INDONESIAN FISHERWOMEN ROLE AND STRUGGLE IN FISHERIES SECTOR

NIBRAS FADHLILLA (KIARA)
# South East Asia Fisheries (FAO, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Production (Tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>6,109,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2,678,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1,185,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1,865,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1,343,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1,574,443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indonesia’s fishery production has reached approximately 8.9 million tonnes with 95% of fish supplied comes from small-scale fisherfolks.

80 percent of Indonesian fishermen are actually small-scale/traditional fishers folks.

**What is small scale/traditional fisher folks?**

Small-scale Fisherfolks are fishermen who conducts fishing to meet their daily needs without a fishing boat or with a fishing boat less than 10 GT (Law on the Protection and Empowerment of Fishers, Resources and Salt Farmers; No. 7/2016)

There are also lots of women are also involved in Small Scale Fisheries. Fisherwomen may contribute up to 50% or more of the people engaged in fisheries in Indonesia. (Stacey, 2016)

However, the social structure of coastal communities or fishers communities give a place for women in the positions and roles based on the manifestations of distinctive characteristics of capture fisheries economic activities.

According to Kusnadi, The social role that carried out by women in coastal area (“perempuan pesisir”) is rooted by a sexual division of labor system that applies to coastal communities. Most of people see that Sea is the workplace for men (fishermen) and land is the workplace for women “perempuan pesisir”.
The Role of Fisherwomen in Coastal Area

**Domestic**
- For examples: Mending the nets, handling kitchen work, cleaning the house, caring for and educating children, providing school needs for children, and preparing husband's supplies to go to sea.

**Productive**
- For examples: Finding alternative income, selling their husband's fish catches result; working for other people, such as being a laborer in a fish breeding business; and/or has its own business unit, such as opening shops/stalls, intermediary traders, and owners of fisheries products. Even, there are fisherwomen who actually go to the sea by themselves or even with their husband to catch the fish.

**Social Activities**
- For example: Fisherwomen's involvement in social gathering between fisherwomen, savings and loans, reciprocal donations, and other mutual cooperation activities.
Fishwoman burdened to fill the need of families when her husbands go to sea.

16 working hours of fish farmer

17 working hours of fish catcher

The lack of space to express their aspirations in policy formulation

Double Role of Fisherwomen

Fishwoman must borrow the money, if their husband could not return back with bringing fish.
Women in coastal area do not merely "complement or help to fulfill the economic needs of households, but also determine the availability of economic resources for household needs.

At the social level (coastal communities), the dominance of women in coastal area in the economic sector has placed them as important contributor to the economic dynamics of the coastal region.

Indonesia is facing various challenges in fisheries sector. For instance: unsustainable fishing practices, pollution, environmental trends (climate change and natural disasters) and poverty.

In general, livelihoods of women may be affected disproportionately by pressures on marine ecosystems such as overfishing, climate change. Those condition create an added burden for women working in fisheries.

If the fishermen have difficulty obtaining the fish, the parties that are most difficult to pay for living expenses in the household are fishermen's wives or fisherwomen “perempuan pesisir” (Kusnadi, 2003: 75-82). Because their husbands' income is reduced or not at all, the women are required to meet the household economic needs.
There is a crisis/shortage number of fisherman or worker who work in the fisheries. No regeneration of fisher and skeptical to be a fisherman.

The condition lead fisherwomen drives the boat to go to the sea and catch fish.

The reasons is not only the difficulty to find someone from their family or neighbours to go to the sea with their boat but also to keep the income.

The awareness to be a part of organization and movement due to to assist the basic economic family need.
VOICE AND RECOGNITION OF FISHERWOMEN

Law No. 7/2016 is to protect small-scale fishermen. However, the policy’s implementation tends to impact small-scale fishermen negatively, particularly fisherwomen.

