

# ENCOURAGING COASTAL WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN INDONESIA

by

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## ABSTRACT

Coastal inhabitants life cycle in some areas in Indonesia are still have concerned with traditional cultural heritage. Rapidly development next to coastal land for varieties utilization, could be encouraged serious threatened for the sustainability of fisheries production. Issue related fisheries resources sustainability in Indonesia actually have long been realized by part of coastal communities, where both male and female inhabitant have always respected to keep and safe the resources. The Japanese fishermen household have used to implemented an annual coastal ceremonial, locally called Nadran. In more directly touch to resources arrangement sound are represent through the traditional communities-based related fisheries management in several areas in Indonesian water includes Panglima Laot ("Sea Commander" in Aceh Province; Lubuk Larangan or Prohibited Fishing areas in North Sumatera; Lebak Lebung System in South Sumatera; Sasi in Mallucas and Macera at Tempe Lake, South Sulawesi). This paper would like to explore the coastal Women ability, condition and some constrain faced for their actively participation in fishing community development in Indonesia.

## 1. Introduction

The role of fishing industry in the Indonesia National Economy is still relatively small. The coastal women which may involved in fisheries activities are includes fishing boat owner's wife, the motoris's wife, wife of the boat labors as well as girls labors (unmarried women). Some of them are female headed which directly contributed to the family source of income. Their varieties status in fishery economic activities are includes inland manajer or juragan darat (Susilowati, 1991). Local fish trader, fish processor and fish middlemen.

Since the last two decades, capture activities in Indonesia are tends to strongly exploited and the catch has shown decrease gradually. A number of fishing ground have been identified as highly exploited consist of the Malacca Strait, North coast of Java, East Coast of Sumatera, west coast of Kalimantan, South coast of Sulawesi (Nurzali and Yamamoto, 1977, Dwiponggo,1978; Sujastani, 1978 and recently was included Bali strait for Sardinella stock.

In fishing capture enterprise are usually preferred male rather than female worker. Approximately between 8 to 10 female worker out of 170 male worker would be absorbed in the fishing industry.

Fishing capture are mostly done by the fishermen especially for the fishing ground located from 3 mile to the offshore. In certain areas such as at Sentani Lake, Irian Jaya women are allowed capture using very simple fishing gear.

Meanwhile, fish marketing, handling and processing are dominantly done by the women. They usually work and stay close to their home. At Muncer (east Java), have well known as the center for fish processing especially for fish drying, salted, canning and fish powder production. Highly consuming catch also occurred at Muaraangke, North Jakarta (Annonymous, 1985) and at Pekalongan, Central Java (Susilowati, 1993.) The number of working days for both women and men in the processing industry and marketing at Mucar is ranged between 76/131 day for fish steaming and 90/160 days marketing.

Issue for fishery resource sustainability seems have long been realized by parts of the coastal inhabitants through locally fisheries arrangement. In more popular have known as traditional community-based management. In Indonesia several kinds of traditional community-based management have long been existed in certain areas includes Panglima Laot (“Sea Comander”) in Aceh Province; Lubuk Larangan or Prohibited fishing areas in North Sumatera, Lebak-Lebung system in South Sumatera. Sasi in Mallucas and Macera at Tempe Lake, South Sulawesi. Implemented those community-based management into more formal in fisheries management concept will enabled fishing communities including the women to keep and safe the resource for future benefit.

## **2. Gender-related in Fisheries Sector**

Implementation of the National Development would be determined by both Human Resources quality and sustainability of the Natural resources.

The goal of long term National Development is formed the Indonesian with characterize by:

1. Harmonized relationship between man and the God.
2. Harmonized relationship between man and community.

### 3. Harmonized relationship between man and its environment.

To realize those, women could contributed their capability through their position within family, community and in wider Scope.

Traditionally in Indonesia, housework has been considered the domain of Women. As housewife, women was allocated more time then man to household work. For most Women the higher the community prosperity, the less their required to participated in economic activities in the community.

Seventy percent of the Indonesian was stayed in the rural areas. Which has showed more female inhabitants than male. In the rural agriculture sector actually their are equally partner both in economic activities and social life.

Up to two last decades, around two third of the rural worker both male and female were mostly absorbed in agriculture sector. But rapidly development in the urban areas have encouraged the rural worker to be involved industrial sector. In fact, the female worker are seem easier absorbed in labor market, especially those who were exist in the productive aged group (19 to 39 years.)

