

The Role of Women as Freelance Day Laborers in Improving Family Welfare at Dolok Maraja Village, Tapian Dolok District, Simalungun Regency

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: womens role, freelance day labor, family welfare

ABSTRACT

Women who work are an effort to increase the role of women, especially in gender development and empowerment. Especially for the lower middle class, where a head of household with a relatively small income can not meet the basic needs of the family. So it is not uncommon for women or wives to work to help their husband to increase economic income. However, low education, skill and age make women choose work in the formal sector by choosing casual laborers as a from of contribution to helping to continue the welfare of their families. This research was conducted in Dolok Maraja Village, Tapian Dolok District, Simalungun Regency using six informants consisting of one key informant is a village head, four main informants is a women daily laborers and one add informant is a the family of women daily laborers. Using qualitative methods with data collection techniques, namely interviews, observations and documentation studies. The results of the study show that housewives who work as freelance daily laborers play an active role in improving the welfare of their families. Result of their work can buy basic food items, pay their children's school fees, and save money. The role held by these female workers is a transitional role, in addition to taking care of all household needs, they also work to help earn more income for daily life.

Received: 12 August 2024

Accepted: 12 September 2024

INTRODUCTION

Women working is not a new condition, but has become a concern that tends to try to increase the role of women, especially in gender development and empowerment. The increase in the role of women in the economy can be seen from the Women's Labor Force Participation Rate (TPAK) whether it tends to increase, stagnate or decrease. According to data from the Badan Statistik Nasional (Central Statistics Agency) reported based on Susenas 2020 data, the number of Indonesia's population reached 270.2 million people. The Badan Statistik Nasional reported that from the total data, the female population reached 133.5 million people.

Based on the number of female population mentioned above, it is a great resource for the development process. Especially women who are merried actively involved in every process of economic improvement. Women do not have to work in the domestic sector and must be given equal opportunities in employment. Risal, et al. (2021) said that there are several problems faced by women related to their participation in economic improvement. A wife really need to play an active role in their families, because if they only rely on men who work, they cannot meet the increasing needs. In line with Widnyani (2021), seen from the middle to lower male society as well as the head of a household with a relatively small income, causing the basic needs in the family to not be met. This problem can affect the welfare of the family which reflects the quality of life of a family.

To overcome these problems, not a few things happen to women or wives who work to help their husbands to increase economic income. This further strengthens the fact that the traditional division of labor is no longer relevant. However, low education and skills make women choose jobs in the informal sector like being a laborer. Referring to research conducted by Hadari (2020) study is that women who work as laborers in Lampeji Village have an active role and a real contribution in meeting all needs in the family. For women who work as tobacco warehouse workers, it is said that they are more independent in terms of income, after helping to meet all the needs of their families, they also set aside part of their income to save. Another study by Yare (2021) in Karang Mulia Village that although women help earn a living, they also bear a double burden because they are still responsible for taking of the household and raising children.

The people of Dolok Maraja Village, Tapan Dolok District, Simalungun Regency are one of the real evidences that exist in the community regarding this. The involvement of women who work in the economic activities of the Dolok Maraja Village family gives its own view that there is no domestic or public role between husband and wife. Departing from these problems, based on the results of pre-research conducted by the author, it was found that lower middle and lower families have family welfare problems that cause the basic needs in the family to not be met. Because of the lack of income earned by the husband as the head of the family, women are encouraged to have a job, one of which is by becoming a freelance day laborer. Freelance Daily Laborer is a worker who works for an employer to perform a certain job and can be changed in terms of time and volume of work by receiving wages based

on the daily attendance of workers. The condition that many women choose to work as freelance daily laborers is caused by several factors, namely, the difficulty of getting a job, the age that is no longer young and the low level of education.

