

The Role of Traditional Fishing Families in Improving Post-Disaster Family Well-being in Mamboro Barat Village, North Palu District.

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to examine the role of the family in improving the well-being of traditional fishing families in Mamboro Barat Village and to assess the socioeconomic conditions of these families. The research method employed was a qualitative approach, utilizing data collection techniques such as observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of this study indicate that the efforts made by traditional fishing families in Mamboro Barat Village to improve family well-being include working as traditional fishermen and seeking side jobs, while the fishermen's wives also play an active role in earning the family's livelihood. The economic conditions of traditional fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village following the disaster have deteriorated. This is due to a decline in income from their primary occupation as fishermen, as catch volumes have decreased following the natural disaster, and much of the equipment they use for fishing (boats and boat engines) was damaged by the disaster.

Keywords: Role; Family; Traditional Fishermen.

1. Introduction

Communities living in coastal areas are commonly referred to as coastal communities. Most coastal communities rely on fishing for their livelihood. Given Indonesia's abundant marine resources, life along the coast should make fishermen wealthy. However, in reality, they still face dire circumstances, and many remain below the poverty line. Some contributing factors include situations where fishermen cannot go out to sea due to bad weather; yet, since their basic needs must still be met, they are forced to take on debt. Another factor contributing to poverty among fishing families is that the majority of fishermen in Indonesia are wage laborers with low socioeconomic status and welfare levels (Pasaribu, 2018:13).

Generally speaking, traditional fishermen are those who utilize fishery resources using traditional fishing gear, with limited capital and relatively simple fishing techniques. In their daily lives, traditional fishermen are primarily focused on meeting their own needs (Yapanani et al., 2013). Fishing families often rely on family members to work in order to increase household income. Among the productive members of a fishing family who help increase income are the fishermen's wives. It is said that the economic situation of fishing families is unstable, as fishermen's income depends on nature. When nature is favorable—meaning the sea is calm, the weather is good, and fish are abundant—fishermen tend to be able to earn a sufficient income. However, when natural conditions are unfavorable—due to bad weather, strong winds, and high waves—and fish stocks are low, fishermen tend to return empty-handed. Therefore, in one-day fishing households, although the responsibility for providing for the family falls on the man (the husband), his low income forces the wife to step in and work as well. Moreover, in families of fishermen engaged in long-day fishing, the husband will naturally leave his family,

sometimes for as long as a month. With the husband's prolonged absence at sea, the woman (wife) assumes the role of the father, namely providing for the family. Consequently, most fishermen's wives must step in to work (Indrawasih, 2015:99).

Following the 2018 natural disaster in Palu City, particularly in the Mamboro Barat neighborhood of North Palu District, 83 fishing families struggled to meet their daily needs, prompting family members to actively seek solutions to their household problems. Currently, many female fishermen in the Mamboro Barat neighborhood have taken on the role of sole breadwinners while their husbands are unable to go out to sea. In this situation, female fishermen have engaged in various productive activities, such as selling fresh fish at the market. Additionally, they have started drying fish for sale, which generates higher income compared to selling it fresh.

The coastal community in Mamboro Barat Village, North Palu District, serves as a tangible example of the role that fishing families play in improving household economic conditions, as one of the villages located along the coast of Palu Bay. In the face of economic uncertainty, fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village must adapt by involving their family members in the work. Consequently, there is a division of roles among fathers, mothers, and children within fishing families. The husband works as a fisherman, catching fish to meet the family's needs, while the wife processes the catch and sells the prepared fish at the market to support the family's economy. Meanwhile, children participate in work to help alleviate their parents' workload, and indirectly, a child becomes a productive unit within the family.

The family is formed to support the survival of a social system (society) in terms of balance, stability, and the maintenance of the original roles of community members, which indeed originate from this smallest institution. This means that the family consists of specific individuals as members and is closed to those who are not members. The family can be treated as a social system by other parts of society and within the kinship system itself. (Levy in Pudjiwati Sadjogyo, 1983: 27).

The family structure that is formed may be based on a lineage, but in any case, this new family does not necessarily have to be bound by interdependence in maintaining family harmony, let alone in raising and caring for children. Today, women face many uncertainties caused by changes in society and the role of the family. This evolving society also influences the role of the family, and because the family is in a transitional phase, women feel that their burdens and responsibilities are growing.

