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The Dynamics Of The Socio-Economic Life Of Female Heads Of Households In Popaya Village, Dengilo Sub-District, Pohuwato District

Dinamika Kehidupan Sosial Ekonomi Perempuan Kepala Keluarga Di Desa Popaya, Kecamatan Dengilo, Kabupaten Pohuwato

Mey Yulan Moko¹, Risnayanti R. Juramang², Adriani Bantui³

^{1,2,3}Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Gorontalo

(meymoko@gmail.com)

(risnayantidj87@gmail.com)

(adrianibantui37@gmail.com)

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Abstract

The Papaya Village Government annually collects population data to identify its community's socio-economic needs. From the results of preliminary observations, it was found that in Popaya Village, there are 20 female heads of families who are included as socio-economically vulnerable women and have the responsibility to fulfill the needs of their families. This study aims to determine the dynamics of the socio-economic life of female heads of households in Popaya Village, Dengilo Sub-district, Pohuwato Regency, and the impacts of being a female head of household. The qualitative research method is a method used to research natural object conditions. The results showed that the dynamics of the socio-economic life of women's family heads in Popaya Village are diverse. Regarding role changes, women's family heads must carry out dual roles: breadwinners and homemakers. Meanwhile, in terms of changes in thinking patterns, it can be seen that after becoming the head of the household, the female head of the room must try to think about generating income to meet family needs, whether it is becoming a farm laborer, cleaning houses and schools, or establishing micro, small, and medium enterprises. Being the head of the family significantly impacts the lives of women heads of households; it is difficult to get a job, and economic limitations are caused by low education and age, causing women heads of families to live in economic limitations.

INTRODUCTION

The condition of poverty in Indonesia is still a concern because the problem of poverty continues to experience ups and downs. The government has always tried to tackle poverty by launching social assistance programs such as the

family home program (PKH), non-cash food assistance (BPNT), and the Smart Indonesia Card (KIP). These programs aim to provide direct aid to poor communities through cash, food, and education.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics 2022, the percentage of people living below the poverty line in Indonesia by gender women reached 9.65% while the male poverty line reached 9.29%. From these figures, it can be seen that women dominate poverty in Indonesia. Therefore, the government has regulated the problem of poverty women face in the Ministry of Social Affairs regulations regarding persons with social welfare problems, including socioeconomically vulnerable women.

According to Law No. 11/2009 on Welfare in Indonesia, Article 1 reads that social welfare is a condition of fulfilling citizens' material, spiritual, and social needs to live more appropriately and develop themselves to carry out their social functions. The increasing number of female heads of households is caused by several factors, namely divorce, women who have children out of wedlock, and husbands who die. However, we only focus on divorced women who head the family.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, in 2022, the household conditions of female heads of households mainly were caused by divorce, reaching 70.37%. The number of poor women in Indonesia due to death and divorce causes women to have to undergo a dual role. Being a single parent or a female head of the family is responsible for making a living for her family. According to Maula Minatul (2022), the status of women as mothers and heads of families automatically encourages women to change roles in the family and society. This is because women who originally had the role of mother in the family must change and increase to become the head of the family who can lead and manage the family well. Therefore, female heads of households must prioritize many things, namely fulfilling their needs, maintaining family survival, and maintaining social relations with the community.

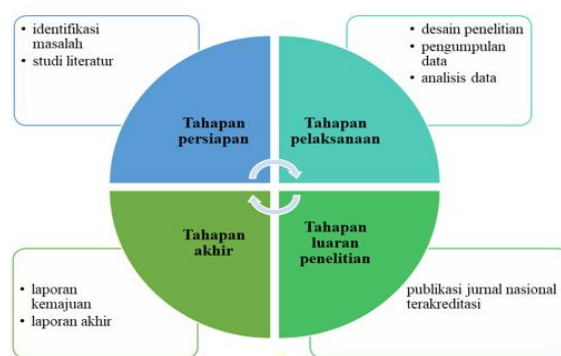
The Papaya Village Government annually collects population data to identify the community's socioeconomic needs. From the results of initial observations, it was found that in Popaya Village, there are 20 female heads of

