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Challenges and Opportunities for Women Fishermen in Pamekasan: Gender Aspects in Family Resource Management

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Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the role of women fishermen in Pamekasan in managing family resources and the challenges they face in carrying out these roles. This study uses a qualitative method with in-depth interviews with 36 female fishermen in Pamekasan who were analyzed using a gender analysis approach developed by Caroline O.N. Moser, which divides women's roles into three dimensions: productive, reproductive, and socio-community. The results of the study indicate that women fishermen play a significant role in managing family resources. In the productive dimension, they are involved in managing marine catches and side businesses, such as making salted fish or fish crackers. In the reproductive dimension, despite the large domestic burden, they are able to integrate household tasks with economic activities, maintaining family harmony. In the socio-community dimension, although more supportive, their involvement strengthens the solidarity of the fishing community. However, major challenges related to gender inequality hinder their dual roles. Women fishermen are often hampered by a lack of access to capital, training, and technology that increases business capacity. The heavy burden of domestic work limits the time and energy to develop economic capacity. Inequality in the division of domestic tasks worsens their emotional and mental well-being. On the socio-community side, despite their activeness, women are often isolated from wider social networks, with their social roles under-recognized. This study suggests more comprehensive empowerment measures to address these inequalities, including access to capital, training, and wider social networks.

Keywords: Fisherwomen, Resource Management, Pamekasan, Women Empowerment

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Introduction

Pamekasan, one of four regencies in Madura, East Java, has a fishermen's life rich in tradition and local wisdom. Even so, the potential of marine wealth exploited by

fishermen has not been able to provide an adequate level of welfare for them.[1] Based on official data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the percentage of poor people in Pamekasan Regency in 2024 was 13.41%, or around 123.46 thousand people from a total population of 893.3 thousand people.[2] In addition, in the context of ever-evolving social and economic dynamics, the role of fisherwomen is often overlooked in literature and research. Previous research tends to focus more on the economic dimension and sustainability of marine resources[3] without paying close attention to the specific role of fisherwomen and the impact of gender on family resource management. In fact, fisherwomen in Madura are also involved in household survival and make positive contributions to the socio-economic dynamics of local communities.[4]

This study aims to explore in depth the challenges and opportunities faced by fisherwomen in Pamekasan, with a special emphasis on the gender dimension in family resource management. In this context, the study not only seeks to understand the roles and responsibilities of fisherwomen in meeting the economic needs of their families, but also evaluates how local social and cultural constructions influence the division of gender roles and access to resources. By exploring the diversity of roles played by fisherwomen as economic managers, family caregivers, and community members, this study presents an in-depth analytical framework for understanding the complex dynamics of their lives. The main focus is also directed at how fisherwomen navigate structural challenges, such as limited access to capital, education, and technology, and how they utilize opportunities to improve the welfare of their families and communities. Furthermore, this study is expected to provide a new perspective in gender studies, by showing how fisherwomen are not only subjects who adapt to socio-economic dynamics, but also agents of change who contribute to the sustainability of the local economy. The results of this study will offer strategic insights for the formulation of more inclusive policies, women's empowerment, and the development of sustainable fishing communities.

Review of previous research is very necessary in any research to confirm that the research being conducted is not a repetition or duplication of scientific work as a form of research originality. The previous research in question is: First, Research conducted by Darwis, et al. in 2019 with the title "*Quality of Life of Coastal Women Fish Sellers in Meeting Family Welfare"*. This previous research explores certain aspects related to the quality of life of coastal women who act as traveling fish sellers in two Districts (Tlanakan

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[1] Sumintarsih et al., *Kearifan Lokal di Lingkungan Masyarakat Nelayan Madura* (Yogyakarta: Kementerian Kebudayaan dan Pariwisata, Deputi Bidang Pelestarian dan Pengembangan Kebudayaan, Balai Kajian Sejarah dan Nilai Tradisional Yogyakarta, 2005), 2; Zakariya Anwar dan Wahyuni, "Miskin Di Laut Yang Kaya: Nelayan Indonesia," *Sosioreligius* 1, no. 4 (2019): 52, https://doi.org/10.24252/sosioreligius.v4i1.10622.

[2] BPS Kabupaten Pamekasan, "Profil Kemiskinan di Kabupaten Pamekasan Maret 2024" (Pamekasa, 2024), 1–7, https://web-api.bps.go.id/download.php?f=3m+2h6MxPCTcRbaE4heUVXFiZERKZG5SSGVKeDhmNGQyMU9GK3NhbkxoTW9FelFLdUU3VUZxVWQ4RXJkQ0w2ekdCcnNSYndjRk16QWxpQnh1bWthODNYUmpEdzN3aWdYMWF1M0NKMHI2WDNjT2N2b0doeWJteWhycmgwaTFIc29BaDAzTnNWcG9iNGI3L1B1cThQS3k4czFxdHlqYk9uYX.

[3] Benny Osta Nababan et al., "Tinjauan Aspek Ekonomi Keberlanjutan Perikanan Tangkap Skala Kecll di Kabupaten Tegal Jawa Tengah," *Buletin Ekonomi Perikanan* VIII, no. 2 (2008): 50–68; Rachman Hakim, "Sistem Pemasaran Hasil Perikanan dan Pengentasan Kemiskinan Nelayan Desa Branta Pesisir Pamekasan," *EKOPEM : Jurnal Ekonomi Pembangunan* 6, no. 3 (2021): 71–80, https://doi.org/10.32938/jep.v6i3.1905.

