



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



Dynamics of survival strategies for poor fishermen in Olimeyala Village, Biluhu District, Gorontalo Regency

Safwan Tahir Bano ^{1,*}, Ansar Arifin ², Munsil Lampe ² and Mashadi ²

¹ Doctoral Program in Anthropology, Graduate School of Hasanuddin University, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan Km 10. Tamalanrea Hasanuddin University, Makassar, South Sulawesi, 90245 Indonesia.

² Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Hasanuddin University, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan Km 10. Tamalanrea Hasanuddin University, Makassar, South Sulawesi, 90245 Indonesia.

International Journal of Science and Research Archive, 2022, 07(02), 600–606

Publication history: Received on 18 November 2022; revised on 29 December 2022; accepted on 31 December 2022

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30574/ijrsra.2022.7.2.0345>

Abstract

Poor fishermen in an effort to maintain survival, generally carry out life strategies both individually, households, and in a wider circle. Not going to stand idly by in the face of their conditions of poverty, they can in certain ways use the potential they have to maintain their subsistence life through various means. The purpose of this study was to analyze the dynamics of the survival strategy of poor fishermen in Olimeyala Village, Biluhu District, Gorontalo Regency. The research method used is a qualitative approach with the type of research used descriptive-qualitative research. The design of this study is based on a paradigm that is depicted on the nature of the problem and the suitability of assumptions. The type of data collected is primary data sourced from respondents, namely fishing communities. The determination of respondents was carried out by random sampling techniques. The results of the study obtained: 1) The diversification of the business carried out is part of the strategy taken in order to continue his life and his family, with poor living conditions always doing various ways to carry out his life, both by diversifying his work and in other ways that he can do to maintain his survival. 2) The survival strategy carried out is to walk along the beach every morning picking up seaweed that is carried away by the waves and stranded on the seaside then controlling the seaweed he manages and continuing by tying seaweed ropes which also forms an aside job for him. 3) The fact on the ground that fisherman not only have he depended on his life from one source of work or from the main job but has done other work other than their main job, which is an effort taken to continue living with their family members.

Keywords: Poverty; Fishermen; Dynamics; Strategy; Gorontalo

1. Introduction

The poverty experienced by coastal fishing communities is a situation they must live. Low incomes and often unfriendly weather that prevents them from going to sea condition that they must have a strategy to survive as well as alternative strategies for other sources of income [1]. Although at the sametime there are government efforts to ease the burden on their lives but these efforts are tentative and short-term. What is needed is a program that has a long-term impact on the coastal fishing community.

Poor fishermen in an effort to maintain survival, generally carry out life strategies both individually, householdly, and in a wider circle [2]. Not going to stand idly by in the face of their conditions of poverty, they can in certain ways use the potential they have to maintain their subsistence life through various means. Poor fishermen will always try to carry out various strategies to deal with life's difficulties, they will make more creative efforts to maintain their survival [3]. With various strategies that can be taken with their families to carry out their lives. In connection with this, it can be seen the various strategies carried out to maintain its survival. They are more creative in nature to maintain their

* Corresponding author: Safwan Tahir Bano E-mail: safwantahir73@gmail.com

survival [4]. With various strategies that can be taken with their families to carry out their lives. In connection with this, it can be seen the various strategies carried out to maintain its survival.

For the territory of Indonesia, the average fishing community generally has characteristics that are not much different, including in Bilato Village and Biluhu Village in Gorontalo Regency as coastal areas whose people also mostly live on marine products or work as fishermen. Based on preliminary observations as a pre-study, the size of the fishermen's house is relatively simple and small with a floor made of plaster cement, the walls are made of boards with zinc/asbestos roofs. Even their level of education is not until they finish elementary school or drop out of elementary school so no one has a diploma. They also have an income that is not sufficient for their family. This condition results in the absence of capital to optimally finance fishing operations. Based on this, fishermen in this region are categorized as poor fishermen.

