

Socio-Economic Conditions of the Fishing Community in Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Maluku Barat Daya Regency

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ABSTRACT: This research aims to analyze the various social and economic aspects that influence the lives of the fishing community in the village. Through field surveys, data collection and qualitative analysis, this article reveals an in-depth picture of the social and economic dynamics in the Nuwewang fishing community. This research was conducted in Nuwewang Village, Letti Sub-district, Southwest Maluku Regency. The population in the study was 60 family heads and the sample in the study was 20 fishermen. This type of research is quantitative descriptive research. The data collection techniques used in this research are observation, documentation, interview techniques using questionnaires for data collection. The results showed that fishing communities in Nuwewang Village face various challenges in social and economic aspects. Economically, they face limited access to markets, equipment and capital which limits their income potential. These factors directly affect their standard of living and economic welfare. On the social side, factors such as education, access to healthcare and infrastructure are also serious issues that affect the quality of life of fishing communities. This research contributes to the understanding of the socioeconomic challenges faced by fishing communities in this area. The findings can serve as a basis for designing policies that support welfare improvement and economic empowerment for fishing communities in Nuwewang Village and similar areas. Efforts to improve access to markets, education, health services and capital support could be important steps in improving socioeconomic conditions.

Keywords: Fishing Community, Socio-Economic Conditions, Nuwewang



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INTRODUCTION

One of the roots of poverty in coastal communities is limited access to capital supported by an unconducive entrepreneurial culture (based on the nature of individual, traditional and subsystem businesses) (Ackah-Baidoo, 2013; Raju, 2010). This limitation is marked by the realization of capital absorption through government and private investment of around 0.02 percent of the total development capital, which results in the capital needs of fishermen being met by moneylenders, middlemen and middlemen, which in reality in the long run do not help much but may increasingly

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entangle the debt of coastal communities (Juliawan & Nursa'ban, 2019). A policy is needed that can directly touch the interests of coastal communities, in addition to improving welfare, it can also educate them to be more independent and capable of managing and utilizing resources optimally and sustainably (Sataloff et al., 2020)

Especially for capture fisheries, the potential of fish resources can be expected to become the leading sector of the national economy. Therefore, the potential must be utilized and managed optimally and sustainably (Santha, 2015; Stanford et al., 2021; Taufik et al., 2023). This management and utilization must be carried out jointly from the government, the community and entrepreneurs in order to increase community income and state revenues that lead to the welfare of the people. To improve the sustainability of the capture fisheries business as stipulated in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 32 of 2014 concerning Maritime Affairs in Article 3 letter (d) which mandates that the utilization of marine resources be carried out in a sustainable manner for the greatest welfare of the present generation without compromising the interests of future generations, while Article 59 paragraph (1) directs that the utilization of marine resources is carried out by prioritizing the enforcement of sovereignty and law in Indonesian waters, the seabed and the land beneath it, including the natural resources contained therein and sanctions for violations are carried out in accordance with the provisions of laws and international law (Sataloff et al., 2020).

Fishermen are people who actively carry out fishing activities, both directly (such as spreaders and net users) and indirectly (such as sailboat helmsmen, motorized fishing boat skippers, ship machinists, fishing boat cooks), mentioning fishermen, people will always associate it with a difficult life, living with a low economy. so that people who live in coastal areas in general are often identified with the poor (Arifandy, F. P., Norsain, N., & Firmansyah, 2020; Hwang, 2022; Indrianingrum et al., 2019; Krishnapillai et al., 2020). In reality, the living conditions of the average fisherman are indeed poor. This seems to be a contradiction to Indonesia's vast coastal and marine potential. Indonesia's seas are among the most extensive in the world. The area that includes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is estimated to be approximately 5.8 million kilometers with a total coastline length of 80,790 kilometers or 14% of the coastline length in the world (Assefag, 2020)

