



## The Role of Fishermen Wives in Improving Family Economy in Karang Sari, Tuban Sub-District, Tuban Regency

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### Abstract

Small number of fisherman's catch in certain seasons due to bad weather and the life of fishermen that is generally poor, resulting in the fishermen's wife to work in order to help her husband to make ends meet. The purpose of this study is to determine: the economic condition of fishermen's families in terms of the characteristics of fishermen's wives, the multiple roles of fishermen's wives, and the impacts arising from the multiple role in improving the family's economy, as well as the contribution of fishermen's wives in the family economy in Karang Sari, Tuban sub-district. This research uses survey methods. Respondents were taken by purposive sampling. Data analysis is performed descriptively qualitatively. While the data collection contains the identification of fishermen's wife respondents who have a multiple roles to help the fishermen's family economy, meanwhile the questionnaire contains the characteristics of fishermen's wives, the activities of fishermen's wives, the impact of the fishermen's wife's multiple roles, and the contribution of fishermen's wife's income. The results of this research is that the multiple role of fishermen's wives in the domestic realm as housewives who take care of household activities such as cooking, washing, cleaning the house, taking care of their husbands and children, they also take the time to help their husbands (public domain) work as fresh fish sellers, manage and sell smoked fish, manage and sell salted fish, and open a food stall or grocery store. While the positive impact of the wife's multiple roles is the increasing family income, increasing the economic and social status of the family and making ends meet, while the negative impact is the reduced time to gather with the family, changes in the capacity of homework, and quarreling husband and wife which are no more than 1 or 2 days. While the income earned by the fishermen's wife contributes quite significantly in helping to overcome the expenditure of daily needs of the fishermen's household.

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## INTRODUCTION

More than 2/3 or almost 5.8 million km<sup>2</sup> (580 million ha) of total area in Indonesia consist of sea, Indonesia has a very large and diverse marine and fisheries potential both renewable and non-renewable, in the form of regional potential, natural resources, and marine services. The island of Java in Indonesia is very well known for its marine products, especially East Java Province which has almost twice coastal area than the land area (+ 47220 square km) or reaches + 75700 square km when calculated with 12 miles of provincial border, while the East Java Province has an active and potential coastline of + 2128 km. East Java Province is not only broad in terms of area, but also rich in natural resources which will certainly be the supporting factors for its regional development. In the coastal areas of East Java, which are mostly located on the north and east coast, various physical and environmental conditions can be found such as mangrove forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs, white sandy beaches, and sloping and steep beaches.

According to data from the Ministry of Maritime and Fisheries Affairs (2011), the amount of fish production in Indonesia in 2010 was 11,662,342 tons, of which capture fishery production was 5,384,418 tons and aquaculture production was 6,277,924 tons. Of this amount, 5,039,446 tons were produced as processed fishery products. Central Java is one of the provinces in Indonesia which has abundant marine wealth which is spread in several regions. According to the Statistics of Processing and Marketing of Fisheries Products (P2HP) of Central Java Province in 2011 The potential of marine capture fisheries spread in Central Java waters around 1,873,530 tons / year, the Java Sea around 796,640 tons/year and the Indonesian Ocean around 1,076,890 tons/year.

According to data from the annual report of the Tuban District Fisheries and Maritime Service in 2014, stated that the volume of production of processed fishery products by regency/city in East Java province Tuban District had a processing production volume of 10,354.11 tons. For the year 2013-2014 increased by 5.72%. The results of processed fisheries production in Tuban can be seen in table 1.

