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ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN LAWE ALAS DISTRICT, SOUTHEAST ACEH REGENCY

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Abstrack

The separation of work based on gender has eroded over the course of human civilization, including in the agricultural sector. This study involved 50 respondents from 237 complete couples who owned at least 0.5 hectares of land. The study examined and analyzed women's contributions to the agricultural economy in the Lawe Alas subdistrict of Southeast Aceh, beyond their roles as housewives. Women's roles in the agricultural economy are divided into two activities: first, pre-harvest activities such as soil cultivation, seed or fertilizer preparation, weeding, pest and disease prevention, and watering; and second, harvesting and post-harvest activities such as seed separation, harvesting, cleaning, transportation, sorting, and marketing. On average, women in Lawe Alas Subdistrict, Southeast Aceh Regency, spend 5.3 hours per day engaged in agricultural activities on an average land area of 1.26 hectares, which is equivalent to 2.6 workers per working day/5 hours. Women's contribution to the agricultural economy in Lawe Alas sub-district, Southeast Aceh district, is 49.69% in land preparation, 53% in seed/fertilizer preparation, and 52.22% in planting for each pre-harvest activity, 52.22% in fertilization, 51.53% in weeding, and 54.25% in watering. Women's contribution to the agricultural economy in Lawe Alas subdistrict, Southeast Aceh district, in each harvesting and post-harvesting activity is as follows: 50.25% in threshing, 66.25% in harvesting, 33.13% in transportation, 55.22% in cleaning, 52.97% in sorting, and 53.00% in marketing. Women in the agricultural economy in Lawe Alas subdistrict, Southeast Aceh district, have a large contribution in almost all pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest activities, but they have a small contribution in decision-making regarding the selection of crop varieties (28%), planting schedules (32%), seeds, and fertilizers for planting and fertilization.

Keyword : the agricultural economy in the Lawe Alas subdistrict of Southeast Aceh

INTRODUCTION

The development of science and technology as well as communication networks has contributed significantly to the development of human civilization. The development of human civilization has encouraged the enforcement and equalization of human rights, including gender equality. The push for gender equality has provided opportunities for women to become more involved in the economy, both in terms of quantity and quality. This condition is not only found in urban areas but also in rural areas. Women have become increasingly active in economic factors, including in supporting the household economy. Gender issues in agriculture are closely related to unequal division of labor, excessive workloads for women with unclear employment status, and quantitative and qualitative participation women and men in various agricultural development activities, access to and control of human resources and development resources, as well as development benefits.

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This is also the case in rural areas, where the agricultural sector is the main driver of the family economy. Communities that are predominantly agricultural are inseparable from the involvement of women in agricultural economic activities. The involvement of women in the agricultural economy has indeed been evident since long ago, both directly and indirectly.

Problem Formulation

From the above description, the problems in this study are formulated as follows:

a. How significant is the role of women in agricultural businesses in terms of the time contributed?
b. How significant is the contribution of women to the household economy from the agricultural sector?
c. How significant is the contribution of women to the family economy from the non-agricultural sector?

This study aims to provide information to the public about the role of women in agricultural enterprises and to provide information on the contribution of women to the family economy.

RESEARCH MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials Farming is a science that studies how people allocate available resources effectively and efficiently for the purpose of obtaining high profits at a certain time. An agricultural business is considered effective if farmers can allocate their resources properly, while it is considered efficient if the utilization of resources can produce outputs that exceed inputs. Based on the scale of the business, agricultural businesses can be grouped into two categories, namely large-scale and small-scale agricultural businesses. Large-scale farming generally has large capital, high technology, modern management, or is commercial in nature, while small-scale farming generally has small capital, traditional technology, and is subsistence-oriented or only to meet its own needs (Soekartawi 2006).

According to Hadisapoetra (1979) in Sari (2010), a successful farming business is one that at a minimum meets the following conditions:

1. The farming business must generate sufficient income to finance the necessary tools.
2. The farming business must be able to generate income to pay all interest on capital used for farming.
3. The farming business must be able to pay the wages of farmers andtheir families at a reasonable rate.
4. The farming business must at least remain in its original state.
5. The farming business must be able to pay the wages of farmhands as
6. The farm must be able to pay the farmer as a manager.

Some of the agricultural results that have been carried out related to the dynamics of division of labor in agricultural communities based on gender will be described as follows. According to Bernadt et.al (1998), there is a disparity in the division of labor in farming between men and women. Men contributed 458 hours (47.32%), while women contributed 510 hours (52.68%). The decision-making process is generally influenced by the dominance of involvement in each stage of the farming system carried out. Access to and control over resources (education and health) no longer characterize gender-based disparities, except for

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access to and control over land resources, which refer to the value of male children and access to low capital resources.

Factors of Production

According to Mosher (1987:19), agriculture is a type of specific production process based on the growth process of plants and animals as a process in which several goods (inputs) are converted into outputs. In the production process, there are various activities that include changes in form,place, and time of use of production results. Soekartawi (1994) states four basic elements or factors of production in farming, namely land, labor, capital, and management.

