
The Role of the Fisherman Wife in Tasikmadu Village in Supporting the Family Economy : 1978-2004

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Abstract: Tasikmadu village is located in the Prigi Bay area with stunning natural scenery. Unfortunately, this is inversely proportional to the economic condition of the population, most of whom work as fishermen. The low income of fishermen in Tasikmadu Village, Watulimo District, Trenggalek Regency is due to natural factors causing the fishing process to not take place throughout the year. This condition results in a lack of fishermen's income. Responding to this, the wives help support the family's economy by working in various sectors of fish processing. The fisherman's wife's activities are as a seller of fresh fish caught by her husband, collectors of rattles, craftsmen of rattles, businessmen of drying fish, laborers of fish processing and as laborers of Pull nets in Prigi Beach. Business opportunities for fishermen's wives were wide open when the Nusantara Prigi Fishery Port was inaugurated in 2004. With the opening of this port, many workers were absorbed in the fishing industry, automatically increasing family income. This paper is a research on maritime history with temporal boundaries starting from 1978-2004. Maritime history research concerns coastal community issues, coastal community culture and community dynamics. Maritime history studies are still rarely discussed, especially the role of fishermen's wives and their contribution to the economy. So hopefully this article can fill that void.

Keywords: fisherman's wife; economy; family

INTRODUCTION

In the fishing community in Tasikmadu village, the majority of the population makes a living as fishermen. This is because the village of Tasikmadu is located in the Prigi Bay area on the South Coast of Trenggalek, East Java. Fishermen in the Prigi Bay area consist of traditional fishermen and modern fishermen. These terms of traditional and modern usage refer to the use of fishing technology that fishermen use. Fishing activities cannot be carried out throughout the year, season and weather factors are the cause. Thus the income of fishermen is not stable, and economic problems arise.

The condition of unstable fishermen's income has resulted in their family's life being at the poverty line. One of the causes of fishermen's poverty is the change in the modernization of fishing gear from traditional to modern (Mubyarto, 1984, p.18). Traditional fishermen are less able to adapt to the modernization of fishing gear, thus causing their income to remain small. Poverty is a condition of complete shortage of the population which is manifested in the form of low income and is caused by low skills, productivity, weak production exchange rates, and limited opportunities to participate in

development. The low income of the poor causes low productivity and an increasing burden of dependence on the community. Poverty is a level of life that is below the minimum standard of living needs set based on the basic need for food which makes people enough to work and live a healthy life (Prayitno, 1986, p.8).

It is the husband's duty to earn a living. However, the husband's income is still very reduced in meeting his needs. Poor fishermen are not able to meet their meager needs. Rarely do fishermen return from the Fish Auction Place (TPI) with a lot of money. Poverty on the coast feels real after the increase in fuel prices. Fishermen's purchasing power is low compared to their needs, let alone their desires, even though they are very simple, fishermen's hopes of moving out of poverty are difficult to fulfill (Budi Siswanto, 2008, p. 75-76).

With this condition, the wife of the fisherman did not stay silent to see the condition. The wives stepped in to help meet the needs of the family. The fisherman's wife doubles as a wife, and mother and works to help her husband.

Based on the above background, this research raises the following problems:

1. What are the characteristics of the coastal community of Tasikmadu village?
2. What is the role of the fisherman's wife in helping the family economy?

RESEARCH METHODS

The research was conducted at Prigi Beach, Tasikmadu Village, Watulimo District, Trenggalek Regency. The location of this research was chosen because Tasikmadu Village is one of the fishing villages in this area and there is also the Perikanan Prigi Port which is the largest fishing-producing area on the South Coast of Java.

Indonesian history writing lags behind other social sciences, such as sociology, in research on women and does not yet have a separate position in the social sciences. History has considered that women are individuals who can stand alone, as important as their role in society. History becomes very important, because the study of gender requires people to look at the existing socio-cultural.

The research method used in this paper is the historical method, especially maritime history. Maritime history is not only concerned with past activities that occurred at sea, but also in the context of the wider waters. The historical method uses five steps, namely topic selection, source collection (heuristics), source criticism, source interpretation, and historical writing or historiography.

