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Livelihood Diversification of Coastal Women in Padelegan Village, Pamekasan Regency, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Coastal women play a strategic role in sustaining the economic resilience of fishermen's households, whose income is highly uncertain and dependent on seasonal and weather conditions. This study aims to identify the types of occupations undertaken by coastal women in Padelegan Village, Pademawu District, Pamekasan Regency, and to determine the percentage distribution of these occupations. The research employed a descriptive qualitative method using purposive sampling involving 30 respondents. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, observation, and documentation.The findings reveal that the majority of coastal women are within the productive age group and have a primary school educational background. The dominant occupation is anchovy processing factory labor (46.7%), followed by fish vendors (33.3%), small-scale fishery-based entrepreneurs (6.7%), and other activities such as cleaning, sorting, and drying fish (each 3.3%). These results indicate that women's economic participation is concentrated in informal fishery processing and marketing sectors.Such economic involvement reflects a dual role pattern, in which women simultaneously perform domestic responsibilities and productive economic activities to supplement household income. Therefore, coastal women in Padelegan Village demonstrate a substantial contribution as an adaptive strategy of fishermen's households in coping with economic uncertainty.

Keywords**:** coastal women, women's employment, household economy, fishermen, fisheries sector.

INTRODUCTION

The role of women in fishing households is no longer confined to the domestic sphere. Listiyandra, Anna, and Dhahiyar (2016) state that when the husband's income is low and family needs increase, the role of fishermen's wives in seeking alternative sources of income becomes more significant. Research by Buan, Soewarlan, and Paulus (2022) also shows that coastal women play a substantial role in supporting household economies due to the uncertainty of their husbands' income. These conditions encourage coastal women to engage in various productive activities, such as processing marine products and operating fisheries-based micro-enterprises.

Theoretically, women's involvement in economic activities can be understood through the concept of work–family balance. Border theory explains how

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individuals negotiate the boundaries between work and family life in order to achieve balance. When women are able to manage both roles harmoniously, this not only enhances individual well-being but also has positive implications for health, social functioning, and family resilience (Prerna, 2012; Grzywacz & Bass, 2003; Halpern, 2005; Handayani, 2013). Thus, women's economic participation is not merely a survival strategy, but also part of broader social dynamics.

In the context of household economics, the family is viewed as a decision-making unit that allocates time and resources to maximize welfare (Zalmi, 2008 in Syahroni, 2020). Household income may derive from wages or salaries, income from assets or self-employment, as well as other sources such as government assistance or rental income (Samuelson & Nordhaus, 2005 in Hanum, 2017). For fishing households, diversifying income sources is an essential strategy to reduce economic risks resulting from the uncertainty of fish catches. In this regard, women's economic contribution becomes an integral part of the family's economic strategy.

From a gender perspective, women's roles can be analyzed through various typologies, ranging from traditional roles focused on domestic functions, transitional roles that still prioritize household responsibilities, to dual roles and egalitarian roles that position women actively and equally in both domestic and public spheres (Ahdiah, 2013). Changes in economic structures and the needs of fishing households have driven a shift in women's roles from predominantly domestic responsibilities toward broader engagement in productive activities.

This phenomenon is clearly visible in Padelegan Village, a coastal area in Pamekasan Regency with significant potential in marine product processing. The village is known as the "IKM Marine Product Processing Village" due to the development of various enterprises such as anchovy processing, crab processing, and other fishery products, some of which have penetrated export markets. These processing industries involve many women or housewives as workers, demonstrating the high level of female participation in fisheries-based productive economic sectors.

Based on the above discussion, it is important to further examine the types of work performed by coastal women and the proportion of occupational groupings within the context of fishing household economies. Therefore, this study aims to identify the types of occupations undertaken by women in Padelegan Village and to analyze the percentage distribution of occupational groupings among coastal women in the village. This study is expected to provide an empirical overview of the dynamics of women's economic roles in fishing households and their contribution to the economic resilience of coastal families.