[4] Achmad Mulyadi, "Perempuan Madura Pesisir Meretas Budaya Mode Produksi Patriarkat," *Karsa* 19, no. 2 (2011): 200–2013, https://doi.org/10.19105/karsa.v19i2.66.

and Pademawu) Pamekasan, covering elements such as family economy, welfare conditions, and other factors that affect their daily lives.[5] Meanwhile, this study shows a shift in focus. Although still related to the existence of women in coastal areas, this study focuses more on the analysis of gender aspects in the management of family resources, especially in the context of fishermen in a number of coastal areas of Pamekasan which are divided into two regions (north and south). In the northern region, it covers two sub-districts of Batumarmar and Pasean, while in the southern region it covers four sub-districts of Larangan, Galis, Pademawu, and Tlanakan. In addition, there is an emphasis on the challenges and opportunities faced by women fishermen, taking into account the role of gender in the dynamics of resource management and its impact on family welfare. Thus, this new research plan brings novelty by touching on gender aspects in the context of fishermen's work in Pamekasan and its implications for family dynamics and the resources they have.

Second, research conducted by Fahrul Anang, et al. in 2022 entitled *"The Role of Fishermen's Wives in Improving the Coastal Household Economy in Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District, Pamekasan Regency".* This study confirms that the role of fishermen's wives in Branta Pesisir Village in improving the household economy is quite significant with a percentage of 66.2%.[6] The main difference between previous research and this research lies in the level of specificity. Previous research was more specific in exploring the role of fishermen's wives in a particular village, while the new research plan seeks to embrace a broader view including the distribution of roles, access to resources, and gender implications in family resource management throughout the Pamekasan coastal area (north and south). Therefore, this research has the potential to provide a more holistic and contextual insight into the challenges and opportunities of fishermen women in the Pamekasan district.

Third, research conducted by Purwanto, et al. in 2021 entitled *"Empowerment of Women Fishermen Groups Through Fish Cracker Home Industry Activities in Branta Tinggi Village."* Previous research has explored the dimensions of empowering women fishermen through community partnership programs, especially through community partnership initiatives, especially through the fish cracker home industry program in Branta Tinggi Village, Pamekasan. The focus of the research includes aspects such as participatory economics, empowerment of women fishermen groups, and the impact of home industry activities on their welfare.[7] Meanwhile, this study shifts its focus to gender aspects in family resource management, especially among fisherwomen in Pamekasan. There is an emphasis on the challenges and opportunities faced by fisherwomen in the context of family resource management, which includes aspects such as gender role distribution, access to resources, and women's contribution to decision-making. This new research plan brings novelty by exploring gender issues more broadly and involving fisherwomen from various backgrounds, not just limited to home industry groups in one village.

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[5] Darwis Darwis et al., "Kualitas Hidup Wanita Pesisir Penjual Ikan dalam Memenuhi Kesejahteran Keluarga," *ETHOS (Jurnal Penelitian dan Pengabdian)* 7, no. 2 (2019): 332–35, https://doi.org/10.29313/ethos.v7i2.4719.

[6] Fahrul Anang et al., "Peran Istri Nelayan dalam Peningkatan Ekonomi Rumah Tangga Pesisir di Desa Branta Pesisir Kecamatan Tlanakan Kabupaten Pamekasan," *JURNAL AGROSAINS : Karya Kreatif dan Inovatif* 7, no. 2 (2022): 51–58, https://doi.org/10.31102/agrosains.2022.7.2.51-58.

[7] Purwanto et al., "Pemberdayaan Kelompok Nelayan Wanita Melalui Kegiatan Home Industry Kerupuk Ikan di Desa Branta Tinggi," *IIJOCS: Indonesian Journal Of Community Service* 1, no. 3 (2021): 500–506, https://ijocs.rcipublisher.org/index.php/ijocs/article/view/118.

From the results of this review, there are aspects of novelty in this study: *first*, an integrated gender perspective. This study will bring novelty by including an integrated gender perspective in the management of fishermen's family resources. There is a need to understand the role of women not only as economic actors, but also as agents who play an important role in family sustainability. *Second*, holistic dynamics of fishermen's families. This study will detail the dynamics of fishermen's families holistically, highlighting the interactions between fisherwomen, husbands, and families more broadly. This provides a more complete and accurate picture of the influence of gender on family decisions regarding resources. Third, gender-based empowerment and poverty alleviation. By understanding the challenges faced by fisherwomen and seeing opportunities within a gender framework, this study contributes to the discussion of women's empowerment and poverty alleviation more inclusively in the coastal context.

On the other hand, this study also has aspects of academic contribution: *first*, enrichment of gender literature in the marine context. This study makes a significant contribution to gender literature, especially in the marine context. A better understanding of the role of female fishers can provide important insights for further studies related to women, marine, and sustainability. *Second*, a more inclusive policy basis. The results of this study are expected to provide a basis for the development of more inclusive and gender-oriented policies in the fisheries sector in Pamekasan. The implementation of the recommendations that emerge can improve the welfare of female fishers and their families. Third, the development of gender theory and methodology. This study can open up space for the development of better theories and methodologies in understanding gender dynamics in the context of fishermen's lives. The use of this approach in the fisheries sector can provide new insights for gender studies in related fields. By exploring and delving deeper into the role of female fishers in Pamekasan through a gender lens, this study makes a significant contribution to the literature and policy, creating a richer and more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by this group of women.

