

# Tello Island Women's Participation in the Activities of Fishery Product Management

Nurbani <sup>1\*</sup>, Arlina<sup>2</sup>, Abdi Sitepu<sup>3</sup>  
\*sunbanymonora@gmail.com

University of Sumatera Utara, Medan

**Abstract.** Pulau-Pulau Batu, South Nias regency has big potential of natural resources. Sustainability attention to the social communities who manage natural resources manner is also required. Fishermen who able to manage and exploit natural resources somehow still struggling in poverty. Fisherwomen plays an important role in domestic economic activities of fishermen. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the correlation pattern of women's participation in fisherman's household economic based on the factors that affect them, specifically in Pulau-Pulau Batu, South Nias. This study is a descriptive research, using qualitative analysis. The results showed that the level of education is relatively low so it affects the mindset, especially in decision-making management of the family economy. The activities of fishermen's wives in the field of fisheries take forms in selling fish from their husband, processing anchovies and salted fish, processed snacks made from fish then sell it in the market. While the role of coastal activities outside the fisheries sector that is opening food stalls, becoming a gardening, and selling cakes.

**Keywords:** Economic, Women, Fishermen.

## 1 Introduction

Pulau-Pulau Batu is a cluster of islands in the South Nias. South Nias Regency (Nisel) itself is the result of expansion of Nias regency. Nisel located in the southern part of Nias island consists of 104 large and small islands. The layout of the island is elongated parallel to the island of Sumatra. The entire group of islands is divided into 8 sub-districts and has four major islands namely Pulau Bala, Tanah Masa, Tello and Pini. One mainstay of this new district in the regional income (PAD) is a large portion of the maritime sector to the present marine utilization of natural resources such as fisheries.

The entire beach in South Nias to produce 277 300 tons of various kinds of fish each year. The fish catches are divided into three types, type Pelagic fish, such as tuna, snapper, Gambolo, Teter, dencis and greetings contained in the District of Pulau-Pulau Batu, District Hibala, District and Sub-District Lahusa Teluk Dalam. The average fish production reached 226 100 tonnes per year.

The beach also produce another fish species such as lobster rock lobster, lobster bamboo, pearl shrimp and sand shrimp are in the District of Pulau-Pulau Batu, District Hibala, District and Sub-District Lahusa Teluk Dalam. This type of fish can be produced on average 850 tons per year. While such Demersal Fish Species, reef fish, cakalalang, groupers are in the District of Rock Islands and the District Hibala that can be produced on average 50 350 tonnes per year[1].

But the numbers are still not proportional to the welfare of people in Pulau-Pulau Batu as a center for fish producer. The fishing communities have different characteristics from other communities. Fisheries resources have a nature difficult to predict as well as being targeted for arrest operation is dynamic.

Uncertainty makes poverty became a "trade mark" for fishermen in some ways can be justified by several facts such as conditions of slum settlement, low income level and low education, vulnerability against changes in social, political, and economic hit, and their powerlessness against intervention financiers, and rulers[2].

Fishing activities are generally dominated by men. The traditional role of fishermen are considered more worthy cause to dominate the fisheries sector, while women stay at home as family caregivers. With berkembang technological development and economic demands, women in fisherman family has been involved in the processing and sale of the catch. Another aspect which is also done by women is their contribution to the household economy fishery[3].

Women is a very important component in coastal development as very strategic role of women in fisheries and marine-based activities[4]. For example, women are acting as retailers, fish collectors, wholesalers, wage labor, and the processing power of the fishery. Various aspects of the study or coastal development programs relating to women are not touched.

Education will affect the absorption ability of new information in developing a variety of processed fish. The cause of the low level of formal education for women processor of fishery products is due to the economic conditions are weak, cost limitations in their neighborhood, as well as patterns of thinking or views about the importance of education.

