

# A Review on Multi Roles of Women and Their Influence on the Change of Functional Structure in The Farmer's Household

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## A Review on Multi-Roles of Women and Their Influence on the Change of Functional Structure in the Farmer's Household

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### Abstract

Multi-roles of women in domestic sectors and public sectors have basically affected behavior, structure, function, and construction of socio-culture of the farmer's household. Objective of the research were: 1) to identify patterns of the work division and working time division for women, 2) to analyze the change of functional structure in the farmer's family, such as: the change in interaction pattern, decision-making pattern, and financial management pattern. The research used a qualitative approach, data collecting technique through observation, interview, and documentation on the farmer's household. Data analysis used a descriptive analysis. Results of the research showed that 1) time allocation to do the household chores is about 13.16 hours/day and to make a living is about 10.94 hours/day. 2) Internal interaction in the family is about 5.23 hours/day on average and external interaction is 6.32 hours/day on average. Managing the decision in the household, which is decided by the wife herself, includes activities in arranging the needs in the kitchen and choosing menu for consumption. Managing analogous decision-making between husband and wife is on activities that organize the interaction pattern and time management in activity outside the household. Concerning with financial management, women earn Rp 890,500/month on average.

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### 1. Introduction

In reality, more than a half of the Indonesian populations are women, but in fact, condition of the women who are still left behind has described inequity and inequality between men and women in Indonesia (Nugroho, 2010). It can

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be seen in the Report of National Human Development of Indonesia (*Laporan Pembangunan Manusia Nasional Indonesia*), United Nation Development Programme (UNDP, 2006) assumes position of the Indonesian women using GDI (Gender-related Development Index). Value of the Indonesian GDI is 0.704. This value is lower than in other countries in ASEAN. GDI's value could be improved by increasing quality of life and women's role particularly in establishing policies, programs, and affirmative actions in economy, education, agriculture, and health.

Nowadays, women's participation does not simply insist equal right but express their functions, which are valuable for social development in Indonesia. Women's participation relate to the roles in domestic sector (traditional role) and in public sector (transitional role). The traditional roles (domestic) include their roles as wife, mother, and household's manager. Meanwhile, the transitional roles (public sector) include their roles as worforces who play actively in economic activities (make a living) in various activities in accordance with their skills and educations as well as the available field of work (Y usuf & Puspa, 2008).

Most of women are interested to work in informal sector. Such informal sector plays strategic roles in economy system at the developing countries, as in Indonesia. The important role of informal sector relates to its position as buffer of overflowing workforce from modern sector (formal). The emergence of diverse informal sectors as performed by the women should be responded positively, particularly in villages by considering their contributions in increasing standard of living in society. More women work in informal sectors because they assume that informal sectors are relatively more flexible concerning with "the demand of multi-roles", such as managing households and make a living, as well as supported by the fact that informal sectors do not insist high education and skills.

Multi-roles of women, besides their status as housewives and work outside the households (*on-farm* dan *off-farm*), have affected social behaviors in their households. The social behaviors, which tend to change, will affect socio-cultural construction, structure, and function, as well as income management pattern of the farmer's household in the villages. Therefore, objectives of the research were: 1) Identifying patterns of the work division and working time division pattern for the women, and 2) analyzing the change of functional structure in the farmer's household, such as: the change of interaction pattern, decision-making pattern, and financial management pattern

## 2. Material and Methods

This research used a qualitative approach, which was intended to reveal the process and meaning interpretation that lead to revealing individual behavior, which is being obsessed holistically (Bogdan et al., 1993; Creswell, 1998).

Design of the research used Case Study and Life History models. Case study model by descriptive type was used, Bungin (2008), to review multi-roles of women, interactive model analysis, Miles and Huberman (1992).

Location of the research was determined purposively on groups of women workers in informal sector at Mandalle Subdistrict, Pangkep Regency, South Sulawesi Province. Samples were collected from some villages at Mandalle Subdistrict, such as: 1) Benteng village as location that produces fish nugget and shredded fish, 2) Boddie village that sells "dange" and 3) Mandalle district that produces seaweeds chips and cashew nut sheller. The research was conducted from April to July 2015.

Informant in this research included the main informant and the supporting informant. The main informant is the woman who plays multi-roles, husband, and children, as intact family unit. Moleong et al. (2006) stated that the supporting informants include few people who are asked to give information about background of the subject in the research. Informants were determined purposively, based on kinds of job. Numbers of the main informants were 50 persons and the supporting informants were 3 persons.

