

THE STRATEGY OF EXPLORING LOCAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE ROLE OF WOMEN

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the potential of local resources that are owned, so that they can be used and developed in order to improve the family's economic level. The results of this study show the employment which entered by the women is mostly in agriculture, forestry, plantation and fishery amounted to 48.51%, and then the trade, hotel and restaurant at 19.18%, in the public service by 18.23%, processing industry (manufacturing) amounted to 10.97%, and others as much as 3.11%. Some commodities of agricultural, plantation, forestry and fishery products such as; sago, tubers, bananas, durian, fish whose production is quite large every year and has the potential to be developed into processed food with economic value but is still not optimal. The position of Salahutu District is geographically very strategic because it is the entrance for the people in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres with the people in the South and West hemisphere. The geographical background effects to the economic wheel rotation in this region to be high, so that if the resources are utilized optimally, it can improve the economic level of the community.

Keywords: salahutu district, employment, commodities.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi potensi sumber daya lokal yang dimiliki, sehingga dapat digunakan dan dikembangkan untuk meningkatkan tingkat ekonomi keluarga. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan pekerjaan yang dimasuki oleh para wanita sebagian besar di bidang pertanian, kehutanan, perkebunan dan perikanan sebesar 48.51%, dan kemudian perdagangan, hotel dan restoran pada 19.18%, dalam pelayanan publik dengan 18.23 %, industri pengolahan (manufaktur) sebesar 10.97%, dan lainnya sebanyak 3.11%. Beberapa komoditas pertanian, perkebunan, kehutanan dan produk perikanan seperti; sagu, umbi-umbian, pisang, durian, ikan yang produksinya cukup besar setiap tahun dan berpotensi untuk dikembangkan menjadi makanan olahan dengan nilai ekonomis tetapi masih belum optimal. Posisi Kabupaten Salahutu secara geografis sangat strategis karena merupakan pintu masuk bagi orang-orang di belahan bumi Utara dan Timur dengan orang-orang di belahan bumi Selatan dan Barat. Latar belakang geografis berimbas pada rotasi roda ekonomi di wilayah ini menjadi tinggi, sehingga jika sumber daya dimanfaatkan secara optimal, maka dapat meningkatkan tingkat ekonomi masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: desa salahutu, pekerjaan, komoditi.

JEL: J010

1. Research Background

In these days, women have an important role in national development. Saptandari (2010)

stated that empowerment is an effort to improve the bargaining position of women in enhancing its role in national development. Empowerment not only includes strengthening individual members of the community, but also the institutions. Disseminating the values of modern culture such as hard work, independence, frugality, openness, attitude of responsibility is an essential part of this empowerment effort. Empowerment of women should be completed because they have the same significance in development, also the development gains users have the same rights as men (Ratnawati 2011).

However, poor women in the rural areas who trying to harmonize their life with household activities hope they can improve the family's economic level, even though they are still fragile or vulnerable. Therefore, empowering rural women requires sensitive policy interventions to overcome various basic problems, as result the improvement of welfare for themselves and their families will be showed up.

Central Maluku is the largest and oldest regency in Maluku. Based on data from the Central Maluku Regency Central Bureau of Statistics in 2012, it has a population of 371,712 people (23.59%), in which about 181,869 (48.93%) of the total were women. Seen from the composition of employment, the number of working men is equal to 65.03%, while women are 34.97%. In the other hand, the unemployment rate among women is greater than men, (i.e); 8.59% of women compared to 4.97% of men. This condition shows that women's access to work in the public space is still low, and the position of men is still more dominant or high in position. In connection with this matter, the problem to be answered in this research is how to improve the family's economic level through empowering women by developing their own local resource potential.

In general, this study aims to examine the potential of local resources owned and to be developed. Thus, there is a solution for the problems and the family's economic level can be improved. Notably, this study aims to identify the potencial of local resources that can be developed.

1.1. Gender Concept

The gender concept from the book entitled *Teori Gender dan Aplikasinya Dalam Kehidupan Keluarga* (Puspitawati 2009) is as follows; Gender is the difference between men and women in roles, functions, rights, responsibilities and behaviors that are formed by the social, cultural and customary values of the community groups which can change according to time and local conditions. Thus, gender is a difference in the roles of men and women that are formed, created and constructed by the community and can change according to the times.

1.2. Gender Equality and the Patriarch System

Gender equality and justice is a condition where the portion and social cycle of women and men are equal, balanced and harmonious. Gender equality is indicated by the existence of an equal position between men and women in decision-making and obtaining benefits from the opportunities around them. Gender equality gives equal respect and opportunities to women and men in determining their desires and maximizing their abilities in various fields (De Vries 2006). This condition can be realized if there is fair treatment between women and men. The application of gender equality and justice must be centered in contextual and situational issues, not based on systematic calculations and not universal.

1.3. Women empowerment

Empowering the community is an effort to strengthen the elements of empowerment to increase the dignity of the people who are in poor condition by relying on their own strength, by that they can get out of poverty and underdevelopment, or the process of enabling and empowering the community (Kartasasmita 1997).

