

Scavenger Women's Strategy in Fulfilling Family Economy in Makassar City

Nur Ikhsan^a, Mardiana Ethrawaty Fachry^b, Mansyur Radjab^c

^{a)} Hasanuddin University Graduate School, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

^{b)} Faculty of Marine Sciences and Fisheries, Department of Socio Economics, Hasanuddin University, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

^{c)} Faculty of Social and Politics, Department of Sociology, Hasanuddin University, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan. e-mail: mardianaethra@gmail.com

Abstract

Poverty is still a problem in urban areas. Limited skills and employment have caused women from poor families to also seek work as scavengers or collectors of waste and used goods to help support their family's economy. This study aims to find the characteristics of female scavengers in responding to the phenomenon of poor women in fulfilling their family's economy. The involvement of children under five in the scavenging process is also a review in finding the distribution of gender roles in scavenger households. This research was conducted in Makassar City using a qualitative approach. Data was obtained from 25 families of female scavengers. The results of the study found that female scavengers aged between 23 and 45 years with an education level of not having finished elementary school were 20%. graduated from elementary school 72% and junior high school 8%. Age of family between 4 to 18 years, with an average dependent of 3 children. In scavenging activities involving children aged between 1 and 5 years which is a domestic role and a strategy to get additional income from the compassion of the community. The average income of a scavenger family is between Rp. 1,200.00 to Rp. 2,050,000. Family expenses consist of basic needs in the form of consumption 28.5%, needs for children under five 24.4% and paying debts 13.3%. Scavenger women make an economic contribution to the family between 40% and 77%. The involvement of children under five in the scavenging process is a form of child exploitation, which has not yet become the attention of the Makassar city government. In scavenging activities involving children aged between 1 and 5 years which is a domestic role and a strategy to get additional income from the compassion of the community. The average income of a scavenger family is between Rp. 1,200.00 to Rp. 2,050,000. Family expenses consist of basic needs in the form of consumption 28.5%, needs for children under five 24.4% and paying debts 13.3%. Scavenger women make an economic contribution to the family between 40% and 77%. The involvement of children under five in the scavenging process is a form of child exploitation, which has not yet become the attention of the Makassar city government. In scavenging activities involving children aged between 1 and 5 years which is a domestic role and a strategy to get additional income from the compassion of the community. The average income of a scavenger family is between Rp. 1,200.00 to Rp. 2,050,000. Family expenses consist of basic needs in the form of consumption 28.5%, needs for children under five 24.4% and paying debts 13.3%. Scavenger women make an economic contribution to the family between 40% and 77%. The involvement of children under five in the scavenging process is a form of child exploitation, which has not yet become the attention of the Makassar city government. Family expenses consist of basic needs in the form of consumption 28.5%, needs for children under five 24.4% and paying debts 13.3%. Scavenger women make an economic contribution to the family between 40% and 77%. The involvement of children under five in the scavenging process is a form of child exploitation, which has not yet become the attention of the Makassar city government.

Keyword: children under five, economic contribution, scavengers, the role of women

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a problem in urban areas, Makassar City Statistical Data shows an increase in poor people of around 4.17% or 74,690 people over the last 3 years (BPS, 2021). This is caused by various factors such as lack of employment, low skills and education and the presence of covid at the end of 2019 to 2022. The impact of the pandemic is very large on the economic role of women. In Indonesia 53.79% of MSMEs are owned by women with 97% of the female workforce. Economically, the contribution of women to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 61%, even so, unemployment in Indonesia will still reach 8.42 million in 2021.

The development of people who work as scavengers is one result of the problem of poverty found in big cities, including in Makassar. The number of scavengers who are members of the Indonesian Scavenger Association (IPI) in 2019 has reached 3.7 million members from 25 provinces, and 5 provinces have not been recorded. This number also does not include unrecorded scavengers.

The involvement of women in the household economy is a productive role that has become part of life in urban areas. Increasing family needs is the main basis for women to work apart from carrying out their roles in domestic and social aspects. The main cause of women (wives) working is due to insufficient husband income (Ramadani (2016) and Kauntu and Suraya (2018)). As well as a relatively large number of dependents in poor families. Based on known data, women's contribution to the family economy reaches 40-77%.

In addition, limited skills, education and capital make them enter the informal sector, such as becoming scavengers. Jobs that deal with garbage, dirty, full of flies and maggots they ignore for the sake of getting money. Therefore, scavenging is the job that is rated the lowest, without skills and only done by those who do not have access to other jobs. The work of collecting waste from used goods that can still be used for sale is a job that is starting to develop and is being carried out by many poor women in Makassar City. One characteristic of their activities is that they involve children aged under five using carts or some kind of means of conveying goods when scavenging. The phenomenon of involving toddlers in productive activities is a strategy for scavenger families to get money from the community. This can be seen by the increasing number of young children as beggars or vendors of various food products on the streets.

