

The Contribution of Women Farming Workers on Household Income (Case Study in Sugihwaras Village, Kalitengah District, Lamongan Regency)

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ABSTRACT

The village of Sugihwaras of Lamongan Regency is an agricultural area where most of the farmers are paddy farmers with female farm workers. One aspect to examine in the area is the role of rural women in agriculture as members of the household, the outpouring of workdays they do for their daily activities, and to what extent this affects their family's farming income. The study aimed to determine the number of working hours and the contribution of female farm labourers to household income. The study employed a simple random sampling of 60 respondents with interview techniques using a questionnaire. The method of analysis was descriptive analysis. The results obtained that the working hours of female farm workers for one year per hectare of the land area were 540 hours, devoted to paddy farming twice annually. The contribution of female farm workers to household income was IDR 1,687,500 per month or IDR 48,600,000 per year per hectare, from paddy farming for two growing seasons annually. It is suggested that the amount of working hours and the contribution of female farm workers to household income is very small, so efforts should be made to increase the number of hours they work so that the income they earn can increase. Efforts are being made, namely raising livestock, as well as training in the manufacture of processed by-products of agriculture, for instance by making sweet potato chips and other preparations that can be sold.

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1. Introduction

In the era of globalization and reform, all potentials in the regions need to be developed so that the regions can be more advanced than before. With regional autonomy, the need for development will be more focused on very urgent needs (Lisanty *et al.*, 2021). This is because those who know the needs of the region are the local people themselves. By looking for various existing potentials, it is hoped that these potentials can be developed in such a way as to help improve regional development. One of the existing potentials is human resources. With the existence of quality human resources, it will be easier to manage all the potential that exists in the region (Anwarudin *et al.*, 2021).

One of the existing human resources is female farm workers. As an agricultural country, Indonesia is still an agricultural country, meaning that agriculture plays an important role in the overall national economy. The pattern of farming in Indonesia is still subsistence farming, meaning that farming is still cultivated in a narrow area, besides that farming is only cultivated for the needs of daily life (Lisanty *et al.*, 2022). In connection with the narrow area of land

cultivated, the results obtained are still far from adequate (Ata *et al*, 2012). Besides farming in rural areas, there are still many people who do not have paddy fields, so they depend on agricultural labour for their livelihood. The condition of these farm labourers is that they do not do business every day, they only work in agriculture at certain times, so they need to look for additions from various other service sectors (Vermeulen, *et al*, 2018). To seek additional income, the wives also follow in the footsteps of their husbands, namely helping to earn a living as female farm labourers. Since there are more women in the population, especially in the agricultural sector as female farm workers, it is deemed necessary to know how far the contribution of female farm labourers is to their household income (Imai, *et al*, 2019).

In general, the motivation to work for women, among other things, is to fill their free time and continue their careers, which they obtained before starting a family. For women, the motivation to work is predictably not just to fill their free time or just to continue their career, but to earn a living as an additional family income (Kreneva, *et al*, 2015).

In rural areas, there are quite strong norms so that a wife accompanies her husband to earn a living in addition to regular jobs which are the work of a wife. Thus, women, especially in the village, are burdened with quite heavy double duties. Therefore, in essence, the role of women as housewives has the main task of household work and they will leave the house to earn a living besides the main job if the husband's income is insufficient (Stenchly, *et al* 2019).

In connection with the dual role of women, on the one hand as housewives, on the other hand earning a living to help their husbands, the working hours spent by farming women are less than the working hours of their husbands. With the least outpouring of women's working hours for jobs related to farming, the income earned is also small. Even though the income earned is small, overall it can provide a positive contribution to family income (Kurniawan, 2010).

Given the lack of knowledge of the role of women in the field of agricultural development, especially regarding activities to make a living in farming, the role of women is a problem that needs to be solved. One aspect of researching the role of rural women is to look at the amount of work they do for their daily activities as members of the household and how far it affects their family's farming income. (Saputra *et al.*, 2022). Based on this background, the study aimed to determine the number of working hours and the contribution of female farm labourers to household income.

2. Methodology

The research location was in Sugihwaras Village, Kalitengah District, Lamongan Regency with the consideration that there were many female farm workers in that area. The research implementation technique used in this study was a survey technique, which specifically was a case study. Using a survey technique because the observed object consists of several units, namely problems related to the contribution of female farm workers and each unit will be carried out in-depth observations in the form of a specific case, namely the case of the contribution of female farm workers to their household income (Krause *at al*, 2017).

Implementation of observation and data collection was from March to May 2020. The data collected was in the form of cross-sectional data, where the data obtained comes from several sources which are assumed to have similar characteristics at the same time. Primary data were obtained by direct interviews with respondents (farmers) and secondary data were obtained from agencies that had something to do with this research. The interview technique was carried out in a planned manner by using a list of questions that had been provided. The

sampling method uses the Simple Random Sampling Method (Sudjana, 1995). Using this technique, it is hoped that valid data will be obtained, while the number of respondents taken is determined to be 60 respondents.