The poverty of fishermen is also caused by unbalanced labor relations [5]. For example, in the case of borrowing money, traditional fishermen must submit to a mutual agreement to sell their caught fish to head of fishermen (owners of capital) then for return of the money lent what if they get newer results can be returned but do not have to return everything in installments first. Even the way of profit sharing between head of fishermen and labor fishermen with a system, namely after the catch is sold and reduced for operating costs, the rest is divided in half between fishing workers and their head of fishermen this is detrimental to labor fishermen [6].

Anticipating the poverty of these fishermen, the Gorontalo Regency government did not stand still. There are a number of programs implemented as an effort to reduce poverty such as IDT, KUT, PPK, and several others although these programs have not had significant results as expected. Lastly in 2017 the PEMP program was launched but the results were also not optimal after going through an evaluation [7]. In fact, in the era of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the people of Bilato District and Batudaa Pantai District have received Direct Cash Assistance from the government through the STATE BUDGET, PROVINCIAL BUDGET, regency BUDGET [8]. However, the government assistance is temporary and is enough to ease the burden on people affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic

2. Material and methods

2.1. Research Approach

This research uses a Constructivism Approach because it is seen as very appropriate for its designation to trace and uncover the social constructions of traditional fishermen [9]. Furthermore, with this method, it can be revealed what factors construct traditional fishermen and Mustard as poor fishermen.

2.2. Research Work Procedure

In understanding the socio-cultural reality of fishermen, researchers will try to understand the meaning of events or events that are closely related to individuals or groups of fishermen who are in certain situations. Researchers not only see that fishermen only live in the world of biological and cultural relations, but also in the world of social relations, which is a social reality that has its own qualities and is different from its cultural and biological reality. Therefore, researchers will seek to capture meaning through the symptoms of social action in groups of traditional fishermen and mustard fishermen at the study site. Research work procedures that are considered important to be carried out, among others, include:

- Determination of the subject (informant) of the study; The subject fishermen were selected intentionally (purposive) consisting of traditional fishermen and sai fishermen at this study site. In addition to the subjects mentioned above, this study also used informants as long as it was known that they had extensive and in-depth knowledge of the need for information or data for this study. Therefore, this study also used and deliberately selected informants of village government officials, related officials, local residents (ordinary people), and women fishermen, as well as fishermen's children as long as information or data from them is needed, which is related to the object of this study.
- determination of the location of the study; The research locations were also chosen intentionally (purposively), namely Bilato Village, Bilato District, and Biluhu Village, Batudaa District, Gorontalo Regency. This village was chosen deliberately (purposive), because the livelihoods and jobs of the population are mostly fishermen, both local residents and residents brought in from Gorontalo Regency. and from the area of islands outside the regency and within the territory of Gorontalo Regency.
- Data Collection Techniques; Data collection was carried out by means of "observation" and "indepth interviewing" with informants. Meanwhile, the interview tools used are "Interview guidelines" and "note books", as well as voice recorders (Tape Recorder) and images (Camera Mobile) [10]. Because the data needed

in this study is divided into two categories, namely "primary data" and "secondary data", primary data or information is collected through interviews with informants. Meanwhile, secondary data or information is collected from agencies related to this research (Fisheries and Marine Service, District Office, and Village Office). Interview techniques in data collection are carried out by means of "face to face" (individual interviews) and collective interviews (Focus Group discussion). "Face to face" (individual) interviews were conducted for the collection of data concerning closed (covert) behavior. Collective interviews (Focus Group discussion), conducted for the collection of data that are "non-factual" (past events or events related to this study). Secondary data or information, such as the number and type of fishing equipment (boats, fishing gear, and machinery), the number of villages, the number of residents, types of livelihoods, population, climatology, and other frequency data are collected from agencies related to the research conducted. In addition, data collection techniques are also carried out by means of library research (Library Research). It is intended that data or information that is conceptual or theoretical needs to be done by collecting literature (books) that are relevant to the research being carried out.

