



# Empowering women for conflict resolution: A case study on Laiya Island, Pangkep Regency, Indonesia

Dwia Aries Tine Pulubuhu <sup>a,1</sup>, R. Rahmatia <sup>b,2</sup>, Sherry Adeli <sup>c,3</sup>, S. Seniwati <sup>d,4\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Sociology Department, Social and Political Sciences Faculty, Universitas Hasanuddin, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan KM.10, Makassar, South Sulawesi 90245, Indonesia

<sup>b</sup> Economic Department, Economic Science Faculty, Universitas Hasanuddin, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan KM.10, Makassar, South Sulawesi 90245, Indonesia

<sup>c</sup> Economic Department, Economic and Business Faculty, Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar, Jl. Sultan Alauddin No.259, Makassar, South Sulawesi 90245, Indonesia

<sup>d</sup> International Relations Department, Social and Political Sciences Faculty, Universitas Hasanuddin, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan KM.10, Makassar, South Sulawesi 90245, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup> dwiatn@yahoo.com; <sup>2</sup> rahmatiayunus@gmail.com; <sup>3</sup> sherryadeli@unismuh.ac.id; <sup>4</sup> seniwati@unhas.ac.id \*

\* Corresponding author

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article history</b>            Received: 2023-06-11            Revised: 2023-06-27            Accepted: 2023-08-14            Published: 2023-09-22</p> <p><b>Keywords</b>            CPCD            Conflict            Laiya Island            MSMEs            Women's Empowerment</p>	<p><i>This study aimed to enhance public awareness regarding conflict identification and encourage the adoption of suitable resolution strategies. The community service initiative employed a training approach, engaging a group of 52 women on Laiya Island, Pangkep Regency, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Furthermore, this activity was a collaboration between CPCD (Center for Peace, Conflict, and Democracy) Hasanuddin University and the Pangkep District Fisheries Service. The results showed that an effective measure for conflict prevention entailed the empowerment of women. Therefore, there had been a notable improvement in community understanding of appropriate conflict resolution techniques. This activity introduced a novel approach where the empowerment of women through the utilization of marine products and the establishment of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as well as home industries played a vital role in conflict resolution strategies. In conclusion, the conflicts experienced on Laiya Island were minimal, and the community successfully resolved disputes through meaningful discussions.</i></p>
<p><b>Kata Kunci</b>            CPCD            Konflik            Pulau Laiya            Pemberdayaan Perempuan            UMKM</p>	<p><b>Pemberdayaan perempuan untuk penyelesaian konflik: Studi kasus di Pulau Laiya, Kabupaten Pangkep, Indonesia.</b> Studi ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kesadaran publik mengenai identifikasi konflik dan mendorong penerapan strategi penyelesaian yang sesuai. Inisiatif pengabdian kepada masyarakat menggunakan pendekatan pelatihan, melibatkan 52 perempuan di Pulau Laiya, Kabupaten Pangkep, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia. Lebih lanjut, kegiatan ini merupakan kerjasama antara CPCD (Center for Peace, Conflict, and Democracy) Universitas Hasanuddin dan Dinas Perikanan Kabupaten Pangkep. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa langkah efektif untuk pencegahan konflik mensyaratkan pemberdayaan perempuan. Oleh karena itu, terdapat peningkatan penting dalam pemahaman masyarakat tentang teknik penyelesaian konflik yang tepat. Kegiatan ini memperkenalkan pendekatan baru di mana pemberdayaan perempuan melalui pemanfaatan hasil laut dan pendirian usaha mikro, kecil, dan menengah (UMKM) serta industri rumah tangga memainkan peran penting dalam strategi penyelesaian konflik. Kesimpulannya, konflik yang dialami di Pulau Laiya terbilang minim, dan masyarakat berhasil menyelesaikan sengketa melalui diskusi yang bermakna.</p>

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**How to cite:** Pulubuhu, D. A. T., Rahmatia, R., Adeli, S., & Seniwati, S. (2023). Empowering women for conflict resolution: A case study on Laiya Island, Pangkep Regency, Indonesia. *Journal of Community Service and Empowerment*, 4(3), 512-521. <https://doi.org/10.22219/jcse.v4i3.27056>

## INTRODUCTION

The site of the community service activity is situated on Laiya Island, which may be considered small in size in comparison to other islands in Pangkajene Regency. Despite its classification as a small island, Laiya Island possesses its uniqueness and exotic views, such as white sand and blue sea, providing visitors with a profound sense of tranquility and serenity. Additionally, it is recognized as a destination with significant tourism prospects. To optimize and capitalize on the tourism potential, it is crucial to prioritize the establishment of a robust security framework. The presence of a strong sense of security is essential in creating a welcoming environment for visitors and fostering their confidence in exploring the island.