The method of analysis with descriptive analysis (Alif, 2017). Data analysis was carried out by presenting the respondent's data in percentage form. To calculate the income of female farm workers using the following formula:

$$\pi = TR - TC$$

Remarks:

π = Total income of female farm workers

TR = Total acceptance of female farm labourers

TC = Total cost of female farm labour

Decision-making criteria

$\pi < 0$: no contribution

$\pi > 0$: positive contribution (Marisa, *et al*, 2020).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Characteristics of Respondent

The population of Sugihwaras Village is fairly evenly distributed across various age groups. There was only a slight prominence in the age group between 25 and 49 years. This age is the age group of productive workers. It can be assumed that the workforce in this village is quite potential and of course requires the provision of sufficient employment opportunities (Dahlin *et al*, 2019).

The average age of the respondents is 36 years with a job as a female farm labourer. The age of 36 years is relatively young so they can work productively. Female farm workers aged 36 years have relatively good physical strength so they can work actively on agricultural land. Although the respondents were randomly selected, the respondents who were still strong worked as farm labourers (Sudrajat, *et al*, 2017).

In terms of education, the majority of female farm workers have graduated from elementary school (83,33%) a total of 55 respondents and graduated from junior high school (16.67%) some 5 respondents. This is because there is still no 9-year compulsory education, so it is still very rare for women to continue their education to a higher level. Education plays an important role, so the need for education to enhance the ability of the population to create rapid economic development expected by the government (Hamidah *et al*, 2021).

The existing education system is improved and adapted to development needs in all fields that require different types of expertise and skills and can increase work productivity, quality and efficiency. The level of community education is an important factor in determining the ability of the population and creating a productive and efficient workforce. From the knowledge gained they are expected to gain proficiency and skills, thus there can be an equal distribution of income (Triyono, *et al*, 2020).

Education as one of the main ways to increase skills is the goal of the state to tackle unemployment and to distribute national income. Rapid economic growth can be achieved by increasing the production of goods and services, all of which need to be endeavoured to expand employment opportunities outside the agricultural sector to absorb other workers because an increasing labour force is continuously related to an increasing population which will increase the number of unemployed. The government's efforts to create wide and equitable employment opportunities only in various locations between regions and sectors are

in the context of creating and increasing income, it is hoped that the population can meet food needs and maintain health, housing, and education (Coelli, *et al*, 2005).

So the importance of education is to improve technical skills so that the number of working hours can increase, as well as income can be evenly distributed and economic development can run smoothly because higher education will broaden knowledge and heighten thinking to take definite steps. But in rural areas; to continue at a higher level, they cannot afford where the costs of higher education, and because of social status, for example marrying young causes school to stop. Thus education is important in society to improve the quality of a productive and efficient workforce in rural areas (Vermeulen *et al*, 2018).

The average number of family members is 4 people and each family has an average of 2 children. This shows that the family planning program in Sugihwaras Village is quite successful. This success reflects that the people of Sugihwaras Village can accept innovation from outside, so if there are other innovations, the people of Sugihwaras Village will certainly be able to accept them well, as long as these innovations can improve their welfare (Lisanty & Tokuda, 2015).

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents

No	Information	Score
1	Age	36 years
2	Profession	Farm Workers
3	Education	
	Elementary School	55 People
	Junior High School	5 People
4	Number of Family Members	4 People

Source: Primary Data Processed 2020.

3.2 Calculation of Working Hours of Female Farmers

The outpouring of women's working time consists of two types, namely in the household and outside the household. The role of women is first as housewives who do household chores such as cooking, educating children, cleaning the house, and others. Second, the role of women as breadwinners outside the home. For women who work outside the household, of course, the amount of time spent working inside the household is reduced because most of the time is spent outside the household earning a living. (Ramadhana *at al*, 2021)

The working hours devoted to female farm workers in Sugihwaras Village, Kalitengah District, Lamongan Regency are very few, namely only 540 hours per year or two rice planting seasons and one season used for pond business which does not require female labour. The activities they carry out include 3 activities namely planting with 120 hours per year weeding 240 hours per year and harvesting with 180 hours per year. The most activity is for weeding because weeding is done 2 times per growing season or 4 times in two growing seasons. The number of female farm workers needed is 12 people per hectare with 5 hours of work per day.

With so little activity of female farm workers on agricultural land, it is necessary to look for other alternatives to increase the contribution of female farm labourers to increasing their family income. Another alternative that is quite successful in increasing the income of women farm workers is trading, raising livestock, or something else so that the free time they have is not wasted. (Jaisridhar, *at al*, 2013).

In the household to improve the welfare of his life is obtained from agricultural products and is based on the outpouring of working hours to earn income. So if the income earned is low, then you have to increase the outpouring of working hours, for example, you can work in

the non-agricultural sector so that you can increase the level of productivity in rural areas (Musliu *et al*, 2019).