This paper takes on the topic of maritime history. The topic of maritime history, especially about fishermen's wives, is still very rare. So the topic chosen is the Role of Fishermen's Wives in Helping the Family Economy: 1978-2004. The selection of the 1978 temporal boundary began when the economy in Tasikmadu Village began to thrive after the construction of the Prigi Coastal Fishing Port (PPP), and it was inaugurated in 1978. The 2004 temporal boundary was chosen after the inauguration of the Prigi Archipelago Fishery Port (PPN) in 2004. The impact of the inauguration of the PPN has created many opportunities for employment, and increased employment in Tasikmadu Village. This addition also affects the income of fishermen's wives.

The second historical method is heuristics or source gathering. In this study, there are three types of sources used, namely written sources, and oral sources (interviews). There are two written sources in this paper, primary and secondary sources. Primary

sources were obtained from the Annual Report of Prigi Harbor in 1982-2006, the Annual Report of the Fisheries and Marine Service of Trenggalek Regency in 2001-2004, the Central Bureau of Statistics of Trenggalek Regency, the archives of Watulimo District in 2004. Secondary data were obtained from books and journals.

The second source is the oral source used in the form of statements or information given by the informant through in-depth interviews. In this study, interviews were conducted with the people of the Prigi Coastal area, especially fishermen from Tasikmadu Village, fish processing entrepreneurs (fish processing and drying), Prigi PPN employees who had worked from 1982-2004.

After the sources are collected, the second stage is source criticism to determine the authenticity and credibility of historical sources. Two aspects were criticized, namely the authenticity of the source and the level of truth of the information contained in historical sources. Every historical source is treated the same, that is, it is well-selected from an external and internal perspective (Abd Rahman, 2011, p.47-48).

The third stage in this research is interpretation or interpretation. Subjectivity is the right of the researcher, however, the researcher remains under the methodology of history (Suhartono, 2010, p.29). Researchers include the source of the data so that the truth of the data can be known. In this case, many historical facts that have been obtained must be assembled into a harmonious whole, according to a chronological sequence in a causal relationship. The fourth stage is writing history or historiography, which is a historical synthesis activity, or presenting research results in the form of historical stories (Louis Gottschak, 1975, p.32).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. NATURAL CONDITIONS OF PRIGI BAY, TASIKMADU VILLAGE

Tasikmadu Village is located in Watulimo District. Watulimo District is part of Trenggalek Regency which is located in the south and is directly adjacent to the Indian Ocean. The length of the South Coast of Trenggalek Regency is approximately 98 km. Most of the beaches are bay-shaped consisting of Panggul Bay, Munjungan Bay, and the largest is Prigi Bay. Prigi Bay has three beaches, namely Damas Beach in Karanggandu Village, Ngesrep Beach in Tasikmadu Village and Prigi Village, Karanggongso Beach including white sand located in Karanggongso Hamlet, Tasikmadu Village. Prigi Bay has a seabed of mud mixed with slightly rocky sand and has a depth of 15-61 m. Most of the beaches are already open, only a small part of which is still forest. Throughout Prigi Bay, it is the center of fishery activities with a Fish Auction Place (TPI) located in Tasikmadu Village, Watulimo District, which has facilities for the Prigi Archipelago Fishery Port, Ocean Fisheries Infrastructure Perum, giant prawn seed hall, and almost along the coast is inhabited by residents (Laporan Dinas Kelautan tahun, 2000, p.4-5.).

Prigi is a bay located in Tasikmadu Village, Watulimo District, Trenggalek Regency, about 44 km from the center of Trenggalek City. Meanwhile, Prigi Fishing Port is located at a position of 111°43'38"E and 8°17'43" South Latitude. It is built on an area of 5.2 Ha in Tasikmadu Village, Watulimo District. The topography of Watulimo District is generally a wide plateau with mountainous areas in the northern part of the district reaching a height of up to 400 meters above sea level. The lowlands are located in the southern part which is an agricultural area, while the coastal area is a swamp area. The Watulimo sub-

district has a tropical climate with two seasons, namely the east season and the west season. The Watulimo sub-district in the south is a potential area for fisheries that have not been exploited intensively, while in other parts it is a plantation, forestry, and tourism area (Laporan Tahunan PPP Prigi tahun, 1983, p.3-4).

