

The Existence Of Women In Meeting The Family Economy: The Impact Of The Covid-19 Pandemic

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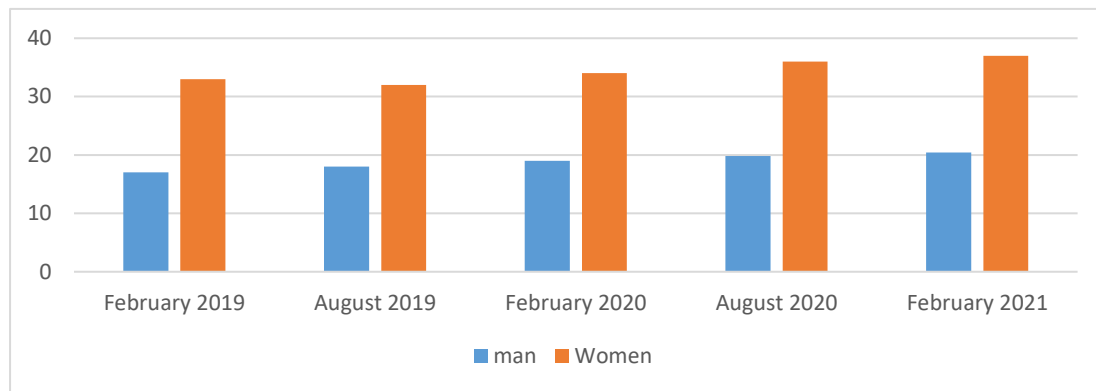
Abstract: COVID-19 has caused some men's jobs to become obsolete, and the existence of women is now beginning to emerge as a result. Women's ability to boost household income through temporary work possibilities created by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), online companies (OLEs), and day jobs has begun to develop. Problems develop when women perform employment that is primarily performed by men, particularly in the South Sulawesi region. Where is still rich in tradition, custom, and religious teachings. Some individuals find it difficult to accept women who work or who serve as the foundation of the family. As a result, women still have restricted options for finding work in the area. The researcher is interested in examining the role of women in the household economy following the Covid-19 pandemic, based on the issues listed above. This study is descriptive qualitative in nature, describing a phenomenon or event based on what occurred or was discovered in the field. Observation, literature study, and documentation study were all used in the data collection process. Study results show that to increase the number of women in society, empowerment must be increased. South Sulawesi women must go through several stages to exist, including the stage of forming a caring attitude to increase self-capacity, the stage of changing abilities, skills, and knowledge insights that play a role in the development and improvement of intellectual ability that leads to independence. Culture, on the other hand, is a roadblock in the way of women being self-sufficient. Because of this, women in South Sulawesi must be able to function in social, political, and technological spheres while also maintaining their independence. To remove the cultural barrier that prevents women from advancing in South Sulawesi.

Keyword : The Existence of Women, Family Economy, Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

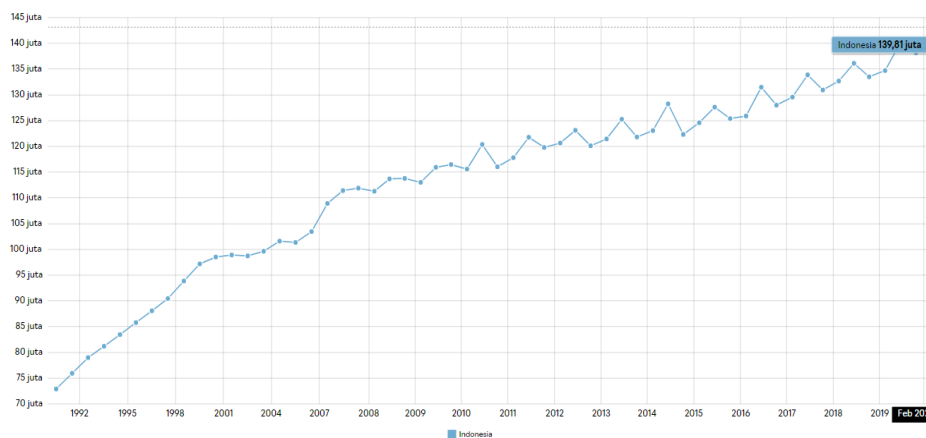
Gender is a learned way of behaving in society/community that conditions men and women to accept the same activities, roles, or obligations. Changes in gender roles can occur due to factors such as age, socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity. Religion can also have an impact on gender roles. In today's culture, both men and women play important roles. When it comes to controlling reproduction, production, and society, women often play a key role. When it comes to work and politics, men prioritize production over all else. Even in Middle Eastern Asian countries, women have limited opportunities to develop themselves since they are viewed as weak or powerless. To eliminate gender gaps in technology use and government employment, women must be given the tools and resources they need to compete with men in all industries (Najih, 2017). As a result, women with strong psychological and emotional traits are more likely to be socially aware and concerned about the environment and the well-being of others, which makes them better leaders than males (Cicchello et al., 2021). Women's lack of reliance on externally controlled elements makes them wary of pursuing their ambitions in particular industries, and the public does not trust them when they assume responsibility for certain issues (Ottsen, 2019). Part-time workers in the COVID-19 pandemic are overwhelmingly female. In February 2021, the percentage of Indonesians working part-time has risen to 27.09 percent, according to BPS 2021. Even in part-time jobs, women continue to outperform males. Women who work part-time in February 2021 will make up 37.1% of the workforce, an increase of 1.08 percent from August 2020. As a result, one-third of all women who are employed work part-time. In February 2021, part-time employment among men was registered at 20.40 percent. Men's participation in part-time employment climbed by 1.01 percent, in line with the rise in part-time employment among women. The following table displays the percentage of part-time employees by gender (February 2019-February 2021).