households who are included in socioeconomically vulnerable women and have the responsibility to fulfill the needs of their families. In meeting the needs of their families, socioeconomically vulnerable women in Popaya Village work as farm laborers, day laborers, and small traders and run micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). In addition, to meet the family's needs, female heads of households look for additional work, such as working part-time as laundry workers and farm laborers. Based on the above background, the researcher is interested in conducting a study titled 'The Dynamics of the Socioeconomic Life of Female-Headed Households in Popaya Village, Kabila Sub-district, Bone Bolango Regency.'

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In conducting this research, a qualitative research method was used to examine the dynamics of the socioeconomic life of female heads of households in Popaya Village, Dengilo Sub-district, Pohuwato Regency. Qualitative research method is a method used to research on natural object conditions. Where the researcher is the key instrument. Data collection techniques are triangulated (combined observation, interview, documentation) Sugiono (2022).

In this study, data was obtained through in-depth interviews with stakeholders at the village level, including village government staff, community members, families/relatives of female heads of households and female heads of households themselves. The research method was conducted through 4 stages. First, the preparation stage , Second Stage , implementation, Third Stage , final stage and Fourth Stage, research output, which is shown in the research flow chart in the following figure:



Gambar 1

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The dynamics of the socioeconomic life of female heads of households in Popaya Village, Dengilo Sub-district. The dynamics of the social life of female heads of family make many changes in the socioeconomic life of female heads of family, such as:

1. Changes in role

In ensuring a decent life for children and family, female heads of family in Popaya Village must carry out a dual role that replaces the father's role in fulfilling the needs of children and family. From the aspect of education, women's family heads succeed in sending their children to school. As stated by the village head AB:

Alhamdulillah, being a single mother and family breadwinner does not cause them to neglect the needs of their children and family. This is evidenced by female heads of households who can send their children to high school, undergraduate, and some even graduate school. And thank God because of adequate education, their children have been able to help their mothers fulfill the needs of family life.

The same statement was also conveyed by Mrs AI that:

Alhamdulillah, after my husband died, I was not discouraged to be able to continue my life and meet the needs of my children. I work from selling cakes, running a daily shop, and working in the garden. Alhamdulillah, I have been able to take two of my children to senior high school and one to secondary school.

Mrs IA also made the same statement:

Alhamdulillah, despite being mediocre, I have fulfilled my family's life, but school is number one. My children have graduated from S1 and are already working in factories, so now the children can help fulfill the family's socioeconomic needs.

Based on the study's results, the female head of the family always gives her children and family the best. The role of a single mother is not an obstacle in carrying out the obligations placed on her in taking care of and raising children. What has been given and sacrificed by the female head of the family becomes something that can help and contribute to fulfilling the socioeconomic needs of the family.

2. Changes in Mindset

Being the head of the family causes women to think and try to meet their needs, resulting in circumstances that force them to carry out all means to fulfill the family's socioeconomic life.

As expressed by Mrs. ST:

"I have been the head of the family for 10 years. Since 2014, my life has changed, requiring me to consider how to support and send my children to school. For the past 10 years, I have worked as a casual daily laborer. I do everything that can make me money, such as washing, cleaning, picking corn, and planting corn.

Mrs HN also made a similar statement. Who said that:

I have been the head of a family for 11 years and have five children. After my husband passed away, my family life changed because of economic needs that sometimes do not meet the needs of me and my children. Finally, I thought of looking for a job, but I also had difficulty finding one, and from then until today, I worked as a farm laborer and tended my garden.