Research Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to understand the phenomena experienced by the research subjects in depth.[8] This approach was chosen because it allows investigation of natural situations in society, where the researcher acts as the main instrument, with a focus on meaning rather than generalization.[9] As a type of field research, this research aims to reveal social reality realistically, explore actual facts from the population, and evaluate certain attitudes, opinions, behaviors, or procedures that occur in society.[10] The data collected is in the form of descriptive words, not numbers, thus allowing for an in-depth analysis of the roles, challenges and opportunities of fisherwomen in managing family resources in Pamekasan, with a contextual and holistic approach to the social conditions of the local community.

The location of this study covers the coastal area of Pamekasan Regency which is divided into two main parts, namely the north coast and the south coast. The north coastal

[8] V. Wiratna Sujarweni, *Metodologi Penelitian* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Baru Pers, 2004), 19.
[9] Sugiyono, *Metode penelitian kuantitatif kualitatif dan R&D*, Cet. XIX (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2013), 1.
[10] Etta Mamang Sangadji dan Sopiah, *Metodologi Penelitian Pendekatan Praktis dalam Penelitian* (Yogyakarta: CV. Andi Offset, 2010), 21; Dewi Sadiah, *Metode Penelitian Dakwah Pendekatan Kualitatif dan Kuantitatif* (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2015), 13.

area includes two sub-districts, namely Batumarmar Sub-district with five coastal villages (Blaban, Tamberu, Batu Bintang, Kapong, and Lesong Daja) and Pasean Sub-district with four coastal villages (Bindang, Batukerbuy, Tlonto Raja, and Sotabar). Meanwhile, the south coastal area includes four sub-districts, namely Larangan Sub-district with two coastal villages (Montok and West Kaduara), Galis Sub-district with three coastal villages (Pandan, Lembung, and Polagan), Pademawu Sub-district with five coastal villages (Baddurih, Pagagan, Majungan, Padelegan, and Tanjung), and Tlanakan Sub-district which has eight coastal villages (Dabuan, Mangar, Bandaran, Kramat, Ambat, Branta Pesisir, Branta Tinggi, and Tlesah).[11] This regional division is an important basis for identifying the social and geographical context of the research, particularly regarding the dynamics of female fishermen in managing family resources.

This study utilizes primary and secondary data as the main sources of information.[12] Primary data were obtained through observation, interviews, and observations of 36 female fishermen,[13] as well as official documents relevant to the lives of fishermen, including activities at fish auction sites, beaches, and social interactions to understand the roles and challenges of female fishermen in Pamekasan. Secondary data include books, articles, government reports, and relevant NGO documents, which complement the analysis with theoretical and statistical information. Data analysis uses the Miles and Huberman model, covering three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions and verification.[14]

Since this study focuses on gender aspects in family resource management, especially the distribution of gender roles, access to resources, and women's contribution in decision-making, the gender analysis framework developed by Caroline O.N. Moser is used.[15] The validity of the data is guaranteed through credibility testing, namely observation diligence and triangulation. Observation diligence ensures that the data reflects reality through in-depth and continuous observation, while triangulation compares data from various sources, such as interviews, observations, and policy documents, to obtain data consistency and validity. This approach provides a comprehensive picture of gender dynamics and challenges for fisherwomen in Pamekasan.[16]

Results and Discussion

The Role of Women Fishermen in Pamekasan in Managing Family Resources, Including Domestic and Economic Responsibilities

Fisherwomen in Pamekasan play a strategic role in managing family resources,

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[11] Sukandar et al., *Profil Desa Pesisir Jawa Timur Volume 3 (Pesisir Kepulauan Madura)* (Surabaya: Bidang Kelautan, Pesisir, dan pengawasan Dinas Perikanan dan Provinsi Kelautan Jawa Timur, 2016), 143–63.

[12] Andi Prastowo, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif dalam Perspektif Rancangan*, ed. oleh Meita Sandra, Cet. III (Yogyakarta: Ar-Ruzz Media, 2016), 31–32.

[13] Sugiyono, *Metode penelitian kuantitatif kualitatif dan R&D*, 82.

[14] Sugiyono, 247–52.

[15] Harien Puspitawati, "Analisis Gender Dalam Penelitian Bidang Ilmu Keluarga," *Makalah Seminar Disampaikan Pada: Pelatihan Metodologi Studi Gender Kamis 23 April 2009 di Kampus Baranangsiang, IPB, Bogor* (Bogor: Perpustakaan IKK FEMA-Institut Pertanian Bogor, 2009), 5, https://repository.ipb.ac.id/bitstream/handle/123456789/40242/ANALISIS GENDER DALAM PENELITIAN BIDANG ILMU KELUARAGA.pdf?sequence=1.

[16] Lexy J. Moleong, *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*, Cet. XXVII (Bandung: Remaja Rosda Karya, 2017), 330.

including domestic responsibilities and significant economic contributions. As part of a fishing family, they not only act as supporters of fishing activities, but also as drivers of the family economy. Their daily activities reflect the ability to integrate various roles in order to maintain household stability. Through interviews and field observations, it was revealed how fisherwomen carry out various roles that require physical, mental, and high skills.

