

Structural Poverty of Women Labor of Food Industry in Pagar Alam

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ABSTRACT

The research titled Structural Poverty on Women Labor of Food Industry in Pagaralam based on fundamental questions about (1) root of poverty problem that suffered by women labor that should be elevate them from poverty, and (2) dilemmas that faced by women labor that trapped on economics problems continuously so aggravating their economic poverty become structural poverty comprehensively. Special goal of this research is to explore the fundamental situation of the existence of structural poverty whom suffered by women labor. Departing from these identification and exploration, could be designed kinds of efforts to emancipate the poverty which more contextually. Regarding towards target and goal, research method that used are combining quantitative approach and qualitative approach, by collecting data from questionnaire, then continuing with in-depth interview toward women labor who has been identified trapped on structural poverty. Data from questionnaire survey would displays the surface structure of poverty problem, further, data from in-depth interview would elaborates deep structure of structural poverty problems.

Keywords: *Structural poverty, Women labor, Food industry, Non-formal education.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Economic indicators can significantly be used in measuring the degree of poverty, for example through the level of income, the level of consumption, the volume of savings, investment, and so on. However by Banerjee [1], these indicators are not sufficient in identifying the root causes of poverty. Meanwhile, the problem of poverty is no longer determined by a low work ethic or limited capacity (education, capital, etc.), but is also determined by the social structure of the community which is the context for poverty by Banerjee [1].

Poverty that has been so institutionalized and becomes an inherent part of the social structure can be categorized as structural poverty. This type of structural poverty is characterized by relatively closed social stratification, limited vertical mobility, low access and participation, and a cycle of exploitation. In a situation of structural poverty, even if there are positive developments in living standards, these developments are relatively temporary (not permanent).

Community groups who experience structural poverty, not only have difficulty improving their

standard of living, but if they can achieve an increase in their standard of living, they cannot maintain this increase by Boserup & Ester [2]. Structural poverty does not only occur in subsistence sectors, but also occurs in the industrial sector by George, Susan [3].

Specifically, the study conducted by Smith [4] was aimed at working women. Smith explained the fact that women who work as laborers are very vulnerable to various situations that are not conducive, even exploitative. With inadequate work safety standards, female workers are also underpaid, even lower than male workers. Smith reveals that although the female labor market appears dynamic, it is because female workers can be employed for very low wages. Furthermore, female agricultural laborers are at the lowest level in the labor structure by Smith [4].

Workers and women are the most vulnerable social groups in structural poverty. Workers in the social structure are a group of people who have only one resource, namely energy. Meanwhile, other resources, namely capital, skills, technology, access, etc., are very limited or non-existent by Buvinic [5] and by Smith [4]. With these limited resources, it is clear that the

bargaining position of workers is very weak. Another vulnerable group to structural poverty is women. In a patriarchal cultural structure, the position of women tends to be marginalized, compared to men.

Strategic decisions in improving the standard of living of the family or society are not the domain of women, which are generally synonymous with domestic affairs by Boserup & Ester [2]. Thus, the position of women workers in the social structure is the most vulnerable position, especially if it is linked to structural poverty. This research will discuss two problem formulations, namely what is the problem of poverty experienced by women workers in the food industry sector and how the social structure of society also puts women workers entangled in more complex structural poverty.

2. METHOD

The subjects of this study were female farm workers with two age groups, namely (a) the young age group (20 years to 30 years), and (b) the old age group (31 years to 60 years). The object of this research is the food industry in the extractive sector, namely agriculture. To focus the study, the food agriculture sector was narrowed down to rice farming and coffee plantations. The variables highlighted in this study are: (a) capacity, (b) ownership, (c) access, (d) participation, and (e) authority. From the five variables, things that preserve structural poverty can be identified.

The stages of data collection techniques in this research are (a) the literature review stage and (b) the field study stage. The field study stage consists of three steps, namely a survey using a questionnaire, a focus group discussion (FGD), and an in-depth interview. Of the total respondents, a number of women workers were selected to be involved in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Then for in-depth interviews, three female workers were selected based on observations in the previous Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

The data analysis in this research is descriptive-explanative by Tinker, I. [6], namely analyzing the data with the aim of finding a description of the subject and object of the research and then explaining the various things that underlie the situation experienced by the research subject.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. General Description

Geographical Condition Suka Cinta Village is a village located in Atung Bungsu Village, Pagar Alam City, South Sumatra Province. Suka Cinta Village has geographical conditions with a land height above sea level is 500 asl and an average temperature ranges

between 25 ° C - 30 ° C. Orbitation (distance from the center of village), which is the distance to the sub-district capital as far as 5 km, the distance to the capital city of Pagar Alam is 35 km, and the distance to the provincial capital is 450 km.