Studies of women's participation in improving the welfare of fishermen families become important study, this is because the number of women involved in economic activity may be an indicator of the progress of a nation[5]. The growing role of women's participation in economic activities assumed the position of women in society is increasing as well. This is also true among women fishers. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the factors affecting women's participation fisherman (wife) in the household economy and determine the pattern of relationship participation of women in the household economy fishermen based on the factors that influence.

## **2 Methods**

The study of women's participation in improving the welfare of fishermen families have used qualitative research methods. Preliminary observations made in an effort to obtain a picture of the situation and conditions of women's participation in Pulau-Pulau Batu, South Nias. Research on women's participation in improving the welfare of fishermen families using data collection techniques such as depth interviews and participatory observation. In-depth interviews (depth interview) made to key-women in Plau-Rock Island, South Nias, then the village chief, community leaders or customary, the District government Batu Islands, South Nias, and the tourism business. Interviews were conducted for as much information in the form of data on the role of women, women's daily activities, then also carried Limited Group Discussions (FGD) as part of the triangulation of data results from interviews spread over different islands in Pulau-Pulau Batu, South Nias. The third activity above analysis is something that is mutually intertwine at the time before, during, and after the collection of data in parallel.

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Characteristics of Women Batu Islands

The composition of the community in Pulau-Pulau Batu, particularly on the island of Nias Tello consists of Minang ethnicity, Bugis ethnicity, and a mixture of other ethnic immigrants. In contrast to the island of Nias, people on the Tello island that has been mixed and much more open to another ethnic, but the people of another district in Pulau-Pulau Batu is composed of ethnic Nias alone, and there is another ethnic.

Based on a previous research report entitled Local Genius and Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming in South Nias District[6], Nias women are often marginalized and continue to be in the domestic realm with a high workload. Nias women still receive violence from those closest to them. This violence often comes from parents, brothers and husbands. However, in some cases Nias women have a very central role. For example during a silver party. They are the mamidi afo (betel) and mamotu ono nihaló (advising the bride). And they were also the first to welcome when the guests of the group of the bridegroom came. In this case, the position of women in Nias is not always looked down upon.

The position of women in Nias is always in a gray area, on the one hand they have a very high position in culture that plays an active role in marriage ceremonies and on the other hand they are not considered if they have concerns about customs and cultural norms. In everyday life, Nias women are often found to be unfairly neglected. Even in some cases they are only slaves to their husbands and children. Although this is not publicly disclosed, it happens in real terms.

Treating women as the second sex is not fair. However, the perspective of Nias culture opens up opportunities towards this injustice. In customary marriage, women are indirectly bought by the men. By paying a large "bowo" (*jujuran*), the woman becomes his. This means that women are her husband's property. The man has full power to his wife. Parents cannot interfere anymore.

The higher position of men in Nias culture seems inseparable from the myths of the origins of Nias people. Where is Sirao, dropping his children into the world, and they are all men. The question is, where do women come from? This is still unanswered. But we can see, the place where King Sirao lives is called Tetehlili ana, symbolizing the mother's content, the presence of the fetus in her mother's womb. This means that women also have a central position in this myth. Although in reality it is not highlighted anymore. Finally it can be said that women are the womb for life. If boys are life, women are where life lives. Both need each other and complement each other. Life cannot exist and can take place without a place that makes him live. Men cannot live without women. Both have a central position even though in function, they are different.

Nevertheless, Pulau-Pulau Batu which are also dominated by Nias tribes and are automatically influenced by Nias culture, have also experienced a mixture of cultures from other immigrant tribes such as Minangkabau and others. The sociological conditions on Tello Island as a central area in the islands are also more open and heterogeneous compared to the islands around it and Nias Island as a whole.

Families in Pulau-Pulau Batu is usually a large family, with many children. The influence of culture in the participation of women in Pulau-Pulau Batu quite thick. Most of the activities of fishermen and the sea on the island of Pulau Batu still performed by men. Women who participate in managing marine products usually only to help her husband. Women in Pulau-Pulau Batu also tend to be married and dropped out of school at a very young age, so it does not have any other skills while the greater family burden over time as the number of family members

as a result of births. Women who participate in processing of fishery products in Pulau-Pulau Batu implement traditional processing businesses. In general, the pattern of their lives still below the poverty line. This is due to the characteristics inherent in them, such as a subsistence condition with limited financial and technological resources, and the ability or skill and behavior that still traditional, both in terms of skills, psychology and mentality.

