

## Social Changes In The Fishing Community After The Earthquake And Tsunami In Silae Village, Ulujadi District, Palu City

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is, first, to determine the conditions of fishermen in Silae Village before the earthquake and tsunami disaster and, second, to determine the current conditions of fishermen in Silae Village as a form of social change. To answer these questions, the author conducted research using the following methods: literature review to obtain secondary data, followed by field research consisting of observation, interviews, and documentation. There were five fishermen who served as informants for this study, based on the criteria described in the research methods section. These informants were selected purposively. After the data was collected and analyzed qualitatively, the following results were obtained:

Before the earthquake and tsunami, fishermen in Silae Village lived in limited conditions because they did not have adequate fishing equipment, even though they had experience, but they were not yet advanced fishermen. It was evident that their fishing range was limited (tending to be close) because they only used human power/non-motorized boats, so their range was very close, which meant that their catch was limited, sufficient only for consumption. The earthquake and tsunami changed the fishermen's lives quickly and unexpectedly, beyond their control. What changed the situation of the fishermen in Silae Village was the arrival of assistance from various parties, both from the Palu City government and from abroad (Turkey) in the form of fishing equipment, ranging from boats to engines with limited capacity. The arrival of this assistance directly changed the fishermen's situation. The change that the author observed was that the fishermen's motivation to work was very high, and they were able to travel further afield, which increased their production and changed their situation from what it had been previously. Therefore, the social change that occurred was unplanned but changed for the better (progress).

**Keywords:** Fisherman, Social Change.

## 1. Introduction

Palu City is one of 13 municipalities in the province of Central Sulawesi. Palu City is divided into several subdistricts (8 subdistricts) and further divided into several villages (48 villages) with a total population of 377,030. (Palu City in Figures 2022). Palu City, also known as the Palu Valley, has a bay called Palu Bay with adequate marine resources that can be used as a source of livelihood for the community, especially those who live on the coast or in Palu Bay.

No one expected that the beautiful moments always enjoyed on the coast of Palu City, located in several urban villages, and even the moments leading up to the opening of a large-scale event (Palu Nomoni) organized by the Mayor of Palu and attended by many guests, not only from Palu City itself but also from other regions or provinces, would be interrupted. Suddenly, at 5:02 PM local time, the situation changed as a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Palu, Sigi, and Donggala. The epicenter was at a depth of 10 km, located 27 km northeast of Donggala..

Initial observations followed by interviews revealed that fishermen in Silae use traditional equipment and have a very low income of around Rp. 500,000/month due to their limited reach. According to the data obtained (Silae Village Profile 2022), there are currently approximately 80 fishermen registered in the village, considering that there are still fishermen who have emerged recently with the assistance from the Palu City government and other sources. However, after the disaster, there were significant changes, both from a social perspective.

This is the aspect that the author examined in depth through research, namely a social change which in sociological studies is referred to as a form of unplanned social change, a change that is undesirable and beyond human control (Syani, 2002:171). This means that the social change that occurred was a change that was beyond human control, beyond human reasoning, and completely unpredictable. This is what caused the people of Palu City, especially the fishermen in Silae Village at that time, to experience a very drastic social change that was unimaginable and unprepared for, causing them to lose their homes (which were destroyed by the earthquake) and their fishing equipment, such as boats and other tools, which were lost or destroyed by the waves.

## 2. Method

In this study, the author uses qualitative research methods, namely meaningful research to obtain more accurate data on the phenomena that occur. Qualitative research refers to various different methods of data collection, including field research, participant observation, and in-depth interviews (Bungin, 2010:78). In relation to the author's research, the phenomenon in question is the social changes that have occurred in the fishing community in Silae Village after the earthquake and tsunami.

### **3. Main Heading of the First Analysis or Discussion**

#### **3.1. Description Of The Fishing Community In Silae Village, Ulujadi Subdistrict, Before The Earthquake And Tsunami.**

The Silae sub-district is one of the sub-districts whose territory is partly located on a long coastline, with a coastal boundary ranging from 3 to 7 km, adjacent to the coastal areas of Kabone and Tipe sub-districts in the Ulujadi district of Palu City. This data is in terms of length, but of course it differs in terms of area, because when at sea, there are no boundaries between the waters of one village and another. However, all fishermen from various coastal areas in Palu City, Donggala, and elsewhere have the same rights to exploit the resources in the sea, specifically in Palu Bay.

The data obtained by the author through interviews with informants (in accordance with the specified amount) explains that the people who work as fishermen in Silae Village have been doing so for quite a long time; it can be said that it is a job that has been passed down from generation to generation. Indeed, not all residents of Silae Village work as fishermen; some work in other sectors, considering that from a topographical perspective, 85% of Silae Village is flat land, 10% is hilly, and 5% is mountainous (Ulujadi Subdistrict in Figures 2022).

Therefore, it is impossible for all residents to be fishermen, especially since not everyone has the ability to work in the fishing industry, which is a demanding profession that is full of risks and, as the author says, can be life-threatening, even though the results cannot be predicted with certainty. At the very least, by working as fishermen, in addition to being able to meet the needs of their families and other people (fish consumers), they are not dependent on or a burden to the government to find them jobs so that they are not unemployed.