Siti Aminah, a fisherwoman in Sotabar Village, Pasean District, describes her busy daily life. *"In the morning, after preparing breakfast for the children and husband who are going to sea, I immediately start processing the fish I brought home last night. Sometimes I make salted fish, sometimes I sell it fresh at the market. If I don't do this, my husband's income is not enough for daily needs."* [17]. This routine not only shows the heavy workload, but also the strategy of fisherwomen in diversifying family income. This activity also shows how fisherwomen make optimal use of their time to process their sea catch into products with economic value, which are then sold or used for family consumption.

In Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District, Nurul Khotimah described a similar pattern. She said, *"Usually, before going to the market to sell fish, I have to finish housework such as washing and cooking. After that, I take the fish to the market to sell. Sometimes if it doesn't sell, I sell it to neighbors or make salted fish to sell later."*[18] This activity shows the flexibility of fisherwomen in managing existing resources to meet family needs. A similar thing was experienced by Khasiyah, a fisherwoman in Pagagan Village, Pademawu District. She explained, *"When my husband goes to sea, I usually stay at home to take care of the children. But when he comes home with fish, I immediately get busy cleaning the fish, then prepare some to sell. Sometimes if the catch is large, I make fish crackers or otak-otak so that they can be sold at the village market."* [19] Initiatives like this reflect the ability of fisherwomen to maximize their sea catch and create added value for the family economy.

In Padelegan Village, Pademawu District, Jahriyah showed creativity in utilizing the seafood obtained by her family. She said, *"When the catch is abundant, I invite the children to help make salted fish or dried fish. We dry it in the yard, then some are sold to collectors, some are stored for food needs at home."*[20] This activity is not only a form of economic contribution, but also an effort to maintain food availability for the family. Observations in Kramat Village, Tlanakan District revealed a similar pattern. A fisherwoman named Sa'adah was seen busy processing her husband's catch while looking after the children playing around the house.[21] She said, *"Sometimes it's hard to divide my time between household chores and processing fish, but I have to do it, because otherwise we don't have enough money for our daily needs."* [22].

Domestic roles are also seen in how fisherwomen ensure that their families' needs are met. In Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District, Halimah said, *"I have to manage everything, from cooking, cleaning the house, to taking care of the children. If my husband is at sea, all household responsibilities are in my hands."*[23] This shows how

[17] Sitti Aminah, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[18] Nurul Khotimah, *Live Interview,* (24 October 2024)
[19] Khasiyah, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[20] Jahriyah, *Live Interview,* (27 October 2024)
[21] Observations were conducted in Kramat Village, Tlanakan District, Pamekasan (dated October 26, 2024)
[22] Sa'adah, *Live Interview,* (26 October 2024)
[23] Halimah, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)

fisherwomen are the main pillars in maintaining the continuity of family life, especially when their husbands are at sea. In addition to domestic roles, the economic contribution of fisherwomen is also very prominent. Nurhayati, a fish trader from Batu Bintang Village, Batumarmar District, explained her activities, *"Every morning I bring fish to the market. If it doesn't sell out, I take it home and sell it to neighbors or exchange it for food such as rice or vegetables. This is how I help my family's income."*[24] This flexibility reflects the creativity of fisherwomen in managing existing resources to ensure that family income remains stable.

Observations in several villages, such as Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District and Padelegan Village, Pademawu District, show that fisherwomen often utilize open spaces around their homes to process fish, such as drying salted fish or preparing dried fish. In one case, a woman was seen drying fish in the sun, while supervising children playing nearby.[25] This activity is not only a form of processing seafood, but also a way to optimize domestic and economic roles simultaneously. This means that fisherwomen integrate domestic and economic roles in their daily routines.

The role of fisherwomen also includes managing family finances. They are often the main regulators in determining the allocation of expenses for daily needs, children's education, and savings for urgent needs. In an interview with Rukayah, a fisherwoman from Blaban Village, Batumarmar District, she stated, *"I manage the money from selling fish. If it is not managed properly, it can just run out. So, I set aside some for shopping, some for the children's school needs."*[26] Siti Mariam from Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District, said something similar. She said, *"Every time my husband comes home from fishing, I immediately count his catch and divide it up. Some to sell, some for daily food, and some I save for urgent needs such as when the children are sick or to buy damaged fishing equipment."*[27] This proactive attitude shows the strategic role of women in anticipating the long-term needs of their families.

In Sotabar Village, Pasean District, Nurul Qomariyah revealed that family financial management also includes efforts to find additional income. She said, *"If the money from selling fish is not enough, I try to add by selling fish crackers or other processed products. I still manage the money, because I know what household needs are like and how to manage it so that it is enough until the end of the month."* [28] In addition, Nur Aini from Bandaran Village, Tlanakan District, told how she tries to set aside money for her children's education. *"I always prioritize my children's school fees. So, even though the proceeds from selling fish are not large, I still set aside some for school needs. If the children don't go to school, what will their future be like?"* [29] This reflects how fisherwomen pay special attention to education as a long-term investment for their families. Not only focusing on domestic needs, some fisherwomen also try to manage their income to support their family's productive businesses. For example, Sulastri from Kapong Village, Batumarmar District explained, *"Sometimes I use the money from selling fish to buy raw materials such as salt and plastic to make salted fish. That way, the results can be bigger and the money is more useful for the family."* [30]

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[24] Nurhayati, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[25] Observations were conducted in Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District, Pamekasan (dated October 26, 2024)
[26] Rukayah, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[27] Rukayah, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[28] Nurul Qomariyah, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[29] Nur Aini, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[30] Sulastri, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)

