THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN EMPOWERING FAMILY ECONOMY THROUGH AGRICULTURE IN KORO VILLAGE

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ABSTRACT

Background: Women have an important role in life. In modern times, women have roles in various aspects, one of which is agriculture.

Aim: The purpose of this research is to find out (1) the role of women, (2) how the efforts to empower the family’s economy are carried out by women through agriculture.

Method: This type of research is collection methods namely observation, interviews, and documentation.

Findings: The results of this study indicate (1) the role of women in the village of Ubamoro Koro Bhera village in addition to being a housewife but also as a farm laborer by working on someone else’s land, (2) the main factors causing women to work are to meet household needs due to low-income husband, (3) wages earned by farm laborers are 5000/hour of work.

KEYWORDS: the role of women; family economics; agriculture

INTRODUCTION

The role of women is the direct involvement of a woman in various areas of life, one of which is in the world of work. The role is a dynamic aspect of status that has been patterned and is around certain rights and obligations that a person performs to obtain the desired results (Ahdiah, 2013). Currently, many women (Housewives) who work will increase their family income. According to Radhitya (2019), the dual role of women is defined as one or more roles carried out by a woman at the same time, relating to domestic roles and public roles, namely in the job market. Data obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (2018) stated that the poverty rate in East Nusa Tenggara province has become the main reason for encouraging the desire of women to work to improve the household economy. According to Erwin and Karmini (2012), the problems that hinder the development and progress of the nation are the problem of unemployment and the problem of high poverty. The poverty rate in Sikka Regency in 2014 was recorded with a poor population of 39,400 people, in 2015 it amounted to 44,640 people, and every year it increases. In 2017 the poverty rate reached 45,140 people. Women's desire to work is driven because of the economic conditions of the family that at all times do not show any improvement. So that women (Housewives) need to empower their families' economies to achieve a prosperous family.

Empowerment is a desire to restore trust in the form of motivation to move forward to change lives for the better (Widjajanti, 2011). In this study, the family economy in question is the function of the family in meeting the needs of the family. In fact, the role of most women is as farmworkers who work in rice fields. The difficulty in finding a better job is also caused by the low level of public awareness when young to pursue formal education until completion. The level of education will affect the amount of income that will be received by both women and men. Likewise, women in the agricultural sector are farmworkers who work in rice fields
owned by others with an income of 5000 per hour of work. According to Wibowo (2011), many women who work in the public sector such as farm workers or others will definitely earn low wages. Activities of female farmers range from planting rice, cleaning weeds, providing fertilizer on tananam, to picking or collecting crops. Based on the above explanation, the purpose of this study is to find out the role of women in family economic empowerment through agriculture in Ubamoro Hamlet, Koro Bhera Village, Mego Subdistrict.

METHOD
This research uses a type of qualitative research that will be used to examine the role of women in the economic empowerment of families through agriculture in the hamlet of Ubamoro Koro Bhera village of Mego subdistrict. According to Sugiyono (2017), qualitative research is a type of research that produces appropriate data in the form of written and oral words from people or objects observed in the research place without manipulated data.

Based on the considerations in this qualitative research, the data sources specified there are two, namely primary data sources, and secondary data sources. To produce the necessary data, data collection will be carried out with observation techniques, interview techniques, and documentation techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The Role of Women in Family Economic Empowerment in Ubamoro Hamlet
The role of women in the economic empowerment of families in the hamlet of Ubamoro is as follows.

The Role of Women as Housewives
The role of women in the hamlet of Ubamoro Koro Bhera village in general as a housewife who used to act as a wife and a mother. Women (Housewives) must also be wise in managing the economy of their households, in the midst of the limited income of their husbands. A mother certainly plays a role in parenting, giving affection and attention, being a source of knowledge in the child's learning process, and providing stimulus for child development, as well as being a protector for her children.

The Role of Women as Workers
In the hamlet of Ubamoro, a woman who has been married not entirely only has one role as a wife, but there are also many who play the role of breadwinner, namely by becoming a farm laborer in the farming groups formed. This is influenced by the lack of income of the husband in meeting all the needs of the existing household. The daily activities of women in farming groups are that they work to clean rice fields from weeds, grow rice, to fertilize and collect crops.