Results of interviews with local authorities show, most of the fisherman's wives stay at home housewives. If they are doing work outside the household chores, work mostly done by the fisherman's wife is to process the fish into processed/salted fish that has a sale value higher than the usual fresh fish. There are some wives of fishermen who work in the garden or selling in the market. Some of the the fishermen's wives also waiting for the arrival of their husband in the morning, and help in the cleaning and sorting of sizes and types of fishes before being taken to the fish market.

Most of the fishermen and fisherwomen only hold elementary school education level. Lack of education is due to the lack of awareness of the importance of education in fisherman's families and the financial factor. Nias culture with *jujuran tradion* in the process of marriage makes women still seem as thing to be sold to the family of the groom.

### **3.2 Fishermen Women's Participation**

Heterogeneous and openness of the people in Pulau Tello which is central to the cluster of Pulau-Pulau Batu also influences the role and function of women not only sociologically but also economically. Women in Batu Islands are culturally still influenced by Nias customs, but in an economic role, women tend to be in gray areas. On the one hand women are very instrumental in the economy and family decision making but can also have no role and only help their husbands.

As a fishermen community, the people in Pulau-Pulau Batu are still a community that is synonymous with poverty and other social problems, especially in the socio-economic field, where the dependence of fishing communities on marine resources, weather conditions and nature so that their income also depends natural conditions. The difficult socioeconomic life experienced by fishermen encourages the role of women to become fishermen or marine product managers to help sustain the economic life of their families. With women becoming fishermen or marine product managers, their family's economic income will increase so that their lives will improve.

The role and function of women in sustaining economic activities can be seen from the activities of women who work as fishermen by producing and distributing catches in the form of fish as an effort to strengthen the socio-economic life of weak coastal communities. Women working as fishermen or marine product managers are usually due to relatively few husband's sources of income in the family, so they cannot afford to meet their daily needs.

Fisherman is a person who actively conduct fishing activities, either directly (such as the diffuser and towing nets), or indirectly (such as the helmsman of sailboat, captain of a fishing boat motor, ship's engineer, cook fishing vessels) as a livelihood[7]. The core notion of this limitation, stating that the fisherman is a person who is the main job of catching fish. Fisherwoman is a term for women who live in a family environment as a fisherman's wife. Women in fisherman families generally engage in activities to earn a living for his family. Work is an economic activity carried out by someone with the intent to obtain or help earn income or profit of at least 1 (one) hour are not interrupted during the past week[7].

The business of processed fish is done mostly by women than other businesses. This is supported by the availability of raw materials fish that facilitates the production process. It is

seen that women with this type of fishing effort, mostly obtain raw materials from their fisherman husband. Types of processed fish carried out by women in Pulau-Pulau Batu until today in the form of salted fish processing, anchovy processing, sea cucumbers, and producing traditional snack named pale-pale, a type of anchovy cooked with seasoning and vegetable.

Women engaged into fishing (specifically, catching fish activity) existed in Pulau Mahang. Women in Pulau Mahang catch Kimo, a kind of large sea scallops in the waters of the island Mahang Area. Women who participated as a catcher kimo, according to local residents has been doing this activity during the past ten years. Usually the fisherwoman working from the early morning until late afternoon. Fisherwoman also participate in the fogging kimo to make it more durable.

In addition to these fishery activity, women in Pulau-Pulau Batu also work in another activity. The work that many women cultivated in Batu Islands are gardening and farming. Then sell processed snacks.

As described Hutapea, coastal women's income contribution to total household income (RTP) can be seen from the coast of business women in domestic economic activity. Wife role to total family income decreases with the improving financial condition of the household. The role of women in the household related to work performed in a family of fishermen. Role in making a living can be seen from the outpouring of hours of work to generate income, thus, the condition of women's contribution can not be ignored[8].

