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The Role Of Housewives In Rattan Handicraft Business to Increase Family Income in Langko Village, Janapria District, Central Lombok

Alfia Hidayatullah¹, Siti Husna Ainu Syukri²

^{1,2}Universitas Islam Negeri Mataram / Jl. Jempong,
Kota Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat
200105040.mhs@uinmataram.ac.id

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the factors that influence housewives in increasing family income in Langko village, Janapria sub-district, Central Lombok and to determine the role of housewives in the rattan handicraft business in increasing family income in Langko village, Janapria sub-district, Central Lombok. The method in this research is qualitative research. The data collection method used is non-participatory observation with semi-structured interviews and documentation. The data obtained was then analyzed using data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusion. to obtain data validity, researchers used source triangulation technique. The results of this study indicate that the involvement of housewives in the rattan handicraft business in Langko Village, Janapria District, Central Lombok plays significant roles in increasing family income, enabling housewives to buy daily necessities and provide petty cash for their school children.

KEYWORDS: The Role of Housewives, Rattan Crafts, Family Income

INTRODUCTION

Since the proclamation of Indonesia's independence, women have become the cornerstone of this nation's development. Heroes who defended Indonesia during colonialism were not only men; the role of women as defenders of the homeland cannot be denied. The position and role of women in Indonesia in the nation's life cannot be underestimated, seen in the legal perspective in Indonesia where women are given equal opportunities with men to demonstrate their achievements according to their potential, regardless of gender.

The essence of national development is the improvement of people's income reflecting the quality of life of a family, where families with better quality of life generally have better levels of welfare too. It would be beneficial if economic development could harness full participation from citizens in building a region according to the abilities of each community, including women who can participate in developing their potentials. Women workers or housewives are also assets or productive human resources in family, community, and national development. The honor and dignity of a housewife continue to increase, as a housewife who assists her husband in meeting the family's needs.

In this modern era, the level of knowledge and intellectual ability of individuals continues to increase, including understanding the role of women in increasing family income. Typically, the backbone of family life is the man or husband. But now, many women play an active role in supporting the family's economy. Women are not just ornaments in the house but also have many roles in the family.

The role and participation of women in work life have successfully contributed significantly to family welfare, especially in finance. The number of female workers in Indonesia and other countries continues to increase, enhancing learning opportunities for women. The government's success in Family Planning (KB) also increases the number of childcare centers, and advanced technology supports women's dual roles in households as both workers and employees. The increasing desire of women to work not only impacts the labor market constellation but also affects the economy and the welfare of women themselves and their families. The higher the income of women or housewives, the higher the welfare, nutritional quality, and health of their entire families.

The increasing female workforce is due to the availability of job opportunities that are easily done by women, such as trading, opening stalls, domestic helpers, and jobs in household industries that are still relatively simple and traditional, requiring minimal capital to start. However, small-scale industries actually have considerable potential, especially in building the economy and helping to overcome unemployment. Household industries employ female labor because women have their own characteristics in industrial work, such as in the garment industry, handicrafts, and processing industries, as these jobs do not require high standards or qualifications.

Langko Village is one of the villages that serves as a center for small rattan industries in the Janapria district. Rattan craftsmen in this area are usually housewives who require patience, perseverance, and skill to weave various forms of rattan. Based on initial observations, housewives in Langko Village earn a living as rattan weavers, with almost all workers being women. The focus of these craftsmen is to meet daily life needs and aims to increase family income. In a day, housewives typically produce 1 or 2 weaves depending on the difficulty. The main problem faced by female workers in Langko Village is the low socioeconomic condition because the average income of husbands in Langko Village ranges from 500,000 to 1,500,000, motivating women in Langko Village to work.

Based on the above background, the researcher intends to conduct a study entitled "The Role of Housewives in Rattan Craft Business in Improving Family Welfare in Langko Village, Janapria Sub-District, Central Lombok".

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a type of research that reveals facts, situations, and phenomena occurring during the study. The data standard in qualitative research is specific or actual data that contains meaning.

This means that actual data is definitive data from the observed feedback. The qualitative research method focuses on in-depth observation. Therefore, the use of qualitative methods in research can produce a more comprehensive study of a phenomenon. Qualitative research better highlights humanism or individual human behavior, which is the answer to the awareness that all consequences of human actions are influenced by individual aspects.

Qualitative research aims to reveal and understand the facts that occur in the field. The reason for using the qualitative method is that, in addition to using interview guides and researchers as tools, direct observation can also be used to uncover the cultural assumptions prevailing in the research location.