Data collecting technique is the most strategic step in collecting data. Data of the research was collected using participative observation technique, deep interview, and documentation.

Data analysis method used the qualitative and descriptive analysis using interactive model as suggested by Miles and Huberman (1992). These models comprised of three important things, such as data reduction, data presentation, and draw some conclusions/verification

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1. Characteristics of the Respondent

Characteristics of respondent (women) who play multi-roles in informal sector include age, education, and numbers of the family's dependents. The age averaged 37.8 years old. At the age range, the women (housewife) have physical ability and sufficient experiences and high work productivity as well. Education levels of the respondents are uneven; most of them were graduated from elementary school, 32 persons (64%). It means that the education level of the women, who play multi-roles, are still low. Numbers of the family's members of the respondents are varied. Average family's dependents of the respondents are 3 persons. These numbers are categorized as small family.

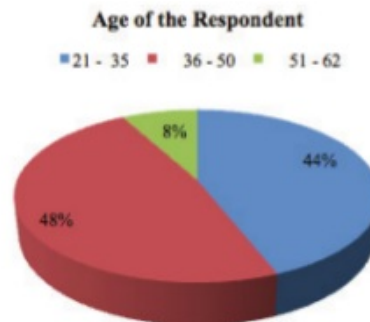


Figure 1. Percentage of the respondent's age. Note: Average age: 37.8 years old

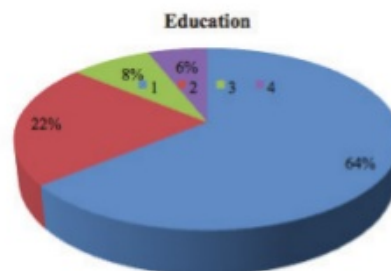


Figure 2: Percentage of education level Note: 1:Elementary School, 2:Junior High School, 3:Senior High School, 4:Scholar/diploma

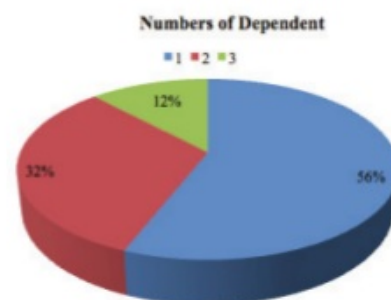


Figure 3. Percentage for numbers of dependent Note: 1: numbers of dependent 1-3 persons, 2: numbers of dependent 4-6 persons, 3: numbers of dependent 7-8 persons.

### 3.2. Work Division Pattern and Working Time Division Pattern of the Women

#### 3.2.1. Time Allocation on Domestic Activity (Households)

Family's life on 50 respondents of women, are difficult to be free from spending time for women who play multi-roles. On average, most respondents allocate their time on domestic activities (households) for about 13.16 hours/day. The domestic activities of the women at the villages include: 1) cleaning/preparing house; 2) taking water; 3) preparing breakfast for their families; 4) washing dishes; 5) washing clothes; 6) shopping at the market; 7) cooking; 8) preparing lunch; 9) ironing; 10) preparing dinner; 11) washing dishes; 12) assisting their children to study; 13) taking their children to school; and 14) attending social activities at the family and society environments. The domestic works (household) are usually done by the respondent herself or assisted by her husband, children, or other family's members (for instance: nephew/niece and brother/sister) whom live with her and become their dependents.

Results of the research showed that in doing activities in the household and make a living, women has been assisted by their husbands, children, and other family's members, however, it described the shift of role between men and women

#### 3.2.2. Time Allocation on Public Activity (Work in Informal Sector)

In difficult condition of economy, most women should play multi-roles to overcome any difficulties in economy aspect. One of alternatives is working in informal sector. Averaged respondents allocate their time on public sector (work in informal sector) for about 10.94 hours/day. Jobs in informal sector include diverse business/services, such as : 1) shelling cashew nut; 2) processing seaweeds into chips; 3) making shredded fish; 4) making fish nugget; and 5) making and selling "dange".

Results of the research showed some changes of functional structures in families of the women who work in informal sector, in managing time and activity. Before women played their multi-roles, they devoted most of their time and activities on daily chores in the household (domestic activities) and social activities. But, after they play their multi-roles in informal sector, their activities and time division are patterned on three activities, such as doing daily chores in the household (domestic activities), make a living in informal sector (public activities), and social activities. They reflect that women who play multi-roles will allocate their time on three activities, which require regular patterned-time management based on their ability to manage and utilize their time effectively.