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF COASTAL COMMUNITY OF TASIKMADU VILLAGE

The social structure of the Tasikmadu community is divided into three periods, namely the social structure in 1950-1975, the social structure in 1976-1990, and the social structure in 1991-2004. Social status in the years 1950-1975 were farmers (in Tegal and forest), traders of agricultural and fishery products, agricultural laborers (farming and livestock), fishermen, uceng or hamlet heads, Head of RT, Perhutani, political parties (PNI and PKI) , and skipper fishing nets. The economic resources accessed by the community are utilizing fishery resources in the bay area and forest resources. Utilization of fishery resources which was originally only accessed by fishing rods, then at the end of the isolation period can be accessed by the community by using fishing nets. In the 1970s the economic resources accessed by the community were utilizing fishery resources in the bay area and forest resources. Utilization of fishery resources which was originally only accessed by fishing rods, then developed with a drag net fishing gear (Edi Susilo, 2010, p.370).

The social structure in 1976-1990 was influenced by the changes that occurred in Prigi Beach. Changes in fishery economic resources are marked by the increasing number of large-scale fishing gear, such as payang, purse seine, and gill net. The development of the fisheries sector is a pull factor for fishermen from Pasuruan to carry out and on activities to Prigi. The social structure from 1991-2004 was marked by the inclusion of a fish processing system in Prigi which had an impact on the coastal resource utilization system. At this time the commodity of Layur fish was abundant and became an export commodity. Fishing rods increase their fishing power by increasing the size of their boats and changing to more modern fishing gear, from oars to outboard motors.

The people of Tasikmadu Village do not fully depend on their lives as fishermen. They have other sources of income outside the marine fisheries sector to meet their daily needs. The role of middlemen in Prigi does not harm the interests of fishermen because the characteristics of the fishery business and the diversity of its economic structure are local. This is what distinguishes it from other fishing villages (Kusnadi, 2004, p.83).

The culture of the Tasikmadu Village community is Mataraman Javanese. Courtesy and the Kromo inggil language and the Kromo Madya language (soft Javanese) became a means of daily communication. Various ceremonial traditions in every human life (from the womb to after death) are still thick in the local community (Budi Siswanto, 2008, p.5).

The economic life of Tasikmadu Village was stretched when the Coastal Fishing Port was built in 1982 and became increasingly crowded when it changed to the Nusantara Fishery Port in 2004. There are two Fish Auction Places (TPI), namely TPI for purse-seine vessels, and for fishing boats and FAD ships.

Fishermen in Tasikmadu Village can be classified based on their fishing gear, fishing gear ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and others. Based on the type of fishing gear since 1976, Tasikmadu Village fishermen are divided into two, namely modern fishermen or advanced fishermen and traditional fishermen.

Modern fishermen are fishermen who operate purse seine and gill net fishing gear. The fishing operation area for modern fishermen using purse seine and gill net fishing

gear is operated in offshore waters within 4 miles on line II, which is 3-7 miles from the lowest low tide. Traditional fishermen are fishermen who operate beach trawls/pull nets and handlines with a distance of about 1-3 miles from the fishing operation area on line I from the lowest low tide (Laporan Tahunan, 1992, p.4).

Table 4.3 Number of Fishermen from 1979-2004

Tahun	Nalayan Lokal		Nelayan Andon
	Tradisional	Modern	
1979	727	1.079	-
1980	804	909	-
1981	768	1.089	-
1982	768	1.089	-
1983	768	1.089	-
1984	768	1.089	-
1985	768	1.089	-
1986	768	1.089	-
1987	768	1.089	40
1988	765	1.187	192
1989	741	1.607	48
1991	717	2.306	385
1992	814	2.372	295
1993	826	2.380	910
1994	859	2.419	950
1995	3.206		920
1996	3.180		822
1997	3.102		226
1998	3.157		276
1999	3.433		805
2000	3.444		180
2001	3.878		312
2002	4.210		0
2003	4.325		0
2004	5.526		0

Source: Data processed from the 1982-2006 Annual Report.