Table 1 Level of Part-Time Workers by Gender (February 2019-February 2021)



The present epidemic poses some issues that some individuals are grappling with, particularly in the areas of the economy and health. Covid-19 pandemic-fighting strategies implemented by the Indonesian government exacerbated already-existing social and economic disparities. Covid-19 affects 19.10 million individuals or 9.30 percent of the working-age population. Has 1.62 million individuals without jobs owing to Covid-19; 0.65 million individuals without jobs due to Covid-19; 1.11 million individuals who are temporarily not working due to Covid-19; and inhabitants who have suffered a reduction in working hours due to Covid-19. (15.72 million people) (Wahyuni, 2020). Indonesia's workforce population is expected to reach 139.81 million people by 2021, an increase of 1% from this year (World Bank, 2021). As you can see in the graph below, the labor force population is growing rapidly.

Graph 1. Total population of the labor force in Indonesia



Different individuals have lost their employment because of the Covid-19 epidemic, therefore they are seeking several ways to raise per capita income, starting with the existence of women in raising daily revenue for their families through daily labor. There are women because women's empowerment is important for economic progress and family well-being. It's critical to remember that cultural and policy progress serves as a tool to help women succeed in their professions and achieve gender equality (Feeney & Stritch, 2019). One way to improve gender equality is to empower women, and one way to do this is to create empowered women's organizations (Ferdian et al., 2021). Winning as a woman is not about how much money she makes, but about the impact of her mentorship and her self-esteem (Hallward & Bekdash-muellers, 2019).

As a result of males being unable to do their occupations owing to COVID-19, the presence of women is beginning to emerge at this point. Women's ability to boost household income through temporary employment possibilities created by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), online companies (OLEs), and day jobs has begun to develop. As a result of the effects of Covid-19, the unemployment rate has risen, and consumer buying power has declined, slowing the economy, particularly in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. The unemployment rate in South Sulawesi is now at an all-time high

owing to various government measures dealing with Covid-19, which affect the economy. As a result, some female household members turn to alternate sources of income to augment or satisfy the family's financial demands. During a pandemic, empowering women is a key strategy for alleviating household economic difficulties. Currently, industry 4.0 may be used to earn some money. Because of this skill, women have an easier time selling, and several women in small and medium businesses perform freelancing work. Cooking, washing, selling online, and working in factories are examples of freelance jobs. There is also work in government and private organizations.

Problems emerge when women perform labor that is primarily performed by men, particularly in the South Sulawesi region. Where is still rich in tradition, custom, and religious teachings. Some individuals find it difficult to accept women who work or who serve as the foundation of the family. As a result, women still have restricted options for finding work in the area. The researcher is interested in examining the role of women in the household economy following the Covid-19 epidemic, based on the issues listed above.

