

# SOCIAL LIFE OF WOMEN OF STONE MINING IN GORONTALO DISTRICT

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**Submission date:** 24-Mar-2023 01:45AM (UTC-0500)

**Submission ID:** 2045215461

**File name:** document\_1.pdf (500.34K)

**Word count:** 3826

**Character count:** 19125

## SOCIAL LIFE OF WOMEN OF STONE MINING IN GORONTALO DISTRICT

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### ARTICLE INFO.

#### Keywords:

**Woman, Miner, Rock**

### Abstract

<sup>21</sup>  
This study aims to determine how the role of housewives in improving family welfare in Didingga Village, Biau District, North Gorontalo Regency. The method used in this research is qualitative using a descriptive approach. Data collection in this study was carried out by means of observation, interviews and documentation. Based on the results of research that has been carried out regarding "Women Mining Stone" in Didingga Village, Biau District, North Gorontalo Regency, apart from being housewives, women also work to help their husbands in improving family welfare, either to supplement or finance their daily needs, education of their children, and so forth. The family income of a female stone miner shows that the economic contribution of a female stone miner (wife) in the family is very significant in helping to meet the basic needs of the family. If only relying on the husband's income as the head of the family who is responsible for fulfilling a living, it is certain that some basic family needs cannot be met, only enough to function as a livelihood. The phenomenon of women's involvement in the stone mining business in Didingga village can be seen from the role of women which can be divided into two main roles, namely the role of breadwinners and the role of the household (dual role). Factors that cause women to work as stone miners are the lack of economy, education, and the findings or things that are interesting is empathy for partners. These factors are the main factors in the life of a stone miner's family why they engage in this work.

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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with abundant natural resources. However, there are still many Indonesians who live below the poverty line, especially in rural areas. It is very interesting to discuss, the various policy methods carried out by the regional government and the central government to reduce poverty, but from year to year there is no significant change.

In connection with that in rural areas the narrowing of agricultural land and the development of

rice farming technology in the fields, resulting in a decrease in women's employment opportunities in the agricultural sector. Women lose the opportunity to be agricultural laborers at the time of planting and harvesting. Therefore they need other alternatives to get jobs outside of agriculture. Against the background of the high rate of poverty in rural areas and the difficulty of obtaining material pleasures such as clothing, food and shelter, when the situation and condition of a family is in a state of deprivation, it requires the involvement of all elements of the family to improve the family economy, including the participation of a woman/ wife.

According to Abdullah, (2003) that the field of work chosen by village women is generally as a worker or laborer. He further explained that the involvement of women in family economic activities is influenced by several factors, first; economic pressure. Second; there are no other job opportunities that match his skills. And the third; is a very supportive family environment at work (Abdullah, 2003: 222-226). On the other hand, Aryunis (2003) argues that currently issues regarding the role of women in the public sector have never disappeared from the conversation, women in public life are still considered as complementary. However, since the 21st century the imbalance in assessing women has begun to fade, this is due to the increasingly skilled women in entering the public sector (Aryunis 2003:1)

Through the participation of women in the world of work and the increasingly skilled women in the public sector, it is also inseparable from the economic demands of the family, this condition has become a common reality in people's lives, both in urban and rural areas. When the situation and condition of a family is in a state of shortage, it causes one of the driving factors for women to appear and act as agents of the household economy.

Based on the initial observations that researchers did in Didingga Village, this area is currently one of the areas where the community uses rock mining to help the family's economy. In the village there is a river and plantation land that can be used for materials such as stone, this is then done by women there who work as stone miners. This work generates a fairly large wage, but the timing of the demand for people who buy stones is uncertain so that their income is also uncertain as a result they are still unable to meet their household needs. Apart from working as stone miners, women there also have to cook food for their families, take care of their children and husbands like other housewives.

. The work as a stone miner is accepted by women there because they do not have expertise in other jobs, although in essence working as a stone miner is heavy and even work that must be done by men. From this condition, researchers are interested in studying more deeply about the role of housewives in improving family welfare in order to get clarity in detail about "Women Mining Stone".

## RESEARCH METHODS

5 The research method used in this study uses qualitative research methods. Qualitative research is by looking at the object of study as seen from a system, meaning that the object of study is seen as a unit consisting of interrelated elements and describing existing phenomena (Arikunto, 2002: 7).

According to John W. Creswell in Patilima (2011: 11) defines a qualitative approach as a process of inquiry to understand social problems or human problems based on the creation of a holistic picture formed by words, reporting the views of informants in detail, and arranged in a scientific setting. . Qualitative research aims to reveal events that occur in the field, does not aim to make measurements using statistical procedures in explaining research results.

## RESEARCH APPROACH

This research approach uses a descriptive research approach. Descriptive research approach is a research approach to problems in the form of current facts from a population which includes activities to assess attitudes or opinions towards individuals, organizations, circumstances, or procedures

(Sangadji and Sopiah, 2010: 21).