In the Agricultural sector, the female workers are generally earn 20% to 30% less than the male for the same work (Gardiner, 1991).

Since the past time, the existing and potential role of women in the fisheries activities both marine and coastal sector has been felt and running well. Most of the coastal people are life in poor subsistence fishing household. The survival and welfare strategies for those people are depend upon their degree of access to working capital as part of Government development program.

In most poor fishing household, the woman look for income generating work outside the home. It was forcing the men to take up several of the household work. Such as cooking and child care. This condition was particularly common for those gender-related task both in fishing and agriculture sector. In general situation among coastal inhabitants, the power women were more economically active then the have one.

So far, several programs related to enhancement the Role of women have integrated into the various sectoral programs and implemented by various government institutions within several line departments.

In Agricultural Department, there is no special program reach the rural women, except some separated parcial Project such as through P4K, P3T, Poverty alleviation Project (1990/91/92) etc.

Basically, fisheries resources exploitation have purposed to fulfill the human needs. Irrational or unequallity implementation of the resources exploitation has led to the unsustainable conditions of future benefit.

Sustainability of fisheries exploitation could be influenced by the fishing communities behavior as well as performance of the environment (Socio-cultural and political-will).

To realize of the coastal rural community welfare as a part of fishery development goal, will required balanced or harmony between human behaviour or actions, economic activities and have to supported by nice environment.

The rural villagers both among rice-field farmer, fish farmer and fishermen, have long been familiar and implemented a kind of religious meal for the "owner", either before planted or after harvest.

In the coastal areas both at North coast of Java, as well as the south part, have always implementing religious ceremony called: "Nadran" or Sedekah Laut, annually. In there ceremony, male, female adult and the kids even thought the olds have enjoyed and involved since the preparation up to the H day. The same manner have also occurred among the Tempe Lake villagers, at South Sulawesi. It was known as Macera ceremony. This traditional ceremonial implementation tends to become part of their living style, where most people involved within the activities have seriously expected for the safety of their family, the activities year-round and for the successful of their work in fishing operation. The fixtures attached describing the whole part of "Macera" ceremony.

The Indonesian fisheries production presently contributes less than 5% to the national Gross Domestic Product, while from marine fisheries contributes almost 90% of the total production, where mostly (approximately 80%) have come from small-scale fisheries.

The total fishermen engaged in marine fisheries was amounted to 1.9 million (Annonymous, 1994) which approximately 50% are operated along the coast of the densely populated area. Improvement of the small-scale fishermen welfare as the main goal of the fishery development program up to now still have to be struggled.

Some potential water in Indonesia was includes: West coast of Sumatera, South coast of Java, Eastern Indonesia and Indonesian Economic Exclusive Zone (IEEZ). To optimalize fishing operation the Government was encouraged higher boat sized and shift the fishing ground to more distance waters.

### **3. Women Role's within Fishing Household and its community**

Compared to another rural's in general, the fishing households are used to be relatively poors, especially those whose under hired labor status. Traditionally in Indonesia, housework have been considered as the domain of women. both for power as well as better of household. Women from the lower social strata or the poor family, looking for work for earn additional household income, but those whose come from higher strata, tends to develop or enlarger their former economic activities (Susilowati, 1986).

Income searching work in capture fishery was characterized as uncertainty because of seasonal fish. Most of small-scale Japanese fishermen using outboard engine have one-days fishing with the average working time ranged from 22 to 24 day monthly (Susilowati, 1987). For the larger boat using inboard engine such as mini Purse-seiner, have longer fishing time, ranged from 12 to 21 day/trip.

During the weak season most men have less economic activity except repairing the net and very little work as daily labor, both in agriculture and non-agriculture. Facing those situation the women are used to spent more time working in outside their home mostly in informal sector.

Their main role as housewives has encouraged them to take over the men main function as income-searcher. Having a coffee shop, vegetable shop or as house-servant in the city is the easiest way for coastal rural women to get some more money. What the men, women, child, both male and female did regarding possible activity in the fisheries sector, was shown in appendix 1.

Women with educated level have higher opportunity for successful business both as individual home processing industry, fish middlemen and fishing manager or juragan darat. In fishing business, the manager mostly consumed parts of the working time in outside their home. Their role in household has usually delegates to the relative who stayed in the same home.

