



EMANCIPATORY COASTAL WOMEN OF TANJUNG KARANG IN MAINTAINING FAMILY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

The research is entitled "Emancipatory of Tanjung Karang Coastal Women in Maintaining Family Resilience" with the intention of looking at the condition of coastal women affected by covid 19. The formulation of the problem in this study is: (1) To find out the difficulties of coastal women during the Covid-19 pandemic (2) to find out the form of emancipatory and survival strategies carried out by coastal women. This research uses qualitative methods with a case study approach. The informants are the women of Tanjung Karang village who work and are affected by the pandemic. Data collection techniques by means of in-depth interviews, observations and documentation. The data analysis techniques used are data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions. The results showed that coastal women experienced difficulties during the pandemic. The forms of difficulties include the covid pandemic, namely, declining income turnover, losing money, and losing their jobs. The motives of coastal women to make loans include meeting household consumption needs, turning capital, and paying for other important needs. The form of emancipatory or independence of coastal women is seen in the survival strategy, namely coastal women of Tanjung Karang using active, passive, and network strategies. Passive strategies include delaying tertiary needs, saving, and borrowing from loan institutions. Network strategy by utilizing assistance from the government for women and households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords : emancipatory, coastal women, family economy



INTRODUCTION

Lombok Island is one of the islands with a unique topography ranging from coastal areas to mountainous areas. The condition of this region affects the economic activity of the community, especially its livelihoods. The coastal communities of Lombok Island rely a lot on livelihoods in the fields of fisheries and tourism. Bali and Nusa Tenggara areas are potential marine fishing grounds including Lombok Island.

Although the potential of Lombok Island's marine products is quite promising, in reality coastal communities are still many in the category of poor people or with low levels of welfare. Most of the people who occupy coastal areas generally have a livelihood as fishermen with conventional fishing patterns. Fishermen work depending on the climate so the income earned is uncertain. Data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2016 recorded that coastal communities contributed to poverty of around 25.14% or 7.87 million poor people in Indonesia (bps.go.id). This becomes ironic when marine resources are abundant but it is precisely pockets of poverty near sea areas that in fact people depend on living from the sea.

Based on research conducted by Kusnadi, one of the strategies carried out by fishermen is to encourage wives to help the family's economy (Satria, 2015). On the island of Lombok itself, in coastal areas that become tourism areas, coastal women help make a living by selling along tourist areas. From opening food stalls, selling fish, to processed seafood. Alternative work is also carried out such as selling services and building labor. Reporting from the daily today line, the economic condition of fishing communities on Lombok Island from the beginning of 2021 is quite concerning. Erratic weather conditions make it difficult for fishermen to go to sea. Forecasts of severe weather and large waves are expected to occur until March. Conditions have become increasingly difficult due to the pandemic and the economic crisis. This condition further aggravates the tourism industry which greatly affects coastal women. (<https://today.line.me/id/v2/article/j9eLBL>).

The lives of fishermen, which are often tied to the shackles of poverty and income uncertainty, encourage women fishermen to make a real contribution to their household economy, especially in post-arrest activities. The lack of skills possessed, low working wages to the absence of social security are some of the obstacles that are always faced by women fishermen (Wahyudi, 2012). Women and the household are two inseparable things. Women as the central figures of household holders struggle to demand justice by creating ecological spaces by practicing local knowledge in empowering resources (Wijayanti et al, 2019). The needs that



continue to increase and are not accompanied by a balanced income make fishermen forced to sell household goods to borrow from loan sharks. The richness of fishery natural resources is not accompanied by human resources and the use of technology in processing fishery products. It is this helplessness of coastal women that is difficult to break the chain of poverty. The problem of poverty in coastal communities in Lombok continues to plague the earthquake disaster until now the COVID-19 pandemic. Dilemmatic, on the other hand, economic conditions are getting worse but coastal women need money to survive. Therefore, coastal women carry out various strategies to survive as part of the emancipatory role in supporting the family economy, especially in the Tanjung Karang Coast (Suharto, 2017).

This research is urgently carried out considering that Tanjung Karang Coast is an urban coastal community area which is certainly different from the characteristics of rural coastal communities. Coastal women depend a lot on the economy from the marine tourism sector as traders of processed seafood and fish sellers. The condition of the series of disasters from the earthquake to covid 19 has further aggravated the condition of poverty. The purpose of this study is to how the difficulties of Tanjung Karang coastal women during the Covid 19 pandemic and how coastal women's survival strategies during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses qualitative research methods with a case study approach. Through qualitative methods with a case study approach, it is hoped that researchers will get an in-depth understanding of the emancipatory of coastal women during the Covid-19 pandemic in maintaining the family economy.

