



Contribution of Female Farm Workers in Improving the Standard of Living of Families in Montong Goak Hamlet Sisik Village Pringgarata District

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Abstract

This study aims to determine and analyze the contribution of female farm laborers in improving the standard of living of families and the factors of women working as farm laborers. This study uses a qualitative research type with a descriptive approach. By determining informants using purposive techniques with the criteria of housewives who work as farm laborers in Montong Goak Hamlet, Sisik Village, Pringgarata District, Central Lombok Regency. Data collection techniques are carried out through observation, interviews and documentation. The results of this study indicate that female farm laborers who work for other people solely to get wages/salaries in the form of money or goods, women who have dual roles, namely as wives, mothers and working as laborers, women participate in contributing to improving the family economy to be able to help ease the burden on their husbands and can meet the needs of family members with the results of working as farm laborers. Women have a big influence in improving the family's standard of living, namely the results of working as laborers can meet daily needs, basic needs, children's education needs, health and help in contributing to social needs and can carry out dual roles well. Female farm laborers are very helpful in improving the family's standard of living so that in this study, informants were generally in the living conditions of KS I, KS III and KS III.

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Introduction

Family is the most important place for a person because it is the first place of education, and in the family a person learns the most and knows life. (Setiadi, 2011) In family relationships, fathers and mothers both have obligations and joint responsibilities that must be carried out in order to create a harmonious, harmonious, and peaceful family. The position of father and mother also has the same rights to create happiness and prosperity for the family's standard of living. The difference between husband and wife is basically biological.

Indonesia is an agricultural country with extensive plantation and rice field areas so that the majority of its population relies on farming as a livelihood. In general, rice fields are in rural areas. So it is not surprising that most of the agricultural sector is managed by rural communities. The same is true for the people of Montong Goak Hamlet, Sisik Village, Pringgarata District, where the agricultural sector is the most dominant sector so that many residents of Montong Goak Hamlet still rely on farming for their livelihoods.

Farming activities by the majority of the Montong Goak Hamlet community are not only carried out by the head of the family but also involve housewives to participate in these activities with the aim of helping to increase the family's daily income. That the cost of living in the family is increasing, the prices of basic necessities are getting higher, plus the needs of children when they enter school require the head of the family to increase their income so that they can meet the needs of the family, especially the fulfillment of primary needs. With the presence of women who work, it will increase the family's income, which automatically improves the quality of nutrition and health of all family members.

With this problem, mothers help their fathers in meeting their daily needs. Basically, women have two dual roles where women, in addition to carrying out their nature as mothers and wives, also have a role in meeting the family's economic needs. This is because the economic demands in the household are getting heavier because the price of basic necessities is increasing and the increasing number of family members adds to the burden of expenses and the husband's insufficient income.

Women who work are not merely to fill their free time or develop their careers, but to earn a living because their husband's income is said to be insufficient so that many women or housewives work. If the husband's income is not enough to meet daily needs, then it is undeniable that there is a contribution to family income that must be carried out by women in addition to domestic work, then women work in the public sphere as farm laborers to help the family economy (Aswiyati, 2016). Female farm laborers are female workers who are given wages or certain service fees in the agricultural production process. Their involvement in working in the agricultural sector in rural areas is more due to helping the family economy. In an effort to improve the standard of living of the family, it cannot be separated from the income element generated from the work of female farm laborers in Montong Goak Hamlet, Sisik Village, Pringgarata District, with the hope of helping the economy in families who are laborers to earn income only from work as farm laborers, namely daily farm laborers and contract farm laborers. This is due to the absence of other options to continue to earn income to meet family needs. Therefore, women take part in taking on the role of working as farm laborers to meet their daily needs.

Based on data from FAO Focus (2009) reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), women's contribution is able to produce 60% to 80% of food provided by developing countries and is responsible for every agricultural subsystem. If women have access, their agricultural and household productivity will increase, which will have an impact on increasing and stabilizing family income. Meanwhile, the fate of female farm laborers in Central Lombok, as explained by Jumine, is that in their daily lives they work as farm laborers with an income of 30 thousand per day, which is enough to meet daily needs with their husband and pocket money for their child who is currently attending a Tsanawiyah school near their residence.

Meanwhile, from the results of the initial observations that the researcher had conducted, the researcher visited the village office to ask for the number of population data and their livelihoods which would be the researcher's initial study to find informants as the subjects of my research, so the data I found at the village office, the total population of Montong Goak Hamlet in 2022 was 405 families consisting of 636 males and 560 females, totaling 1196 people.