Women's participation in the world of work has made a great contribution to the family economy, especially to improve family welfare. In addition to this, women in Dolok Maraja Village, Simalungun Regency still have to divide and balance time for work and time to take care of the household. At home, they are required to be good wives and mothers, while at work, they are required to have commitment and responsibility for their work.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of Role

The term "role" is taken from the world of theater. In theater, an actor has to play a certain character and in his position as that character he expects to behave in a certain way. The definition of role according to Soerjono Soekanto, namely role is a dynamic aspect of position (status), if a person exercises his rights and obligations in accordance with his position, then he carries out a role. The two cannot be separated because they depend on each other, meaning that there is no role without status and there is no status without role. According to Abu Ahmadi (in Yare 2021: 20), role is a complex of human expectations for the way individuals should behave and act in certain situations based on their social status and function.

Biddle and Thomas (in Sarwono 1991: 234) divide the terms in role theory into four groups, namely:

- a. People who take part in social interactions
- b. Behaviors that appear in those interactions
- c. Position of people and behavior
- d. The link between people and behavior

Role Functions

Along with the conflict between positions, there is also a conflict between positions (conflict of role) and even the separation of the individual from the real role must be carried out. Therefore, the role can guide a person in behavior, because the function of the role itself is as follows (in Narwoko and Suyanto 2004: 160):

- a. Giving direction to the socialization process
- b. Inheritors of traditions, beliefs, values, norms and knowledge
- c. Can unite groups or communities
- d. Revive the control and control system, so that it can preserve people's lives.

Gender and The Role of Women

Gender is the difference that appears un men and women when viewed from values and behavior. Gender is a term used to the differences between men and women socially. Gender is agroup of cultural attributes and behaviors that exist in men and women. The Traditional division of labor says that men are assigned to the public sector and women are assigned to the domestic sector. However, over time women have also begun to work in the public sector, but inequality and double burdens can not be avoided.

Harijani quoted from Hubies (in Saputra 2018: 15-16) When viewed from the role of women in the household, it can be classified as follows:

a. Traditional Roles

Women have to do all the housework from cleaning the house, cooking, washing, taking care of children and everything related to the household.

b. Transition Roles

Women also play a role or are used to working to earn a living. Women's labor force participation is caused by several factors for example is factor economic, economic problems that encourage more women to earn a living.

c. Contemporary Roles

Where a woman only has a role outside the household or as a career woman.

Freelance Daily Labor

According to Law No. 13 of 2003, laborer is any person who works by receiving wages or other forms of remuneration. Irmayani 2011 (in Kausar 2016) workers are people who work for others by getting wages. In theory, in the context of interests, in a company there are 2 (two) groups, namely, the group of capital owners (*owner*) and the labor group, which is the people who are ordered and employed who function as one of the components in the production process.

Family Welfare

Welfare, derived from the word prosperous, prosperous is a state that includes a sense of security and peace of mind and mind. Prosperous conditions are not fixed, can change at any time either sooner or later. To achieve and maintain prosperity, human beings must strive continuously within an indeterminate time limit, in accordance with the demands of life that is always evolving without any time limit. (Kuswardinah, 2019).

Stage of a Welfare Family

A welfare family has several stages, the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) groups the family stages into five stages, namely:

- a. Pre-Welfare Families (PPP) are families that have not been able to meet their basic needs at a minimum.

- b. Welfare Families I are families that have been able to meet basic needs at a minimum, but have not been able to meet their overall socio-psychological needs.
- c. Welfare Families II are families that have not only met their basic needs, but have also been able to meet all their socio-psychological needs, but have not been able to meet all their development needs.
- d. Welfare Family III is a family that has met all basic, socio-psychological, and developmental needs, but has not been able to make maximum contributions to society.
- e. Welfare Families III Plus family is a family that has been able to meet all its needs, both basic, social, psychological, and developmental, and has also been able to make a real and sustainable contribution to society.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses qualitative research methods or types. Strauss & Corbin (2003: 4), the term qualitative research is intended as a type of research whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures or other forms of calculation. In qualitative research, a research procedure uses descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from observable people and actors. The location of this research was conducted in Dolok Maraja Village, Tapian Dolok District, Simalungun Regency, North Sumatera. Sampling and data sources were carried out using a purposive and snowball approach. An informan is a person who provides information or a person who is a source of data in research. In this study, it is divided into three type of informants, namely 1) key informants are village heads who have information about the problem being studied, 2) main informants are women who work as freelance daily laborers who lived in Dolok Maraja Village, who are directly involved in the problems being studied 3) additional informants, although not directly involved but can provide information, namely family members of the main informants.