The research results show that female heads of households in Popaya Village experience changes in family life related to fulfilling the family economy. Women family heads in Popaya Village also receive attention from the village government as evidenced by the social assistance distributed such as direct cash assistance (BLT), the Family Hope Programme (PKH), non-cash pagan assistance (BNPT), and micro, small, and medium enterprises (UMKM).

As stated by Mrs. ND:

Women heads of households in Popaya Village also receive social assistance, such as non-cash food assistance, direct cash assistance, and the Family Hope program; thank God the social provided aid is put to good use and can help the family economy a little.

The statement above is supported by Mrs IU, who said:

Alhamdulillah, we received social assistance. We utilized the assistance to open a food and daily goods stall. Alhamdulillah, we can get extra money from there to fulfill our lives. Being a female head of household forces us to think about how we can utilize the assistance to support and help our family.

Based on the research results, the Popaya Village government provides attention and opportunities for women heads of households to develop micro, small, and medium enterprises to support the community's socioeconomic life.

B. The impact of being a female head of family

1. Difficulty getting a job

After the death of her husband, the wife must fulfill the role of a single mother in the family. One of the roles that must be carried out is to replace the father's role in fulfilling family needs. Finding a job is the biggest challenge faced by female heads of households because before becoming single mothers, they only fulfilled the role of homemakers who only waited, received, and managed the finances generated by their husbands. As expressed by Mrs HN:

After my husband died, I was stressed about how to support my five children. All this time, I was just a housewife who received income from my husband. Because of my age and education, getting a decent job was challenging. Finally, I became a farm laborer and worked in my own garden.

Mrs IA also expressed the same thing:

My most difficult challenge after my husband left me was finding a job. On the one hand, I wanted to get a job that could provide for my family, but my physical condition and education did not support it. Ultimately, I chose to become a laundry laborer, help clean the house and school, help plant corn, and pick corn because that was the only thing I could do. Alhamdulillah, I was able to make ends meet.

The research results show that it is difficult for female heads of households to get a job because of their basic education and the influence of age. Becoming a laborer is the last option for living and fulfilling the family's needs.

2. Economic Limitations

Being the backbone of the family is a weighty responsibility carried by female heads of the family. Economic constraints force women heads of families to think optimally and be able to manage finances well. But everything will go differently than expected because the financial needs and the needs of the children we have to work for continue to increase. As stated by Mrs. AI:

Indeed, it has not been easy for me to carry out the role of a single mother because there are certain times when I cannot do this myself. Sometimes, the children's needs

must be fulfilled, but the financial conditions do not support them. That's when I miss my husband's presence. But I can get through it all when I see my children and my hopes for them.

Mrs YH expressed the same thing:

Being a single mother puts me under economic limitations; I must manage finances to 555ulfil our lives. Sometimes, I feel sad when there are children's needs that I cannot meet because I cannot. But thank God my children can understand the conditions I face.

The study's results show that being a single mother takes work. The economic limitations faced by women heads of families make it very difficult. However, due to sound financial management and understanding from children, everything can be lived with gratitude.

DISCUSSION

A. The dynamics of the socio-economic life of female heads of households

The dynamics of socio-economic life provide many social changes in community life. The changes that occur involve changes in thought patterns, attitudes, and social life. Several factors lead to societal changes, such as changes in roles and mindsets. In the context of this research, there is a change in the role and attitude of the female head of the family due to the death of her husband, so the female head of the family must carry out a dual role in fulfilling the family's needs.

1. Changes in role

Being a female head of the family requires them to undergo a dual role in continuing life with their family. Replacing the role of a father takes work. The status as head of the family requires women to adjust to their new environment, especially in fulfilling the family's economic needs.

Women's family heads are very vulnerable to the problem of poverty. Family welfare is one of the social problems that can be found in the middle of society. Regarding women, family heads have a dual role: housewife and breadwinner.

According to the Foundation for the Empowerment of Women Heads of Families in Heny Pagoray (2020), what is meant by Women Heads of Families is

women who carry out roles and responsibilities in earning a living, managing their households, and maintaining the survival of the family, and making decisions in the family.

