cut down trees and not to take coral in the sea.

**Keywords**—role; coastal women; coastal environmental management

## I. INTRODUCTION

The social structure of coastal or fishing communities designates women in a distinctive position and role in fisheries. This specific social position makes coastal women (especially fishermen's wives) play a vital role in maintaining the survival of their households and the socio-economic activities of their communities (Kusnadi, 2009: 101). Thus, it is inevitable that the role of the coastal women is taken into account as the subjects in empowering development activities on the coast.

One of the coastal development activities that the woman can involve is participating in coastal environmental management. The Law No. 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management (UUPPLH) mandates that the environmental management efforts need to be democratic. It also grants broad authority to the local governments and encourages community involvement in providing control over the incidence of environmental damages. Article 70 concerning the role of the community implicitly specified the role of women in environmental management efforts. According to the Environmental Protection and Management Act, the role in which women can take in environmental protection can be in the form of their involvement in environmental management efforts. Article 70 about the role of community implicitly pronounces the role women which states that the community has equal and broadest rights and opportunities in thinking and plays an active role in environmental protection and management.

Based on the information as mentioned earlier, this study seeks to find out and explore the role of coastal women in Pantai Panjang Kota Bengkulu in the management of the coastal environment. The results of the study are expected to be used as guidelines for the policymakers in empowering coastal communities and managing coastal environments.

## II. METHOD

This study employed the qualitative method. The primary data were obtained using the in-depth interview technique and nonparticipation observation and documentation. To support the data collection process, researchers used tools such as interview guidelines, field notes used to record any findings obtained from the field, tape recorders and cameras. Snowball sampling was used to determine informants with the following criteria. Coastal women whose husband was fishermen fishing in the sea. Women who made a living from marine products and lived on the shores of the coast. Women who for generations have lived in the coastal area of Kota Bengkulu and have a profound relationship with the coastal resources of Kota Bengkulu.

The role of the coastal women is conceived in the forms of their behaviors which are significant for social structures in the coastal areas. These include norms and a series of rules associated with the position of a person in the society that guides him or

her in the social life. (Soekanto, 2014: 215). Coastal environment management is the process of controlling the actions of humans or communities around coastal areas to wisely use natural resources by adhering to environmental sustainability rules (Supriharyono, 2002).

### III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

#### A. *The Role of Coastal Women in Coastal Environment Management*

The role of coastal women in coastal environmental management can be determined by analyzing their behaviors that are essential for social structures in the coastal environment which includes norms and series of regulations related to their position in society. These norms and rules guide someone in their social life.

The followings are the roles of the coastal women based on the data obtained in the field:

##### 1) *Efforts to institutionalize values in the society and future generations*

The coastal women socialize their families, particularly their children, about the need to put rubbish to its bin, either at home or outside and the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of the house and the surrounding environment. They also ask their children to keep the house and the surrounding environment clean by sweeping the house and the yard and mopping the floor. Their children usually perform these duties when they come home from school or during school holidays.

##### 2) *Behavior to maintain environmental hygiene*

At this point, we can learn the coastal women's behaviors in maintaining environmental hygiene as one of the coastal environmental management efforts.

Behaviors of the coastal woman in maintaining environmental hygiene include:

##### a) *Managing waste and putting rubbish in its bin*

At this point, we can learn that the awareness of coastal communities to avoid littering increases. Coastal women dispose of waste in the bin provided by the Department of City Sanitation and Garden, burn their dry waste that is not put in the trash bin, pay monthly fees for garbage collection services.

##### b) *Organizing street stalls*

Business owners who sell along the road organize and clean the stalls to look attractive and clean. Thus, consumers feel comfortable because the stalls are clean and tidy.

##### c) *Keeping the sewage system clean*

The coastal women avoid throwing household garbage into the ditch. They understand that the sewer is vital for their environment. When the sewage system is full of trash during heavy rain, the passage may get clogged. As a result, the water in the passage may overflow, and floods may occur. It is the coastal communities who are affected the most during the flood since they have to clean the debris. Therefore, learning from these conditions, they realize that they need to keep the ditches or gutters clean.

##### d) *Providing clean water resources*

Each house has a well for water supply while some also get tap water from PDAM. Well water which is brackish is only used for bathing, washing, and toilet, while for eating and drinking they use tap water or distilled water.

