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Perception of religious leaders about gender role in implementing household food security activities in West Lombok Regency

Abstract. This study aims to analyze the perceptions of religious leaders about gender roles in implementing household food security in West Lombok Regency and their relationship with demographic characteristics, internal and external factors. Interviews using a questionnaire were conducted with 60 respondents in Narmada, Gerung and Batulayar Districts and in-depth interviews with key informants. Data analysis was performed using descriptive statistics and Spearman's rank correlation test. The results of the study saw that there are quite number of religious leaders are of the view that gender equality is needed in the implementation of food availability activities, namely the production of rice and non-rice staple foods. On the other hand, religious leaders are of the view that food access and food utilization is appropriate if it is dominated by women. Religious leaders' perceptions of gender roles in implementing household food security are related to access to information. Realization of household food security should ideally not only give responsibility to women but also to men, so access to information on religious leaders needs to be improved.

1. Introduction

The realization of household food security can be demonstrated by the realization of food and nutrition diversification consumed by each individual member of the household [1] [2][3]. Household food insecurity is related to a lack of food intake and a lack of energy and is related to stunting, a condition in which growth in children is disrupted due to chronic malnutrition resulting in children being too short for their age. Lack of nutritious food for pregnant women and toddlers will cause stunting problems [4] [5] noted that West Lombok Regency had 10,252 cases of stunting (28.98%). Thus, efforts to consume diverse and nutritious food for each member of the household fairly and according to needs is a must.

The realization of household food security requires cooperation between government and non-government agencies and the local community [6] [7] [8]. So far, the culture of rural communities on Lombok Island places women as the main actors in preparing and distributing food to all household members. This is related to the differences in gender roles that apply in Lombok Island society, where women play a role in carrying out work in the domestic sphere, while men play a role in the public sphere [7] [2] [3] [9].

The importance of the role of men as the head of the family in realizing household food security needs to be pursued so that in the household there is equality of gender roles and having healthy and quality family members [10], [11]. [12] said that efforts to diversify food and nutrition consumed by household members are related to perception. [13] found that men have an inaccurate perception of gender role equality in implementing household food security activities. This is due to stereotypes of gender roles that are believed to be true. For this reason, it is necessary to carry out socialization and counseling, especially to men about the importance of gender role equality in realizing household food security.

On the island of Lombok, the existence of religious leaders is highly recognized and respected by the community [14]. Therefore, religious leaders can optimize their role as sources of information and change agents related to gender equality in realizing household food security. For this reason,

information is needed regarding the proper perceptions of religious leaders to support the realization of this, so the research question is how are the perceptions of religious leaders regarding gender roles in the implementation of household food security activities and what factors influence them? Based on these problems, the purpose of this study was to analyze the perceptions of religious leaders regarding gender roles in implementing household food security activities in West Lombok Regency, and to analyze the factors that influence them.

2. Methods

By purposive sampling, research was carried out in three sub-districts in West Lombok Regency which had the most cases of stunting, namely Narmada, Gerung and Batu Layar sub-districts. The research was conducted using a survey method, namely through interviews using closed questionnaires with 60 respondents and in-depth interviews with religious leaders and the leadership of related government institutions, in this case the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religion of West Nusa Tenggara Province. Data analysis was performed using descriptive statistics to analyze perceptions and inferential statistics, namely Rank Spearman correlation analysis to analyze factors related to perceptions.

3. Result and Discussion

Religious leaders have different perceptions on each component aspect of household food security. Table 1 shows that in terms of food availability, the majority (70.0%) of religious leaders have the perception that there is a need for gender equality between men and women in carrying out food production activities. However, in the aspect of access to food as much as 61.7% and utilization of food as much as 65%, religious leaders perceive that there are jobs that are only appropriate for women or men. The rest, religious leaders view that there needs to be gender equality between men and women who do it.

3.1. Perception of religious leader on the aspect of food availability in the household.

The availability of food in the household is fundamental to meeting household food needs from the aspect of food quantity and quality. The role of gender in the aspect of household food availability is related to the relationship between men and women in the household in carrying out food production activities. For example, production of staple food crops such as rice and non-rice, food crops in the form of vegetables and fruit, companion food crops such as peanuts, soybeans and others, and seeking complementary food by raising poultry as a source of animal protein such as chickens/duck, eggs, freshwater fish.

