

Empowerment of Fishermen Group Women Through Processing Fish Products in Lowu-Lowu Village

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Abstract

One strategy in empowerment to increase people's income is creating new entrepreneurs. Lowu-Lowu village is one of the urban villages located in Baubau City. The village's geographical location on the coast has promising potential for fishery resources. In addition, 14% of the 2,414 population in the Lowu-Lowu village live as fishers. So far, fishers in the Lowu-Lowu sub-district did not process fish caught into fish processed products. Fishers sold their fish directly to village markets or markets in other areas in Baubau City, so there was no additional income for fishers. The partner's issue was a lack of knowledge among women in the Lowu-Lowu village to start a home business. Therefore, this community service team held seminars regarding entrepreneurship and training regarding processing fish products to empower women in the Lowu-Lowu village. So they can make extra money for fishers' families. The participants were wives of the Lowu-Lowu fishers group and women of the Lowu-Lowu Family Welfare Empowerment. This activity resulted in increased success indicators before and after community service. In conclusion, community service through empowerment positively impacted women in the Lowu-Lowu village, particularly creating insight (knowledge and perception) regarding entrepreneurship and encouraging entrepreneurial behaviour. The following community service activities could give training on creating business profiles and accounting records for firms.

Keywords: Empowerment; Processing fish products; Women

Abstrak

Kelurahan Lowu-lowu merupakan salah satu kelurahan yang terletak di Kota Baubau. Letak geografis kelurahan yang berada di pesisir pantai memiliki potensi sumber daya perikanan yang menjanjikan. Dari total penduduk 2.414 Jiwa yang ada di kelurahan Lowu-lowu, 14% penduduknya bermata pencaharian sebagai nelayan. Selama ini nelayan-nelayan yang berada pada kelurahan Lowu-lowu tidak mengelola hasil tangkapan ikan yang diperolehnya melainkan langsung di jual ke pasar yang ada di kelurahan tersebut ataupun di jual pada pasar yang ada di daerah lain di Kota Baubau. Kondisi ini menyebabkan tidak ada penambahan pendapatan yang diperoleh oleh nelayan. Oleh karena itu, melalui kesempatan ini tim pengabdian kepada masyarakat melaksanakan pelatihan dengan tujuan untuk memberdayakan ibu-ibu nelayan di kelurahan Lowu-lowu tentang pengolahan hasil tangkapan ikan agar dapat memberikan tambahan pendapatan. Metode pelaksanaan yang digunakan yaitu memberikan pengetahuan dan pelatihan. Hasil kegiatan ini adalah meningkatkan pengetahuan dan pelatihan kepada ibu-ibu kelompok nelayan terkait cara mengelola hasil tangkapan ikan menjadi produk olahan ikan dengan memanfaatkan peralatan dan bahan baku yang ada di sekitar mereka. Oleh karena itu, dengan adanya pelatihan pengolahan hasil tangkapan ikan ini diharapkan dapat meningkatkan pendapatan keluarga mereka.

Kata kunci: Pemberdayaan; Pengolahan; Tangkapan; Nelayan

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the Indonesian government is trying to create equitable development and shape a sustainable economy to achieve Indonesia's 2045 goals. The government has made various efforts to achieve these goals, including social assistance programs, community empowerment, improving livelihoods (Siswanti and Ratnasari, 2021), and community nutrition improvement (Kamaruddin, Hasrawati, *et al.*, 2019; Kamaruddin, Jusni and Amalia Sari, 2019; Kamaruddin, Ma'ruf, *et al.*, 2019). Earlier, policymakers only put the people as objects. However, they currently have to view people as living subjects, even the main actors. They must change the previous development paradigm to develop a country successfully. Furthermore, one of the essential concepts to overcoming the failure of state development is applying empowerment (Nurrokhman, 2019).

In general, the definition of empowerment is an effort to restore or increase the empowerment of a community to act under their dignity, rights, and responsibilities as human beings and citizens. In addition, it is an effort to free the poor from the shackles of poverty (Margolang, 2018). One strategy in empowerment to increase people's income is creating new entrepreneurs. According to Kasmir (2007) in (Ridzal and Hasan, 2019), entrepreneurship is a process of applying creativity and innovation in solving problems and finding opportunities to improve life or business. Empowerment strategies to create new entrepreneurs includes: 1) Providing insight, knowledge, entrepreneurial spirits, and entrepreneurial skills; 2) Encouraging the formation of joint business groups; 3) Creating a business environment that supports and promotes the realization of small and medium entrepreneurs (Hia, 2015).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNITY, PROBLEMS, AND TARGET SOLUTION

General description

Southeast Sulawesi is one of 34 provinces in achieving Indonesia's 2045 goals. One of the cities in Southeast Sulawesi province is Baubau City. Baubau City consists of 8 sub-districts and 43 urban villages. Based on Statistics Indonesia in 2021, the Baubau City's Human Development Index (HDI) had a value of 75.90. This value was the second-highest value after the Kendari City, which was ranked first with a value of 83.53. The high HDI value indicated that Baubau City succeeded in building the quality of life for its people. Even though Baubau city was ranked second in the HDI, the percentage of the open unemployment rate in Baubau City was also relatively high. Based on Statistics of Baubau City data in table 1, the percentage of open unemployment in Baubau city was in second place after Kendari city, with a value of 6.57 percent (BPS Kota Baubau, 2021). Thus, there were still many workers who had not been absorbed in the labor market. One way to reduce the open unemployment rate is to create jobs. Jobs come not only from the government or private companies but can also from establishing a business or entrepreneurship. According to Siswoyo (2009)

in (Sofyan, 2019), entrepreneurship has an essential role in the economy of a developing nation. The existence and function of the entrepreneur group determine the economic progress or decline of a country.