3. Results and discussion

Economic activity is carried out by a person with the aim of obtaining a certain amount of income in order to meet the needs of life, both for fishermen and members of the household on whom he depends [11, 12]. Business diversification is one of the strategies carried out by poor fishermen as an effort to carry out their lives, strive to maintain survival with their families through work done, both permanent work and other possible jobs that can be done outside of activities as fishermen or other jobs, life strategy is a family effort to ensure food supplies by seizing existing opportunities. They can do other work in the hope that their life's burden can be lighter [13].

In terms of the work done, it can only be absorbed into the type of work that does not require high skills and education, one of the contributing factors is economic incompetence so it is very difficult for them to invest in education for their family members both formal education and skills/expertise education as a requirement to obtain other jobs outside of the work they are engaged in, so it is difficult to escape the entanglement of poverty [14, 15].

In addition to the permanent work within the scope of activities carried out as previously disclosed, another type of work is seaweed. The diversification of the business carried out is part of the strategy taken in order to continue his life and his family, with poor living conditions always doing various ways to carry out his life, both by diversifying his work and in other ways that he can do to maintain his survival. (Interview, September 02, 2022).

As the result of the interview (Anton Baruadi) whose job is not only as a fisherman but also as a seaweed farmer, to support his family with three children and a wife who is pregnant with his fourth child he does various kinds of work, but his life is still very poor, among his three children there are two of them including school age, but no one is included in the school, According to him, it is difficult to eat anymore if he has to send his children to school. In his daily life, the survival strategy carried out is that every morning he walks along the beach picking up seaweed that is carried away by the waves and stranded on the seaside then controlling the seaweed he manages and continued by tying seaweed ropes which is also a side job for him and something like this is done by AB every day as an effort to increase his survival income for his life and his family, nevertheless, his living conditions still remain poor (Interview, September 09, 2022).

Based on the results of the interviews conducted that in living their daily lives, always trying to do work other than their main job, such efforts are made on average as an effort to carry out life with their family members, but nevertheless even so living conditions still remain poor (Interview, September 09, 2022).

Based on the results of interviews conducted in living daily life, always trying to do other work besides their main job, such efforts are made on average as an effort to carry out life with their family members, however, they are still difficult for free from the entanglement of poverty, especially with conditions like now with the increase in the price of staples, the heavier the burden they carry. Such a thing is one of the strategies carried out in an effort to carry out his life, a strategy that can be carried out in relation to economic problems, namely business diversification as an effort to increase income earned outside the fishing sector which is developed to keep billowing kitchen smoke by working more than one field of work at a time.

As the man Fiter Polapa did as a fisherman, also he worked as a seaweed collector, the job as a seaweed collector was only done as a side job but as a fisherman it could be done every day except during the west wind season, and according to his confession that they felt grateful for the seaweed business in the village, because by picking up seaweed they felt helped to be able to meet the needs of their family, and as fishermen who depend on the sea for their lives, then when the western season then they will not get results, with seaweed they can take down payment on their employers when

they need funds, although the amount is not large but it really helps them to overcome their problems (Interview, September 29, 2022)

The reality in the field shows that diversifying the business as part of a strategy to maintain their survival with their family members by doing work that can increase income, because in the research area only relies on income from basic work as fishermen or seaweed collectors with an average annual income of Rp. 1,500,000, then poor fishermen will not be able to maintain survival with members his family with such a large amount of income compared to the condition of the price of necessities of life as it is today. Such a thing as the above is in line with what is stated by [3], that in most rural communities, both men and women must work anything, in order to survive. (Interview, September 06, 2022)

In relation to the alternative work performed, it is necessary to explain that the works still remain within the scope of work of a nature to maintain survival. Although the alternative work done, still does not guarantee to provide a better life, but with the diversification of the efforts carried out has reduced the economic burden on the household at a minimum for the day, but the subsequent living conditions still remain in vulnerability and helplessness that constantly requires them and other family members to make efforts to survive.