### 3.3. The Change of Functional Structure in the Family

Social structure in family life comprises of woman and man as a couple, husband and wife, who establish a family and their status will increase after they have children as members of their family. The emerging problem becomes more interesting when the woman decided to work in informal sector. As worker in informal sector, she has more tasks and responsibilities as wife and housewife, and of course, it insists her to play multi-roles, which in turn, it will implicate in the functional structure change in family life as object of the review in this research

### 3.4. Interaction Pattern

#### 3.4.1. Internal Interaction

Interaction in the family could create social, reciprocal relationship between parents and children, husband and wife, which conform to right and obligation of each individual. Averaged time allocation that has been devoted by the respondent in daily internal interaction is about 5.23 hours/day.

Internal interaction between respondent and her husband include: 1) serving what her husband's need; 2) preparing what her husband's need; 3) managing the financial affairs; 4) choosing menu; 5) Arranging the household's need. The greatest percentages of the respondents who interact with her husband are preparing and serving what her husband's need, 50 persons (100%) of total respondents. Besides having internal interaction with her husband, the respondent also interacts with children and other family's members. Results of the research showed that women who play multi-roles are still performing their obligations as mothers for their children by devoting their time and opportunity to interact with them, such as serving what their children's need, accompanying their children



when they study and listening their complaint. For respondents who have children at schools, accompanying their children during the study has become an important task because they do not want their children to be lazy and stupid. For respondents who graduated from Senior High School, they have better ability in guiding their children in comparison with respondents who graduated from elementary and junior high schools. Based on confession of the informants, it describes as follows:

"I have some difficulties in guiding my children to study because their subjects are different from the former ones, when we were at school. If we don't remind them to study, they would be lazy because they prefer play game to study (*makuttui narekko disuroi magguru*)", (Interview with HS, RSM and HR. Interview was conducted on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 14.00 p.m.)

#### 3.4.2. External Interaction

Besides internal interaction, women who play multi-roles are insisted to have external interaction (interaction between respondents and their family) in activities outside their house as well as interacting with their parents whom do not live with them, visiting their relatives, friends, and neighbors. In general, the respondents have external interaction in order to attend invitation, bind friendship, *arisan* (regular social gathering whose members contribute to and take turn at winning an aggregate sum of money), visit parents (mother and father) or just talk with neighbors or friends. Averaged time allocation of the respondents in external interaction is about 6.32 hours/day.

External interaction of the respondent on activities outside the house, such as activity with husband at the market, include 34 persons (68%), activity with husband visiting relatives, include 41 persons (82%), and attending social activities at the neighborhood, family's environment, attending parties/invitations, and attending religion's affairs. Besides external interaction with husband, the respondent has external interaction with her children and other family's members outside the house. The external interaction between the respondents and their children, such taking their children to school are about 22 persons (44%), visiting relatives with their children are about 42 persons (84%) and attending social activities with their children are about 11 persons (22%).

The change of functional structure in interaction pattern on all women's informant was reflected on the change of interaction among family's members (husband, children, and other family's members), relatives, neighbors, and meet face-to-face, as well as using the available communication media and frequency of interaction (frequent or limited) in doing such interaction

#### 3.5. Decision-Management Pattern

According to Blood & Wolf (in Pujiwati, 1987; Yuliati, 2008), in order to find out different status and roles of women inside and outside the households, distribution of authority should be recognized because it is the most fundamental aspect in family structure.

Authority is ability to affect others, which can be spread with similar value (equal) and different value (unequal). Based on the thinking, Pujiwati (1987) and Yuliati (2008) described five types of decision-making process, such as : 1) decision is made by the wife herself; 2) Decision is made by husband and wife, but the wife is more influential or dominant; 3) the decision is made by husband and wife equally; 4) Decision is made by husband and wife, but the husband is more influential or dominant; and 5) Decision is made by the husband himself.

Decision-making in the respondent's household comprises of 7 (seven) important fields, such as: 1) managing the needs in the kitchen, 2) managing financial affairs in the family, 3) preparing various needs, 4) managing time and activities outside the house, 5) make a living, 6) arranging interaction pattern, and 7) preparing their children's education. Based on findings of the research, concerning with distributing roles in decision-making on women's case, all decisions that must be made by husband and wife, the decision management pattern, which is made by the wife herself, include activities in managing the needs in the kitchen and choosing menus for consumption (field A) for about 50 persons (100%), managing financial affairs in the household for about 45 persons (90%) and preparing various needs in the household (80%). Mutual decision-management pattern, in which the wife is more dominant, refers to activities that arrange the interaction pattern and preparing education for their children are about 10 persons (20%) of total respondents. Equal decision-management pattern between husband and wife refer to managing time/activities outside the house for about 23 persons (46%) and arranging interaction pattern for about 29 persons (58%).