Data from 2021 shows that of the 17 types of local revenue sources (PAD), the fishing/fisheries sector contributed 1.9%, and specifically for the Ulujadi District, which includes the Silae Village, in 2021, the catch, when converted to rupiah, reached IDR 9,381,500.

The information from the informant quoted above makes it clear that, in fact, the activities of fishermen in Silae Village have undergone changes in all aspects from year to year. This is certainly inevitable and cannot be rejected, especially given the increasingly urgent demand for development to be accelerated so that the city of Palu can experience progress and development in accordance with the plan. It is not only the lives of fishermen that the government must pay attention to, promote, and develop, but other aspects of development are also no less important as part of the city's infrastructure.

As the author clearly states, it is clear that the conditions of fishermen in Silae Village before the earthquake and tsunami disaster several years ago reflected the lives of fishermen in general, meaning that from time to time they tended to be somewhat

stagnant and did not experience significant development due to limitations. The limitations referred to by the author, according to the information obtained, include the fishermen's limited skills in understanding and obtaining information on weather, sea waves, and wind direction.

Furthermore, information on fish distribution locations is still obtained conventionally, emergency response is still lacking, and access to information on fish needed by the market is still insufficient.

### **3.2. The Current Condition Of Silae Fishermen As A Manifestation Of Social Change.**

The author's basis for assessing whether or not social change has occurred, in this case social change in the fishing community in Silae Village after the earthquake and tsunami, is as described in the information and data presented in the previous explanation. From this, the author can provide information that the fishing community in Silae Village is now different from before, although the difference does not seem to be a striking change that has resulted in a much better life than before.

The author's research, which involved interviewing five informants, provided different explanations of the social changes that have occurred and been felt by the fishing community. However, in general, they were able to provide clear data and facts about the social changes that have occurred over time, even though, in principle, the informants did not substantially understand the meaning of social change itself. They lived through it, they saw and felt the changes that occurred.

Some informants not only talked about the changes before and after the disaster, but also about the changes that were felt, experienced, and lived through long before the disaster. This is certainly possible because the informants selected by the author are on average over 50 years old, so the information provided is certainly very adequate and makes it easy for the author to capture the information and then incorporate it into the results of this study.

Currently, the conditions of fishermen operating in Palu Bay have improved and returned to normal. Everyone meets and is friendly with each other, especially when they are at sea, and no longer make claims regarding fishing equipment. Fishermen who own motorized boats, such as those in Silae Village, on average use motorized boats, even if they are of moderate power, but they are able to explore distant sea areas up to 5 miles and are able to work for approximately 18-20 hours each time they go to sea.

Thus, the fishermen's production is adequate, although not always. There is a season (packlik season) and a fishing season. The information provided by the informant as quoted above illustrates that there has been progressive social change (towards more advanced) among fishermen in Silae Village. This is due to the assistance provided by

various parties, which has motivated them to utilize the fishing equipment, thereby increasing their income.

The author's research on the average income of fishermen in Silae Village ranges from Rp. 2,500,000 to Rp. 3,000,000 per month. This income is gross income because it does not include expenses incurred when going to sea, such as fuel costs for engines, food costs, cigarette money, and others. However, when compared to before the earthquake and tsunami, fishermen's income was only an average of Rp. 1,500,000 to Rp. 2,000,000 per month.

This is one aspect of the unplanned and unwanted social changes in the lives of fishermen in Silae Village, but it is a factor that has brought about change. Although it was unplanned, unwanted, and could have a psychological impact, fishermen must accept and face it, because only in this way can their work as fishermen, seeking and hunting for sustenance at sea, proceed as they hope.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Based on the research conducted by the author through observation, interviews, and documentation, which was then analyzed to answer the research questions, two conclusions were reached, as follows:

Before the earthquake and tsunami, the fishermen in Silae Village were in the same condition as most coastal fishermen in Palu City. They lived in limited conditions because they did not have adequate fishing equipment, even though they were senior fishermen. They had considerable experience at sea, but experience alone was not enough to make them advanced fishermen. This was evident in their limited range of exploration (tending to be close to shore) because they only used human power/non-motorized boats, so their range was very limited, which meant that their catch and production were also limited, only enough for consumption.

After the earthquake and tsunami, conditions changed for the better, even though these social changes were unplanned, unwanted, and beyond human control. What changed the situation of fishermen in Silae Village was the arrival of assistance from various parties, both from the Palu City government (the former and new mayors), as well as assistance from other regions and even from abroad (Turkey) in the form of fishing equipment, ranging from boats to engines with limited capacity. The arrival of this assistance directly changed the situation of fishermen in Silae Village. The change that the author observed was that the fishermen's motivation to work was very high, their fishing grounds had expanded quite far, enabling their production to increase and differ from the previous conditions. Therefore, the social change that occurred was an unplanned social change but one that changed for the better (progress).

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