Scavenging by involving children under five is part of the behavior of adult beggars who use children to get money. Which in turn will create street children as breadwinners. Street children become urban communities and become one of the characteristics of poverty in urban life. This research describes the life of scavenger women in their contribution to the family economy by involving children to maintain the sustainability of life in Makassar City.

2. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with a type of phenomenology (Moleong, 2010) which aims to understand the behavior of women's scavenger families involving toddlers in earning income. Sampling by purposive sampling and snowball. In the snowball technique, at first the researcher selected informants randomly and then the researcher headed to the next informant with the help of the first informant. The total number of informant families selected was 25 families consisting of female scavengers and scavenger husbands.

Data analysis used the interactive model Milles and Huberman (2014). That is analyzing the data through three steps, namely first; data condensation (data condensation), secondly presenting data (data display), and thirdly drawing conclusions or verification (conclusion drawing and verification). Data condensation refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming data.

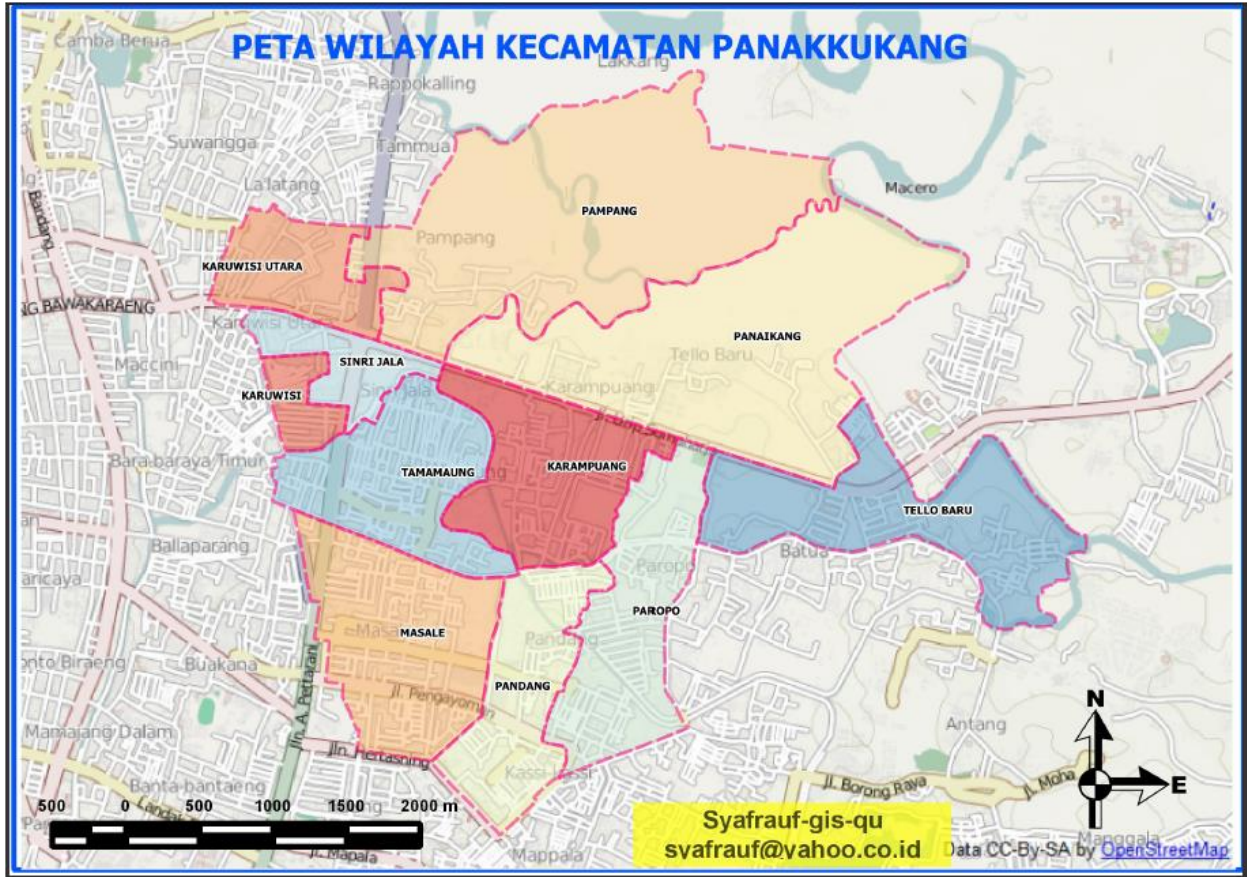


Figure 1 The location of research (Panakkukang District, Makassar City)