**Tabel 1.** Data Produksi Perikanan Olahan Kabupaten Tuban tahun 2013-2014

Processing types	Production (Ton)		Rising (%)
	2013	2014	
Dried	5.754.03	6.179.83	7.40
Boiled	294.24	309.25	5.10
Smoked	594.31	612.14	3.00
Frozen	2.927.04	2.997.82	2.42
Fermented	96.23	107.78	12.00
Cold Storage	120.11	126.12	5.00
TPI Production	0.00	5.41	100.00
Others	7.60	15.76	107.37
Total (Kg)	9.793.56	10.354.11	5.72

Source : report from the Dinas Perikanan dan Kelautan Kab. Tuban 2014 pg. 54

The phenomenon of women's empowerment turns out to play an important role in family survival, both with respect to the moral development of children, as well as meeting the economic needs of the family. The pattern of rural labor utilization in its context with the division of labor in the household includes both jobs that directly generate money or the like or household activities (Raodah, 2013). The role of housewives is not only seen by how much contribution that has been made in supporting socio-economic life, but the extensive role of housewives can be seen from the contribution made to the environment or place of residence.

The role of women in family life, especially for families who still live in conditions of poverty, as we often encounter in fishing communities whose livelihoods are uncertain concerning the particular time which disallow fishermen to fish due to weather conditions. In such conditions the wife's role is needed to help the family economy by doing work outside home (public).

On the other hand, in economical sense the traditional fishermen's wife has responsibility for the household economy. In simple terms, household economy can be influenced by two factors namely (a) sources of earnings and (b) management of the household economy or the control of household income and outcome. The source of earnings of traditional fisherman households mainly comes from the results of fishing activities at sea by the husband. The size of the fishermen's result depends on: (a) the amount of fish that can be caught and (b) the price of fish. Fish catches are influenced by many factors,

including the number of caught fish and frequency of fishermen setting to sea, changing seasons and the types of technology used.

Household needs are compulsory and even increasing over time. Households need funds to make ends meet and provide for all family members every day. The problem arises on how the role of traditional fishermen's wives in managing the household economy, both in the situation and condition of the husband having earnings from fishing and when fishermen cannot set to sea so that the husband does not have any earnings at all. The key lies in the ability of traditional fishermen's wives to manage the household economy, including obtaining other earnings that comes from their own efforts through productive activities or jobs that make money and or through owned household assets.

(Based on the background regarding the role of traditional fishermen's wives who live around the Karangsari, it can be concluded as follows: (a) the fishermen's wives around the Karangsari TPI location, the majority are engaged in the business of processing fish into grilled fish commonly called *manggang iwak*, and a few others are processing fish into salted fish that is commonly called *ngereh* (b) other than that, the wife of the fisherman also sells the caught fish directly without being processed first which is commonly called *iwak anyaran*, others are selling fish in traditional markets, selling fish around the neighboring village and a few others are opening a stall, services and daily necessities.

The characteristics of fishing communities are formed from following the dynamic nature of the resources they are working on, so to get the maximum catch, fishermen must move around. In addition, high business risks causes fishing communities to live in a harsh natural environment which is always filled with uncertainty in running their business. The characteristics of coastal communities are different from those of agricultural or farming communities. In terms of earnings, farmers have an earnings that can be controlled because of the controlled harvest patterns so that the food or livestock they have can be set to achieve the earnings they desire. Unlike the case of coastal communities whose livelihoods are mostly fishermen. Fishermen wrestle with the sea to get

result, thus the earnings they get cannot be controlled. Fishermen deal with open access and high risk resources.

Coastal communities are identical to fishermen that are part of a marginalized community that continues to wrestle with various issues of life, both economic, social, educational, health, and cultural. Their living conditions are always in feeble state, especially in economic terms. With earnings that always depends on natural conditions. These natural conditions make it difficult for them to change their lives for the better. In addition, the complex problems faced by coastal communities are poverty, limited knowledge and the developing world of education and technology. This alarming condition cause coastal communities less developed in ability and skills (Arifin, 2006).

Coastal communities that are dominated by fisheries that in general are still on the poverty line, they have no choice of livelihood, have a low level of education, illiterate and unaware of the preservation of natural resources and the environment (Lewaherilla in Arifin, 2006). They become the main actors in the development of marine and fisheries, as well as a culture maker in the coastal communities (Afriza, 2013).

