

Analysis of Community Economic Empowerment in Improving the Welfare of Fisher Families in Ginunggung Village, Galang District, Tolitoli Regency

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Abstract

This research aims to find out whether economic empowerment of the community can improve the welfare of fishermen's families. This type of research is Qualitative Descriptive, while the data collection techniques in this study are observation, documentation interviews. Based on the results of research and discussion, efforts to deceive the economy of the fishing family community of Ginunggung Village require government support such as education, training on how to manage catches and directing fishing families to work together in making rompons. Economic empowerment efforts to improve the welfare of fisher families can close the possibility with assistance provided by the government and increase access for fishermen to economic resources such as low-interest capital loans, skills training in catch management, and decent sales places.

Keywords: : *Economic empowerment; well-being; Traditional fishermen*

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world with around 17,500 islands, an area of approximately 5.8 million km², and a coastline of ±81,000 km which makes it one of the longest in the world. These geographical conditions place Indonesia as a country with a wealth of natural resources and very abundant biodiversity, including various endemic species. In addition to the advantages of natural resources, Indonesia also has a demographic advantage with a large population, where a significant number of them live in coastal areas and depend on the use of marine and fishery resources (Wahyudin, 2003). The high dependence on the marine sector makes fishing communities a strategic group in the national socio-economic structure. However, social reality shows that most fishermen are classified as small fishers or labor-intensive fishermen with a relatively low level of welfare and limitations in meeting basic needs, especially food needs as the most basic needs in the survival of fishermen's households (Ramdhani & Rahaju, 2022). Fishermen's poverty is a multidimensional problem that is simultaneously influenced by internal and external factors (Wijaya & Fauzie, 2020). In the context of regional development, the effectiveness of financial management and village governance has an important role in encouraging community welfare, as emphasized in research on transparency, participation, and accountability in village fund management that affects development performance (Yanto & Aqfir, 2020), as well as studies related to the evaluation and implementation of regional financial management information systems in supporting public financial management management Yanto & Afkir, 2020; Yanto & S., 2020).

The various fishermen empowerment programs that have been rolled out by the government have in fact not fully answered the real needs of coastal communities. The phenomenon of not optimally improving the economic welfare of coastal communities shows that policy interventions require strengthening managerial, institutional, and economic sustainability aspects (Fernanto et al., 2022). The problems of regional revenue governance, fiscal independence, and regional revenue optimization also have implications for the government's capacity to support the productive sectors of the community (Yanto et al., 2022; Yanto et al., 2023). This condition is reflected in the life of traditional fishermen in Ginunggal Village, Galang District, who still use simple fishing equipment and are highly dependent on weather conditions so that income is fluctuating and uncertain. Economic vulnerability like this demands an empowerment approach that is not only oriented towards providing facilities, but also on strengthening financial management capacity, sustainable financial literacy, and the institutional development of local economies (Yanto & Syaputra, 2022; Yanto et al., 2024). The experience of community-based empowerment in village economic management and BUMDes partnerships shows that participatory community capacity strengthening is able to encourage sustainable economic acceleration (Yanto et al., 2023; Yanto & Saputra, 2023). The concept of empowerment itself emphasizes

increasing the power of weak groups in order to be able to access productive resources and improve welfare independently (Tiani, 2022). In the framework of the people's economy as mandated by Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution, the management of natural resources must be directed as much as possible for the prosperity of the people (Mudilah, 2020), which ultimately leads to improving the welfare of fisher families socially, materially, and spiritually (Sunarti, 2012), with measurable indicators such as income, consumption, living conditions, health, and access to education (BPS, 2005). Thus, the economic empowerment strategy of the fishing community in Ginunggung Village is relevant to be studied as part of inclusive and sustainable local economic development efforts.

METHODOLOGY

This type of research is descriptive research, namely research that is applied by depicting or exposing the economic empowerment of the community in improving the welfare of fishing families in Ginunggung Village and then drawing conclusions. Qualitative descriptive analysis techniques are data analysis by describing or drawing the data that has been collected as it is without intending to make conclusions that apply to the public. (Sugiyono, 2015). The description was carried out to analyze the efforts to empower the economy of fishing families in Ginunggung Village based on the indicators that have been set.

This research was carried out in May-June 2024, located in Ginunggung Village, Galang District, Tolit Regency. This location was chosen because Ginunggung Village is an area with an estuary that is close to the ocean, this can support the residents of Ginunggung Village to work as fishermen. However, fishermen in Ginunggung Village are considered traditional fishermen because they use simple equipment and for family life that is really concerning because it only depends on fishing income.