Factors That Affect Women Working in Agriculture
Limited human resources (HR) due to the lack of previous levels of education make it difficult for society to develop in a better world of work. Struggling in agriculture is the final choice of many jobs that are in demand to be done by women (Housewives) in the hamlet of Ubamoro. Based on the factors of the natural conditions surrounding the fertile village of Koro
Bhera, the main factors that encourage people, especially women, to work in agriculture are economic factors. According to Herlina (2017), economic factors generally affect a woman's work because by earning an income, women can meet their daily needs.

**Economic Factors**

1) Support the economy in the family;
2) Being independent by not relying on the husband's income; and
3) The burden of family dependents in the house.

**Social Factors**

1) Increase insights in managing agricultural land;
2) Create an atmosphere of familiarity and solidarity that is more towards others than a normal day;
3) Provide opportunities for yourself to be actively involved with the community in the development of economic development of the village; and
4) Fertile environmental conditions.

**Empowerment Efforts made by Women in Improving the Family Economy**

Efforts to meet the needs of households have been implemented by women (Housewives) who are in the hamlet of Ubamoro Koro Bhera village, namely by working to help earn a living, another effort is to follow some empowerment activities that have been prepared by the village apparatus to help support the economic welfare of families such as farmers groups, and savings and loan cooperatives.

**Women's Peasant Group in Ubamoro Hamlet**

Women (Housewives) in the hamlet of Ubamoro are actively involved in farming groups. Women's farming groups are provided as a forum for women (Housewives) in developing their abilities in agriculture and as a form of contribution of women in helping to increase crop yields and improve the family economy.

Khaerany (2019) said that farmers are people who have a livelihood in agriculture with agricultural land management activities to plant and care for in hopes of obtaining the results of the crop for their own use or selling them to others.

**Table 1.** Names of Farmers Groups in Ubamoro Hamlet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Farmer's Group</th>
<th>Number of Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kula Simo</td>
<td>25 People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fajar Baru</td>
<td>14 People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rembulan</td>
<td>28 People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gili Gebu</td>
<td>13 People</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Farmers Group, 2019*
The Role of Women in Empowering Family Economy through Agriculture in Koro Village

The Contribution of Women in Agriculture

The number of female workers who take part in managing agricultural land is approximately 1/4 of the total number of farmers. The contribution of women in agriculture is clearly visible when they are active in the activities of farming groups. Able to develop agricultural businesses with tenacity and discipline in work has become a characteristic of women farmers in the hamlet of Ubamoro.

The Process of Women's Contribution in Agriculture

The process of working women farmers tends to be done earlier, full of thoroughness and passion. Female farmers also have side jobs in the harvest season, namely by trading or selling their plantations in the Lekebai market every day, so much empowerment is done by women in the economic empowerment of their families. Although the women (Housewives) in the hamlet of Ubamoro are only a farmer of rice fields, they have a very important role in agriculture and in the economic growth of the family. According to Suradisastra (2016), the role of women as labor in agriculture ranging from planting, cultivating, getting around, and harvesting in rice field farming is very important. The results or wages obtained from farming fully contributed to helping support the needs in the household.

The Contribution of Women in Agriculture

Women (Housewives) in the hamlet of Ubamoro are very encouraged to participate actively in agricultural activities. The results obtained from farming are considered enough to help the economy in general. According to Gapri & Marhawati (2016), the main activities and sources of income of the community, especially people in rural areas are still very dependent on the agricultural sector or natural products. Some of the contributions of women in agriculture include:

1) The fulfillment of the family economy
2) Farmers' production is increasing.
3) The welfare of family and community

Types of Commodities Planted

The farming community in the hamlet of Ubamoro is very experienced in determining the right harvest season for farming. Farmers have sufficient ability to manage agricultural land and can find out the resilience of crops grown in two different seasons:

1) Plants Planted in the Dry Season: Plants that are often planted by farmers during the dry season arrive in the form of tubers, soybeans, vegetables, and kitchen spices such as galingale, chili, onions, lemongrass, basil leaves, and so on. This plant will be harvested when needed for food needs or as a commodity that will be sold every day of Lekebai market; and

2) Crops Planted Every Rainy Season: Natural conditions that strongly support agricultural activities are when the rainy season arrives because in this season the crops planted by farmers will thrive because they will get enough water sources. Plants that are often planted this season are corn, rice, and so on.
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The Threats Faced by Female Farmers

Almost every year farmers in the hamlet of Ubamoro Koro Bhera village do not get maximum crop yields due to conch pests. Conch pests pose the biggest threat to agriculture in the hamlet of Ubamoro. Various efforts were made to overcome this conch pest including by fertilizing plants that are often used in the hamlet of Ubamoro.