Table 1. Open Unemployment Rate by Regency/City in Southeast Sulawesi Province 2016 – 2020 (percentage)

Regency/ City		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Regency						
1	Buton	-	2.47	1.60	1.29	4.78
2	Muna	-	5.65	5.61	4.70	6.45
3	Konawe	-	1.94	2.30	3.06	5.42
4	Kolaka	-	2.97	2.18	3.69	5.29
5	Konawe Selatan	-	1.65	2.62	2.29	2.58
6	Bombana	-	0.47	0.70	2.44	2.74
7	Wakatobi	-	2.43	2.43	2.48	4.18
8	Kolaka Utara	-	2.62	1.53	1.38	2.13
9	Buton Utara	-	1.48	1.76	2.70	4.11
10	Konawe Utara	-	4.23	3.59	3.92	3.79
11	Kolaka Timur	-	2.08	2.76	3.25	3.29
12	Konawe Kepulauan	-	5.41	1.19	1.82	1.55
13	Muna Barat	-	0.56	2.62	3.12	3.36
14	Buton Tengah	-	1.69	4.45	4.22	4.22
15	Buton Selatan	-	2.61	3.52	3.77	3.90
City						
1	Kendari	-	7.22	6.04	6.15	7.08
2	Baubau	-	7.07	5.75	5.84	6.57
Sulawesi Tenggara		2.72	3.30	3.26	3.59	4.58

Source: Statistics of Baubau City, 2021

Baubau City has the potential for abundant natural wealth from the agricultural, livestock, and fisheries sector. Based on Statistics of Baubau City data, the potential for fisheries in Baubau City has increased every year. In 2019 the fishery production in Baubau City reached 14,036.64 tons, and in 2020 it increased by 571.95 tons to 14,608.59 tons (BPS Kota Baubau, 2021). The marine fishery potential of Baubau City is a new business opportunity for open unemployment. New prospective entrepreneurs can exploit marine fisheries' potential by producing processed fish products.

Furthermore, people living on the coast of Baubau city, one of which is the Lowu-Lowu village community, can develop these business opportunities. Lowu-Lowu Village is one of the villages located in Baubau City. The village's geographical location on the coast has promising potential for fishery resources. In addition, 14% of the population of 2,414 people in the Lowu-Lowu village live as fishers.

Problem

So far, fishers in the Lowu-Lowu sub-district did not process fish caught into fish processed products. Fishers sold their fish directly to village markets or markets in other areas in Baubau City. This condition caused no additional income for fishers. Fishing is a passive income because fishers cannot work during the high-wave season. According to Jimad et al. (2020) in (Ridzal et al., 2021), empowering women is essential to improve

the economy, especially the economy in the family. Women play a dual role, not only as a mother who takes care of their children, as a husband's companion, but also as a woman who plays a vital role in the economic sustainability of the family. Working women can reduce the family's financial burden because there are other sources of income apart from the head of the family or husband. The target issue was a lack of knowledge among women in the Lowu-Lowu village to start a home business.

Target solution

Therefore, this community service team held seminars regarding entrepreneurship and training regarding processing fish products to empower women in the Lowu-Lowu village. So they can make extra money for fishers' families.



Figure 1. Processing fish products

METHOD

The participants were wives of the Lowu-Lowu fishers group and women of the Lowu-Lowu Family Welfare Empowerment (in Indonesia, it is called *Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga* or *PKK*). The village head of Lowu-Lowu village also attended this activity. On October 27, 2021, the activity was carried out at the Lowu-Lowu village hall. The community service team taught the participants about entrepreneurship and home-based business opportunities through seminars. The provision of knowledge material could provide new insights regarding home-based business businesses and foster motivation for participants to become independent entrepreneurs by utilizing raw materials and resources around them. In addition, the team also provided training on how to make *pempek* and meatballs, assisted by several students. The community service team chose training on making *pempek* and meatballs because these two products used the same raw materials and were easy to get for the participant (Masita, E. D., Maimunah, S., & Abidah, S. N. (2019).

Pempek (n): a savory Indonesian fishcake delicacy made of fish and tapioca

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of community service activities included changes in the success indicators stated in table 2. Table 2 shows increased success indicators before and after community service activities.

Table 2. Results of Community Service activities

Success indicators	Pretest	Posttest
Participants' knowledge of the entrepreneur	Moderate	Good
Participants' knowledge of the entrepreneur management	Moderate	Good
Participants' knowledge of the simple accounting records for home businesses	Moderate	Good
Participants' knowledge of making <i>pempek</i> and meatball	Moderate	Good

A seminar is an approach through knowledge-transfer activities. According to the Sabarisman literature review findings, coastal communities required a systematic and organized effort to influence and push for change. The principles of empowerment of coastal communities should use an approach tailored to the unique characteristics of fishers' social lives (Sabarisman, 2017). The partner's issue was a lack of knowledge among women in the Lowu-Lowu village to start a home business. According to (Jamaaluddin, 2017), the biggest obstacle in entrepreneurship is taking the first step to start. Creating a business from something simple around us is a great way to get started. Therefore, the initial activity in this community service was designed to alter participants' perspectives. The next section discussed a business idea to overview the possibilities and market options in the Lowu-Lowu village. The community service team also taught keeping simple accounting records for home enterprises and small businesses. Finally, there was a training on making *pempek* and meatballs. The research results by Khasanah & Asytuti revealed that the contribution of women's income in home-based businesses was 37.40% of family income (Khasanah and Asytuti, 2020).

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, community service through empowerment positively impacted women in the Lowu-Lowu village, particularly creating insight (knowledge and perception) regarding entrepreneurship and encouraging entrepreneurial behavior. The following community service activities could give training on creating business profiles and accounting records for firms.

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