The workforce consists of residents of working age. According to Law No. 13 of 2003 Chapter I Article 1 paragraph 2, the workforce is defined as every person capable of performing work to produce goods or services to meet their own needs or those of the community. Broadly speaking, the population of a country is divided into two groups, namely the labor force and the non-labor force. In reality, when choosing what business to do, there is a compromise between the farmer and his wife. This is important in counseling. If you want the counseling to be effective, then the approach should be to both the farmer and his wife.

Gender Theory and Gender Role Concepts

The term gender was introduced by social scientists to explain the differences between women and men that are innate as God's creation and those that are culturally constructed, learned, and socialized from childhood. This distinction is very important, because until now there has often been confusion between human characteristics that are natural and those that are not natural (gender). These differences in gender roles are very helpful in enabling us to rethink the division of roles that have been considered inherent to women and men in order to construct a dynamic and accurate picture of gender relations that is in line with the reality that exists in society.

Fakih (2006:71) argues that gender is a characteristic inherent in men and women that is constructed socially and culturally. Changes in characteristics and traits that occur over time and from place to place are referred to as the concept of gender. Furthermore Santrock (2003:365) states that the terms gender and sex have differences in terms of dimensions. The term sex refers to the biological dimensions of men and women, while gender refers to the socio-cultural dimensions of men and women.

Furthermore, Haspels and Suriyasan (2005) state that gender is a social variable for analyzing the differences between men and women in relation to roles, responsibilities and needs, as well as opportunities and obstacles. Because it is socially and culturally constructed, gender is not a natural law or a class or racial attribute. For example, when parents find out the sex of their unborn child, they tend to prepare everything for the baby according to the child's gender, such as pink for girls and blue for boys. Since birth, culture has attached the idea that blue is the color for boys and pink is the color for girls.

The formation of different roles between women and men, where women's domain is inside the home and men's is outside the home, can be seen from various perspectives:

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1. Social construction, which explains how the initial processes of the domestic and public spheres were formed, including:
    a. The process of externalization, which is a value produced by individuals from nothing into something.
    b. The process of objectification, which is the agreements that exist to become social reality or the process of rejection and acceptance so that reality is formed.
    c. The process of internalization, which is from the individual itself because individuals are actually part of social society.

2. Social reproduction is how the differences between the domestic and public spheres are reinforced. This is done through:

    a. The use of symbols such as the formation of 'Dharma Wanita' (Women's Duty), which actually reinforces the position of women in the domestic sphere and men in the public sphere.
    b. Reproduction of women's biological status, for example, women are weak creatures, women are associated with health, childbirth, women who are menstruating are more emotional, which can be detrimental to women in the workplace.
    c. Reproduction of women's cultural status, for example, women are more diligent and neat, so women are given jobs that do not require high skills.

Here, gender equality has not yet emerged optimally, coupled with a continuing patriarchal culture that keeps women in a subordinate position, making them vulnerable to violence. Here, men are in a dominant or superior position compared to women. The assumption that a wife belongs to her husband and that a husband has more power than other family members gives men the opportunity to commit violence.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive survey method. The survey method is a research method that takes samples from a population using questionnaires as data collection tools (Singarimbun and Sofian, 1985). The location of this study was in Lawe Alas Subdistrict, Southeast Aceh Regency. This location was chosen deliberately (purposively) because the area is one of the main agricultural centers in Aceh Province. Keran Village was chosen purposively from 4 villages in Lawe Alas Subdistrict. The population in this study was all couples in the village, where both husband and wife are actively involved in farming. In Keran Village, there are 263 couples who are actively involved in the agricultural economy. The researcher took a sample of 50 farming couples. The farmer couples in this study were selected as a sample using simple random sampling. In this study, the variables to be examined included Land Preparation, Planting, Maintenance, Plant Pest Control, Threshing, Harvesting, Cleaning of Harvested Crops, Transportation, Sorting of Harvested Crops, and Marketing. The data for these variables were analyzed using the percentage method and compared with the workload or number of working hours according to the labor law.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of Respondents In this study, 38% (19 people) were aged 30-40 years, 34% (17 people) were aged 40-50 years, 16% (8 people) were under 30 years old, and 3 people (6%) were over 50 years old. The targeted respondents must have had experience in farming. The farmers who had been farming for more than 15 years accounted for 34% (17 people), those who had been farming for between 10-15 years accounted for 32% (16 people), and those who had been farming for between 10-15 years accounted for 32% (16 people). As for the farmers' experience, 34% (17 people) had been farming for more than 15 years, 32% (16 people) had been farming for between 10-15 years, 20% (10 people) had been farming for between 5-10 years, and 14% (7 people) had been farming for less than 5 years.