Even though Laiya Island is undeniably beautiful, it is not immune to security disturbances or conflicts. This possibility arises due to its remote location from the district capital and the lack of oversight from the local government. However, it is essential to determine whether the potential for security disturbances and conflicts is comparable to other areas. To make an accurate assessment, the precise meaning should be obtained through interviews conducted during the community service activities. Consequently, the primary objective of this initiative is to provide training to women's groups residing on Laiya Island. The subsequent section presents an overview of the purpose underlying the community service activities. There are four objectives of this service activity, namely: increased awareness in the community regarding the possibility of conflict and the need to protect the areas; communities can identify potential conflicts such as the causes and appropriate solutions; collaboration is formed that involves the community, fishermen, and the government in preventing conflicts from occurring and jointly seeking resolutions; and increased knowledge regarding appropriate conflict resolution in resolving any conflicts. The purpose of this service is related to SDGs, especially goal number 16, namely increasing an inclusive and peaceful society for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Laiya Island is one of the islands that is prone to conflict and violence because of its location far from the district capital and very minimal supervision from the local government.

The underlying concept revolves around two key elements, namely threats and defense. In the face of a threat, human beings initiate a defensive process to counter and eliminate the imminent danger. Subsequently, the situation is deemed secure after the threat has been neutralized. Threats can be defined as actions or endeavors carried out by external parties that generate a sense of fear or endanger the order, integrity, and even the fundamental aspects of the affected entity. Worfer also reported the same understanding of security, emphasizing its nature as the absence of threats (Ali, I. M. et al., 2021). Therefore, the absence of threats is a fundamental condition for the existence of security. This study aimed to enhance public awareness regarding conflict identification and encourage the adoption of suitable resolution strategies.

## METHOD

### Framework

Figure 1 explains the purpose of community service activities carried out on Laiya Island. Security pertains to the defense and preservation of individuals or entities in response to potential threats.



**Figure 1.** The purpose of community service activities

The definition of conflict, rooted in etymology, encompasses the existence of quarrels, disparities, and disputes revolving around divergent thoughts or wills (Tualeka, 2017). It possesses the potential to arise at any moment, involving individuals, societal groups, and even nations. Conflict emerges when there is a clash of opinions or desires that proves arduous to reconcile without traversing through a conflictual state. According to Tualeka, conflict theory posits that societal order is inherently elusive, hence, disorder and discord are inherent aspects of social structures. Consequently, a common thread can be discerned in the essence of conflict due to the emergence of disputes rooted in divergent interests over limited resources. The divergence of interests signifies that various parties involved in the conflict harbor distinct desires for these resources. Furthermore, the resources may be scarce within a specific region or territory, lacking availability elsewhere, or they may be abundant in a particular area or constitute rare natural commodities (Tualeka, 2017). Conflicts are prone to arise when the individuals embroiled in the dispute attempt to realize their aspirations through coercive means.

The community service activity took place on Pulau Laiya, a small island located in Pangkep, South Sulawesi. Laiya Island is situated within the Liukang Tupabbiring Utara sub-district, covering an area of 85.56 km<sup>2</sup> and consisting of a total of 18. It is approximately 19.31 km away from the mainland capital, Pangkep (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Pangkep, 2021). This particular community service initiative spanned from March to May 2023. In addition, the community service project involved training sessions conducted in collaboration with CPCD (Center for Peace, Conflict, and Democracy) Hasanuddin University and the Pangkep district fisheries service. The training targeted NGOs and women's groups, employing effective instructional techniques. The training sessions were conducted within a single day and a total of 52 individuals actively participated, as outlined in the Table 1.

Table 1. Training Participant

No	Activity	Total
1	Fisherwomen	15
2	Entrepreneur women	12
3	Housewife	13
4	Student of senior high school	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>52</b>

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Understanding Improvement Training on Conflict Resolution

This training activity presented conflict resolution experts from the Hasanuddin University team. In this activity, the implementing team explained the importance of conducting a conflict analysis for the following reasons: provide a detailed explanation of current issues, specifically in Laiya Island and Pangkep District; give priority to issues especially those related to the conflict; make an identification of the causes of the conflict; explain the people involved in the conflict; make a study of appropriate information in following up on conflicts; evaluate the capabilities of the people involved; and increasing the involvement of stakeholders in resolving these conflicts by collaborating and sharing information.