Although living conditions are in such a state, it cannot avoid the demands of family needs, especially food needs and other needs that are urgent and must be met immediately, therefore try hard to exert all the energy they have to do work to meet the demands of life needs, by doing other work. As Mangkuprawira has stated in [16, 17], the activities of poor farmers as a survival strategy can basically be categorized in two ways, namely activities in the agricultural sector and activities outside the agricultural sector.

Based on the reality in the field, it is clear that not only has he depended on his life from one source of work or from the main job but has done other work apart from his main job, and this is an effort taken to continue to live life with his family members. Facing a difficult life, can carry out a variety of activities, because the most important thing is how the kitchen can steam, in connection with that, one of the strategies carried out for survival along with other family members is to mobilize family members in economic activities to help ease the burden on their households. The strategy is that it seems that their wives/mothers, children and grandchildren are also involved in economic activities to help make a living. In getting around the difficulties of life faced by mobilizing family members to jointly face the difficulties of life by being active in economic activities. The dual role of women is important and very large contributes to the survival of her family especially with her being active in various economic activities to support her family's economy, this is very influential in domestic life and is one of the strategies to maintain her survival, influential in domestic life and is one of the strategies to maintain her survival.

Based on the results of the interview, the role of the wife and other family members to supplement household income is very large, as Gani admits that when relying solely on the income from her husband as a fisherman, it will not be enough to meet household needs, every day after preparing food for her husband and children, Rosna Gani's woman leaves her home to work as a laborer against seaweed and when in the afternoon is just abandoned. Workplace, the same was done by her first daughter by helping her family ease the burden on her family life (Interview, September 26, 2022)

The same thing was done by several wives by helping seaweed farmers as laborers to tie seaweed spans, with a wage of Rp. 1500,- per one span with a length of approximately 15 meters, starting to work after finishing their work as a housewife and resting at lunch and dhuh prayers, and after that continued again until the afternoon, And even their children after returning from school also helped become laborers to tie seaweed ropes to ease the burden on their households.

The adjustment process carried out in navigating their lives is trying to adjust to the family's financial condition, trying to minimize various expenses, and increasing family income to be able to carry out their lives, to adjust to the family's financial condition, in terms of expenses, they sort out based on very vital interests, for example, food needs that are numbered one and other needs are not too much prioritized. As [18], it is argued that the existence of the peasantry involves not merely a relationship between the peasant and the non-peasant, but rather a type of adjustment (adaptation), a communication of attitudes and activities aimed at sustaining the farmer in his efforts to defend himself and others in a social order that threatens their survival.

The diversification of the business carried out is a pattern of adjustment to meet the demands of the needs of life, only by making such efforts can they maintain their lives, this kind of pattern is carried out in order to increase income from the basic work carried out where the results of the basic work have not been able to meet the minimum needs of life, although it has tried to reduce expenses but such efforts are not enough to solve the problem The billowing of kitchen

smoke, therefore, makes adjustments in the form of diversifying efforts to maintain survival and family members. In relation to this [19], it is of the view that the primary purpose of a household is to maintain a degree of subsistence, therefore their pattern of conduct would be incomprehensible without a passion for their domestic activities in an effort to make ends meet. Another form of adjustment that is carried out is to involve family members in economic activities, especially wives, although their contribution to the family economy is smaller than that of men the small amount is very meaningful to the survival and family members.

This is in line with the results of research [20] that the meaning of women's involvement in making a living is crucial (very important) for poor fishing households, especially fishing workers because women's cash contribution to total household income is indeed smaller than men's donations, but the small amount must exist in order for the household to survive. Without the contribution of women, the household economy would falter (collapse), especially in the western (wind) season, when men could not go to sea. The activeness of women in economic activities is one form of adjustment pattern which is a demand of life where they have to work (they have to work) not choose to work (they choose to work) because they do it to maintain survival along with other family members, so in this case, the involvement of women to make a living is crucial.

