

Efforts of Traditional Fishermen on Tackling Poverty in Langgula Village, Gorontalo Regency

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the efforts of traditional fishermen in tackling poverty in Langgula Village, Gorontalo Regency. This type of research is descriptive research. Data collection was carried out using in-depth interviews and then recorded and processed qualitatively through the stages of reduction, presentation of data and drawing conclusions. The results of the study obtained that the efforts of traditional fishermen who were classified as poor in Langgula Village in tackling poverty were changing professions to become farmers, carpenters and construction workers and side businesses carried out by wives. Professional shifts are carried out during the lean season to meet the needs of the family. The side businesses that the wives do can add to the family income.

Keywords: Peasant fisherman; poverty.

Introduction

It is an undeniable fact that Indonesia's territory has about 5.8 million km² of sea, dotted with about 17,500 islands, and strung together by a coastline of 81,000 km (the second longest in the world after Canada). The stretch from the west end (Sabang) to the east end (Merauke) is comparable to the distance from London to Baghdad. Meanwhile, the range from the northern end (Miangas Island) to the southern end (Rote Island) is almost the same distance between Germany and Algeria (Dahuri, 2013).

The potential of fish resources is certainly the hope of all fishermen to increase their income. However, this great potential cannot be utilized in full capacity because fishermen, most of whom are traditional, still use very limited fishing gear, which affects their income level. According to Kusnadi (2002) in Mugni (2006), fishermen are who are of the lowest level of welfare.

The people of Langgula Village, almost all work as fishermen who are still categorized as traditional fishermen, namely fishermen who still use traditional tools. Of course this is an obstacle in fishing activities, so it also affects the amount of income, compared to using modern fishing gear. However, traditional tools are cheaper than modern fishing gear.

From the initial observations, the factors that influence the poverty of traditional fishermen in Langgula Village are matters related to government policies, for example fishermen's access to capital, production facilities (fishing boats, fishing gear, logistics, and other fishing equipment), infrastructure,

health care costs, education service costs, markets and information. One concrete example is the problem of capital where fishermen are quite difficult to get capital. In addition to these factors, human resource factors, namely the level of knowledge and mindset of fishermen also still need to be improved. It is technically very influential on success in dealing with the problems of life as a fisherman.

Facing problems like this, traditional fishermen in Langgula Village were forced to temporarily shift their professions as farmers and construction workers instead of developing fishing techniques and strategies. This is due to limited capital, but it is also caused by the hard season.

The research aims to describe the problem of poverty and to find out the efforts of traditional fishermen in tackling poverty.

The benefits of this research are expected to provide actual information about the efforts of traditional fishermen in tackling poverty so that it can be used as input for the government in particular and the local Marine Fisheries Service for further development.

Research Methods

Primary and secondary data that have been obtained in the field through in-depth interviews, direct observations (observations) and review studies are recorded which will then be processed and analyzed qualitatively through the stages of reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Sitorus, 1998 in Mugni, 2006).

The reduction stage includes the activity of summarizing the data, coding and classifying the data based on the analysis clusters in the thesis outline. The presentation of the data is described descriptively in the form of narrative text.

Results and Discussion

Langgula Village is a division from the origin village of Tontayuo. Langgula was one of the three hamlets in Tontayuo then officially founded as village on December 14, 2010 which consisted of Dusun (hamlet) Tumba, Dusun Dulamayo and Dusun Molamahu.

Geographically and administratively Langgula Village is one of the 205 villages in Gorontalo Regency, and has an area of \pm 4500 m². Topographically, it is located at an altitude of \pm 200 masl. Langgula has a population of 619 people consisting of 317 men and 302 women with 201 family heads.

The land have 30% potentials for plantation used by residents to farm corn, oranges, bananas, mangoes, coconuts, and chilies. Apart from farming, most of their livelihoods are fishermen. The livelihoods of the Langgula Village residents can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Resident's livelihoods

Mata Pencaharian Penduduk	Laki-laki	Perempuan
Nelayan	98	-
Petani	87	6
Pedagang	4	6
Jasa	11	6
PNS	2	-
Industri	-	66

Fishermen are the livelihood of most of the residents of Langgula Village, they are fishermen who use traditional fishing gear of hand-lines, that is certainly provides a low income. Among the population there

are 47 families fall into poor category and as many as 51 fishermen who are classified as prosperous.

The level of education is of concern, there are 8,51 % of the population has no formal education at all and 87,23% has only elementary school education. There are zero diploma and high school certificate holders. Labor fishermen aged between 23-30 years are 13 people or 27.66%, aged between 31-45 years are 22 people or 48.80%, aged between 46-60 years are 9 people or 19.14%, and those aged 61 -70 totaling 3 people or 6.40%.

The average number of dependents of traditional fishing families in Langgula Village is 1-3 people with 38 people or 80.85%, 4-6 people with 9 respondents or 19.15%.

Efforts to tackle Poverty

The role of family members in meeting the necessities of life is dominated by the *karawo* (traditional knitting) craftsman profession as many as 24 people with a total percentage of 51.06%, this profession provides wide employment opportunities for housewives and their high motivation to increase family income. The profession of a wife who sells cakes is an option for family members to increase the family's economic income by 10 people with a total percentage of 21.28%, then the role of family members as beach sand material sellers is in demand because from the sales proceeds it can increase family income where as many as 4 people 8.51% participate in this work.

Conclusion

The efforts of traditional fishermen who are classified as poor in Langgula Village in tackling poverty are switching professions to become farmers, carpenters and construction workers and side businesses carried out by wives. Professional shifts are carried out during the lean season to meet the needs of the family. The side businesses that the wives do can increase the family income. Government assistance is in the form of providing fishing gear and fishing business capital, but this assistance is not channeled properly and the inability of fishermen to manage the assistance is a separate obstacle.

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