During the training session depicted in Figure 2, Herlina, who also holds the position of secretary at the office, expressed that Laiya Island had consistently proven to be safe. The absence of conflict intensity and the overall sense of security among the inhabitants were highlighted (interview, March 24, 2023, Laiya Island). Subsequently, when engaging with the residents in a debriefing regarding security concerns, it became evident that the island faced no discernible threats or fears.



Figure 2. Community Service Training

Furthermore, Syuhada, an active member of the entrepreneurial community, attested that no significant incidents had jeopardized the security of their area (interview, March 24, 2023, Laiya Island). Considering the security theory, Laiya Island fits the criteria for a secure island, as its inhabitants are devoid of any threats or fears. This was corroborated during community service activities, where the team experienced immense satisfaction and a profound sense of safety, free from concerns of security-related issues, verbal threats, or non-verbal actions.

Even though Laiya Island can be considered safe in terms of internal conflicts, it is essential to acknowledge that conflicts may still arise beyond the borders. From a security perspective, it is crucial to recognize that the conflicts experienced were primarily external. Herlina explicitly stated that no internal conflicts had occurred, although there was a past external conflict with another group (the specific timeframe was not provided). This external conflict occurred in the waters surrounding the island and centered around the extraction of natural resources, such as fish and marine plant species (interview, March 23, 2023, Laiya Island). During the training session depicted in Figure 3, the causes of this conflict with the community were discussed. The local government on Laiya Island had successfully resolved the conflict through negotiations, officially resolving the issue (interview, March 24, 2023, Laiya Island). This situation highlighted the stability of the Island and its minimal potential for internal or external security threats or conflicts.



Figure 3. Community Service Training

#### Training to Improve Understanding of Women's Empowerment

One effective measure for preventing social conflicts is the promotion of women's empowerment. Therefore, during this community service initiative, the team emphasizes the significance of empowering women. The concept entails granting them equal opportunities and active involvement in various organizations such as men (Ali, M. A., Wadi, & Liberty, 2021). Considering the insights provided by Ali et al., the team shows to the community that gender equality is crucial in addressing disparities in the realization of human rights, particularly the right to lead a dignified and autonomous life, free from any form of coercion or intimidation. Furthermore, women have historically been overshadowed by men and their abilities have been underestimated or restricted within limited spheres of activity (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Community Service Training



Island communities must recognize that empowerment endeavors strive to establish equal opportunities for both men and women, ultimately fostering gender equality. Development encompasses empowering individuals to exert control over their lives within specific organizations and break free from the grips of poverty. The team elucidated on Longwe's theory, which emphasizes the processes and frameworks involved in empowerment, encompassing five distinct levels. These stages include ensuring prosperity by meeting the economic needs of families and women on an individual basis, expanding access to employment opportunities, enhancing public and stakeholder awareness regarding gender equality, fostering a movement to boost women's participation in empowerment initiatives, and enabling control in the implementation of work programs. By comprehending these five stages, individuals can better grasp the progression of empowerment within a group (Ali, M. A., et al., 2021).

Based on observable data, significant disparities between men and women can be discerned across different employment sectors. Women often encounter limited employment opportunities, typically confined to entry-level positions compared to their male counterparts. Consequently, this discrepancy gives rise to a wage gap, resulting from reduced participation and placement in lower-level roles. Longwe's theory also posits that empowering gender equality is indispensable for achieving equitable rights for women and enhancing economic well-being both individually and within households. Therefore, this training places significant emphasis on the influential role of women in advancing the economic sector and mitigating the escalation of poverty.

Furthermore, the concept of community empowerment is considered a developmental process where communities actively engage in social activities to enhance their circumstances, conditions, and overall quality of life. Empowerment primarily targets individuals with vulnerable and marginalized backgrounds, particularly women's groups. It ignites motivation to contribute to development by fostering strength and capability, which encompass the following aspects: (a) addressing basic needs, such as freedom from hunger, poverty, ignorance, and pain, (b) facilitating equal access to showcase women's productive abilities to augment their income and secure essential goods for their families and themselves, and (c) promoting active involvement in developmental processes and decision-making that profoundly impact various facets of lives (Purnamasari, Vidya; Qurrata, Vika Annisa; Narmaditya, 2020).