The data collection techniques used in this study are: interview, observation and documentation studies. Therefore, data analysis techniques are carried out with three approaches, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Women who work as freelance daily laborers play a very active role in improving the welfare of their families. This is in line with the theory used by the researcher regarding the role. In this case, housewives in Dolok Maraja Village have status and role in their position in society. To carry out a role can be seen from what they are in the social order. The main informant who is the subject of this study, has a behavioral pattern that is related to the role, indicators of behavior in relation to role.

The results of interviews and observations of the researcher found that four of the Main Informants chose to work to help their husbands due to economic factors. They said that the increasing needs of

children's lives and education encouraged them to work. For them, working as freelance daily laborers is a solution. This is table following is the income of the Main Informant by working as a freelance day laborer:

Informants	Ages	Daily Income
I	39	IDR 30.000
II	36	IDR 30.000
III	64	IDR 40.000
IV	44	IDR 30.000

From the income results, the Main Informant admitted that he could meet the needs of his family, especially for kitchen needs, from buying rice to vegetables for one family. There are even informants who can pay their children's school fees and save money. By working as a freelance day laborer, women can improve the welfare of their families.

But sadly, they choose to work as freelance daily laborers because they do not have many choice and there are no oppurtunities to develop themselves. Based on the results of interviews with main informants, several reasons were found, 1) Age, because their age does not have many opportunities and choices for other jobs, especially in formal sector jobs. Age restriction are a form of discrimination against the workforce in Indonesia. 2) level of education, education is an important factor why many women can only work in the informal sector. The higher the level of education, the greater the relationship and job opportunities 3) work location and transportatation, some of informant said she could not work in a far place because she did not have transportation. It should be noted that dolok Maraja is a Village hat is divided into 7 hamlets, some of which are very far from the city center and can not be reached by public transportation.

The role of women in Dolok Maraja Village in this case, especially the four main informants, admitted that after work they also still have to work in domestic sector such taking care of children, cooking, washing and doing other housework. Double role or double burden is a form of gender inequality. There is a burden that must be borne by one particular gender excessively. This condition is called a transitional role, women will do domestic work and then help with work because the head of the family income not sufficient, as happened with the four main informants.

From the hard work of the main informant, it can be seen from how they can maintain and help improve the welfare of their respective families. The stage for a welfare family according to BKKBN, the author wrote in the following table :

Informants	Stage of a Welfare Family	Information
I	Welfare Families II	They family have not only met their basic needs, but

		have also been able to meet all their socio-psychological needs, but have not been able to meet all their development needs.
II	Welfare Family III	They has met all basic, socio-psychological, and developmental needs, but has not been able to make maximum contributions to society.
III	Welfare Families II	They family have not only met their basic needs, but have also been able to meet all their socio-psychological needs, but have not been able to meet all their development needs.
IV	Welfare Family III	They has met all basic, socio-psychological, and developmental needs, but has not been able to make maximum contributions to society.

The stage was obtained from results of in-depth interviews with four main informants, using the predetermined indicator of family welfare. Household well-being is a condition where the family experiences happiness and balance in various aspects. A harmonious and quality family will bring resilience to household life, society, and the environment.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of research and data analysis that has been carried out regarding the Role of Women as Freelance Daily Laborers in Improving Family Welfare in Dolok Maraja Village, Tapan Dolok District, Simalungun Regency) the following conclusions can be drawn: Women in Dolok Maraja Village who work as freelance daily laborers play an active role in improving the welfare of their families. The division of women's roles in the family in this study is a transitional role. Economic urgency is the main factor to work to help the head of household. Working as a freelance daily laborer is a solution where the level of education and age is no longer young. Income by becoming a freelance day laborer can meet the needs of the family, especially for kitchen needs from buying rice to vegetables for one family. They can even pay their children's school fees and saving money. By working as a freelance day laborer, women can improve the welfare of their families.

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