Most rural areas in developing countries are very poor on educational resources and

economic resources. The education program only serves a small proportion of adolescents and adults, and ignoring the teaching needs of women (Anwar 2007). The efforts that can be made in empowering women can be done in the following ways:

1.3.1. Empowerment management based on socio-culture

Empowerment activities that are based on socio-culture are very possible for the process of community participation, because it departs from culture which is the experience of everyday life. Stringer has shown that there are some advantages to a participatory program that is developing democratization, equality, freedom and increasing the level of knowledge and skills.

1.3.2. Empowering women through out-of-school education

Empowerment activities that are based on socio-culture are very possible for the process of community participation, because it departs from culture which is the experience of everyday life. Stringer has shown that there are some advantages to a participatory program that is developing democratization, equality, freedom and increasing the level of knowledge and skills.

The empowerment process through out-of-school education according to Kindervatter, is carried out in eight steps, namely:

- a. Arranging small groups as the initial recipients of the empowerment program plan.
- b. Identifying / building regional learning groups.
- c. Selecting and training group facilitators.
- d. Activating study groups.
- e. Organizing facilitator meetings.
- f. Supporting the activities of ongoing groups.
- g. Developing relationships between groups.
- h. Organizing a workshop for evaluation.

Sumodiningrat (1999) suggests the indicators of success used to measure the implementation of community empowerment programs include:

- a. Reduced number of poor people.
- b. Business development utilizes available resources.
- c. Increased public awareness of efforts to improve the welfare of poor families in their environment.
- d. Increased group independence which is characterized by the development of productive businesses members and groups.
- e. Increased community capacity and equal income.

1.3.3. Women's empowerment through learning

Empowerment activities that are based on socio-culture are very possible for the process of community participation, because it departs from culture which is the experience of everyday life. Stringer has shown that there are some advantages to a participatory program that is developing democratization, equality, freedom and increasing the level of knowledge and skills.

One of the causes of community powerlessness is limitation of schooling education system and the lack of development of out-of-school educational activities among them. Therefore, the presence of out-of-school education programs based on socio-cultural and natural potential is highly needed. It will be useful to empower the community. For this reason, according to Kindervatter, empowerment through outside school education focuses on students in the form of groups and emphasizes objective processes, such as; mastery of knowledge and skills is essential. The development process in the regions makes the community able to work together in solving problems that arise as well as the existence of social strategies that can

resolve the problems and changes that arise in society. Some strategies in community social organizations include:

- a. Strive to grow regional capacity through increasing organization and creating coalitions between organizations.
- b. Start from the interests of the community and focusing on the community itself.
- c. Be opened, does not have a specific purpose but seeks to replace the community to cooperate.
- d. Emphasize the method of discussion, democratic procedures and hard work.

2. Research Method

2.1. Time and Location of Research

This study is participatory action research using a social approach accompanied by discussions, field observations and in-depth interviews with questionnaire instruments, which are planned to take place from April to August 2015, and are located in Salahutu district, Central Maluku Regency.



Figure 1. Research Location

Information:

■ = Research Location

2.2. Research Subjects and Procedures

The subjects of this study are women in rural areas in the Regency of Central Maluku, specifically Salahutu district. The research procedure portraying the steps of the study from beginning to end are as follows:

- a. Preparing research instruments
- b. Determining respondents based on the number of samples
- c. Exercising to fill in the list of questions to the enumerator
- d. Collecting primary data (in the community) and secondary data
- e. Processing and analyzing data
- f. Writing the draft research results
- g. Holding seminar and writing the research report

2.3. Data Collection

The data collected in this study include primary data and secondary data. Secondary data obtained in the form of demographic data Salahutu district. Primary data collection uses a closed and open list of questions. Primary data collected consists of data:

- a. Level of education
- b. Knowledge about entrepreneurship
- c. Level of mastery of agricultural/fishery/other processing technology (local potential)
- d. Potential of natural resources

While secondary data is obtained from relevant agencies/agencies at various levels of government (village, sub-district, and district/city).

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Regional Overview

3.1.1. Geographical conditions

The position of Salahutu district is geographically very strategic because it is a link between Seram Island (on Seram Island there are three districts namely: Central Maluku district, West Seram district, and East Seram district) and Pulau Haruku district with Ambon City, Leihitu district, Buru Regency , and South Buru Regency, as well as being the entrance for the people who are in the Northern and Eastern parts of the region with communities in the Southern and Western hemispheres. As the entrance of two regions, Salahutu district has two sea docks, namely the pier which carries out loading and unloading activities of the sea and ferry docks, and a very active transit terminal. Loading and unloading activities carried out both on the boat and ferry docks and transit terminals cause the economic wheel rotation in this region to be quite high, so that if it is utilized optimally, it can improve the economic level of the community.