Findings of the research showed that dominance of women or wife in decision-making, particularly in household's affairs (managing the needs in the kitchen), financial management of the family and managing diverse needs, except funding the education cost of their children, building/restoring the house, improving capital for business and purchasing costly goods and greater expenses still require some involvement of their husbands and sometimes their husbands make their own decision, such as result of the interview below.

RSM ... The whole household's affairs are my responsibility. I always make decision from preparing the needs in the kitchen, purchasing, meals, financial, education, maintenance, and etc. But, of course, I always talk to my husband first before I make my decision (*sipakarajaki mallabineng*), such as funding the education, improving capital for business, purchasing household's equipments or something else, for instance, attending invitation, visiting the sick, and etc. (interview was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015, at 10.30 Central Indonesian Time)

Obviously, the functional change that emerged from role division in decision-making was reflected from some changes that were perceived by the women before they play multi-roles, women tend to be passive in decision-making within the household and family, but after they work in informal sector, they could make their decisions actively, even more dominant, in determining diverse needs in the household and family. The proofs showed that if the wife works, she will get many authorities in economy sector. It happens on family of low socio-economy strata. Stoller in Saptari & Holzner (1997) suggested that if the wife works, she will be more dominant in decision-making process.

### 3.6. Financial Management Pattern

Stability of the family's economy is highly determined by the family's ability to manage family's financial and earning sources. In culture context (particularly the Bugis Makassar culture), *Makkunrai* (women) become the foremost leader who carry out trusteehip and to be trusted to manage the family's financial and earning sources. It was described from results of the deep-dialogue with one of the main informants and her husband, as presented below

According to KRT's statement, she strives to manage her family's limited financial as good as possible and tries to be economized. She restrains herself from purchasing unimportant things or lives in extravagant ways. KRT prefers to save her money as deposit or gold jewelry (interview on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, at 10.30 Central Indonesian Time).

It has gone along with the KRT husband's statement, M KR, which was revealed during deep-dialogue on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, at 11.30 Central Indonesian Time) as follow:

"I trust my wife that she can manage my earning well. My wife is really smart in managing our financial by saving a part of my earning and hers from making and selling shredded fishes."

Table 1. Contribution of the Respondent's Earning and Husband's Income toward the Household's Income in Mandalle Subdistrict, 2015

| No                            | Average Income              | Contribution Value |       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------|
|                               |                             | (Rp)               | (%)   |
| 1.                            | Respondent                  | 890,500            | 34,07 |
| 2.                            | Husband                     | 1,722,700          | 65,93 |
| 3.                            | Members of other households | 0                  | 0     |
| Total Income of the Household |                             | 2,613,200          | 100   |

Source: Primary Data Analysis, 2015

Results of the research showed that the smallest amount (minimum) of the respondent's income is Rp 250,000/month and the highest (maximum) is Rp 3,000,000/month and average income of the respondent is Rp

890,500/month. The amount of contribution of the respondent's income toward the households' income can be seen from results of the contribution analysis of 50 respondents (on appendix of primary data). Furthermore, contribution of the respondent's income who are working women on informal sector, and husband's income toward the households' income is presented in the table below.

Based on results of the analysis, some conclusions can be drawn that contribution of women's multi-roles on informal sector toward the households is still small. Percentage of the respondent's contribution value, which has been obtained, is smaller than 50 %.

#### 4. C conclusion

Results of the research showed that: 1) Time allocation in doing jobs in the household for about 13.16 hours/day on average and doing the jobs to make a living for about 10.94 hours/day on average. 2) The change of functional structure on internal interaction in the family for about 5.23 hours/day and external interaction (interaction with family outside the house) for about 6.32 hours/day on average. Managing the decision in the household, which is decided by the wife herself include activities in arranging the needs in the kitchen and choosing menu for consumption. The analogous decision-making pattern between husband and wife is on activities that organize the interaction pattern and time management in activity outside the household. Concerning with financial management, women earn Rp 890,500/month.

#### 5. A cknowledgements

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