In general, skipjack fishing activities in Timor waters use pole and line. In skipjack fishing operations (Rakuasa, 2022). One of the obstacles in hunting skipjack is the lack of fishing ground information both spatially and temporally. Changing global climatic conditions make it more difficult to determine the fishing ground for skipjack, so the hunting of skipjack becomes less effective, wasteful of time and fuel but the results are less optimal. Fishing activities will be more efficient and effective if fishing grounds can be predicted in advance, before fishermen go fishing (Bambang Sukresno, 2020). Reporting from the 2020 Maluku Journal page, the assistance provided by the Southwest Maluku Regency Fisheries and Marine Service, in the form of fishing equipment, bobo nets, speed boats and materials for making bagu for fishing communities in Nuwewang Village to alleviate the poverty of fishermen has been slightly overcome in the development of fishermen on the coast of Nuwewang Village (Pakniyany, Y., Tiwery, W. Y., & Rakuasa, 2022). The fish caught by the fishermen are marketed to neighboring villages and some are even marketed directly to the capital of Maluku Barat Daya Regency (Tiakur). Based on the description above, this study aims to determine the socio-economic conditions of the skipjack (Katsuwonus pelamis)

METHOD

This research was conducted in Nuwewang Village, Letti Subdistrict, Southwest Maluku Regency. The population in this study were the people of Nuwewang Village, Letti Subdistrict, Southwest Maluku Regency who worked as fish fishermen with a total of 60 family heads. The sample in the study used purposive sampling technique. The sample in this study were 20 fishermen based on the fulfillment of their needs. This type of research is quantitative descriptive research. This descriptive type is used to describe the symptoms that occur at the research location and explain the socio-economic conditions of the skipjack fishing community in Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency. The variables in this study are single variables, namely the Socio-Economic Situation of Skipjack Fishing Communities in Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency including: the age of the head of the fishing family, the education level of the head of the fishing family, the number of family members, side jobs of fishermen, total income earned per month, monthly expenses and clothing, food and shelter. The data collection techniques used in this research are observation, documentation, and interview techniques using questionnaires for data collection. In this study the data were analyzed using percentage analysis techniques, namely in the form of tabulation as a basis for describing the data that has been collected, the data obtained is then entered into a table according to the category which is then presented according to the frequency of answers.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Social Conditions

Nuwewang Village, located in Letti Sub-district, Southwest Maluku Regency, is one of the locations that has skipjack fishing activities as an important part of the community's livelihood. Skipjack fishing in this village not only affects the local economy but also has a significant impact on the social aspects of the community. The people of Nuwewang Village have a close relationship with the sea and its natural resources. Skipjack fishing is the backbone of the community's economy and culture. Fishermen in this village form a community that supports each other and works together in running the fishing business. The expertise and hereditary knowledge of skipjack fishing techniques are an inseparable part of their cultural identity. The social conditions of fishermen in Nuwewang Village will be discussed regarding age, education level and number of dependents.

a. Age

Based on the results of the interview, it is known that the dominant respondents are aged 18-30 people with a percentage of 45%, followed by respondents aged 41-55, namely 6 people with a percentage of 30% and the last is respondents aged 31-41, namely 5 people with a percentage of 25% of all respondents.

b. Education level

Based on the results of the interview, it can be seen that the variation in the number of educational levels of respondents who have a lot of education is the junior high school level of 7 people (35%),

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and elementary school 6 people (30%), then the high school level of 4 people (20%), who are not in school 2 people (10) and the last is at the college level, namely 1 person (5%). So it can be concluded that the most respondents are at the junior high school education level with a percentage of 35% of the total respondents. From this data, the low achievement of the education level of fishermen in Nuwewang Village, Letti Island Subdistrict, Southwest Maluku Regency is not entirely in line with the criteria for poverty level using income and expenditure indicators. Research conducted by (Sofianto, 2017), that if the welfare of fishermen is only measured by economic measures (income and expenditure), then fishing families can be said to be more prosperous than non-fishing families. However, with indicators that have broader dimensions and better explain living conditions from various aspects such as access to education, it can be seen that fishermen families are in a low state of welfare. The low level of education accessible to nuwewang fishers does not make it difficult for them to master techniques in capture fisheries activities. The process of socialization and enculturation carried out by fishermen for generations makes the knowledge of the ability to go to sea and catch fish can be conveyed between generations. For an individual fisherman, the process does not run briefly, but lasts for decades.

c. Number of Family Members

The results of interviews with respondents showed that the number of family members 2-4 people was 6 respondents or 30%, the number of family members 5-6 people was 7 or 35%, while respondents with 7-9 family members were 5 or 25%, and ≥ 9 people were 2 respondents or 10%. So it can be concluded that the largest number of respondents' family members is 5-6 people with a percentage of 35% of the total respondents.