Different land areas will certainly result in different numbers of working hours, but there is no significant difference. Farmers with land areas of 1-1.5 hectares accounted for 54% (27 people), farmers with land areas of 0.5-1 hectare accounted for 30% (15 people), farmers with land areas of more than 1.5 hectares accounted for 10% (5 people), and farmers with land areas of less than 0.5 hectares accounted for 6% (3 people). The types of crops cultivated by farmers also consisted of several types, namely rice, corn, vegetables, and sweet potatoes. Respondents who cultivated crops consisted of 3 people. hectares account for 6% (3 people). The types of crops cultivated by farmers also consist of several types, namely rice, corn, vegetables, and sweet potatoes. Respondents who cultivate corn account for 40% (20 people), those who cultivate rice account for 26% (13 people), vegetable farmers 22% (11 people), and sweet potato farmers 12% (6 people).

Analysis women's involvement in managing agriculture is distributed across each activity, starting with land management, which accounts for 49.69%. The time devoted to this activity is an analysis of the time (number of days) spent onland management and is compared to the time contributed by women each day to this activity. Given that land management requires high physical ability, the contribution is still below 50% compared to the normative number of working hours (8 hours per day). For seed and fertilizer preparation activities, women's involvement reaches 53%. Women's involvement in this case includes the purchase and provision of fertilizer seeds. In addition, women's involvement in this case is also quite prominent in seed selection and sowing. The high contribution of time devoted by women is due to the fact that in these activities, physical ability is less important, but psychological ability is very much needed, such as patience and precision. In planting activities, women's participation reached 52.22%. The percentage of involvement in this activity is quite high.

Women's involvement in family farming management in fertilizer maintenance activities reached 51.23%. In this case, women's activities include measuring fertilizer, spreading fertilizer, and tidying up the equipment used. In land maintenance activities, the involvement of women (mothers) reached 51.23%. Women's (mothers') activities in this activity include clearing and inspecting the condition of the land area and observing any disturbances that occur, as well as clearing the land of weeds. For irrigation activities, the role of women (mothers) involved is also high, reaching 54.25%. This is because these activities require not only physical strength but also attention, consistency, and continuity. From the pre-harvest study activities mentioned above, the involvement of mothers is also calculated in the preparation and serving of lunch for their husbands and other workers involved, if any.

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Women's (mothers') involvement in agriculture in harvesting and post-harvest activities includes crop threshing. Female labor (mothers) in this activity reaches 50.25%. Forms of women's involvement in this activity include stopping irrigation (watering), bending stems, picking leaves, and drying crops. For harvesting activities, women's time contribution of 66.25% is the largest percentage of all types of agricultural business activities managed. This is due to the supervisory roleperformed by women over workers from outside the family who are involved during the harvest. At that time, the time contribution for performing domestic tasks is minimized and/or rescheduled. However, in transportation activities, women's time contribution of 33.13% is the smallest percentage. This is due to the high involvement of external labor and the limited transportation facilities owned by the household.
Women's contribution of time to post-harvest cleaning activities is also quite significant, reaching 55.22%. This activity is often accompanied by sorting activities. In terms of sorting activities, women's role reaches 52.97%. Often, these two activities are not completed on the same day. This is done to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in these activities. In marketing activities, women's labor contributes 53% to agricultural output. In this case, women's activities include selling the output to buyers, delivering it to the market, and preparing buyers' orders.

Women's involvement in all activities of the agricultural economic process in terms of time contribution is quite high. This is due to openness to accepting willingness and ability. Women can be accepted to be directly involved without interfering with their natural activities as housewives in doing domestic work. On the other hand, the amount of time fathers/men spend on domestic work greatly encourages this condition. This can encourage the creation of independent families because women are a source of human resources who can manage the agricultural economy.

However, in making decisions on family agricultural policies, women are not yet given much opportunity or authority. This can be seen from the role of women in determining the planting schedule (32%or 16 people), determining the type of crop (28% or 14 people), and decisions to buy or providing seeds and fertilizers and their types 38% (19 people). Similarly, marketing policies for products in terms of when to market, to whom or where to market, only 28% (14 people) were involved in an incentive-based manner. The execution of farmer group or institutional policies was only 30% (15 people). On the other hand, the involvement of women in events (farmer groups) was still very rare. The government and institutional elements did not often involve women in the activities they carried out.

CONCLUSION

Women, in addition to being housewives in farming families in Keran Village, Lawe Alas District, Southeast Aceh Regency, are also quite involved in managing the family's agricultural economy. This can be seen from the percentage of working time, which reaches an average of 5.2 hours/day per worker (HOK) to manage their farms.This high level of involvement is due to the comprehensive involvement of women in agricultural processes. This involvement begins with land preparation, planting, maintenance, and pest control. This high level of involvement is due to the comprehensive involvement of women in agricultural processes. Their involvement begins with land preparation, planting, maintenance, pest control, and harvesting, as well as post-harvest activities such as threshing, cleaning, transportation, sorting, and marketing. Additionally, the low level of involvement in decision-making or policy-making tends to be due to a lack of recognition of women's abilities and

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insights. This is also a result of insufficient recognition and understanding of gender equality. On the other hand, patriarchal culture is still strongly held by society.

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