Women heads of households in Popaya Village perform their roles as housewives and breadwinning mothers very well. Living a dual role is not easy, but the circumstances force the female head of the family to live it.

In fulfilling the needs of the family, women family heads in Popaya Village carry out their roles as breadwinners, managing household needs, and as educators in guiding their children:

1. To earn a living, female heads of families do various kinds of work, such as being farm laborers, washing laborers, cleaning houses and schools, and establishing small micro-businesses, such as building food stalls and daily goods stalls.
2. Managing household needs is one of the things that female heads of families must do; female heads of families must manage all the needs of the house, such as keeping the house clean and cooking for children. In terms of fulfilling household needs, female heads of families in Popaya Village utilize and manage family finances well to be in sufficient condition.
3. As educators and guiding children.

Guiding children is essentially not only the task of a mother but the father's role is needed, with the condition of losing a father figure providing a sense of loss for the family, especially in guiding and educating children. The female head of the family in Popaya Village is said to be successful in educating and guiding her children in terms of education; the female head of the family can guide her children in completing their education so that they can now help support the family's needs.

2. Changes in mindset

Changes in thinking patterns are closely related to the family's economic welfare. According to Isbandi Rukminto, *economic well-being* means the family fulfilling financial inputs.

In fulfilling the economic needs of the family, female heads of families in Popaya Village experience a change in mindset. Initially, they only received income from their husbands; now, they have to carry out the role of family breadwinner. The situation makes women's family heads think of earning a living by becoming farm laborers, working in gardens, and utilizing social assistance provided by the government. The assistance provided is used to open food and daily goods stalls to support the family economy.

B. The impact of being the head of the family

1. Difficulty getting a job

Economic welfare is indeed the biggest challenge for households headed by a woman. The existence of a social assistance programme provided to female heads of household is one solution to overcoming the difficulty of getting a job for them. The assistance provided can be used as capital in establishing micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Inadequate education makes it difficult for female heads of household in Popaya Village to get a job.

2. Economic limitations

The economy is a supporting factor in improving family welfare. A family's economic situation can be seen in income, changes in income, and unmet needs. Families headed by women are more vulnerable to economic limitations. This is due to the difficulty of getting a job, which is influenced by the low level of education and age, which is no longer easy. This situation is found in women's heads of families in Popaya Village, where economic resources are limited, but family needs are unlimited. In this study, the author uses Talcott Parsons's theory of functionalism. According to Minatul (2022), Parsons considers that humans act based on the impulse of their will, taking into account the values and norms that have been agreed upon.

The dynamics of the socio-economic life of women heads of families is not an easy thing for women heads of families to face; changes that occur in the family, such as being killed by a husband, are not the changes expected by a wife. After living and continuing life as the head of the family certainly causes a wife to lose balance in her life. The economic changes confuse continuing life with children and

family. In continuing life, the head of the family is not only focused on the situation left by a husband but must carry out a dual role to balance family life. As revealed by Syamsiah (2023), the theory of family functionalism has a vital role in the survival of the family, such as socialization and meeting the economic and emotional needs of family members. The family also plays a role in maintaining and maintaining the values and norms that apply in society.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion, the following conclusions can be drawn. The dynamics of the socio-economic life of women's family heads in Popaya Village are diverse. However, this research focuses on role changes and the community's mindset. Regarding role changes, women's family heads must carry out dual roles: breadwinners and homemakers. Meanwhile, in terms of changes in mindset, after becoming the head of the household, the female head of the room must try to think about generating income to meet family needs. Either becoming a farm laborer, cleaning houses and schools, or establishing small and medium micro businesses. The impact of being a female head of household. Being the head of the family significantly affects the lives of female heads of households; it is difficult to get a job, and economic limitations are caused by low education and age, causing female heads of families to live in economic limitations.

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