If women farm workers only rely on farm workers, their contribution will be small. For this reason, they try to raise livestock, namely raising chickens, and raising goats by utilizing fodder that is around their environment. As well as trading and selling agricultural products other than rice, namely sweet potatoes, which can be sold in the form of tubers or sold in various preparations, for example, processed sweet potato chips. It is through these work opportunities that women farm workers should so that their productivity is higher and their welfare can increase (Burhan, 2018).

Labour is an important factor in the production process, as a means of production, labour is more important than other means of production because it is humans who move all these resources to produce goods (Aaboen *et al*, 2016). Use of productive labour and improve the quality of direct labour through education. In this case, the policy and structure of education are important concerning the distribution of education, generally, the level of education in rural areas does not finish elementary school, so the level of education and skills is very minimal, the amount of working hours is low so that income decreases (Shahe *et al*, 2014).

The supply of labour is limited because not all residents are workers. Only residents who have reached a certain minimum age can only be considered potential workers or the labour force (Hamidah *et al*, 2021). In Indonesia, those aged 15 years or more are considered part of the labour force. In addition, not all of the workforce is involved in economic activities, so only those who work, thereby working in rural areas based on working hours earn income (Dahlin *et al*, 2019).

And this requires skilled and productive workers. The labour force in a region at a certain time depends on the working-age population. The comparison between the labour force and the population at working age is called the labour force participation rate, the greater the working age population, the greater the labour force participation rate. The labour force participation rate is influenced by several demographic, social, and economic factors. These factors include age, marital status, education level, area of residence, income, and religion. The influence of each of these factors on the labour force participation rate differs between male and female populations (FAO, 2014).

Table 2. Total Outpouring of Working Hours Devoted by Female Farmers in Sugihwaras Village, Kalitengah District, Lamongan Regency (Ha/Year).

No.	Activity	Time	Per cent
1	Plant	120	22,22
2	Weeding	240	44,44
3	Harvest	180	33,33
	Amount	540	100,00

Source: Primary Data Processed 2020.

3.3 The contribution of Women Farmers to the Household

The contribution of women farmers to family income is the percentage ratio between the income of women farmers and the total family income. The components of total family income consist of the husband's income, the wife's income, and the children's income. This shows that one of the factors that influence the total family income is the wife's income, the greater the wife's income, the greater the total family income. The husband's low income will cause his wife and children to try to help their husbands meet their household needs. Conversely, if

the income of the husband and children is high, then the wife's motivation is very low to help meet household needs they are already fulfilled (Rosnita, *et al*, 2014).

Contribution is a contribution or share, the contribution of a housewife to family income is the amount of contribution or income earned by a housewife to the total income (Garner *et al*, 2014). In this study, only the income contribution of female farm labourers to their households was calculated from wages for planting, weeding, and harvesting. The contribution of income earned by female farm workers from planting, in one year and two planting seasons is 22.22%, from weeding is 44.44% and from harvesting is 33.33%.

If seen from the contribution of female farm workers to the increase in household income, the contribution is positive, namely IDR 48,600,000 per year with an area of one hectare. Thus, the average per month received by each female farm worker is IDR 337,500 multiplied by 5 times a month to get a planting job. Thus, the income contribution of female farm workers in Sugihwaras Village, Kalitengah District is IDR1,687,500. Whether it can improve their welfare, certainly must be considered further.

Value IDR 1,687,500 per month is a very small value and is only able to meet primary needs, namely food needs. Now the need for food, and prices are increasing along with the development of agricultural production which has decreased compared to the increasing needs of the community. By knowing the minimal contribution of female farm workers to family income, it is necessary to find a way out of how the contribution of female farm workers can be increased (Stenchly *et al*, 2019).

Efforts are being made to increase the contribution of women workers to household income, namely by carrying out livestock activities, apart from raising livestock, they are also given training on how to increase the ability of female farm workers to develop their abilities, as traders in traditional markets by selling by-products of agricultural products such as sweet potatoes and processed for sale in the form of chips and various other sweet potato preparations (Emmy Hamidah, 2020).

Table 3. Contribution of female farm workers to household income in Sugihwaras Village, Kalitengah District, Lamongan Regency (Ha/Year).

No.	Activity	IDR	Per cent
1	Plant	10.800.000	22,22
2	Weeding	21.600.000	44,44
3	Harvest	16.200.000	33,33
	Amount	48.600.000	100,00

Source: Primary Data Processed 2020

4. Conclusion

From the results of this study it can be concluded that the outpouring of working hours of female farm workers for one year with a land area per hectare, is 540 hours devoted to rice farming twice growing seasons and the contribution of female farm labourers to household income is IDR 1,687,500 per month or IDR 48,600,000 per year per hectare, from rice farming for two growing seasons. It is suggested that the amount of working hours and the contribution of female farm workers to household income is very small, so efforts should be made to increase the number of hours they work so that the income they earn can increase. Efforts are being made, namely raising livestock, as well as training in the manufacture of processed by-products of agriculture, for instance by making sweet potato chips and other preparations that can be sold.

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