

# **The Empowerment of Women Farmer Strategy Through Social Support of Families, Communities and Governments**

(A Study of the Village Community, Songan Kintamani Village, Bali)

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## **Abstract:**

The purpose of this research is to examine social support which is used as a strategy for empowering women farmers to maintain their existence. This study uses a descriptive literature method on social support as a strategy for empowering women farmers to maintain their existence. This research only explains the aspect of social support which is used as a strategy by female farmers to maintain their existence. In this study it was found that social support had a positive influence on the existence of female farmers. The social support strategy in empowering women in the agricultural sector to increase economic resilience can be carried out by establishing gender justice. The form of gender justice can be in the form of providing: 1) access; 2) participation; 3) control; and 4) benefits. Government support in encouraging the application of a sustainable agricultural system can be seen in terms of education and training services for farmers on organic fertilizers, pest control, biological diseases, and consulting services (extension) on good agriculture practices.

**Key Word:** Communities Support; Families Support; Female Farmers; Social Support.

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Boserup (1984) conducted a series of studies about the participation of women in farming and concluded that in virtually every case recorded, work in the agricultural sector most of made by women. Some cases, women do about 70 percent duty agriculture. In one case, women is nearly 80 percent of the total work. Generally menial work using the simple or even primitive equipment and take a lot of time, to satisfy the needs of their family, while men or trying to find work in plantations or in the cities in order to receive an income. Smith (2006) stated that women are the source extra manpower to deal with food crops, take care of family, consumption keeping livestock, professional home industries to find a little extra income, family gathering firewood and water, cook, and do all the domestics. All kinds of practical aspect spent the entire time, so the women working hours are longer and heavier compared to the men working hours.

Some studies have shown that various reconstructions to heavier workload women and at the same time reduce the passage of resources households that they could control. As a result, women and those who depend on them is the economically most vulnerable in developing countries Todaro (2011). Elizabeth (2008) found that the dual role farm woman strategic position in an effort to improve productivity for farming and family income and food security. Women are parties who have access to and control of the house maintenance activities. The women are known in managing household, managing daily living expenses, assess the conditions and the needs of space in the house and infrastructures required at the housing issue (Puspitawati, 2013). The role of women as farming family is also concerned to maintain the environment, especially the environment around the family encourages farmers to behave as farmers survival to meet their needs. The problems faced by farmers are how generating revenue sufficient to meet the needs of a family to purchase goods and other needs that led to other farmers and perceived.

Women is known to have a tendency for multitasking attitude, able to perform some things in common time. This attitude actually being one excess for women compared with the man, however it's simultaneously caused weakness. Multitasking attitude such as in housework, start cleaning the house take care of children, preparing food can be done in quick time. But, the results, all of the housework can't be done optimized, not focused and is hasty in doing work., Todaro (2011) said development policies that which heightens distinction productivity between the man and woman tend to be detrimental income gap and the scrape economic status women in households. Because government programs to reduce poverty is prioritized for men this program was inclined to widen inequality happened. Some studies have shown that even more various reconstruction heavier

workload women and at the same time reduces the passage of resources households control them. As a result, women and those who depend on them is the most economically vulnerable in developing countries.

## **II. METHODS**

This thesis is a systematic literature review that demonstrates that the approach of research and development is carried out to integrate and analyze research that is related to the heart of a specific subject. The purpose of a systematic literature review is to examine, identify, assess, and interpret all research related to the topic of an interesting phenomenon with various questions in certain appropriate research (Triandini, et al. 2019). This research uses descriptive analysis by presenting the data collected periodically and presenting an interpretation and description so that it can be interpreted by the reader. This research was conducted in five stages. First, reviewing data on agriculture and women in Bali. Second, identify problems related to agriculture and women. Third, formulating problems related to the focus of the problems being studied and analyzed. Fourth, collect data and material related to the focus of the problem in order to support the strength of the analysis of existing problems. Fifth, analyze and present strategies for empowering women farmers through social support from family, community and government. Although in practice without applying it directly, because this research can be analyzed and reviewed from various journals and books.

