

The Role of Sasak tribe Women in Increasing Family Income Through Handicraft Weaving Skill in Ende Village, Central Lombok

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Abstract: Sasak tribe Women, Lombok, Indonesia, are very attached to the female weaver's figure. This study aims to depict the role of Sasak tribe women in improving the family economy through handicraft weaving skill. This research uses descriptive qualitative method with the data collection obtained from the interview, observation, and some related literary studies. The results of this study show that the weaving skills are inherited from mother to daughter from childhood at an average age of 9-10. Weaving becomes a mandatory requirement for Sasak tribe women before marriage. The results show that the Sasak tribe women have double roles in the society; as the housewives and also work as the weavers with an average family income contribution of 28.3% per month which is obtained from the total income of husband and wife. Therefore, the contribution could help the family financial matter in certain conditions.

1. Introduction

Indonesia is known globally as a country that consists of many islands and tribes. Sasak tribe is one of the tribes that still maintain their ancestral culture up to these recent days. Along with the development of the times and the increasing price of daily needs in the community, Sasak tribe adjusts itself to the environment and the current economic growth. Maximizing the potential of natural resources in Ende Village, Central Lombok, becomes the alternative occupation. The majority of Sasak men's occupations concern their agriculture as farmers in the mountains, and fishermen in coastal areas. In bad weather, it is not infrequently for the men not to get any income. In the result, Sasak tribe women have been prepared to help the financial matter of their families since childhood, by providing good weaving skills with the traditional looms and materials from natural resources.

The weaving process done by Sasak tribe women has cultural-related values which are passed from generation to generation. The habits that contain values and rules developed by the community from generation to generation are called local wisdom [1]. Local wisdom that developed in society manifested into these habits shapes the adaptation to nature and environment [2]. The values are patience, sincerity, and submission to God Almighty. The women involvement in the home industry is influenced by several factors; the economic pressure, family environment that is very supportive in working and the unavailability of job opportunities in accordance with their skills [3].

Sasak tribe women help their husbands to work as the weavers around the home environment. Every morning, the mothers do their domestic activities such as washing, cooking, cleaning up

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the house and taking care of their children to prepare for school. Meanwhile, the men go to the farm to plant crops until afternoon while the men who work as fishermen cannot go home for days. Thus, a Sasak woman must be independent to survive and fulfill the needs of her family. Based on the background above, this study aims to provide an overview of Sasak tribe women roles in increasing family income through the handicraft weaving skills in Ende Village, Central Lombok, Indonesia.

2. Literature Review

Role is the role that emphasizes of the individual characteristics as the social agent who studies the appropriate behavior in accordance with the occupied position in society, and the role plays while the social agent is interacting with the other [4, 5]. In order for a role to have meaning, it must have a set of certain functions, a benefit or a task in the society. Subsequently, role is the collective expectation that concerns the functions in society. One of them is the dual role of two or more roles that perform at the same time.

The intended role is the role of a woman as a wife to her husband, a mother to her children, and a woman who has a career outside the home. Housewives have two types of roles: full-fledged housewives who only do the household chores or work to maintain the needs of all family members, such as cooking, educating children and serving husbands and the role of housewives that have multiple roles, ie changes in work earning a living. [6] The labor division is based on the sex difference that associates men as the victors. Men are expected to be more objective, firm and independent than women. The agent characteristics associated with men are consistent with men's traditional stereotypes as the leaders. Meanwhile, women with their roles as housewives are expected to be more communal, relationship-oriented, and parenting-oriented [7, 8, 9]. This labor division has traditionally linked men as breadwinners and women as housewives [7, 10].

The ability of Sasak tribe women in making woven fabric is a provision in increasing family income. Weaving skill is the ability to make fabrics by combining elongated and transverse threads made of wood, cotton, silk and other fibers [11]. Family income is the sum of the real income from all family members that is used to fulfill the communal and the individual needs in the household which directly affecting the family welfare [12]. Family income can be either money or goods or yields from rice fields or yards [13]. The income of working woman is income received directly by a woman after working. The income is net income after being reduced with the expenses incurred during the work [14]. In this study the family income is the amount of real income in the form of money from husband and wife used to fulfill the communal and the individual needs in the household.