In addition, fisherwomen also have an important role in maintaining family traditions, especially through the transfer of knowledge and skills to the younger generation. In Dabuan Village, Tlanakan District, fisherwomen actively teach fish processing skills to their children.[31] This activity not only functions as a means of informal education, but also as an effort to ensure the sustainability of local knowledge and skills that are an important part of the identity of fishing families and communities. Maliyah, a fisherwoman in Dabuan Village, Tlanakan District, described her routine, *"I teach the children how to make salted fish or cook the catch. This is important so that they know how to take care of their families when they grow up."* [32] For Maliyah, this teaching is not only about practical skills, but also part of her responsibility in preparing the next generation to be able to face the challenges of life. The same thing was done by Laila, a fisherwoman from Tlonto Raja Village, Pasean District. She said, *"Every time I make fish pindang, my children help me. I teach them how to clean the fish and cook it properly. I also tell them about how their grandmother used to teach me the same thing."* [33] This activity is one way for fisherwomen to maintain the continuity of family traditions, while also creating a strong emotional bond between mother and child.

In Majungan Village, Pademawu District, Suryani emphasized the importance of hard work values taught through daily activities. She said, *"My children not only learn to process fish, but also learn discipline. They know that this job requires patience and precision. Those are values that they will take with them wherever they go"* [34](Suryani, October 28, 2024). Fisherwomen like Suryani view teaching these skills as a form of character education that is no less important than formal education. In addition to technical skills, fisherwomen also play a role in teaching moral and ethical values to their children. Nurhayati, a fisherwoman from Batu Bintang Village, Batumarmar District, stated, *"I always tell my children, if you work, you have to be honest. Never cheat buyers, because that can damage the family's good name."*[35] For Nurhayati, honesty is a value that must be inherited, because it not only affects social relationships, but also the sustainability of the family business.

This role is also seen in how fisherwomen involve their children in various activities related to marine products. For example, in Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District, Siti Maryam shared, *"Every afternoon, I invite the children to help dry salted fish. They learn how to arrange the fish so that they dry quickly and are not damaged. I also tell them why this job is important for our family."*[36] By involving children directly, fisherwomen not only provide practical skills but also instill a sense of responsibility for family work. This activity shows how fisherwomen play a strategic role in maintaining the continuity of family and community traditions. Through teaching skills, moral values, and character education, they ensure that local knowledge passed down from generation to generation remains relevant and useful. This role is also a real manifestation of fisherwomen's commitment to supporting the sustainability of the family economy while preserving their cultural identity.

From a local economic perspective, fisherwomen in Pamekasan are often the spearheads in marketing seafood. They establish relationships with regular buyers in the

[31] Observations were conducted in Dabuan Village, Tlanakan District, Pamekasan (dated October 25, 2024)
[32] Maliyah, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[33] Laila, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[34] Suryani, *Live Interview,* (28 October 2024)
[35] Nurhayati, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[36] Sitti Maryam, *Live Interview,* (28 October 2024)

market or through informal networks at the village level. These relationships create a community-based economic system that supports each other. In an interview with Hariyah, a fisherwoman from Polagan Village, Galis District, she explained, *"We help each other. If my fish are not finished, I exchange them for my friends' goods. So, everything can still run."*[37]

Overall, the role of fisherwomen in Pamekasan in managing family resources shows an extraordinary level of complexity and strategy. They not only act as the main driver in ensuring the sustainability of the family economy through various productive activities, but also bear crucial domestic responsibilities in maintaining household stability and harmony. This role reflects high adaptability, strong fighting spirit, and irreplaceable dedication in facing life's challenges as an integral part of the fishing community. Despite all the limitations that exist, fisherwomen are still able to become the main pillars of the family and community, proving that their contributions are not only individual, but also have a significant influence on social and economic development in the region.

Fisherwomen in Pamekasan play an important role in managing family resources, encompassing integrated domestic and economic responsibilities. Based on Moser's gender model analysis, this role can be dissected into three main dimensions: productive, reproductive, and socio-community,[38] which are simultaneously carried out by women in their daily lives. In the productive dimension, fisherwomen play an active role in managing marine catches. After their husbands return from the sea, they are responsible for cleaning, processing, and selling the catch at the local market or to collectors. This activity not only supports the economic sustainability of the family but also strengthens the financial stability of the household.[39] In addition, fisherwomen often manage small businesses, such as making salted fish, fish crackers, or other processed products that provide additional income.[40] Thus, the productive role of fisherwomen shows a significant contribution in managing family economic resources.

On the other hand, in the reproductive dimension, fisherwomen still carry out domestic responsibilities which include childcare, household management, and meeting daily needs. Although these responsibilities are considered part of women's traditional roles, fisherwomen are able to integrate domestic tasks with economic activities efficiently.[41] They ensure that family needs are met while still carrying out productive activities that support family finances. This reproductive role shows how women are the main pillars in maintaining family harmony and sustainability.[42] The social-community dimension is also part of the role of fisherwomen, although it is more supportive. They are often involved in group activities such as arisan, pengajian, or seafood processing communities. These activities not only strengthen social relations among community members but also open up opportunities to share information and strategies in managing

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[37] Hariyah, *Live Interview,* (28 October 2024)

[38] Caroline O.N. Moser, *Gender Planning and Development Theory, Practice and Training* (New York: Routledge, 1993), 56–58.