## **III. RESULT**

### **Gender Equality/ The Emancipation of Women**

The classification society caused by gender differences causing the presence of disparities out of treatment. People who are often harmed the subordination of women being opposed to its kind. Women never stopped enforcing the equality of gender with men. Djoharwinarlien (2012) reveals that women never stop to get out of support, even though they are considered to be against culture and myths that actually marginalize their position. Women resistance to attain equality does not mean that women want to go against their nature. Rasheed, et.al. (2020) emphasize that in the longterm women participation facilitates income growth which has a tendency to contribute to poverty alleviation. Women who are trying not to stagnate against the myths that cause the degeneration of their class are actually fighting for two things. First, to fight for the right to freedom as a woman, such as the right to be educated, the right to get a decent job, the right to develop herself and achieve her dreams. This right must be protected in the state constitution regardless of gender. Second, women who fight for their positions are women who proclaim their existence as women so that they can be equal with men from all walks of life.

Basically, women's emancipation is an effort of social transformation in which all elements of society must be involved. Neerja & Sheetal (2020) states that empowerment implies intellectual enlightenment, economic enrichment and social emancipation of women. The main strength of empowerment lies in a woman's ability to control her own destiny. Empowered women must have equal opportunities, equal abilities, and equal access to resources. In addition, women must be enabled to use these rights, abilities, resources and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions in their lives. In fighting for equality, women need three things. First, women need State guarantees to escape the stagnation created by myths. The state can help women's struggle by creating regulations to protect women. Regulations must ensure that women get facilities while working in the public sector, get the right to education, and have a decent living. The state must also create an independent institution that can control the implementation of these regulations. Second, namely respecting every woman's work, both domestic and public work. Women often do not get appreciation when they do household chores because this work is considered natural work and an obligation. In the public sector, women who work are seen as merely helping their husbands in fulfilling family needs, and are not considered as an independent attitude for women to achieve what they want. Women need appreciation to burn enthusiasm so that they can continue to innovate. Third, namely the existence of family empowerment. The purpose of this family empowerment is that household duties are no longer interpreted as the workload of the wife/mother, but the burden of the whole family. For example, men/fathers in the family participate in household chores. Then the children are also given the understanding that their mother is not someone who can stay at home for 24 hours so they must also be able to independently take care of themselves (Djoharwinarlien, 2012). The thing that emphasizes the emancipation of women is that if women want to be equalized with men, women must have the capacity and ability to excel and be able to compete fairly. So do not rely on mercy to gain a position as first class citizen.

### **Gender Justice Strategy Towards Empowerment of Women**

There are two main reasons behind the involvement of women in the labor market. First, it is imperative, as a reflection of the low economic conditions of the household, so working to increase household income is important. Second, "choosing" to work, as a reflection of the socioeconomic conditions at the middle to upper level (Azis & Sholika, 2018). Work is not only oriented towards seeking additional funds for the family

economy, but is a form of self-actualization, seeking self-affiliation and a place for socialization. The role of women in the family is a role that is carried out by women because they occupy positions in society. The role of women in the family by doing household chores such as cooking, raising children, serving husbands is a productive activity that indirectly increases family income (Azis & Sholika, 2018). The decision of women as wives to work brings consequences and double responsibilities as housewives and as workers, especially regarding the division of time to do household chores and work to earn a living, besides how much income is earned and used to support the household economy.

Conditions for women and men to enjoy equal status and have the same conditions to fully realize human rights and their potential for development in all areas of life. The definition from USAID states that "Gender Equality permits women and men equal enjoyment of human rights, socially valued goods, opportunities, resources and the benefits from development results. Gender equality provides opportunities for both women and men to equally / equally / proportionally enjoy their rights as human beings, socially have objects, opportunities, resources and enjoy the benefits of development results (Puspitasari, 2013). A fair condition for women and men through a cultural and policy process that removes the barriers to play for women and men. The definition from USAID states that "Gender Equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must be available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. Gender equity strategies are used to eventually gain gender equality. Equity is the means; equality is the result. Gender justice is a process to be fair to both women and men. To ensure fairness, there must be a measure to compensate for the historical and social losses that prevent women and men from taking effect at certain stages of the game.