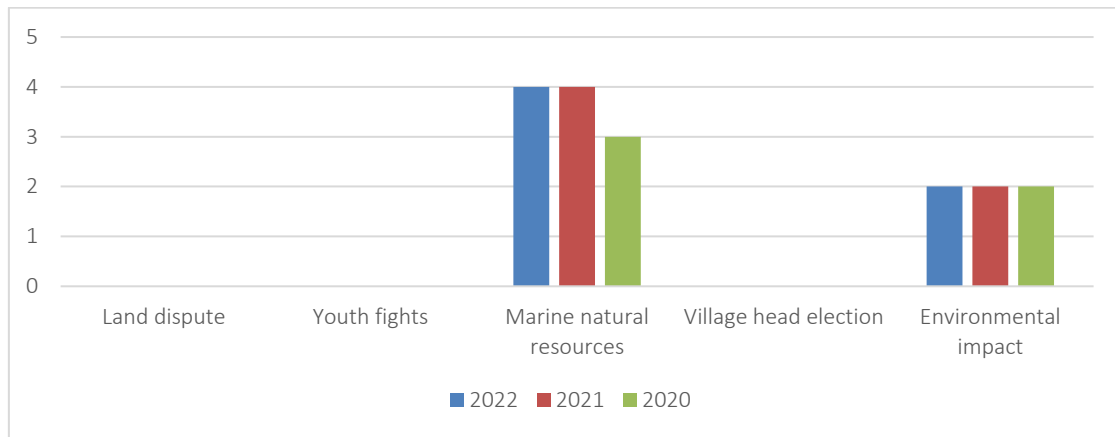
In terms of improving the family economy, it was necessary for women, specifically groups, to be active in empowerment activities. As explained by Purnamasari et al., these activities can improve the welfare of the women's group to increase their quality of life. Furthermore, the importance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in supporting efforts to empower women, particularly those on small islands, was discussed.

The Hasanuddin University service team explained that women's empowerment is needed to push families out of poverty. This is because empowerment increases the active and responsible participation of women's groups in society, and improves family welfare. The role of women within a family includes the responsibility to educate and serve as exemplary figures for their children. However, certain factors hinder them from fulfilling this role effectively, including low economic and income levels, insufficient knowledge and skills, and limited access to opportunities for personal development. These obstacles often impact the ability to be influential role models within their families and broader society (Lestari, Singal, Wahyuni, & Msutangin, 2022).

Many women attending the training expressed their curiosity regarding the role of MSMEs and the process of developing home industry businesses to become MSMEs. In response, participants were informed about a key strategy to prevent conflicts, which involves actively participating in economic activities and enhancing skills and knowledge. The abundant natural resources available on Laiya Island, such as fish, present an opportunity for MSME development. Consequently, the training focused on teaching participants how to create fish balls without preservatives, increasing their nutritional value.

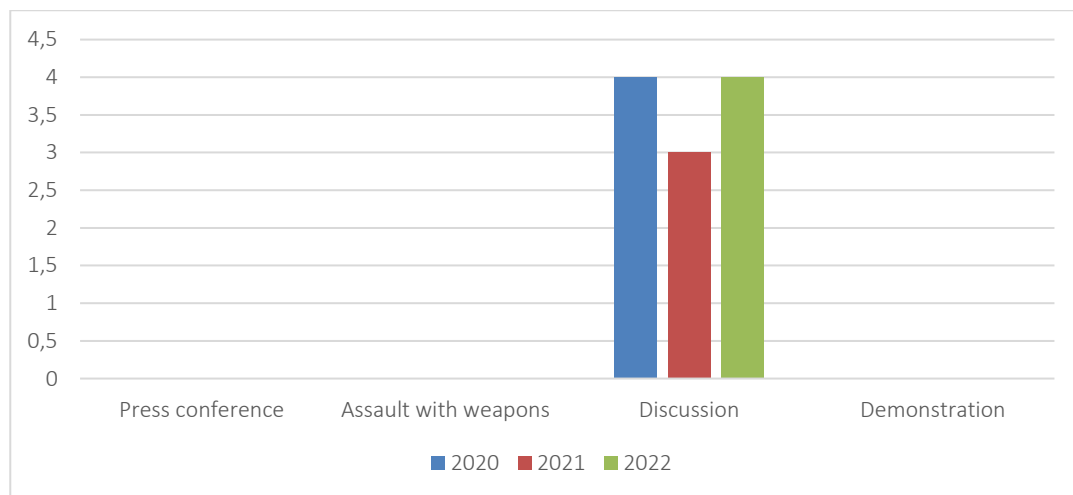
Currently, a considerable number of women are transitioning from the labor market to the realm of MSMEs. This transition serves as a means to contribute to their rights and decision-making within the world of work, as well as occupy more significant and professional roles. The direct involvement of women across various work sectors is highly valued to empower the community and fulfil their rights and freedoms. However, women have not been fully engaged in the same manner as their male counterparts. Many of them left the labor market and pursued independent entrepreneurship on a smaller scale. Barriers to this development include limited economic resources and a lack of knowledge and skills, affecting the ability to improve their quality of life and meet the economic needs of children and families.

