The Sustainability Livelihood Strategy in the Internalization of Gender Role

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Abstract: The sustainability livelihood strategy in the internalization of gender role is critical to the sustainability of the mulberry cultivation and silkworm cultivation (sericulture) in South Sulawesi. The research objective to analyze the sustainable livelihood strategy in the internalization of gender role undertaken by households of sericulture business in Wajo Regency, Indonesia. This study is a qualitative descriptive study with case studies approach. There are nine informants as a member of the family sericulture employers. The results showed that there were four kinds sustainability strategy to maintain the production silkworm. The first plan is internally by increasing cropping area, taking or buying feed (mulberry leaf) and reducing agricultural inputs. Second by vertical solidarity strategy with receiving seeds assistance from the government. Thirdly approach is horizontal solidarity by making the system entrusted maintenance of silkworm. The last policy is asset accumulation or buying garden. The procedure of sustainability livelihood showed balanced role between husband and wife. Man’s role in the approach of production and accumulation strategy while the woman’s role in production strategy, vertical solidarity strategy, and the strategy of horizontal solidarity.

Keywords: Strategy, Silkworm Cultivation, Gender

1. Introduction

The issue of women's empowerment and gender equality is at the top of agendas across the world, as gender inequality is widespread in all cultures. In developing countries, gender disparity is highly rampant compared to the developed countries[1]. Most importantly, in Ethiopia, gender-based discrimination and inequalities are very much apparent, although the government is working aggressively towards alleviating such problems. As a result, low empowerment of women and high gender gap still impede the development process of the country[2]. Even though the state is on the path of development in various respects, the likelihood of its sustainability is in question, given such a significant gender disparity. Hence, this study reveals the need to empower women and achieve gender equality for the sustainable development of the country.

Research on gender is not a new problem, either in social studies, legal, religious. However, research on gender remains actual and exciting, given the many challenges that may occur in the gender issues. The theory about sex revealed that sex is not only about biological differences but by the socio-cultural, political and economic. Gender also related to construction social on the socio-cultural values. Many types of research about sexuality described the different role of women and men in the individual life and the field of society[3]–[19].

Indonesia with its abundant natural resources that overflow, develop a variety of efforts to use natural resources in fulfilling their daily lives. Community with support capabilities and proprietary technologies made significant efforts to achieve prosperity. Sericulture business is a series of business activities include mulberry cultivation and silkworms’ maintenance (silkworms breeding, silkworm feed, and caterpillar’s maintenance activities to form a cocoon). This effort included the household business is relatively easy to do, simple technology, labor-intensive and fast earning to income. The human factor is crucial is observed in addition to technical factors for the success of sericulture business. Though sericulture business is not just a woman's job, it can be done by men and women both skilled and unskilled[19].

Sericulture business in the WajoRegency become the supporting of natural silk business. The role of women and men actively encourage that effort. The study results[20], shows that women contribute to ± 50 percent to ± 60 percent in the work of mulberry cultivation and silkworm maintenance. The problem who wants to be appointed by the investigators is how the strategy of sustainable livelihood of mulberry cultivation and silkworm maintenance (sericulture) in the internalization of gender roles.

The critical sericulture business in support of family welfare in WajoRegency as the area's largest producer of natural silk in South Sulawesi, while the sub-district that elected is the Sabbangparu sub-district based on the consideration that the local centers of production of mulberry and silkworm. The research was conducted in July 2014June 2015. While the informant determined by engineering a snowball sampling until indicating the level of information overload. Informants are taken a member of the household (husband, wife, family members of male and female) sericulture business as much as nine-households. This research uses qualitative data with analysis model Taxonomy[21] and using three phases of activity analysis of data.
reduction (data reduction), exposure (data display), and conclusion and verification (conclusion drawing/verifying) [21].

3. Result and Discussions

The SL framework places people, particularly rural poor people, at the center of a web of inter-related influences that affect how these people create a livelihood for themselves and their households. Closest to the people in the middle of the framework is the resources and livelihood assets that they have access to and use. These can include natural resources, technologies, their skills, knowledge and capacity, their health, access to education, sources of credit, or their networks of social support. The extent of their access to these assets strongly influenced by their vulnerability context, which takes account of trends (for example, economic, political, technological), shocks (for example, epidemics, natural disasters, civil strife) and seasonality (for example, prices, production, employment opportunities). Access also influenced by the prevailing social, institutional, and political environment, which affects how people combine and use their assets to achieve their goals. These are their livelihood strategies

Moreover, if one seeks sustainable people-centered development within a country, there is a need to have a fair representation of women across different levels of decision-making and different level of lively hood structure and its functions in the community.