Moreover, the standard of family income used for this study is the national standard in Indonesia. Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics classifies the incomes of the population into for types: 1) The income class is very high if the average income is more than Rp.3.500.000 per month, 2) The income class is high if income average is between Rp.2.500.000 to Rp.3.500.000 per month, 3) Medium income class is if the average income is below Rp.1.500.000 to Rp.2.500.000 per month, and 4) the low income class is if the average income is Rp.1.500.000 per month. Family income levels need to be controlled by balanced and not excessive expenditures this needs to be applied in order for families to achieve wellbeing [15, 12].

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3. Research Method

The research was conducted in Ende Village, Pujut Sub-regency, Central Lombok in April 2017. This research uses descriptive qualitative method with the data collection obtained from observation, interview, documentation and the literary study related to this research. The population of this study is Sasak tribe women in Ende village, Central Lombok. The relevant *sampling* used in qualitative research is "*variation of sampling to document unique variations that have emerged in adapting to different conditions*" [16]. In selecting the informants, the researchers use snow ball technique, which is the technique of getting the informants starting from one or several people who can be used as a source of information. The informants in this study amounted to eight people with criteria of age more than 18 years, have already married and work as the weavers.

The data analysis will be moved into the table form, and it is grouped according to their respective types. This method is expected to provide a detailed description based on the reality encountered in the field. The data analysis is presented in the forms of the descriptions and assisted with the calculation of the numbers, percentages, and tables.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 The Identity of Sasak Tribe Women Informant Ende Village

The result (Table 2) depicts the identity of Sasak tribe woman informants. The informants in this study is divided into 4 (four) age groups: 18-27 years, 28-37 years, 38-47 years, and 48-57 years old. Furthermore, the educational level group is divided into 3 (three) groups which are elementary school (ES), junior high school (JHS) and senior high school (SHS). The results of primary data processing research could be seen on the table:

Table 1. The Distribution of Research Subjects by Age and Educational Level

No.	Age	Educational Level			
		No Basic Formal Education	E	JHS	SHS
1.	18 – 27	-	1	1	-
2.	28 – 37	-	1	-	1
3.	38 – 47	-	1	1	-
4.	48 – 57	2	-	-	-

The information is taken from the question “when did Sasak tribe women start weaving?” The answer is since childhood, Sasak tribe women have already taught to weave by their parents since their childhood from the age of 9 to 10. Weaving is a mandatory for a Sasak tribe women. The purpose of Sasak tribe women studying weaving is as the marriage requirement, and it can support the family financial matter. The women also weave as the manifestation of adapting to the environment, since it starts undergoing the climate change. Thus, the women must participate in fulfilling the needs of the family. Based on that information, it can be analyzed that the ancestors of the Sasak tribe have prepared Sasak tribe women to play the double role, as the housewives and the weavers.

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The previous research has suggested that education can reduce poverty directly by increasing productivity for the poor and improving their chances of getting better-paying jobs. Education is an important that factor give the impact to the poverty because the level of education that individual has will affect the distribution of income that will ultimately also affect poverty. The higher the educational level someone has, the more evenly distributed the income distribution will be. In the result, the poverty can be reduced [17]. Thus, the level of education is a factor that can affect the family income. In contrast, the result shows that the level of education does not affect the family income because every Sasak tribe woman has the same opportunity to become a weaver. However, the result needs to be examined in advance on the educational level of Sasak women who have the influence in their family income.

4.2 Distribution of Sasak Tribe Husbandry, Ende Village

Father has a role as a breadwinner for the family. In some families, there is a father who does not work. This condition demands the mother as a woman to work. Sasak tribe women have the role as weavers that produce the woven twist. The woven twist will be sent into the cooperative store to be marketed.