After the training, an assessment was conducted to monitor women level of understanding regarding conflict and resolution. This assessment took the form of a question-and-answer session to measure their comprehension of the topics covered: what conflicts occur most frequently in this region?; how did the community, specifically women's groups, respond to the conflict?; what is the role of the government (local government) in overcoming or preventing conflicts?; what skills are needed to process natural resources in this area?; what do you know about MSMEs?; have you ever shopped for MSMEs products?. These questions are important to measure the level of understanding of women after participating in conflict prevention training. The Figure 5 is the answer given for number 1.



**Figure 5.** The conflict that occurred on the island of Laiya in 2020-2022

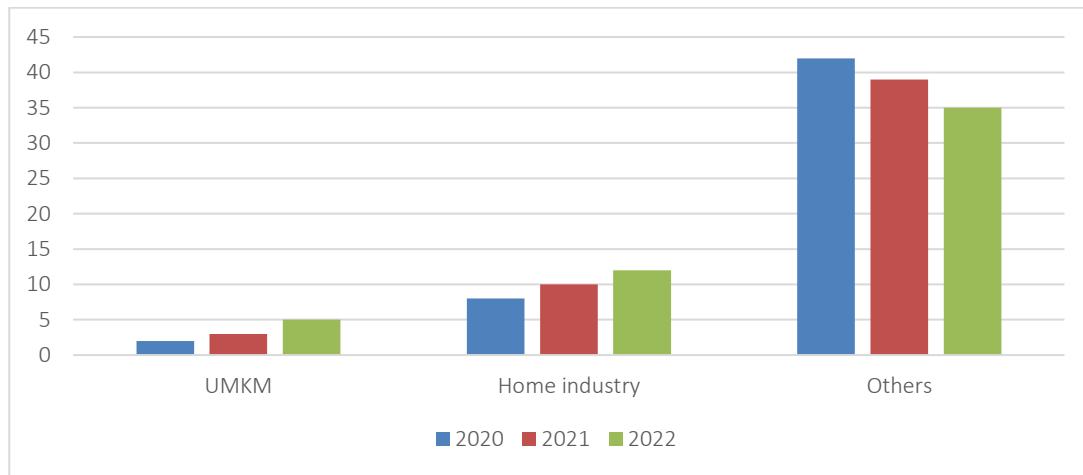
Figure 5 displays the various types of conflicts that transpired on Laiya Island from 2020 to 2022, as recounted by 52 informants. Among these conflicts, disputes regarding sea resources emerged as the most prevalent issue. This situation stems from the participation of external fishermen in the vicinity, utilizing materials detrimental to marine biota. Another conflict pertains to environmental concerns and the subsequent repercussions of pollution. The inhabitants of the Island still exhibit limited awareness regarding the disposal of waste into the ocean. Marine pollution resulting from such practices also emits an unpleasant odor for residents near the waste disposal area. Consequently, internal conflicts arise, involving those responsible for improper garbage disposal and the affected residents. The actions taken by the community groups in response to the conflict can be seen in the Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Community Strategies in Resolving Conflicts

Figure 6 above presents a comprehensive overview of the strategies employed by the Laiya Island community using open discussion. The people of Laiya Island actively promote fishermen entangled in profit-related conflicts to engage in deliberate conversations, involving key stakeholders such as village heads. Regarding question number 3, which concerns the local government's role in addressing and preventing conflicts, it involves mediating between the affected fishermen or communities. They actively facilitate the resolution process. Question 4 explores the knowledge of various groups of women and assesses this aspect by examining their involvement in MSMEs and home industry activities.

