

## ON EMPOWERMENT: CASE OF WOMEN FISHERMEN IN SIDOARJO USING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP APPROACH

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### Abstract

*One of the social stratifications in the community who fall into the category below poverty are women fishermen. The complex factors that are interconnected are the main sources that weaken the ability of the community in building the region and improve its welfare and therefore causes the poverty and alienation. In coastal areas, especially the group of women fishermen, poverty and alienation are special issues, a consistent issue showing almost in all area of Indonesian coastal. This article tries to invent a model of empowerment of local fishermen-based women in Sidoarjo Regency using social entrepreneurship approach. The model is then combined with participatory approach which is defined as an effort to develop independence and prosperity of fishermen women by increasing knowledge, attitude, skill, behavior, ability, awareness, and resource utilization and the optimization of local potential through the establishment of policies, programs, activities and assistance in accordance with the essence of the problems and priorities of fulfilling basic needs through the development of local economic potential by taking into account the sustainability of the environment in an integrated manner.*

**Keywords:** *Women fishermen, empowerment, social entrepreneurship, participatory*

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### Abstrak

Salah satu stratifikasi sosial di masyarakat yang termasuk dalam kategori di bawah kemiskinan adalah nelayan perempuan. Faktor-faktor kompleks yang saling berhubungan merupakan sumber utama yang melemahkan kemampuan masyarakat dalam membangun kawasan dan meningkatkan kesejahteraannya dan karenanya menyebabkan kemiskinan dan pengasingan. Di daerah pesisir, khususnya kelompok nelayan perempuan, kemiskinan dan pengasingan merupakan isu-isu khusus, masalah yang konsisten hampir di seluruh wilayah pesisir Indonesia. Artikel ini mencoba untuk menemukan model pemberdayaan perempuan nelayan lokal di Kabupaten Sidoarjo menggunakan pendekatan kewirausahaan sosial. Model ini kemudian dikombinasikan dengan pendekatan partisipatif yang didefinisikan sebagai upaya untuk mengembangkan kemandirian dan kesejahteraan wanita nelayan dengan meningkatkan pengetahuan, sikap, keterampilan, perilaku, kemampuan, kesadaran, dan pemanfaatan sumber daya dan optimalisasi potensi lokal melalui pembentukan kebijakan, program, kegiatan dan bantuan sesuai dengan esensi masalah dan prioritas pemenuhan kebutuhan dasar melalui pengembangan potensi ekonomi lokal dengan memperhatikan kelestarian lingkungan secara terpadu.

**Kata Kunci:** *Perempuan nelayan, pemberdayaan, kewirausahaan sosial, partisipatif*

### Introduction

Administratively there are approximately 42 City Areas and 181 District Regions located on the coast, where with the existence of regional autonomy each autonomous region has broader authority in processing and utilizing coastal areas so that it indirectly helps and encourages all elements to engage coastal women in managing the source of income for the people in the coastal area (Aldito, 2013).

On the other hand, if in general the condition of fishermen is male, then different things can be found in Tambak Oso Village, Waru District, Sidoarjo Regency. Women

dominate in the number of people who work as fishermen. Most of them also choose shells as commodities. They are fishermen of the women of the Tambak Pond. Not only that, with their profession as fishermen, the women also became the head of the family for some of them. Therefore, the female fishermen are always involved in the production process of shellfish commodities from upstream to downstream. However, the social structure does not necessarily eliminate men in their world. Men still have the biggest role. Only, residents men are very rarely at home (Sonja *et al*, 2014).

One of the things that can be considered as a shortage of female fishermen in Tambak Oso Village is the lack of creation of their search products. Most of them still do not understand the economic value of shellfish. So that the economic standard of living for female fishermen is difficult to make high. the fact that working as a fisherman is also a seasonal profession. Sometimes, the success or failure of a fisherman's catch also depends on the season, rainfall and climate. So if conditioned in Indonesia, fishermen are very difficult to find fish / shellfish, because of these (Sonja *et al*, 2014).

Relatively similar conditions can be found in Kalanganyar Village, Sedati District, and Bluru Kidul Village, Sidoarjo District, Sidoarjo Regency. Not much different from Desa Tambak Oso, women in Kalanganyar and Bluru Kidul were also included in the production process of results going from upstream to downstream. But there are some differences in Tambak Oso and Kalanganyar and Bluru Kidul. The first difference is not all of the women in Kalanganyar and Bluru Kidul Villages work as fishermen. Some of them only sell their catches at sea during the day to evening. The second difference is that there are fewer female fishermen found in Kalanganyar and Bluru Kidul because most of them have fishponds as fish and marine cultivation, while female fishermen in Bluru Kidul use a lot of shellfish commodities.