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RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative approach with a descriptive research design. The qualitative approach was selected because the study aims to gain an in-depth understanding of social phenomena occurring within coastal communities, particularly concerning the identification of coastal women's occupations in fishermen households. Qualitative research is conducted in a natural setting, with the researcher serving as the primary instrument who is directly involved in the processes of data collection and analysis. The analysis was conducted inductively, meaning that conclusions were drawn from facts and findings obtained in the field and subsequently generalized.

This research was conducted in Padelegan Village, Pademawu District,

Pamekasan Regency, East Java Province. The research location was determined purposively, based on the consideration that the majority of the village residents work as traditional fishermen with relatively low levels of welfare. Consequently, the community's economic activities are highly dependent on the fisheries sector. The study was carried out in September 2022.

The types of data used in this study consisted of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from respondents through in-depth interviews and field observations. The primary data included respondents' identities, types of occupations of coastal women, reasons for working, challenges faced, contributions to household income, and other relevant information aligned with the research objectives. Secondary data were collected from various written sources such as publications from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), previous research findings, scientific journals, reference books, and other relevant documents supporting the study.

Data collection techniques included semi-structured interviews, observation, and documentation. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to explore in-depth and comprehensive information regarding the socio-economic conditions of the respondents. In practice, the researcher used an interview guide as a reference while allowing flexibility for informants to elaborate on their experiences. Observations were conducted directly to examine community activities and to obtain a real depiction of the social and economic conditions in the research area. Documentation techniques were employed to complement data obtained from interviews and observations through the collection of written documents, archives, and relevant photographs.

The population of this study comprised all fishermen households in Padelegan Village. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling, whereby respondents were selected based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives. The selected respondents were coastal women from fishermen households who were engaged in economic activities. A total of 30 respondents were included in the study, as they were considered capable of providing rich and relevant information in accordance with the research focus.

The data analysis technique applied in this study was descriptive qualitative analysis. The analysis process involved data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing and verification. Data reduction was conducted by selecting and focusing on data relevant to the research objectives. Data presentation was carried out in narrative form to facilitate understanding of the studied phenomena. The final stage involved drawing conclusions based on patterns, relationships, and meanings identified throughout the research process.

Variable measurement in this study was conducted descriptively by identifying the types of occupations undertaken by coastal women, their roles in household economic activities, and their contributions to household income. These variables were not measured quantitatively using statistical formulas; rather, they were analyzed based on interview results, observations, and documentation to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the role of coastal women in fishermen households.

To ensure data validity, this study employed triangulation techniques. Triangulation was conducted by comparing data obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation to ensure the consistency of the information provided by respondents. Additionally, the researcher conducted member checking with several informants to confirm that the collected data accurately reflected the actual field conditions. These measures

were implemented to enhance the credibility of the research findings.

Throughout the research process, the researcher acted as the primary instrument who directly interacted with respondents and the research environment. Therefore, objectivity was maintained by systematically recording all information in the form of field notes. These notes included interview results, observational findings, and the researcher's reflections on the social situations encountered. Systematic documentation aimed to minimize bias and ensure consistency in the data analysis process.

In conducting the study, ethical considerations were carefully observed. Prior to conducting interviews, the researcher explained the purpose of the study to the respondents and obtained their consent to participate. The identities of respondents were kept confidential, and the data collected were used solely for academic purposes. By adhering to research ethics principles, it was expected that a good relationship between the researcher and respondents could be established, thereby facilitating more open and accurate information.

This study has several limitations that should be considered in interpreting the findings. First, as a qualitative study involving 30 respondents, the findings are not intended to be generalized broadly but rather to provide an in-depth description of the conditions of coastal women in the research area. Second, the data collected largely depended on the openness and honesty of respondents, particularly regarding household income and economic challenges. Third, the research was conducted within a limited time frame, namely in September 2022, so social and economic dynamics occurring outside this period may not have been fully captured. Therefore, the findings of this study are expected to serve as an initial reference and consideration for future research examining similar phenomena with broader geographical coverage and extended research periods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

General Overview and Characteristics of Coastal Women

Padelegan Village covers an area of 9.07 km² and is located approximately 4 meters above sea level. Geographically, the village is directly bordered by the Madura Strait to the south and Tanjung Village to the north. Administratively, Padelegan Village is divided into six hamlets: Asam Batur, Daya Tambak, Laok Tambak, Muarah, Bangkal, and Modung. In 2019, the total population was recorded at 3,276 inhabitants, consisting of 1,627 males and 1,649 females, with a total of 979 households. The socio-economic structure of the community indicates a strong dependence on capture fisheries and fish processing activities.