[39] Rebecca Elmhirst, "Introducing new feminist political ecologies," *Geoforum* 42, no. 2 (2011): 130–32, https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2011.01.006.

[40] Lili Winarti dan Rokhman Permadi, "The Productive Role Of Fisher Women In Strengthening The Fisheries Household Economy In Seruyan District," *Jurnal Agribest* 4, no. 1 (2020): 13–21, https://doi.org/10.32528/agribest.v4i1.2985.

[41] Moser, *Gender Planning and Development Theory, Practice and Training*, 57.

[42] Ann Whitehead, "Tracking Livelihood Change: Theoretical, Methodological and Empirical Perspectives from North-East Ghana," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 28, no. 3 (1 September 2002): 578–82, https://doi.org/10.1080/0305707022000006521.

family resources. With their involvement, fisherwomen contribute to creating social solidarity that supports the welfare of the fishing community as a whole.[43]

Through Moser's gender model analysis, the role of fisherwomen in Pamekasan reflects their ability to carry out various roles simultaneously and synergistically. Their productive role is not only limited to economic contribution, but also strengthens the family's resilience to the dynamics of coastal life. Meanwhile, the reproductive and socio-community roles they carry out show how women are the main actors in maintaining the balance of family and community. Thus, fisherwomen in Pamekasan are not only supporters, but also the main drivers in managing family resources.

The Main Challenges Faced by Women Fisherwomen in Carrying Out Their Roles in the Family, Especially in Managing Family Resources in Pamekasan

Women fishermen in Pamekasan face complex challenges in carrying out their dual roles as household managers and contributors to the family economy, including social pressures, limited infrastructure, and minimal external support. From an economic perspective, they are often affected by fluctuations in fish prices and tight market competition, as expressed by Sumiati, a fisherman from Ambat Village who stated that when fish prices fall, the proceeds from sales are not enough to cover basic needs, even forcing her to go into debt during the lean season.[44] This reality illustrates the economic vulnerability of fishing families to unpredictable market dynamics.

Observations in Pandan Village, Galis District, show that female fishermen who have access to wider markets tend to be more economically stable than those who only rely on local markets. Some women sell their catch directly to traditional markets or process it into products such as salted fish and fish crackers.[45] Desi Ratnasari, for example, chooses to sell to the city market even though it requires additional transportation costs because sales at the village market are not sufficient for needs.[46] In contrast, Mariyah from Lembung Village said that the local market is limited and buyers often bargain at low prices, so that the sales results are not commensurate with the efforts that have been made.[47] This condition reflects that limited marketing networks are a significant factor in determining the stability of female fishermen's income. In Tlesah Village, Tlanakan District, Rohmah complained about the limited market for her husband's catch, which could only be sold in small portions due to limited buyers, so the fish were often wasted or preserved.[48] This reflects the problem of marketing and storage infrastructure that worsens the economy of fishing families. Meanwhile, Fatimah from Batu Bintang Village, Batumarmar District, faces the challenge of low purchasing power of the village community, most of whom are also fishermen, making them prefer to process fish for family needs rather than buy from traders.[49]

Observations in several villages show that fisherwomen who depend on local markets often face a dilemma between maintaining a fair price or selling cheaply to avoid losses, often returning home with unsellable catches. The absence of modern storage technology such as freezers forces them to sell their fish immediately, even at a low price,

[43] Abdullah Ismail, *Modal Sosial sebagai Strategi Kelangsungan Hidup Perempuan Nelayan di Pulau Maitara Tidore Kepulauan*, 2024, 29–38, https://doi.org/10.52046/jssh.v2i2.1345.
[44] Sumiati, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[45] Observations were conducted in Pandan Village, Galis District, Pamekasan (dated October 26, 2024)
[46] Desi Ratnasari, *Live Interview,* (26 October 2024)
[47] Mariyah, *Live Interview,* (26 October 2024)
[48] Rohmah, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[49] Fatimah, *Live Interview,* (12 November 2024)

because they are unable to maintain the freshness of the product.[50] Nur Khaliza from Pandan Village stated that storage equipment such as cold storage is too expensive to afford, even though it is very much needed so that they can sell their fish to other markets or wait for prices to improve. Due to this economic instability, some fisherwomen are even forced to sell valuable family assets to survive;[51] as expressed by Saripah from Branta Tinggi Village, who had to sell her jewelry to meet basic needs. This situation confirms that limited infrastructure and market access directly impact the economic sustainability of fisher households.[52]

Another challenge is the uncertainty of the sea catch which affects the economic stability of the family. Laila, a fisherwoman from Tlonto Raja Village, Pasean District, said, *"Sometimes my husband comes home from the sea empty-handed, so there is no money for shopping, and I have to borrow money or sell jewelry."* [53] This uncertainty is often caused by bad weather, changing seasons, or a decline in fish populations. In these conditions, fisherwomen not only face economic problems, but also psychological pressure to immediately find solutions so that family needs are met. Laila also added, *"If the catch is small, I have to look for loans or work harder at home, such as making salted fish or crackers to sell."*[54]

In Tlonto Raja Village, fisherwomen often take on additional roles to support the family economy, such as selling fish at the market even though the previous night's catch was limited.[55]. The uncertainty of the sea catch adds to social pressure, as women are expected to maintain household stability despite the family's economic crisis. Jamilah from Batukerbuy Village felt isolated and lacked social support: *"Sometimes I feel alone. It all depends on my own efforts"* [56]. Cultural stigma also makes matters worse, with women in difficulty considered "incompetent", as expressed by Mahmudah from Montok Village: *"If I tell my neighbors, I'm afraid they'll talk about me, so I'd rather keep quiet."*[57]