When viewed from the population data in Montong Goak Hamlet with all their livelihoods, the researcher found that many women work as farm laborers. Thus, the researcher is interested in taking this research title

because there is a problem that the researcher found in the field, namely housewives who work as farm laborers to improve the standard of living of their families, so the title of this research is important to study and conduct further research related to the contribution of female farm laborers in improving the standard of living of families in Montong Goak Hamlet, Sisik Village, Pringgarata District. Based on the background explained above, the researcher can identify problems related to how female farm laborers contribute to improving the standard of living of families and the factors that encourage women to become laborers in Montong Goak Hamlet, Sisik Village, Pringgarata District.

Materials and Methods

The type of research used in this study is descriptive qualitative research. Meleong (2014) stated that qualitative research intends to understand what is experienced by the research subject, such as behavior, perception, motivation. The descriptive research method is a method used to analyze data by describing or describing the data that has been collected as it is without intending to make conclusions that apply to the public or its generalization (Sugiyono, 2016).

The location of the research was carried out in Montong Hamlet, Sisik Village, Pringgarata District. The reason is that in Montong Goak Hamlet, many women were found working as farm laborers. For the time of this research, the researcher will conduct research according to the planned target and will be implemented starting from January to the end of June 2022. The data collection techniques that will be used are three types, namely Observation, interviews, and documentation. The observation that will be used in this study is direct or covert observation, the researcher in collecting data states frankly to the data source. The type of interview that will be used in this study is an open standard interview, namely using questions, words, and the same way of presenting them for each respondent (Moleong, 2006).

In this study, there were 10 informants who would be the subjects of this study, of the 10 informants, the village head, the hamlet head, eight other women who work as farm laborers in Montong Goak Hamlet, Sisik Village, Pringgarata District. Documentation in this study takes data that can provide information that is in accordance with the research needs needed, such as a general description of the research location, the condition of local residents and things related to this study. Furthermore, the data that has been analyzed, explained and interpreted in the form of words to describe the facts in the field, meaning or to answer research questions, then the essence is taken only.

Results and Discussions

Dual roles are two or more roles carried out by a person in carrying out a task that has indeed become something that they do (work) and also one of the roles has become a nature that has indeed been attached to themselves and their responsibilities (housewives) in a family. Suparman (2017: 106). Women have dual roles, namely in their households and in the outside environment. This dual role requires time and full attention, making women's careers lag far behind men. However, women have three great roles that they play at once (Muri'ah, 2011: 147). Women in the context of the family, in fact, have a very crucial role. Women in the family play the role of wives, in this context they are not only tasked with taking care of their household, however, the wife plays a role in accompanying her husband as a friend / life partner, as a wise advisor, and as a driver of her husband's productivity. The role of women in the family is a role that is carried out because they occupy a position in society. The role of women in the family includes maintaining their family so that it is peaceful, happy and prosperous.

In general, society believes that women always have limitations related to their activities or activities in the family or society. Women are always identical with kitchen affairs (cooking), taking care of the house (washing), taking care of children, educating children and the bed (serving the husband's biological needs) (Aryani, 2017:17). This explains the existence of a fairly large role of women in the family. It is not surprising that then the issue of children's education, women (mothers) have the greatest influence. Mothers also determine the success of their children's education in the future. Mothers play an important role in educating their children, especially during infancy. Mothers are a source in the family process including education of faith, morals, physical / physical, intellectual, psychological, and social.

The reality of women's dual roles is often found in the lives of the Montong Goak hamlet, Sisik village. A village located in the Pringgarata District, Central Lombok Regency. Where women in the Montong Goak hamlet, they work as farm laborers to support their families in the form of labor in return for wages. In addition to

working as farm laborers, women in this area also play their role as housewives. Educating children and taking care of the household like women in general.

Women in Montog Goak hamlet who play this dual role do not do it every day. They play this dual role seasonally. Where they work according to the prevailing season according to the agricultural flow, such as the planting and harvesting seasons. They work to help people who need additional labor to plant rice for example, or harvest it during the harvest season. At other times, women in Montong Goak hamlet continue to play their single role as mothers and wives in the family. As farm laborers, women in Montong Goak hamlet based on wage patterns there are at least two schemes that are implemented. First, they work as laborers with a daily payment system, and the second is with a 'piecework' scheme (or paid according to the total workload).