The educational characteristics of coastal women reveal the dominance of primary-level education. Based on data collected from 30 respondents, the majority (70%) had completed primary school, 20% had completed junior secondary school, and only 7% had completed senior secondary school, while 3% had never received formal education. These findings indicate that access to and participation in formal education among the previous generation of women were relatively limited. The low educational attainment is influenced by household economic orientations that prioritize involvement in fishing activities or fish processing work, which generally do not require formal educational qualifications. Furthermore, economic constraints and the necessity to contribute to household income have also hindered educational continuation. Nevertheless, a shift in perspective is evident in the younger generation, as parents increasingly perceive education as an Figure 1. Education Level of Respondents in Padelegan Village.Graphically, the

distribution of educational attainment among coastal women in Padelegan Village is presented as follows:

From the age perspective, the majority of respondents fall within the productive age range. A total of 43% of respondents are aged 51–60 years, 37% are aged 41–50 years, 17% are aged 30–40 years, and 3% are over 61 years old. This age distribution indicates that most coastal women belong to the productive age group (15–65 years), thereby possessing the physical and social capacity to engage in economic activities.

This age structure has implications for the sustainability of household economic activities, particularly in the context of adaptive strategies to cope with the uncertainty of fishermen's income. The age distribution of coastal women in Padelegan Village is illustrated in Figure 2 below:

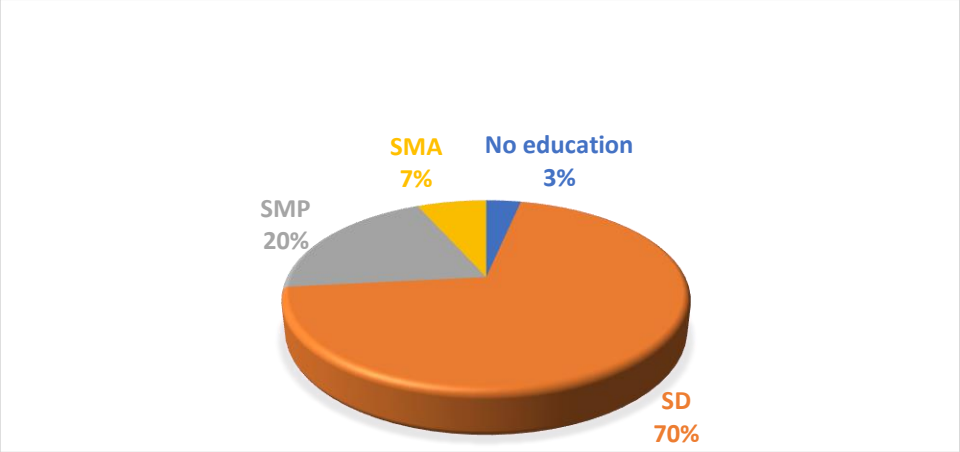


Figure 1. Education Level of Respondents in Padelegan Village.