Their equal representation is indispensable to obtaining all-inclusive decisions in the community strategy to improve their lively community hoods. By inclusivechoice, the researcher means one that reflects the idea and protects the interest of all stakeholders, most importantly of both genders. It is apparent that to reach a fair decision that equally protects the interests of women, the mostly male-dominated political system should be changed to allow women to have a say about their lives as well as the political system of their country [22], [23]. Otherwise, there will be no representative ideas, and protection of the interest of all citizens and the overall political process will be one-sided pushing, women out of the pathway; this will undoubtedly adversely affect any efforts to achieve sustainable development

Various strategies of sustainability livelihood played by the household of mulberry cultivation and silkworm maintenance (sericulture) business in Sambangparu sub-district in fulfilling the needs of his family can see in Table 1.

3.1. Production Strategy

Some of the strategies undertaken by the household of sericulture business, namely: to increase the areal extents mulberry plants, buy feed (mulberry leaf) and reduce of agricultural inputs. Furthermore, the dominant role in the activities of mulberry plants to more areas in the garden is a husband or male family members in the household. While strategies taking mulberry leaves of BPA or buy mulberry leaves to the neighbors is a response and attempt to adapt themselves to the crisis, in which the action is performed to survive [24]. As for the role in the activities taking of mulberry leaves at BPA or buy feeds is carried out jointly between husband and wife, or male household members. Meanwhile, strategies to reduce of agricultural inputs that applied by the home of sericulture business as an adaptation to the ecology to minimize farming cost [25].

3.2. Vertical Solidarity Strategy

Vertical solidarity strategy shows how the alliance system that built on a different social structure. Moreover, to bring about social development, removing the poorly socialized stereotyped perception of society towards women is also equally important. Gender is a socially and culturally constructed identity[26].

Culture and social practices determine the lesser role, jobs, and status ascribed to Wajo women, whereas they were not born for that. The stereotyped perception of society towards women is detrimental to the well-being of women, and all other efforts would not solve gender inequality efficiently. For instance, the current government of Ethiopia is working aggressively on the protection and promotion of women's rights and gender equality, deeply rooted cultural attitudes still impede any practical effects[27].

This strategy is receiving assistance silkworm seeds free of government Wajo Regency that channeled through the Natural Silk Hall (BPA) or PerumPerhutani. This procedure is an adaptation in an attempt to reduce farming costs [25], with the use of social networks [28]. It can because due to capital constraints of their businesses, so they use of agricultural inputs such as aid silkworms seed of Wajo
District Government. However, the exciting part of this study, based on interviews that although eventually, assistance in the form of seeds caterpillars do not exist anymore, they would maintain silkworm because this business can supplement the family income. While the role of gender in the strategy of the dominant vertical solidarity played by the wife.

3.3. Horizontal Solidarity Strategy

Horizontal solidarity strategy emphasizes how social capital built on the level of Social Bounding [29]. Parallel solidarity strategy the form entrusted system of silkworm maintenance that starts from feeding until the harvest (cocoon production) performed by others at the place of business of the person with production gains divided by two. While the role of gender in the horizontal solidarity strategies are played together between husband and wife.

3.4. Accumulation Strategy

Accumulation strategy is livelihood strategy that performed by the household with utilizing the excess (surplus) revenue generated to develop the business [30] or build their assets [24]. Houses of sericulture business undertook accumulation strategy is buying garden planted with mulberry and palm to supplement household income where this approach played by the husband.

4. Conclusions

Strategies of sustainability households of the mulberry cultivation and silkworm raising namely:

1) Production strategy by:
   - Adding acreage of crops
   - Take or buy feed (mulberry leaf)
   - Reduce of agricultural inputs by using family labor, do not do rejuvenation mulberry plants, and do not do/reduce fertilization
2) Vertical solidarity strategy by receiving aid silkworms seed.
3) Horizontal solidarity strategy by doing entrusted system of silkworm maintenance
4) Accumulated plan to acquire assets or develop assets.

Gender roles in the sustainable livelihood strategy are the dominant player by husband and wife then the men family members. Husband's role in the plan of production and accumulation strategy while the woman's role in production strategy, vertical solidarity strategy, and the strategy of horizontal solidarity.

References