Heterogeneous communities are those who live in villages that are easily accessible by land transportation, while homogeneous communities found in remote fishing villages usually use simple fishing gear, thus their productivity is small. On the other hand, the difficulty of transporting produce to the market will also be the cause of the low price of seafood in their area (Sastrawidjaya, 2002).

In the common life of coastal women or fishermen's wives, it is very possible that they always usually experience work that more than they can handle. Where they have to work extra both in the domestic and public scope in order to help take care of and provide for the various needs of his family. So it is inevitable for those who come from families with a lower middle economic level must participate to help the family's economic earnings. However, problems will arise later if there are unfairness in division of labor and tolerance in the family, thus women in the family will possibly experience gender injustice (Kusnadi, 2006).

According to Rahardja and Manurung (2005), revenue is the total earnings in the form of money or not money by a person or household for a certain period. In the form of not money received by someone for example in the form of goods, rice allowances, and so on. The received earnings comes from the sale of goods and services produced in business activities, while according to Wijayanto (1999), household revenue is earned earnings.

Family revenue is usually the obligation of the husband as a breadwinner. A fisherman who is mostly a man should be able to make ends meet of his family. However, the situation of fishermen who are still in a poor condition requires fishing family members to participate in making ends meet of their families. Especially the wife, who dedicates her time in double profession, which is as a housewife and as a career woman. In Karangasari, Tuban Sub-district, there are still many fishermen's wives, when their husbands set out to sea, they try to get additional earnings both from the fisheries sector and outside the fisheries sector.

## METHODS

This research is descriptive qualitative. According to Sugiyono (2010), a qualitative descriptive method is a method used to describe or analyze a research result but is not used to make broader conclusions. The type of data collected in this study is primary data. Primary data is obtained from the questionnaire survey which include respondent's identity, age, education level, number of family, time spent working, and earnings data of fishermen's wives and fishermen's husbands.

Data collection techniques is carried out using three techniques, namely 1) Questionnaire Technique (Questionnaire). According Arikunto (2010), he suggested that the questionnaire are a number of questions in writing which is used to obtain information from respondents about the known personal report. 2) Interview. In this interview the researcher take role as the interviewer, while the interviewees are the fisherman's wife, fishermen and community leaders. 3) Documentation. Documentation technique is the techniques used to find data on

the necessary things in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, meetings note, *lengger*, agendas and so forth (Suharsimi, 2010). The data obtained in this study are in the form of annual fisheries and marine service report books, archives from local administration office in Karangasari, Tuban sub-district, Tuban regency.

In order to analyze the data, the researcher uses sample method, according to Sugiyono (2010) sample is a part of the total number of characteristics which belong in research object, the sample is as many as 49 fishermen wives out of 196 total multiple role wives in Karangasari. The total respondents were taken at 25% of the total population in accordance with the opinion of Arikunto (2006) "if the researcher has a population of less than 100 it is better to take all of it so that the research became population study, however if the researcher has a population of more than 100, then the researcher can take between 10 % -15% or 20% -55% of the total population ". A total of 49 respondents from fishermen's wives who played a multiple role were selected using purposive sampling technique in accordance to the initial purpose.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Characteristics

Characteristics of the respondents observed in this study consist of age, level of formal education, and the number of family. Age can affect one's activities, both at work and ways of thinking on how to make a living. At first, the older a person gets, the longer their work time. However, as they get older, their work time affects their physical strength which decreases as well, due to aging.

As many as 21 respondents (42.86%) in Karangasari, Tuban Sub-District received education up to elementary school (SD), as many as 18 respondents (36.73%) took junior high school education (SMP), and 10 respondents (20.41%) were high school educated (SMA). Based on research in the Karangasari, it can be concluded that the education level of the respondents' (fishermen's wife) is more dominant at the elementary level. Consequently it can be

said that the respondent's (fishermen's wife) has a low education level.