The location of this study is in Tanjung Karang Village, Mataram City, West Nusa Tenggara Province. Tanjung Karang Village is one of the tourist areas affected by the Covid19 pandemic in its tourism industry. Data obtained from primary data were collected through in-depth interviews with several informants at the research site. Secondary data consisting of data obtained through related agencies, BPS data, information in the mass media, population data and other supporting data. Informants are taken by purposive techniques with the main informants being coastal women working. The analysis process is carried out in several stages according to Miles and Huberman which includes data collection, data reduction, data presentation and conclusions / data verification in the form of research reports (Herdiansyah, 2010). This research was analyzed using James Coleman's theory of rational choice.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tanjung Karang Village is one of the 5 villages in Sekarbela District. The topographical situation is not much different from the situation of other villages in Mataram City, Tanjung Karang Village is the western boundary of Mataram City which borders the Lombok Strait so that it is a coastal / coastal area with an altitude of ± 0.3 M above sea level. Tanjung Karang Village has sufficient natural resource potential with diverse commodities as a source of livelihood, agricultural land, animal husbandry and fisheries. The three potentials of natural resources become a source of income and livelihood for the people in-Tanjung Karang Village in particular and Sekarbela District in general.

1. The Difficulties of Coastal Women During the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected various aspects of life, one of which is economic life at the household level. As holders of the realm of domestication, women are generally very sensitive to changes in domestic life, especially economic issues. From the research conducted on 15 informants, broadly speaking, the informants gave an idea that the Covid pandemic had a significant impact on the community, especially in the economic sector. Moreover, the informants are mostly housewives who work in fisheries. Informants revealed that the Covid-19 pandemic hampered various existing economic activities, ranging from loss of livelihoods, reduced income, to hampering wage payments for workers working in trade and services. This is as revealed by Informant H (37 yrs) in the interview below.

" there was a change in business before covid my husband got a lot of fish when fishing morning, if it went 11 a.m. to evening just came home. Now after the pandemic, my husband's income is quiet sometimes a week to one month in the future, only a lot of 500,000 – 1,000,000 are obtained, this money includes the cost of buying 50-100 ship gasoline that also does not include buying ship oil."

Informants complained about reduced income compared to before the covid 19 pandemic. The average informant complains of reduced income by almost 50%. This is due to the decline in consumers or buyers who are interested in shopping on fish processing products. Most of the informants were traders selling grilled fish on the coast of Tanjung Karang.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only created a sluggish economy, but also made many people lose money in business. As experienced by informant Informant R (20 yrs) as a traveling fishmonger. Informants usually take fish from fishermen who have just gone to sea and then sell



them on a mobile basis from housing to housing. However, the declining purchasing power of the people makes the fish not sold out so that informants lose money. This is as revealed in the following interview passage.

"Yes, because this disaster made it quiet, the income was not there, so I stopped selling and became an IRT."

The impact felt due to the lack of fisheries business made informants lose their jobs. Most of the informants worked in the fisheries business sector. The pattern of fish business activities has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The informants complained that the sale of fish was not smooth, the lack of consumers, and the high price of fish.

Regarding the changes that occurred in the business carried out by the informants, based on the research conducted, it was found that there were changes in business activities carried out by the community due to the pandemic conditions that occurred, including changes in the income of uasaha activities carried out, a decrease in the amount of income obtained in business activities carried out, to the condition of the place of sale of grilled fish that was quiet. In addition to impacting fishmongers, the COVID-19 pandemic has also changed the pattern of economic activity of women working outside the fisheries sector. This is as complained by one of the informants who worked as a housekeeper in the above interview. The covid pandemic has an impact on salary delays due to the employer being affected by covid 19. The Covid-19 pandemic has also affected fishermen's activities in fishing, the lack of fish markets has made fishermen who are looking for alternative jobs to support the household economy.

Related to the difficulties faced by informants during the pandemic, broadly speaking, it is related to economic difficulties. From the research conducted by the informants, it was explained that various difficulties faced during the pandemic, including reduced income from uasaha activities carried out and the livelihood conditions of the head of the family which were also hampered, the price of goods that soared high so that it made it difficult for informants to manage the selling value, to the condition of the selling place which was quiet and affected the sales price of the business carried out by the informants. As revealed by informant H (37 yrs), revealing,

"Husband has nothing to do. My husband is a handyman so sometimes work sometimes idle and there is no work. It used to be quiet for people to shop so there was a lack of income, a decrease in assimilation so I stopped selling fish. Besides, I have a hard time paying for schoolchildren's tuition."



