

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN HELPING TO MEET BASIC FAMILY NEEDS (CASE STUDY OF A GROUP OF WOMEN FARMERS ON WANGUNWATI RUBBER PLANTATION, SUKAWANGUN VILLAGE, KARANGNUNGGAL DISTRICT, TASIKMALAYA DISTRICT)

Fetty Nur Setiawati

Universitas Pasundan, fettynurse521@gmail.com

Abstract

The majority of women in Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency rely solely on their husbands' income, resulting in unmet basic family needs. Therefore, the Women Farmers Group in the Wangunwati Rubber Plantation, Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency seeks ways to empower women to improve family welfare. The research problems in this study are: 1) How is the empowerment of women through the Women Farmers Group in the Wangunwati Rubber Plantation, Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency? 2) How is the fulfillment of basic family needs among women in the Women Farmers Group in the Wangunwati Rubber Plantation, Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency? 3) What is the role of members of the Women Farmers Group in helping meet their family's basic needs? The aim of this research is to describe the implementation of women's empowerment in helping meet basic family needs in Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency. The research method used is qualitative research. Data collection is done through interviews, qualitative observations, and collecting qualitative documents. Data analysis in this research uses qualitative analysis. The informants in the study are members of the Women Farmers Group who strive to help meet their family's basic needs, as well as the KKPKW management. The results of this study show that: 1) Empowerment is evident from the main objectives or concepts of the formation of this organization, which is to empower women. 2) The fulfillment of basic family needs can be seen from the awareness or understanding of female members regarding the fulfillment of needs due to economic demands, as well as the efforts and achievements made in meeting family needs. 3) The role of members of the Women Farmers Group in helping meet their family's basic needs can be seen from the synergy among members who maintain good relationships.

Keywords:

Women Farmers Group, Family, Women's Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

The increasing role of women in Indonesia has positioned them as individuals who are expected to contribute to the success of development, both broadly and narrowly, since the proclamation of Indonesian independence, especially during the era of development and reform. In this era of development and reform, women are considered skilled and ideal when they can play two or more roles. Women's roles can be seen from two aspects: internal and external.

Internal aspects include their role in family life, such as educating and caring for children, as well as paying attention to the family to ensure their physical and emotional well-being. The external aspect involves their roles outside the family, such as participating in development activities (Marmoah, 2014).

Women have a valuable existence and role, and therefore it is important to maximize their potential. This is done to ensure that women's roles are equal to men's roles. Articles 26, 27, 30, and 31 of the 1945 Constitution state that there must be no discrimination between men and women. This means that women today occupy valuable positions and are equal to their male counterparts. In real terms, women have the right as mothers to make decisions and ensure the welfare of their family members, both material and non-material.

Looking at the current situation, women are able to bring about change in various fields, especially as government employees, educators, factory workers, traders, and even farmers in the plantation sector. Therefore, women have the right to contribute to the economic needs of their families. However, public perception generally sees women as housewives who are unable to contribute directly outside the home. Thus, women are

often limited to the role of housewives who are only responsible for household tasks. Significantly, women can work to help their husbands increase the family's income, whether through farming, gardening, trade, or working in factories. Women do all of these things solely to support their family's livelihood.

However, many women are still completely dependent on their husbands' income due to the educational, social, economic and cultural challenges they face. Additionally, low-income women face problems related to their status as women. Therefore, increasing women's participation in socio-economic development requires special attention (Sajogyo and Pudjiwati, in Marmoah 2014).

Entering the era of globalization, women who were initially primarily housewives began to change and actively contribute to meeting the needs of their families. Increasing the productivity of female farmers plays a strategic role in supporting the increase and income of agricultural households in rural areas. However, when compared with the predominantly farming population in rural areas, other economic sectors tend to have higher poverty rates. Rural agrarian areas generally have a lower standard of living compared to sectors such as government, industry, and commerce.

The economic problems faced by families encourage women to help meet their families' basic needs. Women participate in their family's economy for various reasons, one of which is that their husband's income is insufficient to meet daily living expenses. Therefore, women are forced to work and earn extra income to ensure their families' basic needs are met. However, women face

difficulties when trying to contribute to their family's economy.