The number of local fishermen in Prigi experiences fluctuating conditions from year to year. Prigi fishermen are divided into local fishermen and andon fishermen. Local fishermen are subdivided into modern fishermen and traditional fishermen. The use of modern and traditional terms is seen in the use of fishing gear. The number of modern fishermen from 1979-1994 continues to increase. Likewise traditional fishermen. The number of local fishermen continued to increase from 1987-1994. From 1995-2004 the number of local fishermen in the table is not divided into traditional fishermen and modern fishermen. However, traditional fishermen still exist for the hundreds of people. Andon fishermen started to fish a lot in Prigi Bay in 1987. In 2000 the number decreased from 805 fishermen to 180 fishermen. The decline in andon fishermen is influenced by the fishing season that occurs in Prigi. In 2002 the table does not show the number of andon fishermen in Prigi. The decline in the number of andon fishermen was due to a conflict between andon fishermen and local fishermen in 2002.

The cause of this conflict was driven by the displeasure of local fishermen over the behavior of andon fishermen from Madura. Andon fishermen often brandish their sickles when fighting over fishing areas. In addition, andon fishermen often defecate in public cemetery areas. Physical conflict is inevitable between andon fishermen from Madura and Prigi fishermen. The peak of the conflict occurred in 2002, which resulted in the burning of a Madura fishing boat. This incident gave a deterrent effect on andon fishermen, so the table shows that no andon fishermen are looking for fish in Prigi (Khoirun, 2018, p.85).

3. THE ROLE OF THE FISHERMAN WIFE IN HELPING THE FAMILY ECONOMY

In Tasikmadu Village there is a Prigi Fishing Port. This port was originally a coastal fishing port that was inaugurated in 1982, then changed status to become a fishing port of Nusantara Prigi in 2004. The existence of the Prigi Archipelago Fishery Port (PPN) has a positive economic impact on the community. This can be seen from the existence of job opportunities including the fish meal industry, ice factory, and traditional fish processing which absorbs a lot of workers. The existence of this fishing port opens several opportunities for fishermen's wives to work to help the family economy.

Most women in coastal villages play an important role in local economic activities. Women not only act as wives of a husband or mothers of children, but they also become the pillars of the household economy. Both husband and wife, have the responsibility to maintain the survival of their household (Kusnadi, 2006, p.6).

The social structure of coastal communities places women in a unique role position as a manifestation of the characteristics of capture fisheries economic activity. This specific social position as a coastal woman plays an important role in maintaining the continuity of her household and the economic activities of her community. The social position obtained by coastal women, in this case fishermen's wives, is due to natural demands, not because of the results of official policy interventions with the dimension of gender equality (Kusnadi, 2009, p.103).

The system of gender division of labor in coastal communities places a strict emphasis on the roles of men and women. The sea is the domain of men's work (fishermen) and the land is the realm of women. The main activity of the men is catching fish, while the fishermen's wives process the catch. Most of the fishermen's time is spent handling work at sea, so there is not enough opportunity for fishermen to take care of social economic activities on land/on the other hand, fishermen's wives spend most of their time handling jobs on land. Geographical characteristics and livelihoods on the coast have shaped the distinctive socio-economic roles of fishermen and their wives.

Fishermen's wives play an important role in the survival of fishermen's families. Fishermen's wives can be said to be a pillar in the economic life of fishermen. Fishermen's wives in Tasikmadu Village generally help the family's economy by becoming fish traders. The wife of a fishing fisherman, for example, every morning her husband comes home to sea and waits for the catch to be sold.