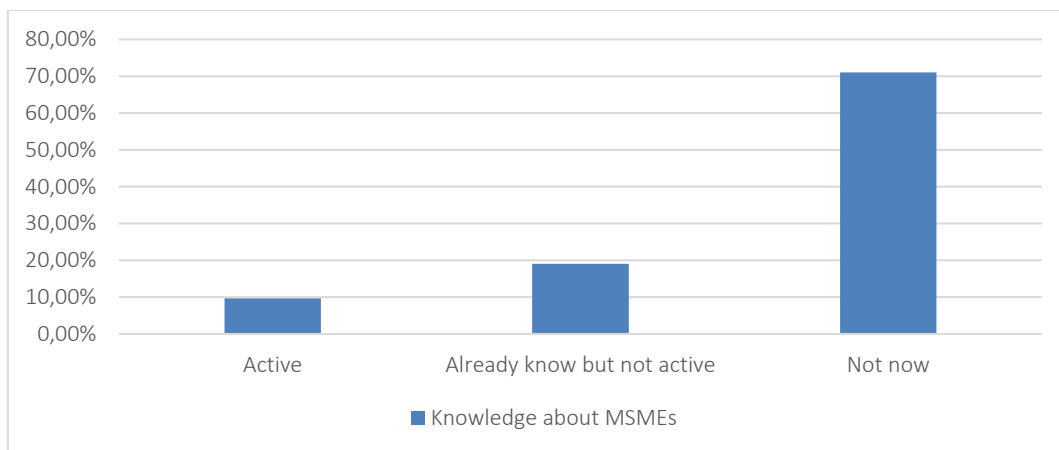
Figure 7 depicts the extent of community engagement in empowerment initiatives. The empowerment encompasses a series of actions aimed at enabling women to achieve economic independence, self-reliance, and a positive self-image. It equips women with the necessary tools to confront difficult circumstances and actively participate in diverse development endeavors. To foster this empowerment, women must exert control over intellectual resources, including access to information, knowledge, ideas, financial resources, and decision-making power within their households, communities, and beyond (Asad, Hameed, Irfan, Jiang, & Naveed, 2020).



**Figure 7.** Community Participants in Empowerment Activities

Based on the data in Figure 7, the number of women actively involved in MSMEs on Laiya Island remains low. Over the period from 2020 to 2022, the number engaged in enterprises fails to surpass the 10 mark. A fraction of these women participate in activities related to the home industry. The count of those involved in this sector is also limited, ranging from a mere 5 to 15 businesses during the period. Conversely, a significant portion of women on Laiya Island does not partake in any entrepreneurial endeavors.

This prevailing situation serves as a clear indication that women on Laiya Island must strive to enhance their active involvement in entrepreneurial ventures. In an interview conducted with Mrs Ina, a participant who took part in training sessions, the dearth of women engaged in entrepreneurial activities can be attributed to a lack of skills in developing businesses related to processed seafood products. Additionally, the considerable distance from the district capital poses a challenge since it necessitates a substantial amount of funds to acquire essential materials for manufacturing processed marine products, such as flour, cooking oil, and starch (interview, Laiya Island, 24 March 2023). During a follow-up interview with Ms. Suliastri, an entrepreneur operating an MSMEs business, several obstacles were encountered. The inconvenience of travelling to the distant district capital, which incurred significant expenses was encountered when selling processed products (interview, Laiya Island, 24 March 2023). As previously mentioned, women who refrain from participating in any activities often face limitations due to a lack of adequate skills and knowledge. Consequently, they remain confined to their homes, relying solely on the catch provided by their husbands to meet daily household needs. The answer for question number 5 regarding their knowledge of MSMEs is presented the Figure 8.



**Figure 8.** Knowledge Level Regarding MSMEs

The graph, denoted as Figure 8, illustrates the level of knowledge among the training participants concerning MSMEs, consisting of a total of 52 individuals. From these 52 trainees, 5 were actively engaged in MSMEs, while the remaining 10 possessed related knowledge but did not actively pursue entrepreneurship. Conversely, a significant portion of the participants, specifically 37 individuals, lacked any knowledge regarding the concept. Based on an interview conducted with one of the participants named Suliastri, the general public's lack of awareness concerning MSMEs stemmed from insufficient information disseminated through different media platforms (interview, Laiya Island, 24th March 2023). To address question number 6, which pertains to shopping through online platforms or by visiting physical stores, a comprehensive overview can be found in Figure 9.