Based on the informant interview passage above, the decline in women's income makes women have to save money, reducing expenses. The lack of buyers forced fish sellers to sell merchandise cheaper than the price before the covid 19 pandemic. Based on the research that has been carried out, as for matters related to efforts to overcome difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic, informants made various efforts including by making loans to both banks and relatives, then other steps by doing double work, and managing household expenses to a minimum. Informant H (37 yrs) revealed:

"I save the money that my husband gives me who knows there is an urgent need so don't bother looking for loans anymore, challenge so that the business goes again, so that they can pay people's fish in installments so that it is not too heavy to pay"

2. Survival Strategies During a Pandemic

a. Active

From the results of research with several informants, it is known that most informants do not look for alternative jobs to increase income, and some informants choose to find alternative jobs to increase income such as by raising livestock in cattle groups, and working as domestic servants in Perumnas.

The active strategies carried out by the coastal women of Tanjung Karang Village include finding alternative jobs when the main job is deemed unable to meet the economic needs of the household. There are also those who increase working hours, empower family members, and find side jobs. Most of the informants stated that the informants did not use the yard to grow food crops because there was no vacant land, the plants were difficult to live since it was flooded, and many chickens were annoying if they grew food. Some of the informants also stated that they used the yard to plant eggplants and flowers only. As revealed by Informant M (39 Yrs) states;

"I used to grow tomatoes, eggplant, many more in the past, you used to have a small garden but it was not continued."

From the research that has been done, most informants say that they do not extend working hours, even the same working hours before and after the pandemic. However, few of the informants also stated that they increased their working hours but the work was different from the main job. Based on the results of research that has been carried out, most of the informants stated that they hired their family members to help work such as helping to work in stalls, helping to work as fishermen, helping to work as handymen to make ends meet, helping work selling vegetables, selling rambak crackers, and also children helping parents clean up the



house and take care of children.

b. Passive

Most informants stated that they could not save during this pandemic because they still had to pay loan deposits, but there were also some informants who stated that they were still biased in saving and setting aside their income money even with a small amount. Informant Z (35 yrs) stated that;

"I don't have personal savings, but there are savings for my son's schooling in the fishing group, but yesterday it was taken to pay tuition fees."

Most informants have difficulty saving as one of the passive strategies. Informants complained about the large amount of household expenses that caused obstacles to saving. But there are also those who save in anticipation of loan deposits to loan sharks and blooming banks. From the research that has been done, in addition to saving, the passive strategy carried out is that most informants borrow money from relatives, friends, and also in stalls. Most informants stated that they saved on daily expenses, and some stated that Just the same, before the pandemic and after it was difficult to save because of the many needs. Examples of savings made by informants include buying basic necessities only and buying cheap side dishes.

c. Networking

During the pandemic, most informants received assistance from the government, such as PKH assistance, BSM money, and basic food assistance. The coastal women of Tanjung Karang Village mostly received assistance affected by covid 19 from the government. Assistance in the form of money, basic necessities, and fruits. However, the aid has not been evenly distributed according to the narrative of the informant who stated that he had not received any assistance at all. Most of the informants stated that they did not get help from the private sector, and some informants stated that they got help from the child's school, and help from the bank.

The coping strategy aims to overcome economic shocks and pressures that can be done in various ways. Survival strategies can be classified into 3 categories, namely active strategies, passive strategies and network strategies. In general, the most motivating reason for coastal women to adapt is to maintain sustainable living, more specifically their economic viability. At some informants retained their original jobs as itinerant fishmongers and grilled fishmongers along the coast.

Based on the theory of rational choice the actors who play a role in this aspect are coastal



women. Resources are everything that can support an actor's activities to achieve his goals. Of course, the goal to be achieved by coastal women is how to maximize profits by pursuing their resources. Rational choice theory like other microscopic sociological theories centers on actors as one of the key elements of the theory. The other element is the resource. An actor in the theory of rational choice is assumed to have an intentional purpose and purpose in each of his actions. There is no disproportionate action. In addition, actors are also assumed to always have a framework of choice that is relatively fixed or stable. The choices that actors make are based on the framework of those references. In the theory of rational choice, the individual is seen as very rational, being able to do his best to satisfy his desires (Turner, 2012).

Female actors on the coast of Tanjung Karang Beach can take advantage of the resources available in the village so that women can get the option to work. Being a processed trader of fishery resources, ART and traders are considered as the most rational choice because resources can be obtained easily. Resources that can support the activities of coastal women are mainly locations that are very close to the beach.

CONCLUSION

1. 1. The economic activities of coastal women in Tanjung Karang Village affected by the Covid-19 pandemic start from reducing merchandise turnover, reducing consumer purchasing power, losing their jobs, to preparing by making loans.
2. There are 3 strategies used by coastal women in Tanjung Karang Village, namely active strategies, passive strategies, and network strategies. The active strategy is to take advantage of all the potential possessed by finding alternative jobs, increasing working hours, optimizing all the potential possessed by family members such as husbands and children. Passive strategy by minimizing expenses or in other words making savings. Network strategy by borrowing money from neighbors, relatives, and banks, loan sharks to meet needs such as education, purchasing basic necessities, capital, or for daily needs.



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