3.1.2. Socio-economic conditions

Salahutu district is one of 17 sub-districts in the Central Maluku Regency with the second largest population of 51,256 people consisting of 25,274 men and 26,252 women as shown in table 1 below:

Table 1. Population of Salahutu District

No.	Village / Country	Man	Woman	Total
1.	Suli	5,703	5,912	11,615
2.	Tial	1,346	1,497	2,843
3.	Midway	1206	1,283	2.489
4.	Tulehu	9,385	9,646	19,031
5.	Waii	3.611	3,696	7,037
6.	Liang	4,023	4.218	8,241
	Total	25,274	26,252	51,256

Source: BPS (2014).

The largest employment opportunities entered by women are in the agriculture, forestry, plantation, fisheries and livestock sectors by 48.51%, then trade, hotel and restaurant are 19.18%, social services are 18.23%, manufacturing is 10.97%, and the other is 3.11%.

3.1.3. Featured commodities

The superior commodity of the community in the region of Salahutu in the agricultural / plantation sector is cloves and nutmeg, while in the fisheries sector is fish.

3.1.4. Business Group

Based on the results of identification there are various types of productive business groups (Joint Business Groups) that have grown in the midst of the community, especially women, as shown in the following table:

Table 2. Joint Business Groups

No.	Business Group	Type of business	Information
1.	KUBE	Kerosene, Kiosk, Chair Rentals	Some are still active
2.	Business Group Mothers	Rujak Natsepa and Rujak Liang	Active
3.	Lapia Business Group	Sago-based traditional food business	Active
4.	Spot's Business Group Typical Suli	Bagea Suli business	Not active

Source: Data processed

3.2. Potency which Can Be Developed

3.2.1. Human and regional resources

Based on population data published by the Central Maluku Regency BPS (Badan pusat Statistik/ Central Bureau of Statistics) in 2013, the population of Salahutu District is the second largest after Leihitu District. A large population when viewed from an economic aspect can be a potential market.

On the other hand, the location of Salahutu District as the entrance that connects the regions in the North and East with the regions in the South and West makes the economic activity in this sub-district quite high and has a positive impact on regional economic growth, it potentially increases the community's economy if it is able to be used optimally.

In addition, the existence of higher education institutions in Salahutu district is a value added for the development of quality human resources, hence it can be used as a partner in the community empowerment activities, i.e. assistance to community business groups that are still active or inactive. The fact proves that a lot of aid has been disbursed by the government, both the central government and regional governments in the context of community empowerment, but many programs have failed because the recipients of technical assistance do not have the capacity related to the assistance. As result, the assistance received is not used as business capital but is used for family consumptions.

3.2.2. Agriculture, forestry, plantation, and fisheries sectors

Some commodities of agricultural, plantation, forestry and fishery products such as; sago, tubers, bananas, durian, fish, etc., whose annual production is quite large and potentially developed into processed food that has economic value, but it is still not optimal. Even some of these commodities are still very limited in development, such as; sago and durian, whereas based on data released by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Central Maluku Regency, Sagu land in Salahutu district was 615 hectares, while the amount of production consists of wet sago flour as much as 29,520 tons per year and dry sago flour as much as 17,712 tons per year, in which the use is mostly only for local food substitute for rice, namely grilled sago and papeda. While, the development of durian has only been durian meat, whilst durian seeds (Dintasari 2015) and durian skin (Wakanno and Sahertian 2014) which are produced every day as much as 6.54 tons only become garbage, even though it can still be developed into a valuable product economical.

Types of processed food that can be produced from the various commodities mentioned above and economic value include:

a. Sago

Types of processed food produced from sago are: wet sago ingredients, for; bika sago,

brownies, *bruder*, pizza, *rollcook*, fried foods, and *poding*, while dry sago ingredients include; sago cheese, *jan hagel*, *kastengel*, *bangket*, chocolate cake, sago stick, and pearl sago, (Papilaya 2009).

- b. Tubers
Types of processed foods that can be produced are: chips and various types of cakes
- c. Banana
Types of processed foods that can be produced are: chips and various types of cakes
- d. Durian
Types of processed food that can be produced are: Fruit meat can be processed into *Dodol Duren* and various types of cakes. Duren seeds can be processed into chips. Duren skin can be processed into briquettes.
- e. Fish
Types of processed food that can be produced are: Nugget, Surimi, *Abon*, Meatballs.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion above, the following can be concluded: first, the position of Salahutu district is geographically very strategic because it is the entrance for the people in the Northern and Eastern Hemispheres with the people in the South and West Hemisphere, causing the economic wheel rotation in this region to be high so that if utilized optimally it can improve the economic level of the community. Second, employment entered by women is mostly in agriculture, forestry, plantation and fishery amounted to 48.51%, and then the trade, hotel and restaurant at 19:18%, in the public service by 18:23%, processing industry (manufacturing) amounted to 10.97%, and others up to 3.11%. Third, Some commodities of agricultural, plantation, forestry and fishery products such as; sago, tubers, bananas, durian, fish production is quite large every year and has the potential to be developed into processed food with economic value but is still not optimal.

Some suggestions that can be given include the following: first, the role of local government needs to be increased, then the potential resources that are owned can be utilized and developed. Second, it is necessary to build partnerships with various parties, especially universities in order to strengthen community capacity.

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