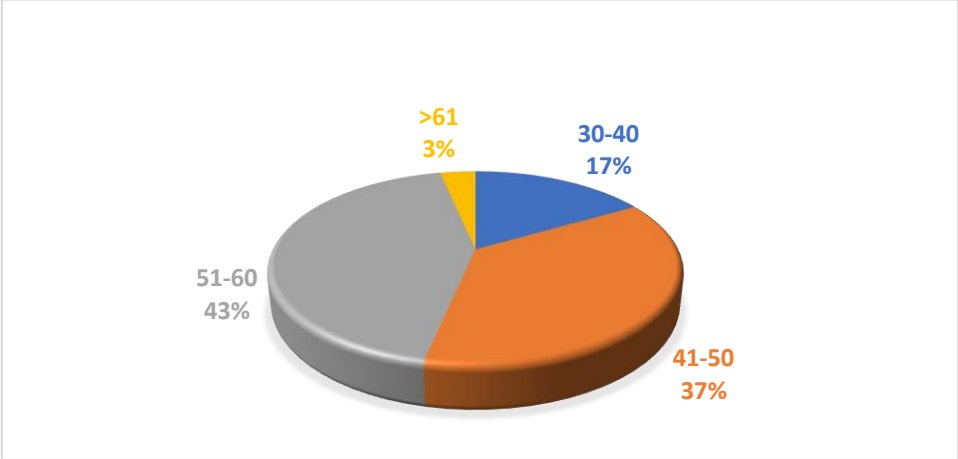


Figure 2. Distribution of Respondents' Age in Padelegan Village.

The number of household dependents among respondents is predominantly concentrated in households with 1–3 dependents (70%), while the remaining 30% have 4–6 dependents. The number of household members significantly influences household expenditure levels and economic pressure. The larger the number of dependents, the greater the consumption needs and the allocation of household income required. In the context

of coastal communities characterized by fluctuating incomes, this condition encourages women to participate in economic activities as a strategy to maintain household economic resilience.

Identification of Coastal Women's Occupations

In general, coastal women in Padelegan Village perform dual roles, serving both as managers of domestic household responsibilities and as actors in productive economic activities. Although their primary role is that of homemakers, the majority of respondents are also engaged in income-generating activities to supplement household earnings. This situation arises because their husbands' income as fishermen is uncertain and highly dependent on seasons, weather conditions, and the volume of catch.

The findings indicate that the occupations of coastal women are predominantly concentrated in the fisheries sector and are largely informal in nature. A total of 46.7% of respondents work as laborers in anchovy processing factories, 33.3% as fish vendors, 6.7% as small-scale entrepreneurs, and the remainder are engaged in activities such as cleaning, sorting, and drying fish, as well as producing lorjuk crackers. The dominance of employment as anchovy processing laborers is closely associated with the development of anchovy processing industries in Padelegan Village, including crispy anchovy and BLS anchovy enterprises. These industries are capable of absorbing a substantial number of female workers due to their lengthy and labor-intensive production processes, which include boiling, drying, sorting, and packaging. Within a single production unit, the number of female workers may range from 8 to 17 individuals, with a daily production capacity of approximately 1–4 tons. The types of occupations undertaken by coastal women in Padelegan Village are presented in Table 1 below:

Working hours for women in the anchovy processing industry generally begin at 06:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. (Western Indonesian Time). However, when production volume increases, working hours may be extended into the evening. This condition reflects both the flexibility and vulnerability of female labor in the informal sector, particularly due to the absence of fixed working hours and adequate labor protection.

Table 1.
Types of Occupations of Coastal Women in Padelegan

No	Occupation	Number (People)	Percentage (%)
1	Cleaning Fish	1	3.3
2	Drying Fish	1	3.3
3	Sorting Fish	1	3.3
4	Selling Fish	10	33.3
5	Making Lorjhu' Rengginang	1	3.3
6	Anchovy Factory Laborer	14	46.7
7	Entrepreneur	2	6.7
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data (2022)

In addition to working as processing laborers, coastal women also play a role in the distribution and marketing of fishery products. A total of 33.3% of respondents work as fish vendors in Padelegan Market and Tanjung Market. The fish sold are generally derived from their husbands' catches or purchased directly from local fishermen for resale. The types of fish marketed include anchovy, pufferfish, dorang, kopek, lajur, jaring, and o'kao'. Although the profit margins are relatively small, this activity constitutes an important supplementary source of income for sustaining household economic stability.

A smaller proportion of coastal women have developed independent businesses in the form of fishery-based entrepreneurship, such as the production and sale of shrimp paste (petis), lorjuk crackers, and other processed fishery products. These activities not only reflect economic contribution but also demonstrate efforts toward business diversification and innovation in utilizing local resource potential. Furthermore, some entrepreneurs have adopted marketplace platforms to expand their market reach, indicating adaptation to technological developments and modern marketing systems.