On the percentage of 38.77%, As many as 19 fishermen's wives deals with the business of selling fish directly and selling smoked fish in TPI or traditional markets, and traveling in villages near Karangasari, as many as 5 people with a percentage of 10.2% prefer to make and sell salted fish, and as many as 6 people with a percentage of 12.26 prefer to open a stall/shop for daily necessities in their residence. From the above data it can be explained that most of the fishermen's wives used their husband's catches to be processed as smoked fish, salted fish, and are sold directly to TPI located in Karangasari, with the wives involvement in processing sea produce enables the family earnings to increase.

From the results of the research it can be concluded that the characteristics of the respondents (fishermen's wives) of 49 respondents (people), which in this study covers 1) Age of fishermen's wives in this study as many as 44 people or 89.8% are in productive ages (19- 44 years) to work and the remaining 5 people or 10.2% are over 55 years. 2) The education level of the respondents who were the subjects of the study, it is discovered that a number of 21 respondents (people) or 42.86% are elementary/MI educated, a number of 18 respondents (people) or 63.73% are junior high school/MTs educated. Furthermore, the remaining 10 respondents (people) or 20.41% are high school educated, observing from the level of education, the respondents did not have a higher education and all of them received education even though there are respondents that are only through elementary school. 3) the large number of family which is the number of fishing family members that they have to support is what makes the husband and wife work extraordinarily, out of the 49 studied respondents, a total of 20 respondents (people) or as much as 40.83% bear the total number of 4 people (inhabitants) family members, 17 respondents (people) or 34.69% bear the number of family members as many as 5 people (inhabitants), while the remaining 12 respondents (people) or 24.48% bear the number of family members as much as 2, 6, and 7 people (inhabitants). The more the number of family members (inhabitants) in a household, the higher

the needs that must be fulfilled. 4) on the other hand, the types of businesses that are carried out by fishermen's wives consist of fresh fish traders as much as 19 respondents (people) or 38.77% sell fresh fish which is fish caught by fishermen where they sell it in TPI fish plaza, travel around the villages, and sell it to traditional markets. A total of 19 respondents (people) or 38.77% processed caught fish into smoked fish (iwak panggang) and sell it along the RE, Martadinata roads or along the pantura road around Karangasari and at the TPI fish plaza, some went around to the villages and sell it to traditional markets. while a number of 5 respondents (people) or 10.2% processed caught fish into salted fish, if their husband's catch did not sold out then the wife will process the fish into salted fish so that the fish can be resold, and if the husband does not set out to sea, the fisherman's wife will buy fresh fish at TPI Plaza Tuban then processed it into salted fish. Lastly, a number of 6 respondents (people) or 12.26% helped increasing the fishermen family earnings by opening food stalls/snacks and groceries. Other fishermen's wives open food stall and there are also those who open grocery stores, they open the business in order to meet the basic needs of the surrounding community in Karangasari, Tuban sub-district. This is in accordance with research from Muhammad Kharisun (2014) which states that the characteristics in the study consist of age, level of education, business carried out by fishermen's wives, spent work time, number of the family members, which in this study states that spent work time and type work has a positive and significant effect.

### **The Role of Fisherman's Wife**

The role of the fisherman's wife in terms of washing clothes, by the category of 3 times washing per week is dominated by 47 people or 95.92% followed by 2 times washing per week as many as 2 people or 4.08%. These results are consistent with the initial description of researchers that the wife of a fisherman does the job of washing clothes on average 3 times in 1 week, while the water source in Karangasari used PDAMs and wells, the category of fishermen's wives took water before washing, as many as 39 people or 79.59% had never took water before washing, this is due to the community had used

PDAM water, and the remaining 10 people or 20.41% sometimes took water before washing clothes. In addition, respondents wash clothes whether only their clothes or all family members. As many as 43 people or 87.76% of fishermen's wives wash the clothes of all family members, and the remaining 6 people or 12.24% of fishermen wives wash only their husbands and children's clothes. The results of this study indicate that the respondents generally wash clothes 3 times a week and they don't take water, because the Karangasari community already uses PDAM water, while the clothes to be washed are the clothes of all family members.