8 According to Soewadji (2012: 27) that the purpose of the descriptive research approach is to collect detailed actual information that describes the existing symptoms, identify problems or examine conditions and prevailing practices, make comparisons or evaluations, and determine what other people are doing in their research. faced similar problems and learned from their experiences to make plans and decisions in the future. Descriptive analysis is examining an object by describing how the implications of local taxes and regional levies are based on applicable legal regulations.

## SOURCES OF RESEARCH DATA

### Primary data

Primary data is data obtained directly from the field either through observation or through interviews with informants. The primary data collection method was carried out by means of direct interviews with female stone miners.

### Secondary Data

Secondary data is data obtained in writing and used for the object of research by using various library references as a research framework. For example: internet, journals, thesis and so on.

## DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE

### Observation

11 Observation can be interpreted as systematic observation and recording of the phenomena being investigated or being researched (Patilima, 2011: 24-25). Researchers make observations or observations directly in the field by observing directly the problems to be studied and recording things related to research problems and which are considered important.

### Interview

An interview is a conversation with a specific purpose. The conversation was carried out by two parties, namely the interviewer who asked the question and the interviewee who provided the answer to the question (Moleong, 2002:20).

### Documentation

15 Document is any written material or written source film which can be divided into sources of books and scientific magazines, sources from archives, personal documents, and official documents (Moleong, 2002:54).

## DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE

### Data reduction

Data reduction is the selection, concentration, attention to simplification and transformation of rough data that emerges from notes and is written in the field with the aim of facilitating understanding of the collected data.

### Data Presentation

Presentation of data is a set of structured information that gives the possibility of drawing conclusions and taking action.

### Conclusion / Verification

Conclusion or verification is part of a complete configuration activity. This conclusion is made based on an understanding of the data that has been presented and made in a short and easy-to-understand statement with reference to the subject matter studied.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. The Process of Mining Stone in Didingga Village.

The stone mining process in Didingga village has been carried out for a long time. From the

beginning until now mining activities have been carried out using simple equipment, such as using a crowbar to pick up stones that are embedded in the ground in a fairly swift current of the river and then being lifted or carried ashore to a shelter or on the riverbank. One of the factors that influence stone mining activities in Didingga village is the summer season, which is the season when the miners have no problems while mining. However, during the rainy season the miners cannot carry out their activities because the river and being one of the mining locations often floods,

<sup>15</sup> Women do the stone mining process every day at different times. Some work for 5 to 7 hours, some work 8 hours a day and some even work 10 hours a day, because apart from working as a stone miner, some are also involved in loading stones into stone trucks to get extra wages.

## **2. Women are Directly Involved in Mining Stone in Improving Family Welfare**

In working to mine stone, these women only rely on physical strength, so age is an important factor that determines the continuity of the activity. Female stone miners have to work to earn income to fulfill their household needs. Livelihoods will depend on the availability of resources in the area, when resources are increasingly limited residents try to carry out any activities to meet household needs. Women face a tough challenge because from the start they were not required to be the main breadwinners. The situation forces women as the main breadwinners after there is no longer a husband as the main breadwinner in their families. Limited job opportunities are faced with increasing life needs,

Actually, rock mining is a job that is commonly done by men, but due to the poor family economy, it requires them to work as stone miners to help the family economy. It is not without reason that men are physically stronger than women, while access from rock mining has to raise stones to land and then be taken by stone buyers who go there every day to pick up and pay for the stones to the miners.

Basically, women are the most vulnerable to experiencing problems in the family, both in urban and rural areas. Moreover, she is a woman who works in helping her husband to fulfill family life. In line with what was conveyed by Talcott Parson (Umar 1999), that the division of roles based on gender is a natural thing, a balanced division of labor in the family creates a harmonious husband-wife relationship. On the other hand, if there are deviations or overlaps between these functions, the stability of the family will be disturbed (Umar 1999:13).

In the context of a stone miner's family where according to this theory emphasizes each family member to live his life according to the roles and functions that he must carry out in the family. Broadly speaking, the husband is the breadwinner, and the mother is the caregiver or housewife. The role referred to here is the allocation of tasks and activities that must be carried out in the family. While the function is the contribution or contribution of the part so that the balance of the system can be achieved, both at the individual, family and community levels. A person's position in the family will determine his function. However, this difference in position and function is not to fulfill the interests of the individual concerned, but to achieve the goals of the system as a whole. Of course, this structure and function will never be separated from the influence of culture, norms, and values that underlie the social system. The family structure shapes its ability to function effectively. The nuclear family consisting of a man (husband) the breadwinner and a woman (wife) a housewife is the most suitable for meeting the needs of members and the family as a system. However, there are many realities that exist that the roles and functions of men have been carried out by women, namely as housewives in the family and as breadwinners. The same is the case with some women in Didingga village who carry out these roles and functions where apart from being a housewife, they also make a living, namely as stone miners. The nuclear family consisting of a man (husband) who is the breadwinner and a woman (wife) a housewife