The fish processing center also opens up job opportunities for fishermen's wives to work as reek craftsmen. Reyek is a place to put pindang fish made of bamboo. The raw materials for making reek are obtained from their own land. In the 1980s there were around 50 reek craftsmen with a wage of Rp. 10, - for a hundred reek that can be. The reek craftsmen sell them to collectors. Even though the wages are not enough to meet their

needs, the fishermen's wives are still enthusiastic about working to help their husbands work while taking care of the household (Khoirun, 2018, p.80).

In the 1990s, the fisherman's wife helped with basic household needs as a pull net when the fishing season came. The wives or female net pullers are paid Rp. 750.00. The money can help the husband's needs in meeting the necessities of life, such as buying rice and oil. Initially, the majority of the net pullers were male. In the 1990s the land for beach trawl fishermen became wider, the workforce as towing also increased so that women became laborers to pull nets when the fishing season came (Khoirun, 2018, 81).



Picture 3:1: Fishermen's wives work as drag net workers (photo taken in 2000).

Source : PPN Prigi Archives Collection.

The wives who pull the beach trawl nets get a fixed fee, whether the fish yields are abundant or not. in the 2000s their wages were Rp. 20,000,-. When the fish catches are few, the net owners are the net owners because they still pay the net pullers. To go to the sea, they are first picked up and sent home. Actually, beach trawlers have begun to be banned from operating, but at Prigi Beach they are still maintained because they can be used as tourist objects (Mila, 2012, p. 96).

The activities of this fisherman's wife can be seen in the afternoon at Prigi Beach. The beach trawl fishermen association makes a schedule for when the beach trawl is operated. When the catch is abundant, fishermen's wives sell grilled or smoked fish along Prigi Beach. Sales increase during holidays, because many tourists visit Prigi Beach.

Pemindangan is a type of business that is growing rapidly in Prigi. The fishing business began to grow and develop in 1997. In the 1990s fish were supplied from drag net fishermen and payang fishermen. Due to the increasing number of transfer entrepreneurs in Prigi, Prigi fishermen have not been able to meet the needs of transfer entrepreneurs. *Pemindangan* entrepreneur in 1998 started supplying fish from Jombang and Madiun. After the reformation, Prigi also has not been able to meet the needs of fish for processing so that the shifting entrepreneurs supply fish from Surabaya and Banyuwangi (Khoirun, 2018, p.78).

The existence of a port has a positive impact on the economy of the Prigi people with the emergence of several fish processing businesses owned by the Prigi people. The

fish obtained from fishermen are used and processed by the Prigi people into pindang fish, dried fish, salted fish, and smoked fish. Fish processing, becomes an addition to the fishermen's economy and the surrounding community. The fish landed, apart from being sold in the form of fresh fish, are also processed into pindang fish, smoked fish, and dried fish. In 2004 the production of fresh fish was 4,195 tons, pindang fish 1,749 tons, smoked fish 3,965 tons and dried or salted fish 7,885 tons (Laporan Tahunan, 2004: 8). With the emergence of several fish processing businesses, the fishermen's wives are also absorbed into these businesses.

The construction of cold storage at PPN Prigi in 2001 caused the fish drying business to be displaced and the land to be narrower. However, the existence of a fishing port has resulted in many centers for drying fish which are processed into salted fish and fish feed. The drying of fish which was originally around the Karanggongso Hamlet, developed into several hamlets namely Bengkorok, Gares, Kebon, and Duren Hamlets (Khoirun, 2018, p.76). In the fish drying center, the fishermen's wife's energy is also widely absorbed in it.

CONCLUSION

Fishermen's wives in Tasikmadu Village have succeeded in placing themselves in a social position and dominating a strong economic role, both in household and community settings. At the household level, coastal women become one of the pillars of the household economy which is equal to their husbands.

The fisherman's wife can help the family's economy as a fish seller around Prigi beach, working in a fish mill, working in a fish drying area, and pulling nets. Fishermen's wives as fish processors also depend on their husbands' catches. Many fishermen's wives were absorbed after the emergence of many fish processing industries in Tasikmadu Village around 2004.

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