Table 2. Names of Organic Fertilizers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name of Fertilizer</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Grentonik</td>
<td>Rp 25,000/sack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NPK</td>
<td>Rp 125,000/bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Urea</td>
<td>Rp 90,000/sack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arivo</td>
<td>Rp 25,000/small bottle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Farmers, 2019

Farmer's Family Income Per Month

The average income of farmers' families reaches a range of Rp 500,000.00 per month and has other income from wives ranging from Rp 300,000.00 to Rp 340,000.00 per month from farming. Family income is the income earned from working family members. According to Purwanti and Rohayati (2014) the amount of family income will affect the family economy, because the greater the family income the greater the amount of spending, therefore, women take part to improve the family economy by working outside the home.

Table 3. Average Income of a Farmer's Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Income</th>
<th>Revenue Rp/Month</th>
<th>Revenue Rp/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>Rp 500,000.00</td>
<td>Rp 6,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Rp 300,000.00</td>
<td>Rp 3,600,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband + Wife</td>
<td>Rp 800,000.00</td>
<td>Rp 9,600,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Farmers Family, 2019

Number of Dependents of Existing Farming Families

Basically, in every household, there is only a nuclear family, namely father, mother, and child. But not infrequently there are also other family members who live with us in one house. In addition to economic factors, the number of family dependents is also a driver of a woman working outside the home. According to Erwin and Karmini (2012), the number of family dependents coming from the number of family members in one house is also the reason a woman takes action to work outside the home, in order to get more income for her family so that family needs can be met.

Contribution of Women Farmers' Income in the Household Economy

The unstable economic situation of the household became a driver of a woman (housewife) in the hamlet of Ubamoro to descend into the public sector as a farm laborer. The income it generates from farmworkers is then contributed to help overcome economic problems that occur in the family. With 3x harvest in a year, the amount of crop reaches 10 to 11 sacks (500
kg to 600 kg) in one harvest. The income is still not enough to support family life, although sometimes it is still felt fewer women (Housewives) do not feel hopeless. They still try to work odd jobs by becoming farm workers by helping to work on land owned by others at a wage of 5000 per hour of work. To explain the contribution of the income of female farmers in the family economy, it will be explained through the table of the amount of income earned by female farmers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hourly Earnings</th>
<th>Income Per Day (5x Working Hours)</th>
<th>Monthly Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rp 5000.00</td>
<td>Rp 25.000.00 x 30 days</td>
<td>Rp 750.000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Female Farmers, 2019

Government Efforts in Economic Empowerment of Family in Ubamoro Hamlet Koro Bhera Village

The community institution in Koro Bhera village has an important role in the process of organizing government and village development. This institution is formed by the community as the involvement and participation of the village community in the development of the village economy. According to Burhanudin (2015), the goal of economic development is to improve the economic performance of an area with the aim of improving people's living standards and can realize welfare for families and the community itself. The empowerment efforts made by the village government in improving the family economy in Ubamoro Hamlet are:

1) Providing crediting or cooperative institutions;
2) Providing public service facilities in the form of watering of rice fields;
3) Cooperate between the village government and the agricultural service in order to provide free rice and fertilizer assistance to the farming community;
4) Providing training and education for farmers in managing agricultural land to increase their crop yields;
5) Providing land as a village market for farmers to sell their produce; and
6) Conducting counseling in overcoming the threat of pests that attack the agricultural crops of the community.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers in the hamlet of Ubamoro, with various series of research and time constraints. Therefore, the researchers want to convey the final conclusions of this study. The purpose of this study is to find out the extent of the role of women in the economic empowerment of families through agriculture in the hamlet of Ubamoro. The authors conclude that in the household, the role of women is very influential on the welfare of the family. Women's contributions to family economic empowerment have brought about changes to the pace of the family's own economic growth. Women (Housewives) have played an active role in improving the economy in the family through agriculture.
REFERENCES