This difficulty arises because many women lack self-confidence and do not realize their potential. They feel they do not have sufficient knowledge and skills to contribute to the economic welfare of their families. To overcome this problem, programs that support women's development, such as women's empowerment programs, are implemented. Women's empowerment is an effort to improve their abilities, skills and attitudes so that they can fulfill basic needs and live a decent life.

METHOD

Teknik Pengumpulan Data

Menurut Creswell (2014: 189), ada empat bentuk prosedur pengumpulan data yang berbeda, termasuk observasi, wawancara, studi dokumen, dan materi audio dan visual, yang digunakan dalam penelitian kualitatif.

Sumber Data

dalam penelitian ini, digunakan teknik "*purposive sampling*". Teknik ini dipilih karena terdapat alasan khusus mengapa peserta tertentu dipilih sebagai sampel studi. Dengan menggunakan *purposive sampling*, diharapkan dapat dikumpulkan data yang mewakili berbagai faktor (Moleong, 2016). Pada pendekatan kualitatif, sampel yang digunakan adalah purposif dimana sesuai dengan tujuan dan sasaran penelitian

Analisis Data

Bogdan & Biklen dalam Moleong (2016: 248) mengartikan analisis data kualitatif adalah suatu usaha yang dilaksanakan oleh peneliti untuk mengelola data, membagi data hingga dapat dikelola, Sintesis, cari dan identifikasi tren, kenali poin-poin penting dan pelajaran yang bisa

dipetik, serta putuskan apa yang perlu dibagikan kepada orang lain. Data collection technique

According to Creswell (2014: 189), there are four different forms of data collection procedures, including observation, interviews, document study, and audio and visual materials, used in qualitative research.

Data source

In this research, the "purposive sampling" technique was used. This technique was chosen because there are special reasons why certain participants were chosen as the study sample. By using purposive sampling, it is hoped that data can be collected that represents various factors (Moleong, 2016). In the qualitative approach, the sample used is purposive which is in accordance with the aims and objectives of the research

Data analysis

Bogdan & Biklen in Moleong (2016: 248) define qualitative data analysis as an effort carried out by researchers to manage data, divide data so that it can be managed, synthesize, look for and identify trends, identify important points and lessons that can be learned, and decide what needs to be shared with others.

RESULT

The results showed that there were several factors that motivated the members of the Women Farmer Group (KWT) to work and help meet the basic needs of the family. Some of the reasons given by the informants are::

1. Economic Need: One of the main factors is economic need. Informants revealed that their husbands' income was erratic, and they did not want to depend entirely on their husbands to provide for their family. They want to

be self-employed to earn additional income that can be used to meet basic family needs, including children's education.

2. Fulfilling Basic Needs: The informant also mentioned that the husband's income was not sufficient to meet the family's basic needs, such as buying rice or groceries. By working as farmers through KWT, they can help supplement their family's income to meet these needs.
3. Children's Education: Several informants stated that they wanted to work to pay for their children's education. The husband's income is not enough to pay for college or meet the educational needs of the children, so they decide to work alone and earn extra income.

The process of empowering women in helping to meet the basic needs of the family involves several steps, as stated by informants:

1. Farming and Animal Husbandry Training: Informants received training from KPPKW (Women's Farmers' Group) in farming, including growing vegetables, rice, and raising chickens and fish. This training helps them develop skills and knowledge in agriculture and animal husbandry, so they can produce efficiently and productively.
2. Participation in Family Decision-Making: KWT members are also involved in family decision-making, especially with regard to expenses and the family budget. They discuss with their husbands and make joint decisions regarding spending priorities and saving for future needs.

3. Development of Other Skills: Apart from farming training, some informants also had the opportunity to develop other skills, such as administration and financial bookkeeping. This helps them manage family finances and assist with administrative tasks at KWT.

The process of empowering women in meeting their basic family needs not only gives them the ability and resources to become independent, but also empowers them as agents of change in their environment. By actively participating in family decision-making, women can ensure that.

DISCUSSION

Based on the research results, it is known that the empowerment carried out by the KPPKW towards female members of the KPPKW can be seen from several things, namely based on the main aim or concept of the formation of this organization and the development activities carried out within it.

