# Analysis on The Involvement of Women and Children Working in The Informal Sector In Jambi

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this research is to provide information and results of studies in the form of 1). Characteristics and factors that influence the increase in labor in the informal sector, 2). factors that affect the high participation of women and children working in the informal sector, 3). reasons that push women and children to make decisions to work in the informal sector 4). the right strategy is employed to break the chain of children working in the informal sector. The method of collecting qualitative data is through in-depth interviews with selected and relevant informals using open-ended questions. The results of the study show that the number of women working in the informal sector is 64.5 percent, on the contrary, fewer men work in the informal sector, which is 35.5 percent. There are 65.3 percent of enterprises in the informal sector is 60.8 percent of high school, 23.4 percent of high school, and 15.8 percent have not completed primary school and the equivalent of elementary school. For men working in the informal sector as transport workers, 28.5% and 6% for women.

Keywords: Participation of women, children at work in the informal sector

## **1** Introduction

The increase in economic needs causes that meeting the economic need is not only carried out by the family, but the fulfillment of the economy is carried out by involving all family members. The involvement of women in meeting economic needs is supported by the development of civilization that encourages the inclusion of human rights, one of which is gender equality (Hutajulu, 2015). Gender equality does not only occur in urban areas but also occurs in rural areas.

Before the existence of gender equality, women were always identical in working in the domestic sector and were often judged not to be too active to participate in increasing economic activities. The involvement of women in developing the economy, especially in the informal sector, dominates. Based on the results of a survey conducted by the SUSENAS institution, it shows that in 2020 the number of female workers working in the informal sector is 61.35 percent, or 6 out of 10 working women have jobs in the informal sector, (Kurnia, 2020). The high number of workers in the informal sector shows that the government has not been fully able to employ in the informal sector, (Wiladitika, 2016).

The high role of women in the informal sector shows the high contribution of women in developing the economy. Ease in the informal sector makes women highly motivated in spending free time to increase women's involvement in the informal sector, (Rodhiyah, 2013).

The high involvement of women shows that a change from the traditional period of women is only seen as helping the family economy, especially in doing household work, (Arsal, et al. 2016). The assumption that women only work in the kitchen causes women's limitations in work and limits women's functions (Hudayani, 2015).

The high number of workers working in the informal sector is not only done by women, but child labor is one of the workers who dominate the informal sector. The involvement of child workers in the informal sector increases the economic needs of the family. This is certainly very contrary to the labor regulations set by the government. Based on the records of the Ministry of Manpower in 2015 showed that the number of children working in the informal sectors, (Arief, 2015).

Based on the data from the Indonesia Labor Organization (2015) shows that the working hours carried out by underage children in a day's working hours reach 40 hours per day. Employment problems are crucial problems in the workforce. The increase in labor problems has an impact on the economic sector, social conditions, and the natural culture of the community, (Perdana, 2018). Children who should be at play age are required to work, of course, it will interfere with growth and reduce the playing time carried out by children.

Increasing the progress of a country, of course, it needs quality human resources, so that the workforce is the key in supporting development (Junaidi, et al, 2016). The high number of underage workers will reduce the quality of the Indonesian workforce so that the industries that are built are more dominantly labor-intensive. The increase in the workforce, especially those who are still at the age of children, is certainly a problem for the government in increasing the productivity of the products produced.

The factor that causes children's involvement in the world of work is poverty. Economic limitations require children to work to support the family's economic growth (Ikawati, 2015). The impact of having children working is neglected education, disturbed physical and psychological conditions, and causes children to be neglected spiritually and physically (Wahyuni, 2017). This is the basis for the government not to employ underage workers, especially children.

Based on the Central Statistics Agency records, Jambi Province is one of the provinces with the number of workers working in the informal sector in 2019 as many as 955,702 people or 56.49 percent with 703,895 units of business, when compared to 2018 there was an increase in workers in the informal sector of 0.62 percent with 723,831 business units. the decline in informal sector workers in 2019 was 2.75 percent.