It should be noted that the role of women in maintaining family survival is very important because it is not only limited to adjustment patterns by helping husbands make a living but also includes adjustment patterns in other forms, namely trying to manage household finances by making adjustments to family income even though such things are only able to provide results to guarantee a living at the level of survival (survival), But such a thing has allowed poor fishermen in the research area to be saved to keep their lives going. This shows that the pattern of adjustment made by women in the household economy largely determines the survival of their family members even though women in economic activities contribute less value than the income of men but at least the family can survive with women's gait in economic activities. Economic needs are inevitable therefore it must always strive in such a way as to meet these needs, the efforts made are to mobilize other family members to work. Although such a strategy has been carried out, they have not been able to adequately meet their needs from the results of the work they do, but such a strategy can reduce the burden on their lives and they can carry out life and their family members by doing this strategy.

Functioning all family members, fathers, mothers, and children, all helping to make a living according to their respective abilities are efforts made to support their family's economy and this is one of the strategies to maintain their survival. The mobilization of family members is carried out in the hope that the economic burden of households can be lighter if carried together. This fact in the face of life's difficulties has made efforts as part of its strategy to maintain its survival by trying to mobilize other family members to help sustain its home life, and something like this is very helpful to household life. Survival is largely determined by the ability to make adjustments to living conditions, when unable to adjust, income will not be balanced with expenses so it will not be able to maintain its life, many things are done in an effort to adjust to family's economic conditions, in addition to reducing the amount of expenditure by getting around the needs of life also diversifying efforts to increase income. As explained by [8] that one of the strategies carried out by the poor to maintain survival is by means of Multiple sources of income such as diversifying businesses or diversifying sources of income in the family, especially regarding various opportunities and abilities that can be utilized through other productive activities or businesses.

Involving all members of his family looking for work, in addition to fishermen as well as collectors and opponents of seaweed ropes to maintain their survival. The above proposition is relevant to the view [21, 22] that the meaning of women's involvement in earning a living is crucial (very important) for poor fishing households, especially fishing workers because women's cash contributions to total household income are indeed smaller than men's donations, but that small amount must exist in order for the household to survive. Without the contribution of women, the household economy would falter (collapse), especially in the western (wind) season, when men could not go to sea.

4. Conclusion

- The diversification of the business carried out is part of the strategy taken in order to continue his life and his family, with poor living conditions always doing various ways to carry out his life, both by diversifying his work and in other ways that he can do to maintain his survival.
- The survival strategy that is carried out is to walk along the beach every morning picking up seaweed that is carried away by the waves and stranded on the seaside then controlling the seaweed he manages and continuing by tying seaweed ropes which also form a side job for him.

- The fact on the ground that fishermen have not only depended on their lives from one source of work or from basic work but have done other work apart from their main work, which is an effort taken to continue to live life with their family members.