Table 1 shows the results of the research where in the implementation of staple food production activities, religious leaders saw that there was a need for equal roles between men and women. They are of the view that ensuring the availability of staple food is a burden for both men and women. This view is influenced by the culture or habits of farming communities in West Lombok that in food production activities such as rice and corn are carried out by women and men. In addition, the agricultural sector is still the sector that absorbs the most labor in rural areas where women have an important role in the activities of farming food crops in paddy fields, gardens and forests.

There is a division of labor based on gender in the implementation of rice and corn production activities. [15] said that the gender division of labor is the determination of work performed by women and several other jobs carried out by men that apply in society. Usually the work done by women and men is attached with social characteristics as women and men through the attributes of masculinity and femininity which are usually supported by the values prevailing in the society concerned. In the study, men generally carried out land preparation, fertilizing and pest control of plant diseases, while women carried out planting, weeding, harvesting and post-harvest activities. The work done by women is associated with gender stereotypes that women are diligent, conscientious and patient so that weeding activities that are carried out while squatting or bending down are more appropriate for women to do. This reinforces what was stated by [15] that the characteristics of women are loyal, loyal wives, competent housekeepers, yielding, and diligent.

Table 1. Perceptions of religious leaders about gender roles in the implementation of household food security activities.

	Category					
	Female/Male		Female > Male Male > Female		Female = Male	
	Number of people	%	Number of people	%	Number of people	%
Perceptions on the aspect of food availability	1	1,7	17	28,3	43	70,0
Perceptions on the aspect of food access	3	5,0	37	61,7	20	33,3
Perceptions on the aspect of food utilization	2	3,3	39	65,0	19	31,7

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

Likewise, the implementation of the activities of planting various vegetables and fruit, as well as rearing poultry which is carried out in the yard is also carried out jointly by women and men. Religious leaders emphasized their view that as long as there are no obstacles, the work can be done by both men and women. Even under certain conditions, for example if a man as a husband is sick or becomes an overseas migrant worker (TKI) a woman as a wife can take over the role to meet the needs and adequacy of household food. Even so, there are still religious leaders who are of the view that the task of growing vegetables should be the duty of women as wives, it is not obligatory for men as husbands to plant vegetable food crops such as long beans, kale, cabbage, spinach and so on in the field. This illustrates the diversity of perceptions of religious leaders regarding gender roles in carrying out food availability or household food production activities

3.2. Perception of religious leaders on the aspect of food access in the household

Implementation of activities to access food in households including activities to obtain food to meet adequate daily consumption is an effort to ensure the availability of food and this requires the ability to access in obtaining it. Who plays a role in accessing food found in his own paddy field, yard, family or neighbor's paddy field/yard, buys at the market or shop, uses income from farming activities (husband's income) gets help from the government, borrows or is in debt, uses women's income to buy food in stalls or vegetables.

In this case, what are the views of respondents from religious leaders regarding gender roles in accessing or obtaining staple food, vegetables and fruit, plant food and animal food in meeting household food needs. The results showed that the views of respondents from religious leaders regarding the roles of men and women in accessing food on land were still gender biased. The tendency of religious leaders respondents to give their view that men are more dominant than women (61.7%). This is associated with the responsibilities of men as farm managers. The role of men is seen as more dominant in work in the fields. Men more often go to the fields to work than women. Thus, the role of men to plant vegetables in their rice fields, picking up the vegetables that are planted is very easy and allows men to do it. Going to the rice fields and working in one's own rice fields is seen as hard work because it takes a long time and requires a lot of energy and is only appropriate for men as husbands rather than women as wives

In contrast, the activity of collecting food in the yard tends to be that of respondents from religious leaders who think that the role of a wife (woman) is very appropriate to do so and it is very easy to access it because the range of collection is only around the yard of the house. There are even religious leaders who are of the view that all activities outside the home are the husband's duty to do so that

women only need to focus on household matters and matters related to the domestic. It's the same as taking food from the land belonging to a relative or neighbor, for example taking Moringa leaves from the yard next to the house, is the role of a woman as a wife. However, in general, the process of household food access is still dominated by women.

The food that is consumed is not only the result of production in one's own rice fields and yards, rice fields and yards belonging to neighbors or family. Food that cannot be produced by yourself will be obtained by buying it from stalls or markets. Related to this, there are also various views from religious leaders respondents. Access to food by buying household food needs to the market is dominated by women. The role of men is only as an escort to the market because the market is quite far from home. Men will play a high role in shopping in the market to make purchases on a large scale. However, the role of men will be dominant when farming families overcome problems such as making loans to meet their daily needs. Not infrequently there is also a role for women to borrow or owe, but based on permission from the husband as the head of the family.