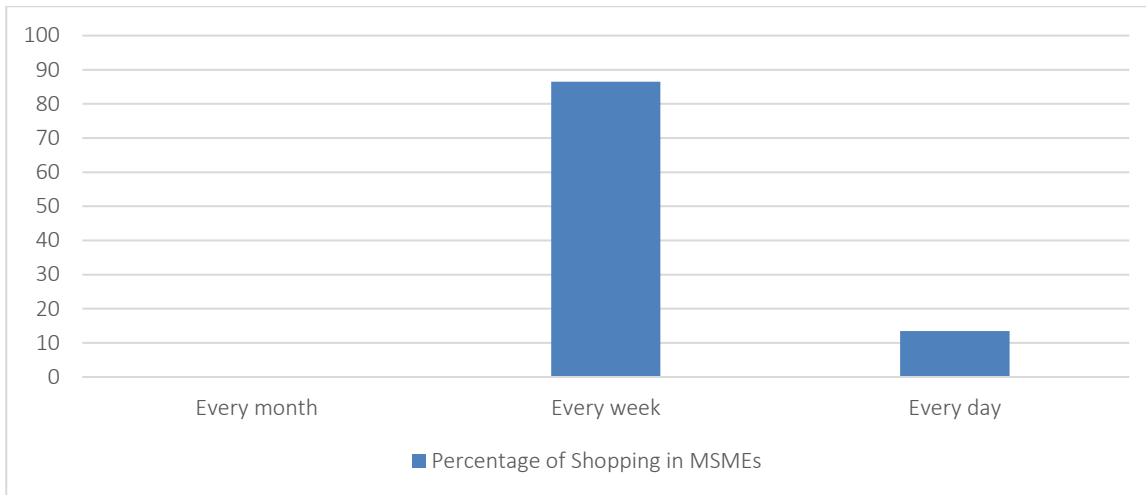


Figure 9. Participation Level in MSMEs

Figure 9 illustrates the level of participation or shopping in MSMEs with a total of 52 participants. The shopping frequency shows that 45 and 7 individuals engage in shopping activities at MSMEs on a weekly and daily basis. Figure 9 shows a very high level of community activity in shopping at MSMEs. This data shows that the level of community participation on Laiya Island for the MSMEs sector is quite high.

This notion finds support in the findings of interviews conducted on Laiya Island, where conflicts predominantly arise when fishermen from other islands employ practices that disrupt marine life (Interview, March 22, 2023, Laiya Island). Lewis Coser, an influential sociologist, classifies conflict into internal and external categories. Internal conflict pertains to disputes that arise within a closely-knit community or group, characterized by an intimate relationship among the members. Meanwhile, external conflict encompasses disputes between different entities, including the main group, individuals, or even nations (Editor, 2021). In line with this perspective, interviews conducted with residents show that the conflict stemmed from fishermen hailing from other islands who engaged in the prohibited practice of fishing near Laiya Island (Interview, March 23, 2023, Laiya Island). This situation exemplifies an external conflict that originated from outside the boundaries of Laiya Island.

According to Dwicahyono et al., the islands within the Indonesian archipelago experience a substantial volume of maritime traffic, with over 70,000 ships passing through annually. Among these vessels, 120-300 pose threats in the form of piracy and navigation hazards (Dwicahyono, Octavian, Bura, Hendratoro, & Widodo, 2021). Based on these findings, small islands in Indonesia, including Laiya Island, are at heightened risk of piracy incidents, illegal smuggling activities, such as drug trafficking, or potential accidents involving large cruise ships causing damage to the reefs in the surrounding waters. Additionally, Dwicahyono et al. emphasize that the presence of large ships entering Indonesian waters contributes to different criminal risks, including illegal logging, terrorism, and human smuggling (Dwicahyono et al., 2021). These criminal activities can transpire in open waters, particularly on islands where government oversight is not rigorously enforced.

Indonesia is governed by the regulations outlined in Article 46 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982. According to this article, an archipelagic country is defined as a nation comprising multiple archipelagos, including islands, surrounding waters, and the connecting waters falling under the jurisdiction of the state (Listiyono, Pramono, Y. Prakoso, Prihantoro, & Sianturi, 2021). The vast expanse of these waters often makes archipelagic countries a preferred transit location for foreign vessels seeking to transport goods swiftly and efficiently through maritime routes. To address the associated risks, the UNCLOS of 1982 establishes that the sovereignty of the state extends to all bodies of water, regardless of depth or distance from the coast. This sovereignty encompasses the airspace above the waters, the seabed and its subsoil, as well as the natural resources. The sovereignty grants the archipelagic state the right to regulate, supervise, and safeguard its maritime affairs, aiming to protect its national interests. Indonesia ratified the UNCLOS of 1982 through Law No. 17 of 1985, thereby recognizing and implementing the provisions outlined in the convention (Listiyono et al., 2021).

Sudrajat asserts that security concerns within the archipelago can be categorized into three distinct areas, namely maritime threats encompassing illicit activities such as oil and sand smuggling, air threats involving unauthorized foreign surveillance of Indonesian territories, and border threats comprising the smuggling of weapons and individuals (Listiyono et al., 2021). These threats pose a significant risk to the islands situated within the jurisdiction, primarily due to the vast number of islands and the inadequate presence of surveillance vessels from the Navy.