Limited social interaction in coastal areas exacerbates the isolation of fisherwomen, as seen in Batukerbuy Village, Pasean District, where they often work alone in fish processing or marketing with little collaboration.[58]. In fact, collaboration can build solidarity and reduce isolation. Social pressure is increasingly felt due to the lack of support from the government or related institutions. Juwairiyah from Lesong Daya Village, Batumarmar District, said: *"We feel like we're left alone. There's no training, no women's groups that can help us."*[59] The impact of this social pressure extends to family life, where isolated fisherwomen often bear the emotional burden alone, which can trigger domestic conflict. Therefore, a holistic approach is needed such as the formation of solidarity groups, social skills training, and access to psychosocial support to reduce social pressure and strengthen women's position in their communities.

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[50] Observations were conducted in Pandan Village, Galis District, and Branta Pesisir Village, Tlanakan District Pamekasan (dated October 23-26, 2024)
[51] Siti Nur Khaliza, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[52] Saripah, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[53] Laila, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[54] Ibid.
[55] Observations were conducted in Tlonto Raja Village, Pasean District, Pamekasan (dated October 26, 2024)
[56] Jamilah, *Live Interview,* (26 October 2024)
[57] Mahmudah, *Live Interview,* (27 October 2024)
[58] Observations were conducted in Batukerbuy Village, Pasean District, Pamekasan (dated October 27, 2024)
[59] Juwairiyah, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)

Lack of access to business capital is a significant obstacle for fisherwomen. Zubaidah from Branta Tinggi Village, Tlanakan District, expressed the difficulty of developing a fish processing business, *"I want to buy a tool to make fish crackers, but I don't have the money. The bank won't give me a loan because I don't have collateral."*[60]. A similar thing was also expressed by Luthfiyah from Bindang Village, Pasean District, who stated the difficulty of getting a loan for a fish processing business, *"Banks or cooperatives here have difficulty giving loans. Usually they ask for collateral that we don't have."*[61]. This statement illustrates how fisherwomen are trapped in a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break without adequate financial support, as well as limitations in increasing the scale of their businesses, which limits their contribution to family income.

Social challenges, stemming from patriarchal norms, hinder the role of fisherwomen. Saniti from Kapong Village, Batumarmar District, said that society often underestimates women's contributions, *"People here consider my work as just an extra, even though without my efforts, our family would not survive."*[62]. Marlina from Tamberu Village feels stigmatized against women who work in the informal sector, *"Sometimes people say I'm too busy earning money that I forget my duties as a housewife."*[63] This stigma creates psychological dilemmas and limits women's freedom of movement, making them reluctant to show their struggles openly.

In Baddurih Village, Pademawu District, Salhah expressed the challenge of minimal solidarity among fellow fisherwomen, *"We often work alone, there is no group or community that can help. Sometimes I feel alone facing all this."*[64] This lack of solidarity hinders the opportunity for fisherwomen to share experiences, build support networks, or find solutions together. Observations in the village also showed that activities such as drying salted fish or preparing the catch were often carried out individually in their respective homes, without significant interaction with neighbors.[65] Fisherwomen also face challenges in gaining recognition for their contributions. Muki'ah from Padellegan Village said, *"Sometimes my husband doesn't consider my work important, but if I don't work, he realizes that there's not enough money."*[66]. This injustice reflects the influence of patriarchal norms in household relationships, where women's roles are often seen as obligations without recognition. Rahmawati from Mangar Village felt the same way, *"Many people think our work is ordinary, even though I take care of the children and the house, and if I don't work, my husband's income is not enough."*[67] Furthermore, the lack of training or mentoring programs for fisherwomen further exacerbates the situation. Muzayyanah from Tanjung Village said, *"If there were training or women's groups that could support us, maybe we wouldn't feel this burdened,"*[68] while Zainab from Bandaran Village expressed the lack of assistance from the government, *"We only rely on the old methods taught by our parents."*[69] The double

[60] Zubaidah, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[61] Luthfiyah, *Live Interview,* (23 October 2024)
[62] Saniti, *Live Interview,* (24 October 2024)
[63] Marlina, *Live Interview,* (24 October 2024)
[64] Salhah, *Live Interview,* (26 October 2024)
[65] Observations were conducted in Baddurih Village, Pademawu District, Pamekasan (dated October 26, 2024)
[66] Muki'ah, *Live Interview,* (27 October 2024)
[67] Rahmawati, *Live Interview,* (25 October 2024)
[68] Muzayyanah, *Live Interview,* (27 October 2024)
[69] Zainab, *Live Interview,* (24 October 2024)

burden faced by fisherwomen, as housewives and the drivers of the family economy, also increases the risk of physical and mental exhaustion. Suaibah from West Kaduara Village explained, *"Sometimes I feel very tired. The work is never finished. If there was support such as a daycare center or business training, our burden would definitely be lighter."*[70]

In observations in Pandan Village, Galis District, fisherwomen were seen busy processing fish in the morning while supervising their children and taking care of household chores.[71]. The absence of a fair division of tasks in the family makes women have to work harder, increasing the risk of physical and emotional exhaustion. Sholihati from Majungan Village, Pademawu District, said, *"My husband never helps with housework. He thinks it's a woman's job. So, I have to take care of everything myself, from the children to additional work."*[72] This unbalanced burden continues to be a challenge for fisherwomen in various regions. These obstacles have an impact not only on their economic life, but also on their social and emotional well-being, with limited access to resources, minimal opportunities to improve their capacity, and social pressures that limit their role in the fisheries sector. To overcome these challenges, a holistic approach is needed that involves increasing access to business capital, providing relevant skills training, and empowering women through a change in social paradigms that support gender equality. In this way, fisherwomen can contribute more optimally to improving family welfare and building overall community resilience.