On the other hand, the conditions of the community both in Tambak Oso Village and Kalanganyar and Bluru Kidul Villages still do not show the optimal results of women's participation as fishermen. Assuming that women's participation as fishermen will be able to increase family income, the social economic potential of the Tambak Oso and Kalanganyar communities can be encouraged. However, what we find now in Tambak Oso and Kalanganyar and South Bluru is not the same. The community actually sells a lot of land for housing construction. Even ships to go to sea and fish, there is no adequate revonation. Especially with the river conditions in Sidoarjo Regency less support. Therefore, the research team formulated the development of the potential of female fishermen by optimizing local residents and local knowledge, or if articulated into local-based empowerment. This research then focused on the Bluru Kidul Village to

become the focus of the research object in this first year.

The fishing community in general is a marginal society where the average income per capita of the family is low. Therefore in order to increase family income there needs to be an intervention program from outside parties in order to empower and maintain the economy of the community. This research has two points of urgency. is empowering people in Sidoarjo Regency to be able to innovate, be creative, and strive by utilizing the local potential that exists in their region in order to increase income and family welfare. Second is a pilot area, especially in villages in coastal areas in a potential female fisherman empowerment model local. In addition to the point of urgency, the research on empowerment of female fishermen in Sidoarjo District began with conceptual data search by the research team. The conceptual data is then articulated so that it can become data that can be interpreted more technically and concretely.

## Methodology

Coastal communities are people who inhabit coastal areas. In its development, coastal communities are divided into four coastal community groups, among others, 1) capture fishermen communities, 2) collecting / basket fishermen communities, 3) labor fishing communities, and 4) pond fishing communities (Syarif, 2001 in Sonja *et al*, 2014). Capture fishermen communities are groups of coastal communities whose main livelihood is fishing at sea. This group is further divided into two major groups, namely modern capture fishermen and traditional capture fishermen. Both groups can be distinguished from the type of ship / equipment used and the range of the catchment area. The collecting / basket fisherman community is a group of coastal communities who work around the landing and fish auction sites. They will collect caught fish either through auctions or from non-auctioned fish residues which are then sold to the surrounding community or under local markets. Generally, these collectors are female coastal community groups. Labor fishing communities, are a group of fishing communities that are most often found in the lives of coastal communities. Their characteristics can be seen from the poverty that has always shackled their lives, they do not have sufficient capital or equipment for business

productive. Generally they work as laborers / crew members (ABK) on skipper ships with minimal income (Syarif, 2001 in Sonja *et al.*, 2014).

Coastal communities as poor people have complex problems. First, the factors are economically poor, socially marginalized, and function and dignity forgotten. Furthermore, the factor of education, in which the education level of the people in this coastal area is mostly elementary school. Education is important because community empowerment will increase personal and group capacity. Community education is a process whereby educational efforts are realized in an integrated manner with the efforts of local people to improve social, economic and cultural conditions that are more useful and empowering the community. Therefore, efforts are needed to increase economic potential in an effort to improve the welfare of coastal communities (Mulyono, 2007).

For coastal communities, coastal areas are the most desirable thing to do and *get all* aspects of ease from the daily activities of coastal communities. Two examples of the ease with which coastal communities can get as a result of their territory are the ease of access from and to sources of livelihood so that the dependence on the potential of fisheries resources is very large. Second, the ease of access to life or daily needs such as washing clothes, bathing, and so on. Ecologically, coastal communities have two (2) variations of life span, at least they have the benefit of two elements of life, namely land and water (Wahyudin, 2003 in Sonja *et al.*, 2014).

This work pattern provides benefits for coastal communities. The advantage is that coastal communities are able to adapt to the environment both on land and at sea. In addition, the technology and equipment used to make the lives of coastal communities in obtaining resources (fish) have greater potential to be able to benefit coastal communities. The advantageous side of the working pattern of the coastal communities themselves which also provides a disadvantage for the lives of coastal communities is that coastal communities, some of whom have a livelihood as fishermen are still identical with the problem of poverty is still a classical coastal phenomenon (Kusnadi, 2003 in Sonja *et al.*, 2014). Fishermen are one of the social groups in our society that fall into the category of under poverty. This poverty

is caused by complex factors that are interrelated and are the main source which weakens the ability of the community to develop the region and improve welfare. Therefore, poverty is one of the main issues in the development of coastal areas (Kusnadi *et al.* 2007).