The condition of the residents of Suka Cinta Village consists of three hamlets (Suka Cinta 1, Suka Cinta 2 and Suka Cinta 3). Most of the residents of Suka Cinta village are migrants from Java and the current population is the fourth generation. Settlements are mainly concentrated along the main transportation roads which are clustered in nature.

Suka Cinta Village has a total land area of 2630 ha consisting of plantations, rice fields, yards, housing, offices, school buildings and cemeteries. Nearly 80 percent of the total land area in Suka Cinta Village is land that is used as agricultural areas, both rice fields and plantations. The main agricultural potentials of Suka Cinta Village include coffee, rubber, and lowland rice. The rice planting season in Suka Cinta Village is divided into two planting seasons, namely planting in the rainy season and the dry season, while for coffee plantations the residents of Suka Cinta village are mostly wage laborers and laborers.

The survey results also show that there are 29 household respondents with very poor criteria (64.8%) who have low ownership status and quality of housing. Most of the farm worker households in Suka Cinta Village have a house with their own ownership status, although there are still some farm worker households whose ownership status is rented. When viewed from the physical appearance of the building, most of the female farm workers' households use walls made of wood, planks, cement, and brick.

Meanwhile, all roofs used are made of tiles, asbestos or zinc and the floors used are mostly made of tiles, ceramics and cement. When viewed from the available facilities such as water facilities, toilets, as well as lighting and electricity, most of the respondent households use well water facilities, private toilets and have lighting and electricity. Overall, the condition of the respondent's residential building can describe the household situation of women agricultural laborers in Suka Cinta Village. The availability of housing support facilities and a good physical appearance of the building shows the purchasing power of female farm worker households for non-food needs which usually require higher costs. This can indicate the economic condition of a household.

3.1. Respondent Identity

The factors that cause poverty, especially those in rural areas, include the narrow agricultural land they own or the land they own is no longer productive, low levels of education resulting in low levels of knowledge

and productivity in managing their farms, no side jobs, uncertain income. as a result of the business, which is very dependent on the season and the age of the plants they have are old enough so that they are less productive in producing production.

The causes of poverty for poor female agricultural laborers in Suka Cinta Village, Pagar Alam City, are identified, among others, the ownership of production facilities that is still simple, the number of dependents, education and skills, and the level of income which will be described as follows:

Table 1. Short cut keys for the template Distribution of respondent by age in Suka Cinta Village

No.	Descriptions	<29 years	30-39 years	40yers	Total	(%)
1	Poor	5	6	5	16	35,56
2	Very Poor	10	11	8	29	64,44
	Total	15	17	13	45	100

The age level of respondents in table 1 shows that of the 29 respondents who are very poor female agricultural laborers, the most dominant is those aged 30-39 years, amounting to 11 respondents or 37.93 percent. Or it can also be argued that out of 17 respondents aged 30-39 years, there are 11 respondents or about 64.71 percent who live very poor. This data shows that descriptively there is an influence of age on poverty.

The number of family dependents in a household, the number of family members, is an economic and social burden that must be borne by the head of the family as the backbone of the family in earning a living in order to meet the needs of each household. However, the number of family members can be used as labor in the family to help with main work and side jobs.

The number of dependents of the respondent's family of poor female agricultural laborers in Suka Cinta Village greatly affects the economic conditions of their household. This is because the number of dependents directly affects the level of consumption expenditure in the family concerned. For more details regarding the number of dependents of the respondents studied, it can be seen in two.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents by number of family dependents in suka cinta village

No.	Descriptions	pers on	person	person	Total	(%)
1	Poor	2	8	6	16	35,56
2	Very Poor	10	16	3	29	64,44
	Total	12	24	9	45	100

Based on table two, the number of respondents who have dependents of 2 people below or equal to two are 12 respondents, 24 people who have dependents of 3-4 people while over 5 people are 9 people. The results of this study indicate that the most dominant very poor families are those whose dependents are 3-4 people, that is, 16 respondents or 55.17 percent. Or it can also be said that of the 24 respondents who have 3-4 dependents, there are 16 respondents or about 67 percent who live very poor.

Thus descriptively, it can be said that the structural poverty of women agricultural laborers in Suka Cinta Village is influenced by the number of dependents. Where the higher the number of dependents, the level of fulfillment of family needs is also relatively high. Education and low skills education issues are very important issues in determining the quality of human resources in terms of mindset. With low education, they are unable to change one's mindset to be forward oriented. Where the average level of education in the research location is still very low, namely the majority of female agricultural laborers still have elementary school education and only a few have graduated from high school. For more details, see table three.