In 2020, the number of workers in the informal sector increased by 4.02 percent or with the number of businesses reaching 732,182 units. however, employment decreased by 0.27 percent or 953,637 people. The high involvement of women in the informal sector as well as the high number of child workers, so the purpose of this study is to analyze The Involvement of Women and Children Working in The Informal Sector In Jambi.

## 2 Methodology

#### 2.1 Type of Research

This research is descriptive research with a qualitative approach, meaning in understanding the phenomena experienced by the research subject, such as behavior, perception, motivation, and action. Bogdon and Taylor (Moleong, 2000) explain that qualitative methods are research procedures that utilize data in the form of narratives, detailed stories, expressions, or original language construction results from informants. The researcher tries to explore and explain gender inequality working in the informal sector in the research location. The data in question was obtained from data collection techniques, in the form of in-depth interviews and observations.

## **Research sites**

The research location is the place chosen as the object of research so that the data obtained from the region or region has a certain uniqueness. Or the research location is the object of research where research activities are carried out. Determination of the research location is intended to simplify or clarify the location of the target in the study. The place or area or research area chosen is in Jambi City.

## 2.2 Unit of Analysis and Informants **Unit of Analysis**

Units of analysis are things that are the subject of research or elements that are the focus of research (Bungin, 2007). Likewise, Arikunto said, in 2001, the unit of analysis is the unit that shows the research subject. The unit of analysis or unit being targeted in this research is women and those who work in the informal sector.

#### Informants

Informants are subjects who understand the problems in research or as actors who understand the problems in research (Bungin, 2007). Informants are key informants and supporting informants. The key informants are married women, widows, and unmarried 1 informant each, which is differentiated based on 5 types of work, while boys and girls work in 3 types of informal sector jobs namely transport workers, hawkers and buskers respectively. 1 informant.

The age of unmarried women is 18 years and the age of children under 18 years has never been married. Supporting informants are the heads of the Jambi Province's Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection and Population Control, Jambi City's Community Empowerment, and Child Protection Officer. Initial informants were selected by purposive sampling based on the problem, title, and research focus. There are 30 informants in total.

No	Cluster	Amount	Note				
Source of data: 10 informants, divided into 4 clusters							
a.	Farmworkers	1 informant	Married Woman				
		1 informant	Widow				
		1 informant	Unmarried woman				
b.	Livestock workers	1 informant	Married Woman				
		1 informant	Widow				
		1 informant	Unmarried woman				
с	Day laborer	1 informant	Married Woman				
		1 informant	Widow				
		1 informant	Unmarried woman				
d	Mobile Merchant	1 informant	Married Woman				
		1 informant	Widow				
		1 informant	Unmarried woman				
e	Street vendor	1 informant	Married Woman				
		1 informant	Widow				

		1 informant	Unmarried woman
f	Haberdasher	1 informant	Married Woman
		1 informant	Widow
		1 informant	Unmarried woman
g	Credit Merchant	1 informant	Married Woman
-		1 informant	Widow
		1 informant	Unmarried woman
h	Home business	1 informant	Married Woman
		1 informant	Widow
		1 informant	Unmarried woman
i.	Street Singer (Male	2 informants	
	and Female)	2 informants	
	Transport Workers	2 informants	
	(Male and Female)		
	Peddlers (Men and		
	Women)		

Source : Processed data's

Notes:

1. Unmarried women over 18 years old

2. Children under 18 years old are not married

## 2.3 Data collection technique

The data collection technique used in this research is to use primary data and secondary data.

## **Primary Data Collection Techniques**

Primary data collection techniques are data obtained directly from informants, using: observation and in-depth interviews.

## Observation

Observation is a data collection method used to collect research data through observation and sensing (Bungin, 2007). The direct observation method is carried out by observing the symptoms according to reality. Presenting directly the nature of the relationship between the researcher and the informant, more sensitive and more able to adapt to a lot of sharpening of the subject factors behind the decisions of women and boys and girls to work in the informal sector. The qualitative approach is closer to meaning, reasoning, more emphasis on things related to everyday life.

#### **In-depth Interview**

An in-depth interview or oral questionnaire is a dialogue conducted by researchers to research informants. This dialogue was conducted to find out more in-depth, more complete, and detailed information about research problems from the informants. Interviews were conducted by giving specific questions to informants with an interview guide (Bungin, 2007).