There are several factors that make Sasak tribe women work outside their domestic realm. One of the factors is due to the tribe customs that require women to be able to weave. The women need to fulfill the needs of household and many others. The researchers are interested to understand the occupation of the Sasak woman's husband because the type of work a person has will influence the income. The results of interviews from informants are shown below:

Tabel 2. The Distribution of Occupation the Research Subjects' Husband

No.	Occupation	Amount	Precentage
	Farmer	4	50 %
	Fisherman	3	37.5 %
	Employee	1	12.5 %
Total		8	100 %

The table above shows that the majority occupation of the husbands in Sasak tribe is farmer 50%, fishermen 37.5% and others 12.5% work as the employees outside the village. Based on the interviews results, the informants mention that Sasak tribe women work because there are times when their husbands could not earn the money due to bad weather or seasons. This kind of weather or season does not support their husbands to sail or farm. In the result, this condition requires the families to find an alternative solution to fulfill the family needs.

This weaving skill also has a philosophical value which symbolizes that Sasak tribe women can be independent and help their husbands in fulfilling family income. Sasak tribe women must be able to weave due to one of the requirements for marriage. When they are going to get married, Sasak tribe women will give the full-woven fabric made by themselves to their prospective husbands. In the result, every house in Sasak tribe must have looms because the Sasak tribe women will inherit the weaving skills to their daughters.

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4.3 Contribution of Sasak Tribe Women in Increasing Family Income Through Weaving

Weaving is an activity to make a fabric that starts by manufacturing the threads in traditional ways. In addition to that, Sasak tribe also makes woven fabric from the natural materials. Weaving can be a first step for women to have families because it is a mandatory. Marriage is a requirement to the formation of a family. The family represents two or more individuals who join together due to the blood relation, marital relations, or rapture and they live in one household, interact with each other and in their respective roles to create and sustain the culture [18]. Furthermore, it is also explained that the family is a group of closely-related kinship, residence, or emotional connection that manifests four aspects: interdepension, maintaining the selected boundaries and to adapt to the change and maintaining identity all the time, and performing family tasks [19].

The following table is the income data of husband and wife obtained from the research results. Later, this data is expected to predict the contribution of Sasak tribe women in increasing the family income through weaving. The data is as follows:

Tabel 3. The Contribution of Sasak tribe Women in Increasing Family Income through Weaving

No.	Name	The Income of Wife/month	The Income of Husband/month	Family Income	Total (%)
1.	P1	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 2.000.000	Rp. 2.500.000	20 %
2.	P2	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 1.500.000	Rp. 2.000.000	25%
3.	P3	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 1.000.000	Rp. 1.500.000	33%
4.	P4	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 1.000.000	Rp. 1.500.000	33%
5.	P5	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 1.000.000	Rp. 1.500.000	33%
6.	P6	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 1.000.000	Rp. 1.500.000	33%
7.	P7	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 1.500.000	Rp. 2.000.000	25%
8.	P8	Rp. 500.000	Rp. 1.500.000	Rp. 2.000.000	25%
Average contribution and income				Rp. 1.812.000	28.3 %

Based on the table above, the contribution of Sasak tribe women in raising family income is 28.3% which means that although the contribution is still low, Sasak tribe women still have double role. The results show that the average income of the sasak family is Rp.1.812.000 per month which means it is classified into the medium income class with the income range starts from Rp.1.500.000 to Rp.2.500.000 per month. It should keep in mind that the result is the husband's income when the weather turns good.

5. Conclusion

The role of Sasak tribe women in the economic aspect, especially family income through the weaving skill, greatly contributes to the family. Although the contribution is not too much, the Sasak tribe women play the double roles in order to adapt with the environment to keep fulfilling family needs. The condition of the husband's work, which is heavily influenced by the current season, strongly affects the family's economic stability.

The jobs as weavers that are done by the Sasak tribe women have different characteristics. The characteristics can be seen from the diversity of age range from 18 to 57 years old. The

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educational level of the women is still relatively low. Two people do not go to school at all, three people only graduate from the elementary school, two people graduate from the junior high school and only one person graduated at the senior high school. However, Sasak tribe women do not find it difficult to play their double roles in the family because weaving is an activity that has been familiarized since childhood. Since Sasak tribe women who work as the weavers are still very low in educational level, the researchers recommend the further research to work together with the local government in order to provide the educational trainings related to the creative economy and marketing for Sasak tribe women. These trainings could be used to increase the family income. In the future, the researchers hope to use more topic-related literacy studies in order to give the better support for the facts occur in the field and sharpen the analysis.

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