It can be said that women have a very important role related to the implementation of household food security. Women can determine the condition of household food security, whether it is food secure or food insecure. Households headed by women are more food insecure than households headed by men [16] [17]. The facts show that women who work to earn money will spend more of their income to meet household food needs than men [17] [3]. In addition, the fulfillment of household food needs is related to differences in the management of arable land area and household finances. Women who manage land in forests that are not too large will have high access and control over the proceeds from the sale of forest products which will then be used to meet household food needs. Conversely, if a household has a large area of forest cultivation, it is men who have high control over the results of forest management [9].

3.3. Perceptions of religious leaders on aspect of food utilization in the household

Respondents' perceptions of religious leaders on the aspect of household food utilization will be seen in indicators of gender roles in carrying out activities of processing and providing nutritious, diverse and balanced food, ensuring that each member of the household consumes it according to their needs, and monitoring and ensuring that pregnant women, infants and toddlers consume nutritious, varied and balanced diet.

The results showed that as many as 65% of respondents from religious leaders had perceptions that were still gender biased where they still considered that the implementation of food utilization activities included women's work. There were 31.7% of respondents who were religious leaders who believed that men should also have an equal role with women in terms of providing, ensuring that diverse, nutritious and balanced food is consumed by all household members as needed, especially for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. The views of most religious leaders are still influenced by the cultural factors of the people of Lombok where the main task of women is related to the implementation of domestic work while men work in the public sphere.

3.4. Relationship between religious leaders' perceptions of gender roles in the implementation of household food security activities.

The results showed that the factors related to respondents' perceptions of religious leaders about gender roles in implementing household food security activities were only external factors, namely access to information. This means that the easier and higher access to information from religious leaders regarding the importance of gender equality in the implementation of the three aspects of household food security, the better the perception of religious leaders regarding the importance of gender equality in the household, especially in implementing household food security activities, especially regarding the use of food that is related to the consumption of diverse, nutritious and balanced foods.

Religious leaders have low access to information regarding the importance of each household member consuming a variety, nutritious and balanced diet to prevent stunting. Respondents from religious leaders who have access to information about this matter are respondents who are civil servants, who work in government agencies such as the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religion or the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA), religious leaders who have networks with government agencies

such as the Health Service, Central Public Health (Puskesmas), social institutions such as women's organizations (PKK), posyandu and religious institutions such as the Council of Mosques, Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI). This illustrates that the interaction between religious leaders and information sources will increase the knowledge and understanding of religious leaders regarding the importance of each household member having awareness to consume diverse, nutritious and balanced food. Thus, it is deemed necessary to increase access to information by religious leaders regarding gender role equality and activities to realize household food security.

Table 2. Factors related to perceptions of religious leaders about gender roles in the implementation of household food security activities.

	Correlation coefficient
	Perception of food security
Demographic characteristics	0.246
• Age	
• Education	0.204
• Long being religious leaders	0.113
Internal and external	
• Motivation	0.758
• Information access	0.042*
• Institutional support	0.110

Source: Primary data processed, 2022.

4. Conclusion dan recommendatio

4.1. Conclusion

Based on the description of the discussion regarding the perceptions of religious leaders about gender roles in the implementation of gender roles a, the conclusions in this study are:

- Perceptions of religious leaders regarding gender roles in implementing household food security activities are still dominated by views that are gender biased where religious leaders are of the view that women's roles are more appropriate in carrying out activities related to food access, namely obtaining food and food utilization, namely consuming diverse, balanced nutritious food by each household member. The role of women in carrying out food availability activities related to food production is that women are more appropriate to do work that requires accuracy, patience and perseverance more appropriate than men. Women are also more appropriate to do planting activities in the yard than men.
- Factors related to the perceptions of religious leaders regarding gender roles in the implementation of household food security activities are external factors, namely the access of religious leaders to information.

4.2. Recommendation

It is necessary to optimize the role of religious leaders to realize gender equality and household food security in the aspects of food availability, food access and food utilization which in turn can help prevent stunting. For this reason, religious leaders need to improve their competence as change agents through extension, training activities and increasing their access to information.

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