Other activities, such as cleaning, sorting, and drying fish, as well as producing shrimp paste or crackers, are performed on a non-regular basis and depend on calls from business owners. These types of work are temporary in nature and do not provide income certainty. Nevertheless, they remain part of household economic strategies in coping with the uncertainty of capture fisheries income.

Overall, the involvement of coastal women in economic activities reflects an adaptive strategy of fishermen's households in response to structural economic pressures. The dominance of fisheries-related occupations demonstrates a strong linkage between women's economic activities and local resource potential. These findings indicate that coastal women function not merely as supplementary earners but as key actors in maintaining household economic stability through income diversification.

Income Contribution Analysis of Coastal Women

To measure women's economic contribution to fishermen's household income, the percentage contribution approach was applied, calculated as the proportion of women's income to total household income:

$$KP = (PP / PT) \times 100\% \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (1)$$

Where:
KP = women's income contribution (%);
PP = women's monthly income (IDR);
PT = total monthly household income (IDR).

The average monthly income of coastal women ranges from IDR 1,000,000 to IDR 1,500,000, while the husbands' income as fishermen ranges from IDR 1,500,000 to IDR 3,000,000 per month. Assuming an average women's income of IDR 1,200,000 and a total household income of IDR 3,000,000 per month, the income contribution is calculated as follows:

$$KP = (1.200.000 / 3.000.000) \times 100\% = 40\% \quad (2)$$

The calculation indicates that women's income contribution accounts for approximately 40% of total household income. This figure demonstrates that coastal women play a significant economic role in supporting household economic resilience. During lean fishing seasons, women's income may even serve as a more stable source of earnings compared to that of their husbands.

Based on contribution categories (<25% low; 25–50% moderate; >50% high), the income contribution of coastal

women in Padelegan Village falls within the moderate-to-high category. This finding indicates that coastal women no longer function merely as supplementary income earners but have become an essential pillar within the economic structure of fishermen's households.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion must be presented in a single paragraph. It should provide direct answers to the research questions and be expressed in narrative form, not statistical statements. The conclusion should be written as an essay-style paragraph rather than in numerical form. If suggestions or recommendations are needed, they should be incorporated into the same paragraph.

Based on the findings of this study on the identification of coastal women's occupations in Padelegan Village, Pademawu District, Pamekasan Regency, it can be concluded that coastal women play a highly significant role in sustaining fishermen's household economies. Although they generally continue to perform domestic responsibilities as homemakers, the majority are also actively engaged in productive economic activities, particularly within the fisheries sector.

The characteristics of the respondents indicate that 97% of coastal women fall within the productive age range (30–60 years), with relatively low educational attainment, predominantly primary school graduates (70%). Most households are categorized as small families with 1–3 dependents (70%). Nevertheless, economic pressure remains substantial, given that husbands' income as fishermen is uncertain and highly dependent on seasonal patterns and weather conditions.

The identification of occupations reveals that women's employment is dominated by anchovy processing factory labor (46.7%), followed by fish vendors (33.3%), entrepreneurship (6.7%), and other activities such as cleaning, sorting, and drying fish (each 3.3%). These findings demonstrate that the anchovy processing sector serves as the primary source of female labor absorption in Padelegan Village. The high proportion of women working as processing laborers indicates that the local fishery processing industry plays a crucial role in creating employment opportunities for women.

Women's economic contributions function not merely as supplementary income but as an adaptive household strategy in responding to economic uncertainty. The role pattern performed by coastal women in Padelegan Village tends to reflect a dual-role model, in which domestic and public economic roles are carried out simultaneously. This phenomenon illustrates a transformation of women's roles from traditional domestic functions toward more productive and participatory involvement in household economic activities.

Therefore, it can be affirmed that coastal women in Padelegan Village are not merely complementary actors within the fishermen's household economic structure but are essential contributors to household economic sustainability and stability. Strengthening women's capacity, improving access to education, and supporting fishery-based processing enterprises have the potential to enhance the long-term welfare of fishermen's households.

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