Then the condition of fulfilling the family needs of female KPPKW members can be seen from several things, namely awareness or understanding of female members regarding meeting needs, economic demands, efforts that have been made, and achievements in fulfilling family needs, where this is also inseparable from obstacles.

Then the role of KPPKW in helping members fulfill their family's needs can be seen from several things, namely the positive and good goals of both parties, opening job opportunities, providing various financing, and mutual support between members.

This research was carried out by interviewing 6 selected informants, who were

farmers, administrators and core administrators, namely the chairman and secretary and treasurer of KPPKW. As previously mentioned, one of the things that describes the empowerment process of KPPKWT is the concept promoted by this organization itself. Through the results of this research, it is known that the main concept of KPPKWT is to empower women, especially in agriculture, so that they can develop their potential and benefit themselves and the environment. around.

In this research, the characteristic of the research object is someone who is married, so the perceived usefulness will affect the family of this KPPKW member. Meanwhile, according to Shardlow (in Marmoah, 2014), empowerment as an idea is not much different from the Biestek concept which is known in the field of Social Welfare Science as "self-determination", which is one of the basic principles in the field of social welfare and social work. .

This is in accordance with the findings in this research which illustrate how the main concept of this organization is to empower women so they can help themselves become independent and help the family economy.

Then, this can also be seen in the development activities carried out. There are several programs such as rubber plantations and nurseries, fisheries, basic food business units and savings and loans. Apart from that, not only through programs, but through relationships between members and administrators who often meet each other to share experiences and insights so that everyone can freely and maximally explore their potential.

As for this research, it is known that women who are members of KPPKW are

family women, so they also do not let go of their family responsibilities, especially fulfilling family needs.

Through research results, it is known that KPPKW members are basically aware that they are also responsible for meeting family needs, so they make maximum efforts in the process of meeting needs, including by working to help the family economically. This can be seen through the lives of KPPKW members who are ultimately able to meet family needs at least in the adequate category.

This shows how working women, especially KPPKW members, do not abandon their family responsibilities. This is in line with research conducted by Ruski and Ulum (Year), where their findings are in line with the findings of this research, namely the role of housewives in the family is not only based on the assumption that women only end up in the kitchen and taking care of the family but also have role in helping and improving the family's economic level.

As an organization that aims to empower its members, KPPKWT certainly plays a role in meeting the family needs of its members. This is most clearly seen through the opening of employment opportunities and access to financing or capital for members through cooperatives.

In addition, this role is further strengthened by the synergy of the members who establish good relations with each other so that In this study, in summary it can be said that the role given is a positive thing, namely the goals of both parties are positive and good, opening jobs, various financing provisions, and mutual support among fellow members. This is in line with Ayu's research (Year), which stated positive expectations in empowering women in the context of MSMEs.

In the process of empowering women studied in this study, it is not uncommon for obstacles to occur, such as the social view of working housewives or difficulties in doing work. However, through this research it is known that these obstacles can be minimized little by little over time.

CONCLUSION

- a. Empowerment carried out by the KPPKW towards female members of the KPPKW can be seen from the main objective or concept of forming this organization, namely to empower women, especially in agriculture so that they can develop their potential and benefit themselves and the surrounding environment so that they become independent and help the family economy. Apart from this, it can be seen from the development activities carried out such as rubber plantations and nurseries, fisheries, basic food business units and savings and loans. Then it can also be seen from the relationships between members and administrators who share experiences and insights with each other.
- b. Fulfillment of the basic needs of the family for women in the Women Farmer Group at the Wangunwati Rubber Plantation, Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency can be seen from the awareness or understanding of female members

of the fulfillment of needs due to economic demands and the efforts and achievements that have been made in meeting family needs. The efforts of the members can be seen from the lives of KPPKW members so that in the end they can meet the family's needs at least in the sufficient category.

- c. The role of members of the Women's Farmers Group in helping to meet the basic needs of their families can be seen from the synergy of the members who build good relationships with each other so that many positive things occur, such as opening employment opportunities, providing financing, and mutual support between members..

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