THE THEORY OF THE ROLE OF HOUSEWIVES

According to Soerjono Soekanto, a role is the dynamic aspect of a position or status. When someone performs their rights and duties appropriately, they are carrying out a role. In an organization, everyone has various characteristics in performing the tasks, obligations, or responsibilities assigned by each organization or institution.

a. As a Wife in the Family

Women are known for their gentle and soft nature, and beyond that, a good woman is one who has demonstrated her love through her willingness to sacrifice for her family. In family life, every family member has their own rights, obligations, and roles. A woman, as a wife, has the duty to manage the household, serve her family, including caring for the children, cooking, washing, and ensuring the cleanliness of the home for other family members. Women are created and given the noble task of bearing children, breastfeeding, and educating them. She plays the role of a companion, a friend, a motivator, and an inspiration for her husband. Additionally, it is a wife's duty to obey her husband and safeguard his wealth, home, and honor, as well as that of the family.

b. As a Working Wife

In general, women work not merely to fill their free time or develop their careers, but to earn a living and meet the needs of their families because their husbands' income is insufficient. Therefore, many women work in both formal and informal sectors. As breadwinners, women strive to support and improve their family's economic situation. The activity of earning a living for women encompasses all activities performed by housewives, outside of household chores, to earn income for themselves or their families.

FACTORS INFLUENCING HOUSEWIVES TO WORK IN THE RATTAN CRAFT INDUSTRY TO INCREASE FAMILY INCOME

The factors influencing housewives to work are:

a. Economic Needs

Housewives decide to work because their husband's income is low and sometimes insufficient to meet the family's needs. By working, housewives can contribute to increasing the family income.

b. Environmental and Socio-Cultural Factors

Local socio-cultural values influence women in their activities, and traditions encourage women to engage in this business.

c. Striving for Independence

This aims to ensure that women do not always depend on their husbands and also have an income, which is a way to train themselves to become independent.

d. Skill Development

It provides housewives the opportunity to learn new skills, which are not only useful for their current job but can also be a foundation for independent ventures in the future.

e. Supporting the Family Economy

Nowadays, many women contribute to earning a living to help improve the family's economic situation. Some even become the family's main breadwinner because their husbands do not have stable jobs.

f. Gaining Experience and Socialization

By working outside the home, they gain more experience and have opportunities to socialize with colleagues.

FAMILY INCOME

Family income is the earnings of all household members used to meet both collective and individual needs within the household. Family income is the compensation, services, or rewards received for contributions made through work or production activities. According to Soeratno, the measure of income used for family welfare is household income obtained from work. Each working-age family member in the household will be motivated to work for the welfare of their family. Several studies have shown that family members such as wives and children contribute to various activities, both in household chores and in earning a living.

RATTAN WEAVING CRAFT

Craft is an artistic creation that involves the use of human hand skills in its making process. The result of a craft can create beautiful decorations, items, or objects with high artistic value and functional items. According to Kadjim, craft is an activity carried out continuously with a spirit of perseverance, dexterity, persistence, high exploration, and wide progressive capabilities in creating a work.

According to the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), craft comes from the word “rajin,” which means to like to work, be diligent, or frequently performed. It means that craft involves diligence and perseverance, producing various artistic items, furniture, decorations, or other objects. Craft represents the diligent and persistent nature of humans who possess the skills to make or create an object, thus becoming more trained and creative. Hand skills also require simple tools that prioritize skill over expression. Since craft is an economic activity, craft businesses are categorized within the industry that has not yet reached the factory level, only at the household craft and small industry level.

Weaving is a form of handicraft created through arranging basic materials in overlapping, crossing, folding, and other patterns. Weaving is commonly applied to everyday household items in rural communities or used as decorations on walls or other ornaments with variations, motifs, and shapes that differ in each region. Despite using similar techniques, artisans in different regions produce different weaving forms in terms of texture, materials, neatness, coloring, and designs created.

CONCLUSION

The factors influencing housewives in this business include economic factors, education level, number of dependents, environment, and the desire to fill their free time. Housewives' involvement in production not only increases family income but also allows them to continue playing a crucial role in educating their children without having to leave home.

The role of housewives in the rattan craft industry to increase family income in Langko Village, Janapria District, Central Lombok, is not only as economic drivers but also as agents of social, cultural, and psychological change for the Langko village community. Thus, the role of housewives in the rattan craft industry is not only as economic drivers.

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