Little discourse on fisherwomen is that fisherwomen are often not taken into account because a “fisherman” is defined as a person who catches fish, while women, for the most part, clean the catch to be consumed at home or sold at markets. Often they do not receive pay in household businesses. Even when they go to catch fish, it’s only to accompany their husbands. It’s this limited definition of a fisherman that undermines women in the fisheries sector. (Arrivia, 2017)

Fisherwomen’s contributions are not taken into account, which negatively impacts them as they cannot get access to credits, processing technology, freeze warehouses and training organized by the government (Kabar Bahari/ Maritime News, Issue 18, November-December 2015).

As a result, women find it difficult to get fishermen's cards and insurance, nor can they get assistance such as boats and so on. Then, in terms of budgeting, the state is also considered not to represent the interests of women in 10,666 coastal villages in Indonesia.

Case in Gresik and Tambak Lorok: 30 fisherwomen from Tambak Polo Demak fight for their recognition from the state. Fisherwomen from gresik had to change their Identity card to become fisherwomen in order to access government program for fisher.
“The deprivation of living space for coastal community by government or even private sectors makes fisherwomen had to live in fear, endanger their lives and bear the multiplying burden”
KIARA noted, in the past 4 years the development policies of coastal areas and islands continued to be directed towards improving the tourism industry, extractive industries, property and infrastructure industries.

It affects on the increased of conflicts in coastal area and criminalization of fisherfolks.
SEBARAN PROYEK PROPERTI REKLAMASI PANTAI DI INDONESIA

KIARA
Pusat Data & Informasi
Kementerian Kelautan dan Perikanan

Masyarakat Pesisir Berdaulat, Mandiri, dan Sejahtera
“Since reclamation project (artificial island) was pushed by the government, we loose our access and control to our sea. We have to see the sand took our future. Reclamation is not for the coastal community, it is only for the developer” Fisherwomen from North Jakarta

“Everyday, we are scare if there is policeman come to Pari Island. Last time, the police came to our island is to criminalize three peoples in the island. Our island, our home has been sold by the government to private tourism company.” Asmaniah, Fisherwomen in Pari Island
Indonesian fisherwoman sisterhood or PPNI is a concept forum for strengthening the fisherwoman movement at the national level. PPNI was established by the initiative of fisherfolk organizations and several institutions that support traditional fisherfolks, such as People’s Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA) and Alliance for Prosperous Village (ADS).

**The Initiation of Fisherwoman Movement in Liwuto Island, South-East Sulawesi**

16 locations around Indonesia

**Mission:**
- To increase family economic
- To empower women in coastal areas
- To provide information/awareness of women’s rights
- To encourage gender equality
- To improve women’s capacity
INNOVATIVE STRATEGY OF FISHERWOMEN

Building collective action in organizations
Social capital as a basis
Organizational structure and coordination from the base to national level
Empowerment in various aspects
Sharing knowledge between members
Collaborative action with relevant stakeholders
Conclusion

In Indonesia Fisherwomen have many important fishing activities in pre-production, production, and post-production. They also do go and catch the fish at the sea. Thus, protection and repositioning fisherwomen are very important to support their resilience.

Facing multiple burden in the situation of marginalization, poverty, the worsening crisis in fisheries, and lacks of acknowledgment led a collective action among fisherwomen to have association to be stronger and strategic to survive.

Strengthening fisherwoman on organizational aspect and capacity development in facing climate crisis brings fisherwomen to consistently be in the movement with PPNI.

The PPNI movement is intended to carry out social and cultural transformation to provide a fairer life for all community members, including fisherwomen. More to it, is to open up space for fisherwomen to support and grow to always be strong and responsive to the dynamics of changing environmental, social, and political aspects.
Ina soro budi, Budi noro apadike, Pai Pana Ponu, Tehama hama

“Sea is our mother, She’s taking care of us, We should protect and keep her from any kind of destructions”
(Lamalera, East Nusa Tenggara)
Terima Kasih