##### 1) *Adhering to the applicable rules*

The coastal women also adhere to the prevailing rules. They do not dispose of garbages in coastal areas, on the beach, the sea and sewers around their homes. They no longer defecate on the beach, cut down trees and take coral reefs from the sea. Adhering to the rules means that they are aware of the needs for environment preservation. Any actions that violate the rules will have an impact on their environment and in turn affect their daily lives.

Supriharyono (2002) stated that several considerations in the management of natural resources in coastal areas include (a) economic consideration, (b) consideration of environmental aspects and (c) socio-cultural consideration. Economic considerations are related to whether or not it is essential for the daily life of the communities and the producer of goods to be sold, whether or not it is a local, national or international asset and whether or not it is a tourism asset that can generate money other than commodities.

Environmental considerations take into account the physical stability of the coast, unique communal environment, the supply of animal and plant stock including those that have the potential to be monetized, the preservation of germplasm, aesthetics and cultural identities, the possibility of environmental damage caused by sedimentation, construction, agriculture, logging, mining, overfishing, eutrophication due to waste disposal containing nutrients, and contamination by various types of waste. Socio-cultural considerations include recognizing tradition and the value of social culture and maintaining the tradition for future generations and religious goals. The sustainable use of coastal and marine areas must be performed responsibly; thus careful management planning is required (Ghofar, 2004).

In connection with the results of the study, the role of coastal women in coastal environment management is a process of controlling the actions of humans or communities around coastal areas so that natural resource utilization can be done wisely by adhering to environmental sustainability rules (Supriharyono, 2002).

### *2) Analysis of the Research Results using Structural-Functional Theory*

The coastal women perceived the value that the natural environment of the coast, the marine environment and the coast itself are created for humans to be used as much as possible. The values that guide coastal communities in treating coastal areas, prohibitions and recommendations made on the beach, and sanctions imposed on the coastal communities of Pantai Tapak Paderi Kelurahan Malabero are forms of their protection of the available resources so that they, their children and grandchildren can use these sustainable resources. In living their lives, humans at any place depend on the natural environment in which they live.

Soemarwoto (1988) suggests that ecosystems in which humans live are an integral part of other elements. Human survival depends on the sustainability of the ecosystem because this ecosystem is established through the reciprocal relationship between humans and their environment. To preserve the sustainability of the ecosystem, humans must maintain harmony relationship with their environment. If this harmony relationship is disturbed, human welfare will also be affected.

Forde stated in Suparlan (1980: 20) that in earlier cultures, cultural patterns predominated in human civilization bridged the relationship between human activities and their natural environment. Humans adapt to their environment by referring to this values, and during the process of this adaptation, humans inevitably exploit their environment to sustain their life. Local values are inherently part of a culture.

The role of coastal women can bridge the relationship between the activities of coastal communities and their natural environment. The role of coastal women is conceived in the forms of their behaviors, significant for social structures of the coastal environment. These include norms and a series of rules associated with the position of a person in the society. These norms and series of rules guide a person in social life including to consolidate humans with their environmental settings. The coastal women have a significant role and may influence the relationship between humans and their habitat. They can maintain a balance relation between human and coastal resources.

It is clear that the role of coastal women is an institution in the forms of behaviors guided by a set of rules used as the references for coastal communities to act. Concerning coastal environmental management, the role of coastal women is a form of coastal community efforts in conserving coastal areas.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study it can be concluded that the roles of coastal women in coastal environment management include:

### *1) Efforts to institutionalize values in society and future generations*

It is an effort made by coastal women to socialize and inherit the values of environmental hygiene to the community members and future generations.

### *2) Behavior to maintain environmental hygiene*

It is the act of the coastal women in keeping their environment hygiene as one of the coastal environmental management efforts. These behaviors include waste management by putting garbage in its bin, arranging business stalls, keeping the ditch clean, and providing clean water sources.

### *3) Adhering to the applicable rules*

It is an attitude and behavior of coastal women to adhere to the applicable rules and sanctions. These include avoiding littering in the coastal areas, beach, sea, and ditches around their homes; no longer defecating on the beach, staying away from cutting down trees and taking coral reefs in the sea.

It is suggested that the coastal women continue to enhance their roles in coastal environmental management efforts. Cooperation between coastal women as members of the community and the government as the policymaker is inevitable to maximize the role of the coastal women. The government may, for example, impose firm regulations regarding coastal area management, such as sanctions for those who carelessly litter garbage and cut down trees.

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