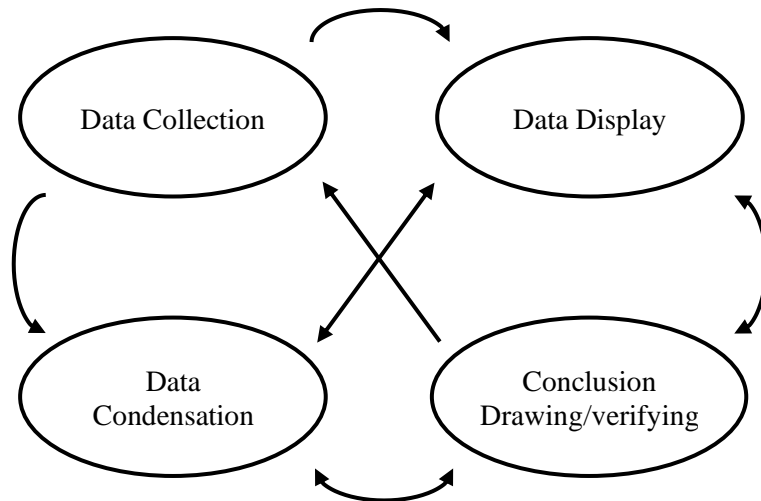


Figure 2 Interactive Model of Data Analysis (Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, 2014)

Table 1 Primary Data Collection Matrix on Female Scavenger Families

No	Informant/ respondent	Variables	Data collection method	Data analysis
1.	Scavenger Woman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of female scavengers • The background of being a scavenger is bringing children under five • Domestic and productive roles (public) carried out • Scavenger household expenses • Family economic contribution 	Interview man in using a guide	Interactive model of data analysis (Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, 2014)
2.	The husband of a female scavenger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of the husband scavenger • The role in RT (domestic and productive) • Income/support for the family economy 	Deep interview	Interview guide and observation sheet

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The monetary crisis that occurred in 1998 had an impact on all sectors, especially the economy, which caused widespread unemployment and poverty. Poverty that occurs causes social phenomena to emerge, one of which is an increase in the number of workers in the informal sector, such as beggars, homeless people and street children (Directorate General of Social Rehabilitation, Ministry of Social Affairs 2019). According to Dimas (2013) the factors that cause begging activities are entangled in economic problems. Meanwhile, according to Isti (2012) the factors that cause a person to beg are due to the powerlessness experienced by people who have difficulty meeting their daily family needs. Because they do not have the ability to earn income and become a group that cannot get out of the poverty cycle. The poor have no hope of progressing and developing due to their lack of education, skills and impact on business motivation which can become habitual and entrenched. The inheritance of the culture of poverty will be more lasting because one of the characteristics of culture is that it can be learned (Koentjaraningrat, 2002).

Scavengers are an example of informal sector activities in urban areas. Scavengers collect used goods because there is demand from industries that recycle used materials. (Etna 2019) The presence of scavengers is based on their previous unfavorable work experience, due to lack of income, and difficulty finding a more decent job. Thus, there is a tendency for the background of female scavengers to be similar, such as the husband's non-permanent job (daily labor), the reasons for taking their under-five children into scavenging, and the size of their contribution to the family's economy.

Characteristics of female scavengers

Characteristic factors such as age, education and family responsibilities are strong factors in supporting someone to choose a job. According to Selvia Aprilyanti (2017), age greatly influences work productivity Productive age usually has a higher level of productivity compared to older workers, because their physique becomes weak and limited (Tanto et al (2012), & Mahendra & Woyanti (2014). The results of the study illustrate that female scavengers and their husbands are of a productive age and are still

relatively young, namely 30 years to 45 years. With an education level not graduating from elementary school, this is the reason for the difficulty for scavenger families to access more decent jobs. There are average family responsibilities. an average of 3 people, this amount is enough to be a burden for poor families, which can result in children not being able to continue their education and become successors to their parents' work as scavengers and daily laborers. This is what is intended as the inheritance of a culture of poverty. Therefore, it is very necessary to have government intervention or NGO institutions in empowering children of scavengers. One of the existing policies is Regional Regulation (Perda) Number 2 of 2008 concerning the Development of street children, homeless people, beggars and buskers using street children approach models. However, this policy was made in the context of creating order and reducing public anxiety due to acts of violence that have the potential to be committed by homeless children and beggars, so that it does not touch on efforts to empower children and their families.