Kusnadi (2009) states that the number of coastal communities living below the poverty line is still quite large and one of the efforts to overcome this is through development intervention programs that aim to improve the welfare of coastal communities through economic activities, improvement of human resources, and strengthening of social institutions Institutional approach as a basis for empowerment activities has the following benefits, namely (1) enlarging the capacity of resources and increasing the scale of collective economic enterprises owned by the community, (2) increasing the collective bargaining position in accessing capital. technology. and policy, (3) developing the ability to coordinate and collaborate partnerships in managing collective economic activities to support the economic dynamics of the region, and (4) facilitate control of joint economic travel.

The dependence of coastal communities on the marine sector provides its own identity as a coastal community with a lifestyle known as coastal culture (Geertz, 1981 in Sonja *et al.*, 2014). Ecologically, coastal communities have a variety of ways of life, at least they have an alternative use of two living environments, namely plains (land) and oceans (water); In this form of society, other economic commodities other than marine aspects (looking for fish and coastal natural resources) are additional livelihoods (Koentjaraningrat, 1990 in Sonja *et al.*, 2014). These two examples make coastal communities a community with certain unique characteristics.

The characteristics of these coastal communities are the advantages and disadvantages obtained by coastal communities. In the work activities of coastal communities, efforts to find and get fish refers to the pattern of hunting and gathering work patterns for hunting and gathering (food-gatherings economics). These patterns can be found in community life is still very simple, only the level is higher because the technology developed is more complex. Coastal communities can be classified with the pattern of work activities. The pattern according to Koentjaraningrat (1990 in Sonja *et al.*, 2014) shows

that the community is still traditional or simple but has experienced an increase in life due to the technology and equipment used in carrying out its activities.

Empowerment is a process and purpose. As a process, empowerment is a series of activities to strengthen power or empowerment of weak groups in society, including individuals who experience poverty problems. As a goal, empowerment refers to the situation or outcome that a social change wants to achieve; that is, people who are empowered, have power or have the knowledge and ability to fulfill their life needs, both physical and economic. Social and economic, such as having self-confidence. Being able to convey aspirations has a livelihood. participate in social and independent activities in carrying out their life duties.

The concept of empowerment in community development discourses is always linked to the concepts of self-reliance, participation, networking and justice. According to Wisdom (2006), empowerment is defined as a psychological understanding of the effect of individual control on social conditions. political power and rights according to the law. Empowerment is often a reference for the ability of people, especially vulnerable and weak groups. As for then they have the power or ability to meet their basic needs. So they have freedom. Freedom that is not only free in opinion, but also from hunger, from ignorance. and from pain. They are also able to reach productive resources that enable them to increase their income, and get the goods and services they need. Finally, they can participate in the development process and decisions that affect their fate (Suharto 2005).

Empowerment and participation are two concepts that have become the center of attention in recent development processes in various countries. Poverty that hit without stopping and eroding human life due to the ongoing international recession. Therefore, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of an alternative approach, namely a development approach that begins with the empowerment process of local communities and participatory nature. Community participation in third world countries can be an effective strategy in addressing the problems of urbanization and industrialization (Craig and Mayo 1995). A set of techniques is also needed that can create conditions for the

empowerment of the community through a participatory community empowerment process. Meanwhile, empowerment strategies put active community participation into effectiveness, efficiency, and independence. In particular, empowerment is carried out through collaborative activities with volunteers, not from the government, but from NGOs, including organizations and community movements (Hikmat 2006).

Increased independence through improving living standards better aspects of skills or abilities and skills must be possessed in the future. (Subegjo and Supriyanto, 2004 in Sonja *et al.*, 2014). There is no sustainable empowerment program without meaningful participation from the community itself. External parties only function as catalysts and facilitators. Thus the community will make decisions and risks from the activities they design. Non-sustainable programs are often caused by this low participation, because people do not feel they have the activities they do, and are free of responsibility. Such programs are usually not based on the study of the needs and potential of the community with the community itself. Productive character is a character oriented towards efforts to produce something for satisfying or contributing to other people or the environment. Such character is driven not only by altruistic nature, but also actualization of self-development, or oriented towards universal human or social values. By giving results to the surrounding environment, someone or group has this character feel more socially meaningful because what is done is valued socially and benefit others or the surrounding social and public environment (Sonja *et al.*, 2014).

The empowerment method of female fishermen begins with the identification and exploration of the potential of natural resources and human resources, the availability of supporting infrastructure and socio-cultural locality. From this potential can be known the identification of readiness and activities to be carried out namely productive economic based life skills education by utilizing local potential and opportunities and challenges. This inventory is then synergized with provincial government policies and the support of local governments and local communities to be a model for empowering women fishermen. Furthermore, this model is

implemented in the lives of coastal communities (Sonja *et al*, 2014).