Table 3. Distribution of Respondents by Level of Formal Education In Suka Cinta Village

No.	Descriptions	Ungraduate Elementary	Graduate Elementary	Junior High School	Total	(%)
1	Poor	4	8	4	16	35,56
2	Very Poor	11	11	7	29	64,44
	Total	15	19	11	45	100

Table three shows that poor female agricultural laborers in Suka Cinta Village have the most dominant level of education, never / have not graduated from elementary school and only graduated from elementary school, namely as many as 22 respondents or 75.86 percent. Or in other words, of the 34 respondents who have never graduated from elementary school or have not graduated from elementary school and have graduated from elementary school, there are 22 respondents or around 75.56 percent who live very poor.

Thus descriptively, education is a factor causing poverty in Suka Cinta Village. The low level of education of women agricultural workers do not have good access to information, knowledge and technology. So that it will affect his ability to think about switching jobs other than farming, in developing his business to those who have a higher income. Income is an indicator to describe the economic condition of a society. The

higher the level of income received, the greater the possibility that the consumption will be carried out or the needs of women farm laborers will increase.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents by income level in suka cinta village

No.	Descriptions	<500.00	500.000-750.000	750.000-900.000	Total	(%)
1	Poor	0	7	9	16	35,56
2	Very Poor	29	0	0	29	64,44
	Total	29	7	9	45	100

Table 4 shows that respondents who have low income are 29 respondents, who have sufficient income are 7 respondents, while those who have high income are 9 respondents. Of the 29 respondents who have low income, namely Rp. 250,000 to Rp. 500,000, the standard of living is very poor. With the low level of income obtained by female agricultural laborers in Suka Cinta Village, it is difficult to improve living standards because their income is classified as low. So it can be argued that descriptively income has an influence on poverty.

The number of dependents based on the results of this study shows that most of the poor female agricultural laborers in Suka Cinta Village have a relatively large number of dependents, namely four people. This means that every family in this region has a relatively high level of fulfillment of their daily needs. If a household has a number of dependents that is not balanced with a high level of family income, it will have an impact on the economic and social life of the household concerned.

Thus, structural poverty among women workers, especially those in rural areas, includes the limited agricultural land they own or the land they own are no longer productive, low levels of education resulting in low levels of knowledge and productivity in managing their farms, no side job, and income which is uncertain as a result of their business which is very dependent on the season and the age of the plants they have are old enough to produce less productive food in the form of coffee plants.

3.3. Respondent Participant of Ownership

The non-ownership of land assets in the form of cultivated land is caused by several things, including: (a) the lack of business capital currently being carried out, economic activities are carried out with minimal capital. (b) no business facilities, only relying on human capital and social networks. (c) do not have many job options or side jobs to meet household needs.

The notion of control refers to the aspect of power (influence) that a person has to determine everything

related to various interests including obtaining various resources for himself. Furthermore, it is said to define small farmers as households who cultivate agricultural land less than 0.50 ha. The 2013 Agricultural Survey data states that 57 percent of small farmers in Indonesia own less than 0.50 ha of land or without land.

According to the 2013 Agricultural Survey Data, it is stated that small farmers can be grouped into two types, namely: 1) Small farmers in the sense of farmers with an arable land area of less than 0.50 ha, who use vacant land on the outskirts or on the edge of land around residential areas located in certain areas, either through lease or just a permit from the land owner, or using vacant land without permission from the land owner. 2) A farm worker who is paid by a farmer to cultivate the vacant land of the farmer who owns the land located in a certain area. Poverty is a social problem characterized by the inability of the community to achieve a sufficient level of life.

3.4. Respondent's Perception of Accesses to Opportunities

The definition of access refers to opportunities or opportunities that can be achieved by individuals to obtain various resources, such as obtaining information, education, capital (credit), technology and business opportunities, work and others. The patriarchal cultural structure in society places women as being marginalized, compared to men. Strategic decisions in improving the standard of living of the family or society are not the domain of women, which are generally synonymous with domestic affairs.

Poverty is considered as destiny by Robbins&Richard [7]. (a) married under the hand (siri marriage) (b) the habit of women to stop working when they are married and have children (c) the barter system or debt in economic activities, so that the business does not develop. (d) lives in an average environment average condition is poor. Structural poverty among women workers includes by Robbins&Richard [7], (a) not getting full access to social assistance received (there is a system of equal sharing). (b) not involved in structural activities in the village.

Furthermore, structural poverty is understood as a lack of material to meet the needs of food, clothing and shelter. Not only includes this, poverty is also interpreted as the inability of a community to participate in a decent community life.

The profile of opportunities (access) and control (control) of benefits includes information on who has the opportunity and control over income, shared wealth, basic needs (food, clothing, housing, etc.), education, restoration / political power, and so on. Because it relates to aspects of power, the concept of control can be analyzed through decision-making by individuals to

carry out activities both in households and in the wider community (Gender and Development Module, 2011).