The gender justice strategy is ultimately used to increase women's empowerment. Justice is the means, equality is the result. The form of gender equality and justice in the family is as follows. (1) Access is defined as "the capacity to use the resources necessary to be a fully active and productive (socially, economically and politically) participant in society, including access to resources, services, labor and employment, information and benefits". Access is the capacity to use resources to fully participate actively and productively (socially, economically and politically) in society, including access to resources, services, labor and employment, information and benefits). Example: Providing equal opportunities for girls and boys to continue their education according to their interests and abilities, assuming sufficient family resources. (2) Participation is defined as "Who does what". Participation is who does what, that is, husband and wife participate equally in the decision-making process for the democratic use of family resources and, if necessary, involve both male and female children. (3) Control is defined as "Who has what". Control is who owns what? Men and women have equal control in the use of family resources. Husbands and wives can own property in the name of the family. (4) Benefits. All family activities must have the same benefits for all family members (Puspitasari, 2013).

Women can participate in development if women have the same opportunity to obtain formal education as men. The struggle of women in gender equality is not solely for gaining mercy, but actually for obtaining a position and income based on their abilities by not forgetting their duties / obligations in the household. Increasing the role of women as equality of men is intended to increase active participation in development activities, both in urban and rural areas. Active participation in this development, especially in solving social and economic problems aimed at alleviating poverty, environmental preservation and quality human development. Sumarti, dkk (2017) in their research in Simalungun Regency stated that the farmer empowerment strategy requires two components, namely the driving and smoothing factors. The driving factor can be manifested in the form of: changing the non-market economic system into a market, changing the client patron system into a market, opening access to processing tools, forming the image of farmers as active and critical agents, placing young farmers as dynamic subjects in building leadership and entrepreneurial characters. Facilitating factors are manifested by: building collectivity, organizing farmers by strengthening social capital, protecting the water resource base by implementing good agricultural practices (GAP), diversifying livelihoods, opening market access, counseling and providing information and technology-based business assistance.

Malapit, et.al. (2020) states that the risk of future agricultural threats requires technology, practices and policies that ensure women's participation and access to benefits and empower them to make strategic life choices. Steps needed towards a more exclusive agri-food system include: 1) increasing women's decision-making power and control over resources and assets in households and communities; 2) increasing women's voice in key processes such as market negotiations, research and political processes; and 3) considering the needs and preferences of women in program design by building a more inclusive agricultural production system.

### **Social Support**

Nursalam & Kurniawati (2007) stated that almost everyone is unable to solve problems on their own, but they need help from others. Social support is an important mediator in solving one's problems. This is because individuals are part of family, school or work friends, religious activities or part of other groups. The dimensions of social support include three things: (1) emotional support, including: feeling comfortable,

appreciated, loved, and cared for, (2) cognitive support, including: information, knowledge, and advice, (3) material support, including: service assistance in the form of something in overcoming a problem.

Social support is an act that is helpful, both in the form of emotions, information, instruments, and positive assessments so as to provide physical and psychological comfort to individuals when facing problems. The existence of social support that has been given, shows interpersonal relationships that protect individuals against the consequences of stress. Received social support can make individuals feel calm, cared for, loved, arise self-confidence and competence. Socially supportive social relationships also reduce the effects of stress, help people cope with stress and promote health. In addition, social support can be effective in dealing with psychological stress during difficult and stressful times. Thus, a positive assessment of social support implies that individuals perceive the support provided by other individuals as being well received and in accordance with the required needs. On the other hand, a negative assessment of the social support given cannot be accepted and felt well because it lacks the needs it has.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

It is not surprising that development scientists generally view women as playing an important role in the development drama. The role of women in development dramas is shown by the number of women who work to help the family economy.