2. Economic Conditions

In terms of economy, fishermen in Nuwewang Village are highly dependent on the skipjack catch. This catch is not only for self-consumption, but also sold in local and regional markets. While fishing provides income, fluctuations in the market price of fish can significantly affect fishers' income. In addition, limited processing and distribution infrastructure can also reduce the added value of their fish products. In recent years, climate change and unsustainable fishing practices can also negatively impact fishers' economies. Declining skipjack stocks can reduce catches and threaten the sustainability of their livelihoods. The economic condition of the fishing community of Nuwewang Village in this study can be seen from the indicators of total income, side jobs, total expenditure on household needs, and total profit.

a. Total Income

Based on the results of the interview, it is known that respondents with a total income of Rp. 1,000,000 - 1,500,000 were 2 people or 10%, income of Rp. 2,000,000 - 2,500,000 were 5 people 25%, respondents with income of Rp. 3,000,000 - 3,500,000 were 7 people 35%, respondents with income of Rp. 4,000,000 - 5,000,000 were 3 people 15%, while respondents with $\geq 5,000,000$ were 3 people or 15%. It can be concluded that the income of fishermen in Laha Village is moderate Rp. 3,000,000 - 3,500,000 as many as 7 people 35%, but another strategy used by fishermen in Nuwewang Village in terms of procuring fishing capital is to borrow from bobo owners who also act as intermediary traders. How high the level of dependence of fishermen on bobo owners is not only in terms of procuring fishing capital, which on average in one month borrows up to 16-17 times, but in terms of decision-making on fishing activities, most of the fishermen depend on them (significant others).

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The phenomenon of fishermen's patron-client relationship with bobo owners as capital owners as well as intermediary traders is identified in many research literature on fishermen in Indonesia (Attamimi & Augusta, 2018). In this position, fishermen act as a means of capital production from bobo owners to ensure the availability of fish stocks that they sell. Because of the debt bond between the fishermen and the bobo owner, the fishermen must sell the caught fish to the bobo owner who financed them to go to sea at a price determined by the retainer. On the other hand, such conditions are not supported by fish trading institutions that favor fishermen (Prayogi, 2019).

One alternative to prevent the tragedy of common property resources is to change the status from common property (not belonging to anyone) to belonging to a particular person; so that marine fish stocks are under a single ownership claim (Purwantomo, 2020). In this way the owner can exploit at an optimal economic level. Another alternative to prevent the tragedy of common property resources is to control fishing effort, the level of fishing effort (Nasution & Wiranto, 2018). (Nasution & Wiranto, 2018). Here, fishermen are regulated so that they do not catch more than the carrying capacity of existing fish stocks.

b. Side Job

Based on the results of the interview, it can be concluded that all 20 respondents (100%) have a side job, namely farmers. From this data it can be concluded that fishermen in Nuwewang Village, Letti Island Subdistrict, Southwest Maluku Regency have the most side jobs, namely farming, this is because if they cannot go to sea due to bad weather conditions, they can become vegetable farmers or coconut plantation farmers in their area. In areas where natural resources are difficult, job verification is difficult to do unless they convert their work in other fields, such as motorcycle taxis etc. In addition to being hampered by limited economic resources, job conversion is also difficult to do because it is hampered by socio-cultural aspects that are strongly tied to work as a fisherman.

c. Total Expenditure on Household Needs

Based on the results of the interview, it is known that respondents with a total profit of Rp. 500,000 - 1,000,000 were 3 people or 15%, respondents with a total profit of Rp. 1,200,000 - 1,500,000 were 10 people or 50%, while $\geq 1,500,000$ were 7 people or 35%.

d. Total profit

Based on the results of the interview, it is known that respondents with a total profit of Rp. 500,000 - 1,000,000 were 4 people or 20%, respondents with a total profit of Rp. 1,500,000 - 2,000,000 were 9 people or 45%, while $\geq 2,500,000$ were 7 people or 35%.