METHOD

This study is descriptive qualitative in nature, describing phenomena or events based on what actually occurred or was discovered in the field. information-gathering methods like triangulation, such as; 1). observership, namely comprehending the study participants or informants in order to get accurate and complete information; 2). Documentation research seeks out textual data sources that are relevant to the subject being studied in the field. Testing, interpreting, and even forecasting are all possible with it (Lexy, 2010). Collecting books, pamphlets, articles, and other materials related to the subject and the research goals is known as a literature study. Constraining, displaying, and sketching the data are data analysis methods (Ridder et al., 2014).

CONCLUSIONS

The Existence of Women in Fulfilling the Family Economy: The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the role and capability of women in boosting the family economy. However, it has the unintended consequence of making women more accepting of their burden than males. Reproduction is a critical role for women to play. For a long time, women's reproductive roles were viewed as set and unchanging. Although the number of women working in the public sector has increased, this has not been accompanied by a reduction in their domestic responsibilities. However, a woman's responsibilities will not be separated from her status as a mother. Nowadays, women play a dual role as housewives and breadwinners. can't be isolated from the South Sulawesi people's patriarchal culture, as it's recognized elsewhere. The dominance of men over women is a feature of patriarchal civilization. Women in South Sulawesi play a dual role as a result of the region's economic constraints. Because of the Covid-19 epidemic, women are now the primary breadwinners in their families. The feminist ideological agenda is to empower women by reflecting back on women and articulating their experiences and perspectives in order to transform their cultural, social, political, and economic lives. Women in South Sulawesi are beginning to take control of their lives and the economy as a result of their presence. Many factors contribute to women's ability to be self-reliant, but one is economic encouragement. According to (Ambar, 2004), there are several stages in empowerment that must be completed, including 1) the stage of forming a caring attitude to increase self-capacity; 2) the stage of changing abilities, skills, and knowledge insights that play a role in development; and 3) increasing intellectual capacity that leads to independence.

Due to the necessities of life, women play an important role in providing for their families financial needs. When things like this happen, potential emerges, and women are motivated to take control of their lives. For (Keiffer, 1981), the development of self-concept and confidence in one's talents are at least three signs that a person is empowered: a) (self-competence). b) An in-depth and critical knowledge of the surrounding social and political environment. c) Individual or group social and political development to achieve a good part in.

Development of self-concept and confidence in one's abilities (self-competence)

The growth of self-concept and confidence in one's skills is the first factor that makes women capable and motivated to satisfy the economic demands of the family. South Sulawesi women are quite confident in

their skills. Because of economic considerations, the number of female employees in South Sulawesi has grown significantly this year. Women in South Sulawesi are renowned to be hard workers, and they partially fill the role of males in the household by meeting economic requirements. It is shown in the table below, Percentage of Total Working Population by Type of Work, Hours of Work, and Gender (BPS, 2020).

Table. 2. Percentage of Total Working Population by Type of Work, Hours of Work and Gender in South Sulawesi (BPS, 2020)

<i>Working Residents</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>Women</i>
<i>Type of work</i>		
<i>Professionals</i>	39,38	60,62
<i>Leadership Force</i>	78,49	21,51
<i>Personnel in Administrative Positions and Related Positions</i>	49,24	50,76
<i>Personnel in Sales Service Administration</i>	40,40	59,60
<i>Personnel in the Service Business</i>	40,32	59,68
<i>Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing are all examples of occupations.</i>	69,70	30,30
<i>Production workers, operators, tools, and manual laborers</i>	76,92	23,08
<i>Week of Working Hours</i>		
<i>0 Hour</i>	66,96	33,04
<i>1-14 Hour</i>	45,68	54,32
<i>15-34 Hours</i>	57,46	42,54
<i>More than 35 hours</i>	65,77	34,23