Miles and Huberman (2009) state that in qualitative research, data is collected through a variety of diverse techniques, namely:

Data collection

The researcher collected data through observation. At this stage of data collection, information is obtained through direct observation. The data collected through observation includes aspects such as the type of residence, the physical condition of the building, and the size of the house inhabited. Furthermore, data collection was carried out through interviews. At this stage, data is collected through direct interaction with respondents. The information gathered through the interviews included topics such as employment, education, income, and the number of dependents. The next step is data collection through documentation. At this stage of data collection, information is documented visually.

Data reduction

The data reduction process involves summarizing, selecting key information, focusing on important aspects, and identifying themes and patterns. The data that has been reduced will provide a more detailed picture and facilitate the next data collection process, as well as make it easier to access data if needed again (Sugiyono, 2019:323).

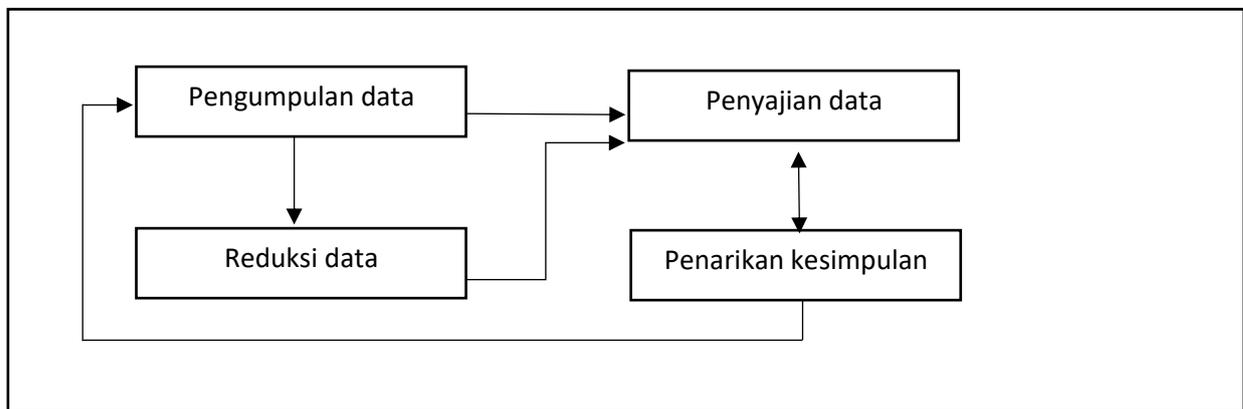
Data presentation

Data presentation involves ways to display information such as narratives, diagrams, relationships between categories in the form of (*flowcharts*), and other types of representations. By presenting this data, it makes it easier to understand the existing context and helps in planning the next steps based on the understanding that has been obtained previously. (Sugiyono, 2019:325).

Conclusion drawing

Drawing conclusions and verifying involves the process of making initial conclusions that are still temporary, but can change if there is no strong evidence at the time of data collection. However, conclusions can be trusted if there is valid and consistent evidence when the data is recollected. These conclusions represent new findings emerging from the study. These findings refer to descriptions of objects that may not be clear at first, but become more detailed after going through the research process, including causal relationships or interactions between hypotheses and theories.

The following is an overview of the schema of the data analysis method



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The improvement of the fishermen's economy affects family life, so it is necessary for the government to pay attention to the work of fishermen because in Tolitoli Regency the majority of public work is fishermen, fishermen have a great influence on the life and welfare of families, not only fishermen's families but families whose work outside of fishermen greatly affects their welfare because not only fishermen's families who want their catches many other communities are waiting The catch of fishermen is the need for the government to pay attention to the work of fishermen, especially tertiary fishermen.

The work of traditional fishermen plays a very important role in people's lives, so it is necessary for the government to pay attention to the situation that occurs and the need to help the fishing community so that the fishermen are not eager to find the catch that is urgently needed by the community, especially the fishing family. The assistance provided needs to be properly documented so that no other fishermen complain because they do not get assistance, the assistance provided must also be considered by fishermen so that it can be used to improve the fishermen's economy.

The economy of fishermen's families, especially in Ginunggung Village, is very low because the income in one trip to sea is only enough for a day's needs, resulting in fishing families choosing to work on the side so that the needs of the fishing families are met. Fishermen's families did not increase during their time as fishermen, there were some fishermen who worked as fishermen for decades, but there was no increase in fishermen's families. The researcher heard the complaints of fishermen regarding their catches and management based only on mobile sales. Fishermen need more attention from the government to find solutions to the problems that occur so that fishermen continue to work as fishermen and do not change their jobs.