Compliance with ethical standards

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Head of the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Hasanuddin University, for their permission to carry out research, and thank you also to all staff who helped carry out this research to the published.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No Conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Alderfer, H.F. Local Governments in Developing Countries. New York: Mc. Graw-Hill. 1964.
- [2] Andriadi. Survival Strategy of Former Lepers Landipokki New Village Kec. Luyo Kab. Maros. Makassar: Hasanuddin University Fisip2002
- [3] Arifin, Ansar. The Pitfalls of Poverty and Structural Violence Behind Pinggawa-Sawi Work Relations. Jakarta: Orbit Press. 2015.
- [4] Asis, Abdul. Karampuang Fishermen's Survival Strategy in Meeting the Needs of Life. Pangadereng Journal, Vol. 5 No. 1, June 2019; 133-145. 2019.
- [5] Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckmann. The Social Interpretation of Reality: A Treatise on the Sociology of Knowledge. Translation. Hasan Basari. Jakarta: LP3ES. 1990.
- [6] [3] Room, Robert. Village Development Begins at the Back. Jakarta: LP3ES. 1987.
- [7] [8] Clark, Mari. H. Women Heads of Households and Poverty in Barbara C. Gelpi et al. Women and Poverty. Chicago: University Press. 1986.
- [8] Contes DC. Dan Sharir. People's Dimensioned Development. Jakarta: Indonesian Torch Foundation. 1980.
- [9] Angle, George. Survival, Interdependence and competition among the Poor in the Philippines; in D.C. Korten and Shahrir. Development with People's dimensions. Jakarta: Indonesian Torch Foundation. 1988.
- [10] Creswell, John W. Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. Yogyakarta: Student Library. 2015.
- [11] Sugiyono. Quantitative, Qualitative and Combination Research Methods (Mixed Methods). London: Alfabeta. 2017.
- [12] Ermayanti, Ermayanti, Nursyirwan Efendi, Muhammad Hidayat. Fishing Technology in Fishing Communities in Nagari Pasar Lama Air Haji, Linggosari Baganti District, South Coast Regency. Jantro: Journal of Anthropology: Socio-Cultural Issues. Vol. 17 No. 1 (2015). 23-38. <https://doi.org/10.25077/jantro.V17.N1.P23-38.2015>
- [13] Gasim, Harson. Evaluation of the Implementation of the Coastal Community Economic Empowerment Program (PEMP) as an Effort to Reduce Poverty in Batudaa Pantai District, Gorontalo Regency. Public: Journal of Administrative Sciences. Volume 6 Number 1. 2017 30- 40 .
- [14] Goso and Anwar, Suhardi M. Traditional Fishermen's Poverty and Its Impact on Slum Development, Journal of Management, Vol. 03 No. 2017.
- [15] Judge, Intended. 2016. Sufism and the Cultural Transformation of Fishermen. Jakarta: Orbit Press.
- [16] Hamzah, Awaluddin, Nurmala K. Pandjaitan, Nuraini W. Prasodjo. 2008. The Response of Fishing Communities to Fisheries Modernization: A Case Study of Bajo Tribe Fishermen in Lagasa Village, Muna Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province. Sodality: A Transdisciplinary Journal of Sociology, Communication, and Human Ecology, Vol. 02, NO. 2. (2008): 191-208.

- [17] Hasibuan, F., S. Widiono, R. Badrudin. Resilience of Fishermen's Family Structure: A Case Study of Fishermen's Families' Response to the Impact of Climate Change on the Lower Market Beach of South Bengkulu. *AGRISEP* 16(2). 2017. 201–210.
- [18] Ivan. Bupati Gorontalo Monitors Social Aid Distribution in Bilato District", <https://pojok6.id/2020/05/12/bupati-gorontalo-pantau-penyaluran-bantuan-sosial-di-kecamatan-bilato/>diunduh March 5, 2021.
- [19] Kandati, F., Mantiri, M., & Moninjta, D. Empowerment of Fishing Communities in South West Siau Subdistrict, Batusenggo Village (A Study at the Peikanan Office, West Siau Islands Regency Tagulandang). 2019. 2(2), 1–8.
- [20] Kusnadi. *The Roots of Fishermen's Poverty*, Yogyakarta: Lkis. 2000.
- [21] Kusnadi. Scarcity of fishery resources and fishermen's poverty: the result of the penetration of capitalism or cultural practices? *Proceedings of the 2016 Marine National Seminar of Trunojoyo Madura University*, 2016.
- [22] Mubyarto. *Fishermen and Poverty. Economic Studies of Anthropology in Two Coastal Villages*. CV Rajawali, Jakarta. 1984.
- [23] Pinem, Eine Yamitha, Widiono, Septri, & Irnad. Structural Poverty of Fishing Communities in Sumber Jaya Village, Kampung Melayu District, Bengkulu City, *Journal of Nusantara Sociology*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2019.