As daily farm laborers, the wages given are quite good. For women in Montong Goak hamlet, this daily wage system is considered profitable. The scheme usually requires them to work for half a day, namely from morning to noon. During that time they are given an average wage of Rp. 50,000 (fifty thousand rupiah) to work from around 06.00 to noon around 12.00. They work until the work target set by the land owner is achieved. This means that farm laborers here are temporary. As if the land owner only employs them to carry out the rice planting process with land that is not too large, then the land work process is only carried out for one day. This explains that the income obtained, although considered quite good, there is no element of sustainability that will guarantee them an income in the future.

The community recognizes this first scheme as daily laborers. Therefore, to get enough income, these workers or laborers must look for work elsewhere (other land owners). In this context, there are certainly quite a lot of people who need it, because the agricultural process is usually carried out by each land owner with stages and procedures in a relatively similar time. Therefore, the laborers may work for quite a long time, which is about one month in the rice planting season. During that one month they carry out the planting process in different fields in turns. If they apply a daily system, the income obtained is estimated to range from Rp. 1,000,000 (one million rupiah) to Rp. 1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand rupiah). After the rice planting season ends, most of them are unemployed again while waiting for the harvest season to come.

Through the daily labor scheme, women only work for half a day from morning to noon. In this context, the perpetrators feel that they have no problem with their obligations in the household. Because the working hours are applied simultaneously with all family activities (husband and children). At the same time, on average their husbands are also busy working. Likewise with their children, who are busy going to school. This condition is considered quite profitable, only my income for one month is considered quite small. This scheme does provide financial benefits, as is the goal of women in helping the family economy. Regarding income while working, the wages earned are only enough to help, not to meet all the needs of the family.

The daily scheme is considered not to have a significant impact on the family economy. Therefore, the needs of the community today are quite high. The low value of the wage is very much felt when compared to the existence of the minimum wage in effect in Central Lombok Regency which ranges from IDR 1,800,000 - IDR 2,300,000. However, this pattern is considered not to have a negative impact on women related to their responsibilities and obligations at home. This is because there is still a lot of free time to complete all the housework. On the other hand, the scheme does not sacrifice their time together with their family.

The second scheme is the contract labor model. Where female laborers work based on the amount of accumulated workload. Land owners usually pay them once according to the total work that must be completed. For example, in one land work, the total cost is calculated at IDR 500,000, then the workers get this right until the work is completed. This scheme then encourages workers to exploit themselves. They maximize their time, so that the work can be completed in the shortest possible time. The impact is, they work for a full day from morning to evening. This has the hope that they can immediately move and work on other land as soon as possible considering that the planting season only lasts relatively quickly (about 1 month).

The contract scheme in this case provides more benefits for workers, where they can earn as much as IDR 700,000 to IDR 1,000,000 in a week. This means that if accumulated, the income obtained can reach IDR 2,800,000 - IDR 4,000,000 in a month. This figure is relatively larger when compared to the daily scheme. Economically, women who become farm laborers can earn more in the context of increasing welfare. More than twice what is earned through a daily scheme. However, this scheme then has implications for the families of the laborers. Where they always maximize their time and work from morning to evening to earn enough income. The impact is that most of them ignore various household obligations for a full day. On the other hand, there is less time to gather with family, where their children have difficulty meeting their mothers during the day.

Another thing that definitely happens is fatigue after they work all day. Not infrequently, many household chores are finally neglected.

The process lasts for approximately one month, and they do not work again until the harvest season arrives. In this context, it is clear that all the results achieved within 1 month cannot be consumed immediately. They must continue to save until there is another job. In the process, the high demand ultimately does not provide space for these female farm laborers to accumulate wealth. In the process of planting to harvesting related to the agricultural cycle, the results obtained seem to be used up to meet the needs of life. However, the income obtained is considered sufficient as an addition for their families to meet their needs.

As a temporary job, farm laborers should have good management provisions related to time and finances. In terms of time, they must be able to maximize the opportunity to work by earning as much money as possible during the season they work. Managing finances so that they are sufficient to meet all the needs of life when there is no work to be done. In addition, they must be able to think about completing their work and responsibilities in the family. Especially if the women decide to do the work with the second scheme (contract work). Within a certain period of time (1 month) they have to lose a lot of time together with their families. In this context, attention to children and husbands is clearly disrupted. Where the mother figure who should be at home when their children come home from school, in reality has to stay in the fields to finish the work. Another impact of the second scheme is that efforts to fulfill the needs of the partner (husband) are also disrupted. This is because the wives feel tired while working, and return home to rest. What female workers can do in this context is to invite their partners to understand their existence. Understand their condition after feeling tired after working all day.