**Table 1: Open Unemployment Rate by Gender 2019**

Gender	Open Unemployment Rate by Gender (%)		
	Indonesia	Bali	Bangli
Male	5,31	1,84	0,68
Female	5,23	1,12	0,25

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics of Bali Province, 2019

Table 1 explains that the unemployment rate for men is higher than that of women. Looking at the lower unemployment rate for women compared to men, it can be said that so far women have made an extraordinary contribution to development in general and the family economy in particular. The large role of women in development can be seen from the contribution of women's income in helping the family economy.

**Table 2: Contribution of Women's Income in Bali Province 2013-2019**

Regency / City	Percentage of Women's Income Contribution (Percent)						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jembrana	38.45	38.92	38.43	-	38.54	38.47	38.73
Tabanan	34.62	34.78	35.69	-	36.55	37.22	38.28
Badung	35.92	36.58	35.63	-	35.93	36.35	36.52
Gianyar	35.77	36.14	36.64	-	37.25	37.42	37.94
Klungkung	43.90	44.86	46.11	-	46.20	46.19	46.73
<b>Bangli</b>	<b>35.94</b>	<b>36.28</b>	<b>37.27</b>	-	<b>37.28</b>	<b>37.27</b>	<b>38.19</b>
Karangasem	41.25	41.46	42.40	-	42.45	43.02	44.11
Buleleng	38.17	38.84	38.88	-	38.89	38.93	39.29
Denpasar	40.70	41.58	42.16	-	42.18	42.19	42.62
<b>Provinsi Bali</b>	<b>35.58</b>	<b>35.96</b>	<b>36.39</b>	<b>37.39</b>	<b>37.68</b>	<b>37.87</b>	<b>38.61</b>

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics of Bali Province, 2019

The lower unemployment rate for women compared to men shows that women have a big role in helping the family economy. A different condition occurs where the lower unemployment rate for women does

not necessarily contribute to the family economy. The contribution of women's income to the family economy is the share of income that women contribute from the total family income (Bertham, et al. 2011). The Central Statistics Agency of Bali Province (2019) released the contribution of women's income to the district economy by an average of 38.61 percent. Marhaeni (2008) states that women have a lower contribution to household income than the contribution of their husbands. There are two things that cause women's contribution to household income to be lower than that of husbands, namely 1) there is an assumption that women only have basic duties as housewives, they can only do public work after completing household tasks, and 2) there is an assumption that the husband is the main breadwinner, so women just stay at home to take care of their children and household.

Family resilience can be tough if there is cooperation among family members. The husband and wife relationship is not just doing the division of tasks but how they collaborate so that the family resilience is stronger. In terms of the economy, men should be the head of the family and work in the public sector, namely to be the main breadwinner. However, the demands of life make women farmers not only rely on the income of one person, women also deliberately work to meet family needs. Basically, women's farming activities in their own fields are synonymous with domestic duties, but if it generates money, then the domain becomes the public domain. Husbands and wives cooperate with each other in earning income, there are those who both earn a living in the fields by farming and there are also those whose husbands work in other sectors while the wives get support from their husbands to farm in the fields. Husbands who work in other sectors support the wife's farming activities by participating in domestic work in the household, for example shown by cleaning the house, looking after and caring for children. Even though the husband's income is less, the wife continues to carry out her duties. They believe that they are capable of carrying out domestic and public duties, although sometimes they need help or assistance from their husbands. To realize family resilience, husband or wife cannot do it alone, but must collaborate with other family members. Family resilience must be based on gender partnerships where gender partnerships are a form of mutual assistance or cooperation in a fair and balanced manner between husband and wife and children. All family members can perform all family functions regardless of gender differences. In line with that Sayekti & Sari (2003) in their research stated that the right strategy for female MSMEs Farmers in Ngantang Village is to encourage women to open businesses in the field of vegetable trading and food production from vegetables or agricultural products. Tanziha (2011) in his research in Pasindangan Village and Banjarsari Village, Lebak Regency, Banten Province, stated that increasing the empowerment of farmer families in rural areas begins with strengthening the social environment in the form of strengthening community norms, interaction in society, support of families and figures. Khoriri, et al. (2018) in his research in Rowotengah Village, Sumberbaru District, Jember Regency, stated that social support does not only come from family, social support can also come from group friends. The group strategy in empowering women farmers is carried out by: 1) motivation in the form of higher wages; 2) providing materials and training on agricultural land; 3) group management through planning, implementation and program evaluation; 4) mobilizing farmers in the use of seeds; and 5) increasing farming through the use of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) planting equipment.