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### **3. Factors Causing the Implementation of Stone Mining Activities in Didingga Village, Biau District**

#### **1. Economic Factor**

The female stone miners involved in this work are driven by the husband's low income, thus making them work as stone miners. The husband's low economic condition encourages the wives or women of stone miners to participate in earning income by changing their role from the domestic sector (in the household) to the public sector (outside the household). Women stone miners have a high sensitivity and concern for their husbands and especially for the education of their children, even though every day they are tired of working and struggling to mine stones but they are aware that education is the best medium and advice to achieve a better life and achieve a better life. bright for their children.

#### **2. Educational Factor**

Education is one of the factors that a person has in improving social status in society. And the level of education affects a person because the higher the education, the higher the job opportunities that will be obtained by that person, because education is a science, a skill, which makes people think broadly and have skills in expertise. However, unlike women who work as miners in Didingga village, they choose to work as stone miners because they do not have a high enough education so that their job opportunities can only work as stone miners which does not require them to have an educational background. Because they only have low education, limited knowledge,

#### **3. Empathy towards your partner**

These female stone miners have their own reasons why they work as stone miners. One of them makes excuses for pity (empathy) for a husband who has worked hard but with insufficient income as a motivator for them to want to work as a stone miner. There is cooperation between husband and wife in building a household as stated above, this This is due to the empathy that appears in the wife towards her husband because the husband's income is only mediocre. So 'empathy' is one of the themes found in this study. This feeling of empathy is the main key to household sustainability in responding to the shortages in the family of female stone miners in Didingga village.

#### 4. The Dual Role of Women in Didingga Village

The work of a stone miner is not directly a compulsion for some families who depend on mining for their lives. The necessities of life that continue to run while on the other hand their low education, and do not have enough skills other than mining and being a laborer have become a factor in the emergence of dual roles for women in Didingga village. playing two roles at once (dual role) namely as stone miners and as laborers to plant corn, they are willing to work for a living as stone miners and laborers to meet the needs of their families.

This is also in line with Ahdiah's statement (Dian Nianti Teman 2020) where a person rarely occupies only one role in his activities, by assuming one or two roles at once, he will create a lot of burdens that must be carried out, so that sometimes it causes contradictions between these roles. Ahdiah (Dian Nianti Friends 2020:75). It is the same with women stone miners in Didingga village where they will face conflicting expectations and demands related to their roles as wives, mothers and their work in society. In general, women in carrying out their roles starting from carrying out their roles in the domestic and public spheres in society depend on the culture of the community in which they live.

However, in reality, it is the female stone miners in Didingga village that they assume more of the public role, so that it will be more difficult for them in the work structure to get a higher education. Female stone miners admit that they are used to carrying out their dual roles, namely as stone miners and also as laborers to plant corn without neglecting their role as housewives. the mining sector to meet the needs of the family when they are not mining for stone. The agricultural sector is the land for these female stone miners to support their family household income when they have not yet mined stone.

This work in the agricultural sector is one of the side jobs of women stone miners, to support their family's economic income when they are not mining stones. The lack of available job opportunities and the lack of skills, plus the lack of capital if they want to do other businesses are a reality that women stone miners have to face. The husband's job, who is also only a temporary laborer, makes the income earned by the stone miner's family also unable to stay. This job as a laborer is a job that helps them when they can't mine stones and this work is also a calling job, if later neighbors or people need their help or services.

#### 5. Decision Making of Female Stone Miners in Public Areas

Decision-making in the public domain for the families of female stone miners in Didingga village is more focused on the economic sector. This is motivated by the assumption that the families of female stone miners are more involved in this field than other fields such as health, education, politics, the environment and so on. The economic field here is related to the decision to work for a living. The wife's decision to earn a living through mining activities is generally taken jointly between the wife and husband, although the idea arises from the wife who feels empathy for her husband who has a low income. in family. The status of women as breadwinners then gives birth to new powers for women to make their own decisions regarding their work without having to ask their husbands for permission first. wives together in making decisions without losing their respective roles. This pattern shows the role partnership between men and women in everyday life, both in the domestic and in the public sphere. This gender partnership is reflected in access to and control of family resources,

#### Conclusion

The results of the family income of female stone miners show that the economic contribution of female stone miners (wife) in the family is very significant in helping to meet the basic needs of the family. On average, women who work as stone miners earn as much as IDR 100,000-150,000 per day. If collected per week Rp.600,000.00 - Rp.1,000.00 and the income is able to help meet the needs of the

family, both **daily** needs and children's school needs. If only relying on the husband's income as the head of the family who is responsible for fulfilling a living, it is certain that some basic family needs cannot be met, only enough to function as a livelihood.

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