Between April-October in certain coastal areas in and outside Java, both women and man have involved in exploiting coastal resources through gathering or collectings nener bandeng (*Chanos-chanos* fry).

Women in coastal rural Java, are tends to prefer in retailing, including inter-village fresh fish retailing. At Cilacap, south coast of central Java, a talented women has been successful developed her individual small-scale business through establishment of fisher women Group or Kelompok Usaha Bersama. From fish trading into four teen different activities. Those Group with cooperative with fishermen Group have encouraged the yought (boys and girls) to be involved in coastal based activities and to get self confidence.

Marine-coastal resources exploitation technologist could determine the activities of coastal women. In cultivation and harvest of sea grass or gathering Chanos-chanos fry are the specific working areas where the coastal women are mostly and easily involved.

#### **4. Conclusions**

Basically, women instinct every where are primary caregiver for their families and children. They role within the household as financial manager and motor of family members to increase the standards of household living. Within subsistence fishing household, most women (housewives) are used to laid heavy worked and tends to have less opportunity getting better wages.

So far, women in coastal areas, have played a major role in exploitation and utilization the marine-coastal resources. What ever the existed of resources exploitation technologies could determined and affected how far the coastal women could involved on it.

Attention to women's Role and their position becoming logical consequence of the National Development program. Especially which concerned with human resources program.

Access to development program mainly related to working and business opportunity would be the good choice to release them from subsistence situation. Therefore, the government in all level have to support, encouraged and offered opportunity for the coastal women to be involved in every working areas. Some social services for them have to be optimized through the Nutritional, education, healthy and family planning program.

### Appendix 1.

Economic/Productive Activity's of Fishing Household					
Activities	Gender/Age				Time
	FA	MA	FC	MC	
1. Fishing on the Sea					
* Cook	-	x	-	-	0,5 AM
* Hauling	-	x	-	-	9 to 13 PM
* Driving	-	x	-	-	3 - 13 PM
2. Inland					
* Fish Sorted on boat	-	x	-	x	13.30- 14 PM
* Auction	-	x	-	-	15.00- 16.00
3. Fish Distribution					
* Local market	x	x	x	x	16.00
* Processing	x	-	x	-	17.00

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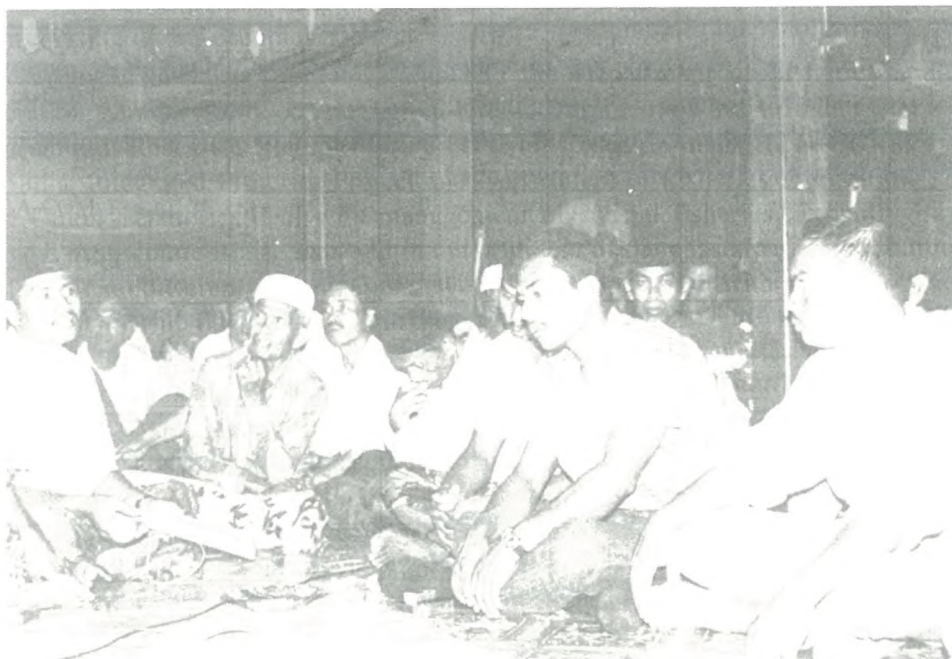
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**The Fishermen (old & young) was Listening the Elite Speech**



**The Medician Women has been Praying in early works.**



The Medician women give the food to the " Owner" of the Lake.