## **Secondary Data Collection Techniques**

Is data obtained from a second source or other parties related to research problems? The secondary data used in this study came from BPS Jambi Province, Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection and Population Control of Jambi Province, Department of

Community Empowerment and Child Protection of Jambi City, and research reports related to research topics that are considered relevant and valid to the problem being studied.

## **Data Interpretation**

In qualitative research, researchers collect data through research instruments, such as observation, interviews, and documentation. The data comes from notes in the field so it needs to be selected to find accurate and correct data by choosing the right method. The type of method chosen and used in data collection must of course be following the nature and characteristics (Arikunto, 2006). The data generated can be in the form of numbers and facts that are used as information material. Thus Moleong (2007) explained that the data obtained were organized, then in analyzing the data, the data were arranged, sorted, grouped, coded, and categorized. Based on the concept, the data and facts that have been obtained in the study are concluded about the involvement of women and children working in the informal sector in Jambi City.

## **3** Result and Discussion

#### **Region Description**

The research was conducted in Jambi City. Objects of research are women workers and child worker. Judging from the demographic position of Jambi City, it is bordered by:

North	: Sekernan District, Muaro Jambi Regency
South	: Mestong District, Muaro Jambi Regency
West	: Jambi District Outside the City Muaro Jambi Regency
East	: Kumpe District, Muaro Jambi Regency

No.	District Name	Area (km2)	Population (soul)	Density/km2	MSME (business)	MSME Women
1.	Alam Barajo	41.67	97,184	2,332	181	148
2.	Kota Baru	36.11	75,384	2,088	191	102
3.	Pal Merah	27.13	89,835	3,311	1,193	537
4.	Telanaipura	22.51	50,482	2,243	488	363
5.	Jambi Timur	15.94	66,709	4,185	439	258
6.	Danau Teluk	15.70	12,083	770	391	310
7.	Pelayangan	15.29	13,585	888	76	41
8.	Jambi Selatan	11.41	61,743	5,411	1,108	681
9.	Jelutung	7.92	63,369	8,001	568	249
10.	Danau Sipin	7.88	48,228	6,120	185	89
11.	Pasar Jambi	4.02	12,532	3,117	479	186
Total		205.38	591,134	2,878	5,399	2,964

**Table 2.** Area of Population Density and Women's MSMEs in Jambi City

Source: District, 2020

The area of Jambi City is 205.38 km2 consisting of 11 districts. Alam Brajo Subdistrict has the largest area in Jambi City with a population density of  $\pm$  41.67 km2 and a population density of 2,332 people/km2. The most population district is Jelutung  $\pm$ 8,001 people/km2. UMKM (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) is a type of business registered at the District level in Jambi City. There are still many MSMEs that have not been registered, let alone business actors or the informal sector at the sub-district level. Likewise, business actors managed by women who are registered at the sub-district level as many as 2,964 businesses and those that are not listed are even more.

## Characteristics of Women and Children Working in the Informal Sector Age

It is one of the important factors to be analyzed, especially concerning the ability of women and children to participate in the informal sector. Based on the results of interviews with women and child workers who work in the informal sector, it shows that the average age range of women and children working in the informal sector is 39 - 52 years as shown in diagram 1.



Fig 1. Age level of women and children working in the informal sector Source: Primary data, processed 2021

On average, women and children work in the informal sector at the age of 39 - 52 years with a percentage of 37 percent, as much as 22 percent in the age range of 13 - 26 years, 18 percent for the age range 6 - 13 years. 15 percent at the age of 52-65 years. And 4 percent each in the age range of 26-39 and 65-78 years. This shows that the participation of women and children working in the informal sector is still very low.

## Education

Education is an important assessment of the quality of human resources. Based on the results of a survey on the participation of women and children working in the informal sector with a total of 27 respondents stating that the average level of education taken is Elementary School, as can be seen in the diagram.



Fig 2. Education of women and children working in the informal sector Source: Primary data, processed 2021

Based on the diagram above, it can be seen that the education of women and children working in the informal sector is dominated by the level of primary school education by 41 percent, senior high school by 37 percent, out of school by 11 percent, and junior high school education by 7 percent, and only 4 percent for undergraduate education level. This shows that the quality of women and child workers working in the informal sector is still very low when viewed based on the level of education.