Apart from the husband's support in realizing the economic resilience of the farming family, the government also needs to participate. Until now, government support in encouraging the implementation of a sustainable agricultural system can be seen in terms of education and training services for farmers on organic fertilizers, pest control, biological diseases, and consultation services (extension) on good agriculture practices. This government support is manifested in the form of the women farmer group (Kelompok Wanita Tani; KWT) program. KWT is a community empowerment organization specifically for women who work as farmers who are united in associations to obtain empowerment benefits, increase knowledge, develop potential, and improve the welfare of women farmers. Satyavathi & Bharadwaj (2017) in their research in India stated that the government needs to provide counseling for female farmers that integrates gender analysis into the process of future generations to make women a more active part. In line with Satyavathi, Khan, et.al. (2017) stated that women's wider involvement in Bangladeshi agriculture, the government as policy makers is expected to have gender-inclusive policies to help women overcome gender-based problems, social-cultural and economic barriers.

Kumar, et.al. (2020) stated that female farmers are lagging behind in adopting technology, health and family nutrition. Their livelihoods can be improved by utilizing various information and communication technology (ICT) strategies, capacity building, combating climate change and increasing food production as well as government budgets. Rubzen, et.al. (2020) emphasize that the adoption of engineering technology by women will depend heavily on their knowledge and skills in managing, operating and repairing certain machines. Therefore, training in the supporting aspects of technology must be provided in line with the transfer of technology. Padillah, et al. (2018) in their research stated that government social support manifested in the form of providing counseling to increase rice production was quite good. The counseling provided played a significant role in efforts to increase rice production which had an impact on improving the welfare of farmers.

Ponnusamy, et.al (2017) in their research in Tamil Nadu and Kerala stated that the government needs to make partnerships with private parties to be able to provide support for the existence of female farmers in the form of Public Private Partnership (PPP). Hasanah (2013) in her research states that the government provides social support by equipping women with information in the process of awareness, training and motivation to know their identity, be more confident, be able to make the necessary decisions, be able to state themselves, lead, move women. to change and improve the situation to get a fairer share in accordance with universal human values.

Israwati, et al (2018) in their research in Lalonggotomi Village and Ahuawatu Village stated that the household livelihood strategy is a process where households build various social support activities and capabilities to survive or improve their standard of living. Farmers' livelihood strategies are classified as: a) engineering the source of agricultural livelihoods, by utilizing the agricultural sector effectively and efficiently, increasing the workforce, using the latest technological innovations and expanding arable land, b) dual income patterns, in addition to helping husbands work on land there are also those who opening food stalls, selling processed food, selling mobile vegetables, sewing and selling rice, c) utilizing loans and, d) utilizing assets.

## V. CONCLUSION

Strategies for empowering women in agriculture to increase economic resilience can be carried out by establishing gender justice. Justice is the way and equality are the results. The form of gender equality and justice in the family can be in the form of giving: 1) access is the capacity to use resources to fully participate actively and productively; 2) participation means husband and wife participate equally in the decision-making process on the democratic use of family resources and if necessary involve both male and female children; 3) control means that men and women have the same control over the use of family resources; 4) benefits, all family activities must have the same benefits for all family members. Apart from gender equality, it is also necessary to have social support from both the family and the community. Family support can be realized by a husband and wife relationship, not just doing the division of tasks, but how they collaborate. Husbands who work in other sectors support the wife's farming activities by participating in domestic work in the household, for example shown by cleaning the house, looking after and caring for children. Government support in encouraging the application of a sustainable agricultural system can be seen in terms of education and training services for farmers on organic fertilizers, pest control, biological diseases, and consulting services (extension) on good agriculture practices.

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