Traditional fishing communities tend to be less future-oriented; their use of technology remains rudimentary and irrational, they are relatively closed off to outsiders, and they lack empathy. In the days of their ancestors, fishermen used only very simple tools, such as small boats with small oars. Nowadays, fishermen have adopted advanced technology, such as outboard motors to power their boats and improved fishing gear.

Fishing communities are social groups of people who inhabit coastal, lake, or river environments and carry out their daily activities by utilizing their environment in accordance with their cultural traditions. Traditional fishermen are those who still use traditional equipment, such as sailboats and simple bagang boats, as their means of transportation, and who employ simple fishing gear.

2. Method

The research method used is a qualitative research method, employing data collection techniques such as observation, interviews, and documentation. By using a qualitative

method, the data obtained will be more comprehensive, in-depth, and meaningful, thereby enabling the research objectives to be achieved. With a qualitative method, more thorough and reliable data can be obtained, thereby ensuring high credibility (Sugiyono, 2009:10)

3. Main Heading of the First Analysis or Discussion

Traditional fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village are generally day fishermen who target species such as katombo, lajang, and other fish. The vessels they typically use are wooden outboard motorboats. The gear they use is quite varied, including nets and fishing rods. In addition, the fishing schedules of traditional fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village vary; some go out to sea in the morning, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., while others go out at night, starting at sunset until midnight, and it is not uncommon for them to return as late as morning.

Fishermen in the Mamboro Barat neighborhood experienced changes in their catch volumes and income before and after the natural disaster. This occurred because the fishermen faced difficulties going out to sea following the natural disaster in Palu, as some of the equipment used for fishing had been damaged. Consequently, these challenges impacted the catch volumes and income of the fishermen in the Mamboro Barat neighborhood.

The impact of the tsunami that struck Palu City has been felt directly by fishermen in the form of declining fish catches and reduced income from fishing activities. Whereas catches used to be plentiful enough to boost the economic well-being of fishing families, today's catches are barely enough to meet daily needs. Additionally, these fishermen sometimes cannot go out to sea due to unfavorable weather conditions or rough seas. Consequently, the fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village have had to find creative ways to survive, as their primary source of income is no longer viable. Some of them have switched professions to become construction laborers, fried food vendors, and other jobs.

The impact of natural disasters has not only affected the catch volume and income of fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village, but it has also impacted the employment sector of the community there, particularly those whose livelihood depends on fishing. Much of the equipment typically used by fishermen to go out to sea was damaged when it was swept away by the tsunami waves in 2018.

The work performed by fishermen's wives in Mamboro Barat Village is generally in the fisheries sector and is informal in nature. The work they do includes fish processing, selling fish, and, in some cases, selling basic foodstuffs. The work activities chosen by the wives of fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village are not bound by fixed working hours. The informal work performed by these wives is self-created. Since this work does not depend on others, working hours are not fixed.

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This natural disaster has had an impact on the amount of fish caught by fishermen due to several factors, one of which is that the disaster caused damage to the equipment they use for fishing. As a result of the decline in the amount of fish caught by fishermen in the Mamboro Barat neighborhood following this disaster, this will naturally also affect the fishermen's income from fishing.

The income of fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village has declined since the natural disaster compared to their income before the disaster. This is because much of their fishing equipment was damaged following the natural disaster in Palu City, which has had a direct impact on the size of their catches and their income in Mamboro Barat Village.

4. Conclusion

Based on the above analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn. To improve the well-being of fishing families, the following efforts have been made: As traditional fishermen, fishing is their primary source of livelihood for meeting their basic needs. In addition to their livelihood from fishing, traditional fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village also typically seek side jobs such as working as construction laborers, farmhands, and so on. Fishermen's wives also play a role in helping their husbands earn a living by selling the catch to the community and wholesalers at the market, processing fish into salted fish, and opening small shops selling basic necessities.

The economic conditions of traditional fishermen in Mamboro Barat Village have deteriorated in the aftermath of the disaster. This is because their primary source of income—fishing—has seen a decline in earnings due to reduced catch volumes following the natural disaster, and because much of the equipment they use for fishing (boats and boat engines) was damaged by the disaster.

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