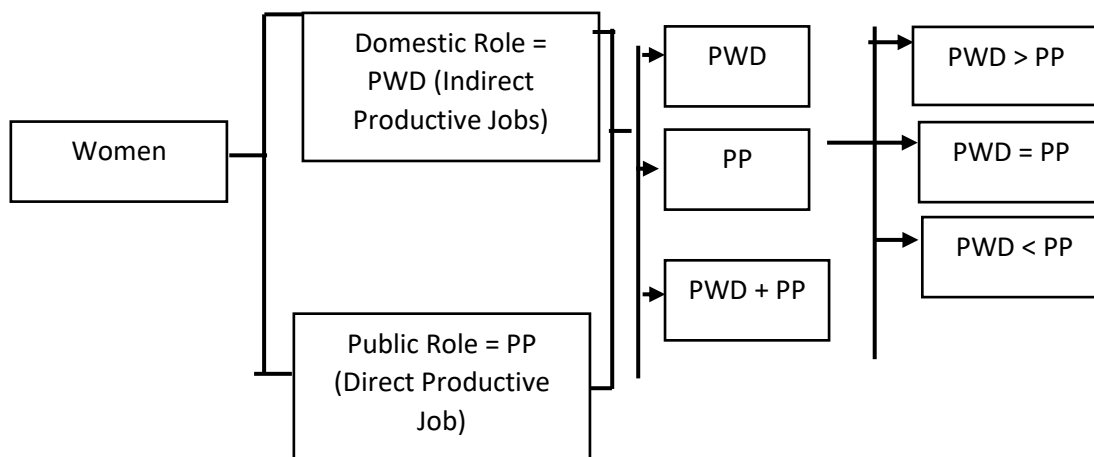
Economic considerations, self-actualization, and education all contribute to women's conviction in their potential to generate per capita income. However, males continue to dominate the leading force in the South Sulawesi area. As a result, a man's capacity to make judgments and act cannot be divorced from his ability. It can be observed that men make up 78.49 percent of the leadership team, while women make up 21.51 percent. This is not to say that women cannot lead; nevertheless, in South Sulawesi society, it is still considered taboo for women to be leaders. Women and men, in general, have the same capacity and decision-making abilities. Also, policy, like 'administration' and 'leadership,' is a strongly gendered phrase that is frequently linked with activities in the public, or semi-public, arena, where women have no or restricted access (Goodman & Harrop, 2000). As a result, disparities between men and women in terms of equal access to resources, inclusion and participation in the public sphere, representation in government, and empowerment must be eliminated, all to achieve equal opportunities for men and women in family life, society, government, politics, and the economy (Jamil & Aminuzzaman, 2020).

A comprehensive and critical grasp of the surrounding sociopolitical context

Women in South Sulawesi are more sympathetic to males when it comes to family concerns, particularly those involving children. When faced with economic difficulties, women will never remain silent. As a result, women are more critical and sensitive to changes in their surroundings. Social and environmental factors might motivate women to take action for the sake of their families. Aside from the shape and look of their work. Because some women break through their nature, were some of the jobs that should be done by a man but women are capable of doing. As a result, this is a kind of protest as well as a desire on the part of women to support their families. This is related to the awareness process in developing a higher capacity for women to have control and oversight in decision-making so that they can generate something meaningful.

In the global period, the socio-political position of women is still viewed as having constraints on some vocations. It can be found in South Sulawesi Province, where some women conduct duties that should be done by men, such as work. The graphic below depicts the prospects for women's roles in the global era (Hubeis, 2010).

Figure 1. depicts the prospects for women's roles in the global era (Hubeis, 2010)



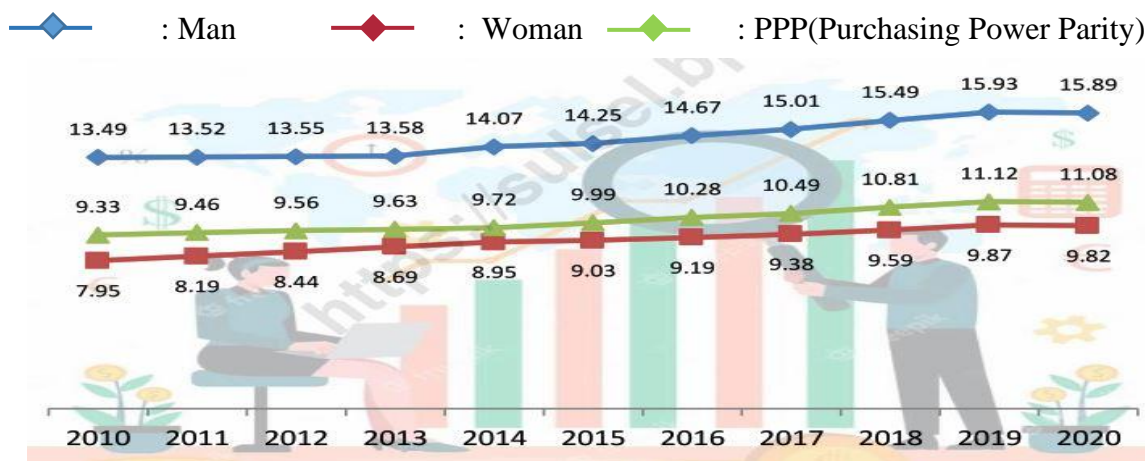
Until recently, most people in South Sulawesi considered household work to be solely the domain of women. At the same time, this premise necessitates women's active participation in the public realm. It should be recognized that women's responsibilities to their families take precedence over men's responsibilities to make a living. Women, on the other hand, have the right and access to earn a living for their families in today's global era. Women's jobs outside the home necessitate the use of a substitute agent to complete domestic tasks. The dual duty of women who work outside the home. As a result, women with sufficient wealth can replace their household tasks with a variety of instruments. Modern ladies with sufficient means can purchase a variety of items ranging from washing machines, dishwashers, vacuum cleaners, housemaid services, laundry, and gardeners. However, in terms of the number of workers, men continue to outnumber women in the public realm. People still assume that men have a greater role in the public sphere than women.