There are 39 people or 79.59% who have a role in terms of cleaning and tidying the house 2 times a day, while the remaining 10 people or 20.41% cleaning the house and tidying the house 3 times a day, usually done in the morning day, afternoon and evening. The act of cleaning the house in terms of mopping the house, the fisherman's wife does it once a day, as many as 49 people or 100% do the mopping of the house only once a day. Meanwhile, whether the husband ever helped to clean and tidy up the house, as many as 33 people or 67.35% answered never, as many as 9 people or 18.37%, the husband sometimes helped clean and tidy up the house, and the rest as many as 7 people or 14, 28% of husbands help clean and tidy up the house.

The role of the fisherman's wife in terms of taking care of children, to prepare school uniforms, 24 people or 48.98% answered yes, 9 people or 18.37% answered sometimes, and the remaining 16 people or 32.65% answered no. Whereas in the case of taking and picking up child from school, 28 people or 57.14% answered no, 12 people or 24.49% answered sometimes, and the remaining 9 people or 18.37% answered yes in terms of taking and picking up child from school. While the frequency of taking and picking up child from school, as many as 17 people or 34.69% answered less than 4 times, as many as 4 people or 8.16% do take and pick up every day from school, and the remaining 28 people or 57.14% did not take and pick up from school this was due to the distance between the school and the house is close so the child could do it himself.

The role of the fisherman's wife in terms of assisting the husband in taking him to work is as

many as 44 people or 89.8% answered never took the husband to go to work, and the remaining 5 people or 26.53% answered sometimes took the husband to go to work, usually they only take him just by the sea. Whereas in terms of whether the wife ever helped their husbands preparing, as many as 39 people or 79.59% gave answers yes, and as many as 10 people or 20.41% gave answers sometimes in helping husbands preparing, such as preparing tools for fishing, tackle, bait, prepare provisions, and sell or market the catches of the husband from fishing. Whereas in terms of giving advice to husbands, as many as 27 people or 55.1% of fishermen wives gave answers yes to giving suggestions to their husbands, while the remaining 22 people or 44.9% gave answers sometimes giving advice to her husband in terms of the work performed by husband.

The social role of the respondent (fishermen's wife) in the case of social gathering groups (*arisan*) in Karangasari, Tuban Subdistrict with the number of times participating in social gathering, in one month following social gathering as many as 27 people or 55.10% participate 1 time, as many as 15 people or 30.61% participate 2 times, and the rest which is 7 people or 14.29% participated in 3 social gathering in 1 month. Whereas the goal of fishermen's wives in participating in the social gathering is that if they get a turn to get the lot (win), then as many as 35 people or 71.43% used it for shopping for daily needs, as many as 11 people or 22.45% used it for their children's daily snacks, and as many as 3 people or 6.12% used it for saving and possible needs. While the other reason for fishermen's wives to join social gathering groups in the local area is to increase business capital, this is because their personal capital is very limited, so they rely on this social gathering lot in order to increase their business capital, if they do not get the lot, then they have to lend from neighbors, fish collectors, or to the skipper

The role of the fishermen's wife in improving the family's economy through businesses outside of the domestic area, namely working by selling fresh fish, managing and selling smoked fish, managing and selling salted fish, and opening a food stall/shop is an effective and very appropriate way, where their husbands (fishermen) is very helped by the ability of the wife

in increasing family earnings, the burden felt by the fishermen's husband becomes lighter and the earnings contribution by the fishermen's wife can cover the lack of husband's earnings.

The results of this study are relevant to the findings of research conducted by Raodah (2013) which shows that the wives of fishermen in Lapulu Kelurahan in addition to playing a role in the domestic realm as housewives who take care of their husbands and children, they also take the time to help husbands work as, salted fish maker, making shrimp paste, processing various foods from seaweed and fish, and working as a factory worker in the fish processing industry. The earnings earned by fishermen's wives makes a significant contribution in helping to overcome the costs of fishing household needs.