In measuring the level of poverty of a community group, certain indicators with proven validity are needed. Indicators that are often used in measuring a poverty level are usually based on: (1) a production concept based on estimates of agricultural production results, (2) the concept of income which is based on the acceptance of female agricultural laborers in the form of wages, salaries and rent, (3) the concept of expenditure which is based on an inventory of household expenditures, (4) the concept of allocation refers to the allocation of products to a household in the form of a proportion as a whole.

3.5. Respondent's Perception of Woman Participation

Women's participation in exploitation starts from a domestic nature such as violence and harassment, to a criminal nature such as human trafficking [3]. The framework of thinking that there is gender inequality, especially in terms of access to and control of various income resources in farm worker households encourages them to be in poor conditions. The inability of women to utilize livelihood assets is a factor in the causes of poverty in farm worker households. (1) The causes of poverty among women agricultural laborers include human resources, physical resources, public facilities or infrastructure, institutions, accessibility to production factors, the economy, capital resources, and markets. (2) Human resource factors include the age characteristics of household members, if there are many young household members, the burden of household responsibility will be even greater. A household will have a much greater need for life, if the income they earn is not able to meet the needs of all members of the household then they are in a poor state. In addition, the characteristics of formal education and skills possessed by women household members also affect their ability to reach employment opportunities, which currently require specific educational and skill specifications, so that most farm laborers cannot access employment opportunities because of their inability to reach the education level [8],[7]. (3) The main occupational factor of women plays a role in bringing up the phenomenon of poverty in farm worker households, their inability to access educational resources results in their inability to get decent work by [8]. a) Physical resource factors include the status of land ownership and household members of the household, their inability to get a decent job and the narrow agricultural land they can work on, causing them to have few sources of income so that the household is in a poor condition. Potential or regional conditions are thought to have contributed to the emergence of poverty in farm worker households, when households are in areas that have limited natural resources, they are unable to carry out other economic

activities in order to meet the living needs of their household members. b) Facility or infrastructure factors, institutions include irrigation facilities for rice fields and institutions that support the development of farming, c) Accessibility to production, economy, capital and market factors is also suspected of having played a role in encouraging female farm laborers' households to be in poor conditions, such as the use of traditional technology, uncertain climate and seasons, difficulties in obtaining capital loans and the distance. market location.

The above factors cause the emergence of a very large income inequality between rich farmers and poor farmers who are mostly agricultural laborers [6], [9]. The factors that cause poverty push female farm worker households to a certain level of poverty which can be identified through the socio-economic characteristics of poor households, such as the amount of income, number of household dependents, total food expenditure, and ownership status and quality of the house [10].

Facing poor household conditions, women farm laborers make adjustments through survival strategies [6] or better known as survival strategies. Survival strategies include the use of social capital in the form of the formation and use of informal social networks for household economic support (borrowing money from neighbors, owing money to small shops), allocating human resources in the form of empowering domestic workers (household members working, additional working hours), production bases in the form of diversification of income sources (intensification and intensification of agricultural businesses), spatial which includes temporary migration (non-agricultural enterprises), financial which includes savings (reducing the quantity and quality of foodstuffs, selling goods) [10].

4. CONCLUSION

Poverty is not an independent phenomenon, but is related to several factors, both internal and external. Internal factors consist of education level, health level, and accessibility to institutions. On the other hand, external factors consist of the extent of land tenure, technology and alternative livelihoods. Then the structural poverty among women workers in the food industry can be concluded: (1) the problem of poverty experienced by women workers in the food industry sector is related to the patriarchal cultural structure of society, which positions women to tend to be marginalized compared to men. Strategic decisions in improving the standard of living of families or communities are not the domain of women, which are generally synonymous with domestic affairs. (2) The social structure of society also places women workers entangled in more complex structural poverty. This is

because the position of women workers in the social structure is the most vulnerable position, especially when linked to structural poverty. The framework of thinking that there is gender inequality, especially in terms of access and control of various income resources for women agricultural laborers, encourages them to be in a poor condition, the inability of households to utilize livelihood assets is a factor in causing poverty in women agricultural laborers.

The suggestions that the writer can give include: (1) Poverty alleviation policies, especially for poor women agricultural laborers, are expected to be carried out in an integrated and sustainable manner. Basically, the main need for poor households is the fulfillment of basic needs (food, clothing, and shelter), so it is hoped that the main focus in the social security program carried out by the government is the fulfillment of basic needs. Fulfillment of these basic needs can be carried out by the relevant agencies concerned. Furthermore, if the basic needs have been guaranteed by the government, in order to increase empowerment and encourage development, it can be supported by increased human resources (education and health), easy access to economic resources, or it can be directly by providing stimulants in the form of increased business capital. (2) Poverty alleviation strategies, especially for women, are expected to be in accordance with local conditions and the causes of poverty experienced by targeted female agricultural laborers, by engaging in direct talks about actors of poverty (participatory) in determining policies and making decisions according to their needs and expectations.

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