Improving intellectual capacity in order to achieve freedom

Women must change with the times. Women must have intellectual talents that lead to freedom as we reach the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and Society 5.0. The increase in per capita income that women are now experiencing, particularly in the age of the Covid-19 epidemic, thanks to the use of technology. As a result, the process of meeting economic demands is carried out online. Women in South Sulawesi are attempting to boost their income by selling online. As the caudate of wife and mother, this internet sales system keeps women's household duties going. However, it is indisputable that males have the highest per capita income in South Sulawesi. A woman's freedom cannot be divorced from the effect of education carried by women. The type of independence appears to be impacted by women's roles in the workplace. The more a woman's intellectual capacity, the greater her independence. Women with great independence can create a living for themselves and have a dual function, namely the household role and the public role. Women's public duties are likely more prominent than domestic ones, therefore if you encounter phenomena like this, housemaids will replace women's home roles.

The table shows the amount of work done by women, who are mostly professionals and salespeople. In South Sulawesi, the percentage of the total working population is broken down by kind of work, hours worked, and gender. South Sulawesi women choose sales business job that allows them to maintain their role as a mother and wife while also employing technology. However, we must recognize that males dominate per capita consumption in South Sulawesi. Men presently have the majority of purchasing power. The adjusted per capita spending for males in 2020 was 15.89 million IDR, while the adjusted per capita expenditure for women was 9.82 million IDR. This situation is connected to the fact that the number of female workers is lower than the number of male workers. One indicator is the Labor Force Participation Rate (TPAK), which compares the number of people in the labor force to the total working-age population (BPS, 2020). Figure 2 shows the evolution of adjusted per capita expenditure for men, women, and South Sulawesi as a whole from 2010 to 2020. (Million IDR).

Figure 2. Development of Adjusted Per capita Expenditure for Men, Women and Total South Sulawesi 2010-2020 (Million IDR)



Income-related expenditures and income-related expenditures Looking at the work situations of men and women, it is logical that South Sulawesi per capita spending adjusted for women is lower. Numerous reasons contribute to this, beginning with the role of women, who are more prominent in domestic issues such as the household and as a wife; education is also an important component. Because the family is more prominent in giving access to education for men in South Sulawesi. The cultural component of the inhabitants of South Sulawesi is the most significant. Women's ability to earn a living is hampered by cultural norms. As a result, it is possible to conclude that men spend more per capita than women.

CONCLUSIONS

The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic demonstrates women's responsibility and capacity to be empowered in strengthening the household economy. However, as a result of this, women accept more labor than males. Due to economic circumstances and the influence of the COVID-19 epidemic, the existence of women in South Sulawesi is beginning to express their empowerment to support the economy. Empowerment must be increased to enhance women's lives. As a result, South Sulawesi women must go through several stages to exist in increasing family economic income, including the stage of forming a caring attitude to increase self-capacity, the stage of changing abilities, skills, and knowledge insights that play a role in the development and improvement of intellectual abilities to deliver on independence. However, culture is a barrier to women establishing their businesses. As a result, women in South Sulawesi must continue to exist and be capable in terms of social, political, and technological capacities, as well as independence. Breaking the culture has created a barrier for women in South Sulawesi.

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