Figure 1: Fishing Process by the Nuwewang Community

The process of skipjack fishing by the Nuwewang community can be seen in Figure 1, therefore to improve the socio-economic conditions of the skipjack fishing community in Nuwewang Village, several efforts can be taken. First, education should be prioritized. Local government and non-government organizations can provide training and access to formal education to help improve the quality of human resources. Second, local economic empowerment can help reduce dependence on the skipjack catch. This includes the development of other economic sectors, such as sustainable tourism or fisheries agriculture. Finally, it is important to promote sustainable fishing practices that focus on conserving marine resources. This could involve training on wise natural resource management and environmentally friendly fishing practices.

The research on the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community in Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Maluku Barat Daya Regency, holds significant benefits for various stakeholders, ranging from local communities to policymakers and researchers. The outcomes of this study can contribute to a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the fishing community and inform strategies for sustainable development and improved livelihoods. Here are some of the key benefits:

1) Informed Policy Decisions

The research findings can provide valuable insights for local and regional policymakers. Understanding the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community, including their challenges and needs, can aid in the formulation of targeted policies and interventions (Joseph, 2020). This can lead to more effective resource allocation and support mechanisms that address the specific concerns of the fishing community.

2). Sustainable Resource Management

By examining the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community, the research can shed light on the impact of fishing practices on local marine resources (Purba, 2021). This understanding can guide efforts to implement sustainable fishing practices that ensure the long-term availability of fish stocks. This is crucial for both the community's livelihoods and the conservation of marine ecosystems.

3). Community Empowerment

The research can empower the fishing community by highlighting their strengths and identifying areas for improvement (Metekohy, 2020). When community members are aware of their socio-economic conditions and challenges, they are better equipped to engage in dialogues with relevant stakeholders, advocate for their rights, and collaborate on initiatives that enhance their quality of life.

4). Livelihood Diversification

Insights from the research can encourage the fishing community to explore alternative livelihood options that can supplement their income during lean fishing seasons or in response to changing market dynamics (Rawita, I. S., Darmawan, D., & Siregar, 2021). Diversification into related sectors like eco-tourism, seafood processing, or aquaculture can increase resilience to economic fluctuations.

5). Knowledge Dissemination

The research can contribute to the broader body of knowledge regarding coastal communities, sustainable fishing, and socio-economic dynamics (Haerul Akmal, Patahuddin Patahuddin, 2020). The findings can be shared through academic publications, conferences, and workshops, thereby enriching the understanding of researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners working in similar contexts.

6). Collaboration and Partnerships

The research outcomes can facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders, including local authorities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and international agencies (Costantein Imanuel Sarapil, Getruida Nita Mozes, Eunike Irene Kumaseh, Ganjar Ndaru Ikhtiangung, Erlin Puspaputri, 2021). Together, they can work towards addressing the identified challenges and capitalizing on opportunities, leading to holistic development in the fishing community.

7). Data for Future Studies

The data and insights gathered from this research can serve as a foundation for future studies. Researchers can build upon this work to delve deeper into specific aspects of the fishing community's socio-economic conditions or to monitor the long-term impact of interventions and policies (Putu Agus Prayogi, 2019).

In conclusion, the research on the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community in Nuwewang Village carries substantial benefits that extend beyond the community itself. By informing policies, promoting sustainability, empowering the community, and contributing to

knowledge, this research can play a pivotal role in fostering positive change and supporting the well-being of both the fishing community and the broader ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

In a study on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Fishing Communities in Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency, it can be concluded that fishing communities have a close relationship with the sea and fishing traditions are an important aspect of their cultural identity. However, they also face challenges in terms of access to education and health services, as well as fluctuations in fish prices that affect income. Efforts need to be made to improve education, economic empowerment and sustainable fishing practices to achieve better socioeconomic sustainability. The results of this study can assist the government and stakeholders in developing policies that focus on the welfare of fishing communities and the preservation of marine resources.

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