Fisherwomen in Pamekasan face various challenges that hinder their ability to carry out dual roles in the family, both in the productive and reproductive dimensions. These challenges are often rooted in long-standing gender inequalities in their social structure. In this context, the challenges faced by fisherwomen come not only from the high burden of domestic work, but also from unequal access to resources and limited social support. This analysis uses a gender analysis approach developed by Caroline O.N. Moser, who views women's challenges in three main dimensions: productive, reproductive, and socio-community.[73]

Fisherwomen in Pamekasan face major challenges in the productive dimension related to limited access to economic resources. Although actively involved in managing marine catches, they often depend on their husbands as the sole fishers, with weather uncertainty, fluctuations in catches, and limited infrastructure as major obstacles in optimally managing family economic resources, which exacerbates their vulnerability in the face of unstable economic dynamics.[74] Although women manage small businesses such as making salted fish or fish crackers for additional income, they are often limited in terms of capital, training, and technology to increase business capacity, which exacerbates inequality in control over economic resources within the family.[75] In the reproductive dimension, fisherwomen bear unpaid domestic responsibilities, such as taking care of the household and caring for children, which limits their time and energy to focus on economic activities. This double burden often causes fatigue and limits innovation or development of their economic businesses,[76] while the unequal division of tasks in the household, where women bear the majority of household work, causes tension

[70] Suaibah, *Live Interview,* (26 October 2024)
[71] Observations were conducted in Pandan Village, Galis District, Pamekasan (dated October 26, 2024)
[72] Sholihati, *Live Interview,* (28 October 2024)
[73] Moser, *Gender Planning and Development Theory, Practice and Training*, 56–58.
[74] Elmhirst, "Introducing new feminist political ecologies," 130–32.
[75] Winarti dan Permadi, "The Productive Role Of Fisher Women In Strengthening The Fisheries Household Economy In Seruyan District," 13–21.
[76] Moser, *Gender Planning and Development Theory, Practice and Training*, 57.

within the family.[77] Childcare responsibilities, especially related to education and health, further add to the mental and physical burdens for fisherwomen.

On the other hand, fisherwomen face limited social support, despite being active in social activities such as social gatherings and religious studies. They often feel isolated from wider social networks, which can help with training or advocacy, thus limiting their ability to develop businesses or increase the family's economic capacity.[78] These limitations exacerbate social and economic inequalities, where women are not only hampered in accessing resources, but also in larger social roles. In addition, despite being active, they often do not receive equal recognition as men in social roles, which marginalizes them in community decision-making or welfare policies.[79]

The challenges faced by fisherwomen in Pamekasan demonstrate the complexity of their position, where deep gender inequality, as well as limited access to resources and social support, hinder their efforts to achieve prosperity. Despite playing an important role in the family economy, fisherwomen often do not receive equal recognition, especially in the division of household tasks. Therefore, empowerment of fisherwomen must include not only economic aspects, but also strengthening their social position in the family and community, through recognition of their often invisible roles. In addition, it is important to provide support in the form of access to capital, skills training, and wider social networks to increase their capacity to manage economic resources independently. Resolving these challenges requires a holistic approach that prioritizes women's empowerment as a whole, both in economic, social, and cultural dimensions, so that their position in managing family and community resources becomes more just and equal.

Conclusion

This study reveals the crucial role of fisherwomen in Pamekasan in managing family resources, which includes productive, reproductive, and socio-community dimensions. In the productive dimension, they are not only involved in managing marine catches, but also developing side businesses such as making salted fish or fish crackers, which are additional sources of income for the family. Despite facing heavy domestic responsibilities, they manage to integrate household tasks with economic activities efficiently, maintaining balance within the family. On the social side, although their contribution to community activities is often under-recognized, their role continues to strengthen social solidarity that has a positive impact on shared welfare. However, major challenges arise from gender inequality that hinders the optimization of their dual roles. Limited access to capital, training, and technology, as well as weather uncertainty and catch fluctuations, prevent them from increasing their economic capacity. Unfair division of domestic tasks further exacerbates tensions within the family, while limited access to social networks and decision-making isolates them from broader opportunities. All of these challenges reflect deep gender inequality, which hinders the potential for empowerment of fisherwomen in Pamekasan. Therefore, more comprehensive empowerment, which includes access to economic resources, training, and strengthening their social position, becomes very necessary to improve their social and economic conditions.

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[77] Whitehead, "Tracking Livelihood Change: Theoretical, Methodological and Empirical Perspectives from North-East Ghana," 578–82.
[78] Ismail, *Modal Sosial sebagai Strategi Kelangsungan Hidup Perempuan Nelayan di Pulau Maitara Tidore Kepulauan*, 29–38.
[79] Moser, *Gender Planning and Development Theory, Practice and Training*, 56.

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