Researchers see that the majority of fishing areas in Sidoarjo Regency, especially in Bluru Kidul, still store considerable local potential. The potential must be optimized. One of the breakthroughs in optimizing this potential is to generate home industries as existing local potentials. The question that then arises is, why should you use a home industry strategy? Because the home industry is able to become a bridge for the domestic environment of the outside environment. Therefore, in addition to making it easier for female fishermen to implement their household management, female fishermen can become the driving force of the industry By relying on participatory empowerment and the development of home industry (local industry), such things could be as an exploration of increasing the role of female fishermen in their environment. The ultimate goal of this exploration is to create coastal srikandi obtained from development with the people.

## Result and Discussion

As explained earlier, exploration of development through participatory empowerment is indeed needed to improve the socio-economic welfare of the pesisir in Sidoarjo. This conceptual method also targets female fishermen in Sidoarjo Regency. However, there are several things that must be resolved first, namely 1) conceptualization of "local potential" so that definitions can be obtained that can be further operationalized, and 2) factors that support the development of local potential.

Of course in this study, the "local potential" in question is female fishermen and home industries. Why are women? There is an assumption that women are household managers. Assumption of course is still strongly tied to the culture and mindset of the Javanese people. reflecting on the Bangladesh case study that was able to empower women through assistance from the Grameen Bank by Muhammad Yunus, women turned out to have greater cognitive awareness than men. So that in terms of household management, women also have greater awareness of responsibilities. This is what later became the Socio-psychological capital for participatory empowerment with local potential in the form of women.

Women's empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building for greater participation to have power and supervision in decision making and transformation so that women can produce something useful (Karl, 1995 in Man Yee Kan, 2002). Separating the chain of poverty is considered to be able to free from helplessness and free from poverty. Grow strength and have independence. Empowering women as a continuous process to increase women's abilities and independence in an effort to improve the welfare of their families.

In addition to female fishermen, the local potential that can be used as a source of empowerment movement is the home industry. A study conducted by Haya Al-Dajani and Susan Marlow (2013) found that there were cases where women, in a marginalized social structure, could be empowered through activities entrepreneurship. Often too, entrepreneurial activities originated from home industries. In the context of patrilineal structures, home industry has become an alternative solution for the improvement and empowerment of socio-economic communities, especially women. With home industry, women are able do two things in the domestic environment, which is doing domestic work as well as being a family breadwinner.

A study conducted by Ly Phan (2015) gives the assumption that women's empowerment can be carried out supported by four components, namely education, employment, strength of household decision making, and household policy. While many people believe that the two most influential components are education and work. Another study conducted by Marissa Wesely and Dina Dublon (2015) underlines the importance of empowering women by involving grassroots women organizations (GWOs). According to Wesely and Dublon, by involving GWOs, empowerment activities can be more effective because they are adapted to local culture. The involvement of GWOs also increases the level of women's participation in empowerment activities. So, if articulated, the important thing to be combined in women's empowerment is mapping education and work and involving women's grassroots organizations Sidoarjo Regency.

## Conclusion

By formulating all the existing concepts and theories, this study focuses on empowering female fishermen by using strengthening grassroots organizations, educating women fishermen, and providing special skills based on local Bluru Kidul local industries. Bluru Kidul fisheries ecosystem needs improvement. Many fishermen still use conventional perspective and methods of trading and lack innovation. Even though we know that the *ceteris paribus* condition is now very fast.

The home industry based on local potential (from marine catches) in some areas of Sidoarjo regency is actually a community effort, especially for women fishermen, which has been carried out for a long time. This is considered important especially by fishermen's families in an effort to increase family income and welfare; The local potential-based business is expected to improve the welfare of fishermen. More if there is a touch of knowledge and intervention from outside parties. Besides that, women fishermen and the surrounding community will be able / empowered to improve their business which is certainly accompanied by an increase in income. it is necessary to explore other potentials that are very possible to also increase the income of the fishermen's family.

With the strengthening of grassroots organizations for women fishermen, the social and professional ties between them can be increased and further strengthened. The grassroots organization will become a connecting medium between one female fisherman and another female fisherman. Grassroots organizations will also function as social platforms of the home industry that they will develop. Of course strengthening grassroots organizations will also have an impact on improving their economic prosperity through internal trade, information dissemination, and political consolidation among them. Education will be another crucial thing. If a grassroots organization is a medium for enhancing empowerment, then education will be the soul of the improvement and empowerment. Education here also includes honing skills that are not only skills related to fishermen and fisheries, but also skills in product innovation. Therefore, it is very important for the aspect of education here, because education here is intended to make

innovation, both products and services. will be the final determining factor. With the existence of a grassroots organization and the improvement of education and skills, what is needed is the development of economic activities that come from within the women fishermen themselves. This will be a local element that can pump up the economic activities of women fishermen in Sidoarjo Regency.

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