#### Income

Based on the results of a field survey on the participation of women and children working in the informal sector, it can be seen that the income received by women and children working in the informal sector is shown in diagram 5 below.



Fig 3. Income of women and children working in the informal sector Source: Primary data, processed 2021

Based on diagram 5 regarding the income of women and children working in the informal sector, the majority have incomes between Rp. 100,000 - Rp. 3,000,000per month by 78 percent, and Rp. 3,100,000 - Rp. 5,000,000 and 5,100,000 - 10,000,000 at 7 percent, respectively, and Rp. 10,100,000 - Rp. 30,000,000 at 4 percent. This shows that the income received by women and children working in the informal sector is still very low in Jambi City.

#### Factors Affecting Women and Children Working in the Informal Sector

Today, many women work both at home and outside the home. Many women want to work from home, meanwhile does not abandon her status as a woman. Although there are differences of opinion regarding gender, namely the opinion of the natural stream and the feminist movement. The flow of nature in the extreme assumption that the biological differences between the two. On the other hand, feminism is defined by views and principles to expand the recognition of women's rights. Thus, the nature stream supports gender differences, while the feminist movement seeks to eliminate gender differences by expanding the recognition of women's rights.

When women work, it is inseparable from the stripping of work of both men and women. The patriarchal pattern is quite well established in explaining the social relations of people around the world. Many gender linkages give birth to gender injustices being brought to justice, starting from feminists and men who care about justice.

This study analyzes the involvement of women and children working in the informal sector. In decision making, women and children work because of the influential position of the husband so that shifting his role as husband as head of the family is no longer visible. Behavior that is no longer following its role, then the identity of the discrepancy is applied in several ways, as follows:

- a. The income given is not enough, the reason why the husband does not provide a living is that the job is not permanent.
- b. Family decision making, the role of the husband is not considered because the wife immediately takes action.
- c. Children value their mother more than their father because they cannot be separated from their mother's more activities, from preparing for family needs to earn a living.

The shift in the division of labor between men and women in women's households even in the informal sector has changed the role of women and shifted the role of men. The wife's income is the main income and the husband's income is additional income. Based on the researcher's interviews with informal sector workers: farm laborers, livestock workers, day laborers for traders and home businesses, several informants when determining daily needs: cooked menus, division of household work, buying household furniture and purchasing valuables, and determining The place of children's education shows that decisions are more dominated by women as wives and some informants still ask for their husband's opinion and it is decided by their husbands but some are returned to their wives or women.

Although some families in making decisions always communicate with their husbands, in essence, the husband only provides a living according to what is obtained and does not try to meet the needs of the family. Husbands or men do not want to know if their needs are not sufficient, then the wife tries to make money. Or in other words, the shortcomings in the household are left to the wife or woman. Such conditions show a lack of balance in the family, harmony, and affection far from expectations.

Factors that influence the increase in women working in the informal sector are the minimum wage, education level, and the number of dependents. Factors that influence the high participation of women and child workers in the informal sector are husbands not working, low household income, a large number of dependents, spending free time, making their own money, and seeking experience. The reasons that cause women and children to decide to work in the informal sector are age, education level, working hours, number of dependents.

Feminism is a generalization of various systems of ideas about social life and human experience developed from the perspective of women. Feminism is a movement that demands full rights, because it opposes the sexual division of labor (Gender) which places men in the public sector, work, sports, war, and government, while women are enslaved without pay, at home (domestic sector).