The results of the research above are also relevant to the findings on research conducted by Salaa, Jeiske (2015) which states that the role of housewives who work outside as breadwinners turns out they have never abandoned their duties and responsibilities as a wife and as a mother in her family .

#### **The Impact of Fisherman's wife multiple role**

The positive and negative impacts of the fishermen's wives role in improving the family economy of Karangasari, Tuban Subdistrict, it can be concluded that the role of fishermen's wives in improving the economics of fishermen's families that they lived through in daily life making them feel no burden and carry it out as usual. They (fishermen's wives) are aware of the impact that will bring on to themselves and on other family members. Whereas, the intensity of working outside home both as a seller of fresh fish, processing smoked fish, salted fish, even opening a business stalls and groceries takes 5 to 12 hours each day. Based on interviews with fishermen's wives in Karangasari, Tuban sub-district, the positive impacts of having them work to help their husbands are: increasing family earnings, improving the economic and social status of the family and meeting their daily needs. While the negative impact of the role of the fishermen's wife in helping family earnings is lessen family gathering time, a change in the capacity of homework, and husband and wife quarrel that are no more than 1-2 days.

#### **Family Economy (Fishermen's Wives' Contribution)**

The wife of a gill net fisherman in Karangasari of Tuban sub-district greatly contributes to make ends meet and able improve the living standards of fishermen families, the high profit of a wife's business does not determine that her contribution is also high because she must first look at her husband's business profit as a comparison in determining high and low of contribution done by fisherman's wife to the earnings of a fisherman's family.

The contribution of the dogol (trawl) fishermen's wife earnings to the earnings of the dogol (trawl) fisherman's family can be explained in table 7.20. that the highest husband's profit is IDR 3,297,391.30/month and the wife's highest profit is IDR 3,900,000.00 / month, whereas the husband's lowest profit is IDR 2,464,285.71/month and the wife's lowest profit is IDR 1,275. 000.00/month, thus making the lowest total profit is on IDR 3,739,285.71/month. The husband's average profit is Rp 2,860,341.52/month and the wife's average profit is 2,745,312.50 / month, the average total profit (husband and wife) is on Rp 5,605,654.02/month. The highest contribution of dogol (trawl) fishermen's wife in Karangasari of Tuban sub-district is 59.18% or in the medium category, the lowest contribution of dogol (trawler) fishermen's wife is 34.10% or in the low category, while the average contribution of fishermen's wives generally in the medium category or as much as 48.07%.

From these data it can be said that the wife of a dogol (trawler) fisherman in Karangasari, Tuban Subdistrict greatly contributes to meeting daily needs and are able to improve the living standards of a fishermen's family, the high profit of his wife's business does not determine that her contribution is also high because she must first refer to the husband's business profit as a comparison in determining the level of contribution of a fisherman's wife to the earnings of a fisherman's family.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The fishermen's wife multiple role in helping the family's economy in Karangasari of

Tuban sub-district is proof that earnings from the husband (fisherman) is not enough to make ends meet. The fishermen's wife's business in increasing family earnings include selling fresh fish, managing and selling smoked fish, managing and selling salted fish, as well as opening a food stall or grocery store. From the results of the fishermen's wife efforts who play this multiple role, the earnings of the fishermen's wife in Karangasari is very helpful in making ends meet, although it has a negative impact on the lessen family gathering time, changes in the capacity of homework, and husband and wife quarrel who are no more than 1- 2 days only, but it has a positive impact which is on increasing family earnings, improving the economic and social status of the family and making ends meet.

Based on the conclusions above, advice that can be given are as follows: For the Head of the Household (husband) should further appreciate the role of his wife in helping family earnings, always maintaining a harmonious relationship with the wife and other family members; For fishermen's wives, even though they have worked and helped family earnings, they should still consider their role as wives in the domestic sector, namely as a mother and a wife; To the government, especially Karangasari of Tuban Sub-District and Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Office and Community Empowerment in Tuban Sub-District of Tuban Regency are advised to increase community empowerment programs especially fishermen's wives who can support and increase fishermen family earnings

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