In addition, the description above also identifies the existence of the production text. The production matrix is defined as the style (model) of the production of female character, can be traced from the outpouring of time, the return value (wages) of production, and the self-capability of the type of work. The production is based on the outpouring of production time, it is divided into working independently, full time, and working on a side-time basis and earning income or not being paid and working on wages. The concept of production is framed from the equivalent word matriarchy, matrilineal and production which is used to explain the involvement of women in the production and social structures so that the integrity of society is maintained by its dynamics. In addition, the concept of production is used to reposition women in a social order with respect to their achievements and the value of their socio-economic work. The production model is also used as a pattern of balancing roles and positions between genders in the economic structure. At the practical level, the production method can be identified by a variety of female-labeled patterns of production to strengthen the role and bargaining position in the structure of fishing communities[9].

## **4 Conclusion**

In general, in Pulau Batu, South Nias women do housework and some also participate in the economy to help their husbands as additional breadwinners. The lives of fishing communities who are generally below the poverty line make women also participate in meeting the economic needs of the family. The involvement of women in the economic sector does not cover the dual role of women. In its classification women in Batu Islands carry out various forms of work such as managing fish into salted fish, fish food, to finding fish (kimo shellfish) in the sea as fishermen and entrepreneurs who move from upstream to downstream of the fishery process.

As for the factors that cause women to work both as fishermen and marine product managers, among others, due to economic needs, insufficient husband's income, women as

single parents, and the existence of self-awareness of women advancing and actualizing themselves. In Tello Island, women who work as marine product managers and fishermen continue to act as housewives with domestic work which is still their responsibility. In Tanamasa Island, women who manage marine products also still carry out household chores, but there is no clear division of work between women and men. In the Mahang Island area there is also no division of domestic and public duties that is evident between men and women, because women who seek kimo shells also spend their time one day in the ocean just like men.

The participation of women in Pulau-Pulau Batu, South Nias in the management of marine products is still small. This is due to lack of awareness about the role of women in the management of marine products. The perception that fishing activity is a job for men also affect the level of women's participation in the management of these marine products. Women participating manage marine products usually do it to help her husband's work. However, women in Pulau-Pulau Batu usually do gardening and farming. In addition, women also participated in the trading activity in the market. Lower education levels also affect people's creativity for the development of fishery products. Society as a whole is still in need of guidance and empowerment to improve the welfare of their families.

## References

- [1] N. Online, "Nisel Miliki 4 Potensi Unggulan di Bidang Perikanan dan Kelautan," 2017. .
- [2] R. Ivan, "Strategi Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Pesisir dan Laut," *J. Ilmu Kesejaht. Sos.*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 61–118, 2004.
- [3] S. Harper, Z. D., H. M., P. D., and S. U.R, "Women and Fisheries: Contribution of Food Security and Locall Economis," *J. Mapol*, vol. 39, pp. 56–63, 2013.
- [4] Sanatang, "Peranan Perempuan Dalam Ekonomi Rumah Tangga. Studi Kasus Istri Nelayan di Kelurahan Sumpang Minangar Kota Parepare," Universitas Hasanuddin, 2006.
- [5] I. Abdullah, *Reproduksi Ketimpangan Gender: Peranan Perempuan dalam Kegiatan Ekonomidalam Seks dan Reproduksi Kekuasaan*. Yogyakarta: Tarawang Press, 2001.
- [6] Central Bureau of Statistic, "Central Bureau of Statistics. Indonesian Fishery Statistics 2018." Jakarta, 2018.
- [7] Central Bureau of Statistic, "Concept of Education and Household," 2018.
- [8] Kusnadi, *Perempuan Pesisir*. Yogyakarta: LKIS, 2014.
- [9] Kusnadi, *Akar Kemiskinan Nelayan*. Yogyakarta: LKIS, 2003.