Factors Driving Women to Work as Farm Laborers

One of the factors that drives people to work hard is motivation. People need motivation to do activities with high enthusiasm, and can encourage efforts to meet the needs of life in an effort to improve the standard of living of the family. (Siagin in Bertham, 2011) states that motivation is a drive from within a person and from outside himself to do something in achieving a certain goal. Work motivation varies because it is influenced by the motives, goals, needs of each person to work, and differences in time and place. The main factor that drives women in Montong Goak Hamlet to work as farm laborers is the economic factor. The motivation of women in Montong Goak Hamlet to work harder includes; high living costs and the income of the head of the household that is not enough to meet the needs of life. In this context, women in Montong Goak Hamlet work to help the head of the family in meeting their economic needs. Through these efforts they hope that all the needs in the form of clothing, food, shelter, education, and family health are met.

Income is the amount of income obtained to see the level of prosperity and welfare of a person or group of people in society. According to Nitisemito in S.W., Hermawati (2020) the level of income received by a worker affects the level of work productivity. The greater the income (salary) received by the worker, the more maximum work he or she does. The income generated by women who work as farm laborers is able to meet various needs that are relevant to daily problems, such as basic needs, children's education costs, and other needs. In her research, Nurhaliza (2020) stated that the entry of women into the workforce has a positive impact on the family economy. The role of women in this work also brings benefits to society, especially in fields of work that require special workers, such as farm laborers. Ambarini in Bertham (2011) stated that the main motivation for women to work is closely related to the reason for meeting family needs. Married women are usually motivated to work when they realize that their husband's income is not enough to meet family needs, such as women in the Montong Goak hamlet.

When viewed using the perspective of gender equality, which defines gender equality as a condition in which the roles and social cycles of women and men are in an equal, harmonious, balanced, and harmonious state. Sundari Sasangko (2009). In this study, the researcher focuses more on the use of equilibrium theory. This equilibrium theory contains a compromise approach that emphasizes balance in the concept of partnership and harmony between women and men. Both work together in a harmonious partnership, both in family life, society, and nation. Therefore, the application of gender equality and justice must consider contextual factors (specific to a certain place and time) and situational factors (according to circumstances), not based on mathematical calculations (numbers or quotas) and are not universal.

In the case of Montong Goak hamlet, women in this case are aware that the family is a shared responsibility. Not entirely the economic condition of the family is solely the responsibility of the head of the family. Therefore,

helping her husband to earn additional income in the context of fulfilling needs is also considered to be the wife's responsibility. This view clearly then has implications for the status of men as heads of families. Men are required to understand the family situation as a whole and comprehensively. Their inability to meet all the family's needs requires them to understand the existing situation. Men must understand, for example, if there is work that should be the wife's responsibility that is not completed. This situation requires men to help their wives with their work at home. On the other hand, men are required to understand their wives' conditions. If their wives look exhausted, then the husband should not force his will on his wife.

The application of the theory of gender equilibrium equality is reflected in the lives of housewives in Montong Goak Hamlet, where husband and wife work together in various aspects of life, especially in meeting family needs. Women in Montong Goak Hamlet work as farm laborers with the permission and support of their husbands, in order to achieve harmony, peace, and happiness in the family. Both men and women play a role as development resources, developing and optimizing the potential that exists in each of them. Thus, they have implemented the principle of gender justice, where not only men work, but women also help their husbands in meeting daily needs, without forgetting their nature as women. Husbands and wives in Montong Goak Hamlet have the same goal, namely to form a harmonious and happy family, so that mutual understanding and comprehension are created. This avoids discrimination, because gender equality here is driven by economic factors, where husbands and wives both contribute to meeting family needs.

Conclusion

Women who work as farm laborers in Montong Goak Hamlet make an important contribution to improving the standard of living of their families. They not only lighten the burden of their husbands in earning a living, but also play a major role in meeting daily needs, children's education, health, and the family's social needs. In their role as farm laborers, women in this hamlet are able to carry out dual roles well, showing a significant commitment to family welfare. This is reflected in the standard of living of informants who are at welfare levels (KS) I to III Plus.

The driving factors that encourage women in Montong Goak Hamlet to work as farm laborers include increasing basic needs, increasing costs for children's education, and the husband's income that is not sufficient for family needs. The agreement between husband and wife to work to create a happy and prosperous life is the basis for women to contribute to improving the standard of living of their families.

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