Scavenger women and the family economy

The involvement of women in economic activities in helping to support the family. This does not only happen to poor families but also to middle-income families due to increasingly complex needs. In addition, the role of women in the productive sector is the actualization of women's roles besides the domestic role. This role has shown that women have made a very meaningful contribution to their families and the economic development of society. This is in line with Djuenedi (2018) who found that women's involvement in earning a living is not only to meet economic needs but as a desire to work.

Based on the research results, it is known that the main reason for women to become scavengers is the economic factor (68%). Apart from that, being a scavenger is also caused by having been a job since childhood, following the work of his parents (12.%) as shown in the following table.

Tabel 2 The reason for women to become scavengers is to involve bakita children

Reasons to be a scavenger	Amount	Percentage
Fulfilling family needs	17	68.0
No jobs can be accessed	3	12.0
Lacks the skills for a better job	2	8.0
Been scavenging since childhood	3	12.0
Amount	25	100

It was also found that to decide to work as scavengers, respondents made observations and sought information from other scavenger workers. Decision making is taken through the process

Awareness and assessment regarding the amount of income to be earned, the time to be used, the location and distance of scavenging activities to the risks that will occur if you become a scavenger. This process in economic sociology theory is an individual's choice influenced by other individuals or groups to become part of the work as a scavenger. The results of the study found that 64% obtained information from friends, 24% from husbands and the rest from personal experience (12%). This illustrates that outside information is very influential in decision making.

The income earned from scavenger work is uncertain, because it really depends on the availability of waste or used goods at the search location. Plastic and cardboard as well as bottles that are still fit for sale are objects of scavenging activities. The price of junk goods varies, for example, the price of plastic bottles per kilogram at the collector level ranges from Rp. 2,000 to Rp. 3,000. Plastic bags cost IDR 250 to 1,500 and various bottles can reach IDR 3,500 to IDR 6,000 (Lusi, 2020)

The results of this scavenging are considered to be sufficient to help the family's economy, in addition to the income from husbands who generally work as non-permanent daily labourers. The income of scavenger families can be averaged in a month between Rp. 1,200,000 to Rp. 2,050,000. This is in line

with Hendry's research (2020) on the income of scavengers in Jakarta which shows that 80% of scavengers' income comes from selling plastic (hard and soft plastic), followed by metal in the form of cans and iron with 3.7%, glass bottles with 2.7%, 2% aluminum, 1.6% rubber and 0.6% paper. The average household income of scavengers is IDR 2,632,824 per month.

From the expenditure aspect, scavenger households have the largest expenditure composition on basic needs, namely consumption (28.5%) and the needs of children under five to buy milk and snacks (24.4%), housing costs (23.7%) and education costs (9.0%). In addition, scavenger families have loans from other scavengers or used goods collectors (13.3%). Which illustrates the very apprehensive economic conditions of a scavenger's family.

The Contribution of Women Scavengers to the Family Economy

The large role of women scavengers in the family economy is a form of women's strategy in supporting the sustainability of their household life. This is closely related to the husband's job as a scavenger husband as a non-permanent daily worker. So that in a month there may be no income that the scavenger husband gets. Therefore, scavenging is a woman's strategy to support her family's economy. The contribution of women to the family economy is shown in the following graph.

More details are shown in the following table.

Table 3 The contribution of women scavengers to the RT economy

Husband Average Income	Scavenger Income (Rp)/week	Total Income of Scavenger Family (Rp/mg)	Wife's contribution (scavenger in %)	Number of respondents
1,400,000	650,000	2,050,000	31,7	8
1,000,000	720,000	1,720,000	72.0	11
800,000	600,000	1,400,000	75.0	33
650,000	500,000	1,200,000	77,7	2

Primary data sources will be processed in 2021

Scavenger woman strategy

The size of the family's dependents and routine expenses that must be incurred every month such as consumption needs, house rent, electricity and water costs are demands that must be met. Several strategies are used by scavenger women to get money, namely working from 06.00 to 22.00 at night so that a greater amount of used goods worth selling can be obtained. According to research by Rudito (2020) that scavengers in big cities can obtain between 5 and 15 kg of plastic and the like per day. 100% bring their toddlers in the trash cart to get mercy and 84% borrow money from fellow scavengers or collectors with the obligation to repay the loan per day with an additional of around 5 to 10%.

4. CONCLUSION

From an economic perspective, work in the informal sector, namely waste management, can create jobs and generate significant economic income, especially for residents who cannot work in other formal sectors due to limited education and expertise, in this case female scavengers.

The contribution of women scavengers to the household economy is quite large in supporting the income of their husbands, who are generally daily workers with irregular income.

The strategy for women scavengers in maintaining their family's economy is by carrying out full repatriation every day involving children under five as a source of income even though this is a form of exploitation.

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