The fishing profession is not easy, not everyone can work as a fisherman as well as what happens to fishermen's families, because not all fishermen can work on the side, there are some fishing communities that only rely on fishermen's work, so it is necessary for the people of Ginunggung Village to work together to support the work of fishermen by helping to make fish catchment places and fish selling places that are feasible such as fish sales places in the area market or roadside so that consumers can see the catch that is sold directly by the fishermen, there will be an increase in the fishermen's economy and their welfare because the fisherman's family has got a decent place to sell and there are collectors who take the fishermen's catch so that they can be sold without the remainder, in this way the fishermen will live prosperously.

The problems that occur in Ginunggung Village, especially work as small fishermen, if not paid attention to, will result in a low fisherman's economy so as to affect the welfare of fishermen. The problems faced and making the fishermen's economy low are as follows:

1. Limited access to capital and edits. Many fishermen have difficulty obtaining capital to purchase modern equipment or repair damaged equipment.
2. Absence of training and education. Many traditional fishermen do not have access to training on more efficient fishing techniques, related to business management and knowledge of the market.
3. Unstable fish prices. The price of fish is often detrimental to fishermen, especially those who do not have adequate storage facilities to wait for a better price.
4. Inadequate instructors. Many fishing villages do not have adequate basic instructors such as roads, ports or cold storage facilities.
5. Competition with modern fishermen and large corporations. Traditional fishermen often lose out to modern fishermen who have more advanced technology and large companies that have wider market access.
6. Environmental degeneration and decline of fish resources. Excessive fishing activities and marine pollution reduce the number of fish that can be caught by traditional fishermen.
7. Lack of access to a wide market. Fishermen often only sell fish to the local market, usually only sell around the house at a low price because they do not have access to a wider or international market.

8. Dependence on seasons and weather. Fish fishing is highly dependent on weather conditions and seasons, so income is unstable every year.
9. Lack of business verification. Fishing families often rely entirely on fishing as a source of income without choosing a side hustle that will help stabilize the fishermen's family's economy.
10. Social welfare and health. Limited access to health services, education and other social facilities that affect the quality of life of fishermen's families.

From the results of the research, the researcher summarized the problem of the low economy of fisher families so that it affects the welfare of fishermen's families, the need for the government to pay attention to the problems experienced by fishermen, especially in Ginunggal Village.

To improve the welfare of traditional fishermen, some solutions that can be implemented include:

1. Increased access to easy, affordable financing through microfinance or large interest-bearing loans to purchase modern equipment.
2. Training and education. Provide training on more effective and environmentally friendly fishing techniques as well as education on financial management and entrepreneurship.
3. Instructors and technology. Build instructors such as small ports and fish markets and provide refrigeration technology to store fish for longevity.
4. Marketing and distribution help serve in the marketing of catches by expanding distribution networks and access to wider markets for exports.
5. Marine resource management. Implement sustainable management of marine resources to ensure the preservation of marine habitats.
6. Cooperation and cooperation. Encourage the formation of fishermen's cooperatives to increase their bargaining power in the sale of catches and the purchase of equipment.

By implementing these solutions, it is hoped that the welfare of traditional fishermen can increase significantly. In this case, the problems in Ginunggung Village have increased, starting from the economy to the welfare of fishermen's families and the community in Ginunggung Village.

CONCLUSION

Efforts to deceive the economy of the fishing family community of Ginunggung Village require government support such as education, training on how to manage catches and directing fishing families to work together in making rompons so that fishing families have goals when going to sea and getting maximum catches. The need for the government to go directly to see the problems that occur to fishing families in order to find out what fishing families need in improving the economy of fishing families. Efforts to empower the economy in improving the welfare of fisher families can be carried out by the assistance provided by the government and increasing access

for fishermen to economic resources such as low-interest capital loans, skills training in catch management, decent sales places such as marketing of catches and reactivating fish auction places in Ginunggung Village so that the sale of fishermen's catch can be sold so that the fishermen's economy increases and makes fishermen's families become equal.

Based on the above conclusion, the following suggestions can be made:

- 1) To improve the economy of fishermen's families, it is better to manage the catch so that the sales place so that the catch obtained is not left behind and the fishermen's family is obliged to have a side job so that when the situation is not possible to go to sea, the fishing family still gets a steady income.
- 2) With the assistance provided by the fisheries and marine service, there are some informants who do not get the assistance while there are still some informants who need the assistance more. For aid providers, it is necessary to pay attention to the collection of data on aid workers evenly so that there is no jealousy among fellow fishermen.
- 3) For the next researcher who is interested, you can study more deeply about the low economy of fishermen families which does not increase every year. It is recommended that other research help solve problems that occur in fishermen's families.

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