The main point about feminism is to inform and motivate from the experience of women who criticize gender inequality and promote women's rights, interests, and issues. Initially, feminists emerged because of gender differences. For patriarchy, it is the basis and ideology of oppression which is a sexual hierarchical system in which men have superior power and privilege over the economy (Fakhih M, 1996). Ritzer G, 2005 explains that gender differences are not a problem as long as they do not give rise to gender inequality. But the problem is that gender differences have given birth to various gender inequalities. Gender inequality is manifested in various forms of injustice, which creates unequal discrimination, with the position of women being disadvantaged. Gender inequality is manifested in the form, among others (Fakhih M., 1996):

- a. Subordination or the assumption that women are irrational or emotional, so women cannot appear to lead which results in placing women in unimportant positions.
- b. Stereotypes or labeling or marking the beginning of harmful assumptions, for example, women dress up intending to be attractive to others and happy to be praised by the opposite sex as well as causing lust for men and sexual harassment occurs.
- c. Violence against a woman physically or mentally, such as beatings and rape.
- d. The double workload for women who have to do domestic work (household work) and work to earn income.
- e. Marginalization or the process of impoverishing women or placing women on the margins. The cultural concept ensures that women's activities are in the domestic sphere, while men are the breadwinners and function as the head of the household. This concept is socialized that women when working to earn money are considered casual workers (Ihroni, 2000). Workers in the informal sector earn their main living in the household. The division of roles in the household based on gender and economic allocation leads to a greater role for women in household work, while men in more productive jobs or earning a living (Budiman A, 1985).

The paradigm is unable to see the contribution of women's roles in the household economy, even though the contribution shown is low. In the construction of community thought (men) in the division of labor roles, men are greater than women. Even though there has been a change that the role of men has been replaced by women in fulfilling their responsibilities. The next consequence is often due to negligence in carrying out duties as a housewife due to being busy working to earn a living for the family. Although such negligence is considered as a deviation based on household work for a woman/mother, it is seen as a natural duty of a woman that should not be abandoned.

## 4 Conclusion

Women as the support of the family economy are increasingly felt and their existence is difficult to deny. The involvement of women working in the informal sector is a strong and independent statement that is seen in their activities when reproducing at home. In carrying out their duties, of course, they have limited physical mobility, because they have multiple tasks to do. On the one hand, working adds to the family's income, while on the other hand, you have to think about doing the abandoned domestic tasks. As a result, there is a shift in the division of labor in the household, as well as women's income being the main income, while the income of men (husbands) is additional income. Likewise, in decision making, women dominate for all decisions, in matters of household,

The results of the study show that the number of women working in the informal sector is 64.5 percent, on the contrary, fewer men work in the informal sector, which is 35.5 percent. There are 65.3 percent of enterprises in the informal sector and the other 34.7 percent are formal enterprises. The education of women working in the informal sector is 60.8 percent of high school, 23.4 percent of high school, and 15.8 percent have not completed primary school and the equivalent of elementary school. For men working in the informal sector as transport workers, 28.5% and 6% for women. 35% of men work in the informal sector at a crossroads, as opposed to 30.5% of women.

Factors influencing the increase in the number of women working in the informal sector are minimum wage, educational attainment, and the number of dependents. Factors that influence the high participation of women and child workers in the informal sector are husbands not working, low household income, a large number of dependents, spending free time, making their own money, and seeking experience. The reasons why women and children decide to work in the informal sector are age, educational attainment, working hours, number of dependents.

Women who work in the informal sector are considered marginalized in development so that women are considered vulnerable to poverty because they think that women's/wives ' income is additional income for their husband's income. Even though the wife's/women's income is the main income in the household economy, even women/wives are the backbone of the family. Given the complexity of technological developments, women and children must be protected through policies to accommodate gender equality and women can avoid gender injustice by taking into account the contribution of women in development through the dual role of women in the household economy.

#### Suggestion

It is hoped that the government will issue a policy to protect women and children through the law on the protection of women and children to accommodate gender equality so that women can avoid gender injustice. It is hoped that the government's policy on issuing premarital certificates is really carried out and education is carried out first to make women and men aware that they have sufficient knowledge about the Procedures for Living in Households. So that women who have multiple roles do not neglect their main role as housewives. Pay attention to the things that a wife should apply to her husband when the wife's income is higher than the husband's.

Likewise, the husband is also expected to be willing to help when the wife does not have time to do domestic tasks, to avoid problems that can solve the integrity of the household. The right strategy used to break the chain of children working in the informal sector is the informal sector development policy that requires direct or indirect intervention from the government. However, given the limited capacity of the government in terms of funding, the government must emphasize indirect intervention.

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