According to Panji Suwarno et al., Indonesia's relatively open democracy presents an asymmetric threat in the form of radical groups that operate independently of any specific country. This grants certain freedoms that bestow an advantageous position over the countries to be infiltrated, including Indonesia. The groups leverage their global economic



connections through smuggling syndicates and utilize communication technology to facilitate terrorist movements. This situation can be empirically examined by analyzing various threats that pose challenges to national integration. Firstly, several countries with a history of funding and providing refuge to terrorists can potentially support their operations in other nations. Secondly, non-state actors enjoy the freedom to move undetected and employ diverse methods. These methods include mini-submarines, drones, or small aircraft, to transport necessary supplies for their operations to different areas. The success of the operations can inflict significant economic damage at national and regional levels. Thirdly, individual actors engaging in global terrorism disrupt the natural and environmental balance but also pose a threat of pollution (Suwarno, Kurniawan, Widodo, Wasitova, & Parlina, 2022). These forms of threats are particularly perilous to the survival of small island communities such as Laiya, which rely heavily on the maritime ecosystem for their livelihoods.

According to Taufik et al., the term "asymmetric war" has been used by American academics since 1990 to describe the threat posed by less privileged entities to more affluent communities. The concept can be understood as an unconventional form of warfare carried out clandestinely by non-state entities through small groups such as guerrillas, drug cartels, or specialized military divisions (Dwicahyono et al., 2021). Indonesia is susceptible to this form of asymmetrical threat due to the vast territorial waters and abundant marine resources, coupled with limited monitoring through sea patrols. Aside from jeopardizing the sovereignty of the state, small islands face additional risks such as pollution, habitat loss for local flora and fauna, overexploitation, and potential hazards stemming from climate change. To address these asymmetrical threats arising from the openness of archipelagic nations, several studies developed a new economic model known as the blue economy.

The Blue Economy concept aims to create sustainable livelihoods and protect island communities from the impacts of climate change by fostering an economy environmentally and socially responsible. This approach recognizes the oceans as a shared resource for collective development and is defined by the World Bank as a means of utilizing marine resources to promote economic growth, improve living standards, and preserve the health of the ecosystems. To achieve these objectives, it is essential to develop a socio-economic system that maximizes the efficient utilization of natural marine resources (Roy, 2019). The concept represents a departure from conventional economic practices pursued by large industries solely focused on maximizing profits. Considering the topics covered by this economic model, its implementation requires extensive debate involving various stakeholders, including corporations, business leaders, and affected communities. The service activities also contribute to the promotion of the blue economy, as they emphasize women's empowerment in using marine products as a strategy to prevent conflicts and foster sustainable development.

Activities associated with the blue economy encompass various sectors such as fisheries, which include aquaculture and food processing. Additionally, maritime biotechnology plays a crucial role, involving the production of pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and the cultivation of marine life. The blue economy also encompasses minerals, with offshore mining being a significant aspect. Maritime tourism contributes to the blue economy through the utilization of jet boats, facilitating passenger transportation, and offering coastal trips (Roy, 2019). An example of community service activities involves food processing using marine resources, which contributes to community empowerment, particularly in the context of product utilization.

Concerning maritime security, Bueger identified four key elements intertwined with the blue economy. Firstly, sea power plays a traditional role in safeguarding maritime security, particularly in terms of protecting border areas and maintaining security. Secondly, maritime security encompasses the evaluation of a country's capability to address threats by utilizing its ships and assets, which includes managing disasters and conducting evacuation operations. The third element is economic development, which involves a nation's ability to enforce economic laws on the utilization of marine resources, including oil mining, combatting smuggling, and countering piracy. Lastly, community security is an important concept emphasizing the state's responsibility to ensure sustainable livelihoods, with a particular focus on preventing illegal fishing and human trafficking (Voyer et al., 2018).

These four conceptual frameworks can serve as a yardstick for the government's endeavors in implementing policies on the maritime economy. This approach aims to safeguard maritime sovereignty, specifically considering its status as an archipelagic nation. It also involves safeguarding small island communities such as Laiya Island, which play a crucial role in screening threats to national unity by sea before reaching the mainland. Consequently, a reciprocal relationship arises between the government, which bears the responsibility of ensuring the well-being of island communities, including aspects such as food security and quality of life.

The close relationship between defense and the blue economy can be traced back to the establishment of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Furthermore, UNCLOS played a significant role in advocating for the concept of defense and maritime sovereignty by granting states the right to claim jurisdiction over their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones (Voyer et al., 2018). During the initial publication, discussions were already underway regarding the resilience of marine resources. This was exemplified by the 'Earth Summit' in 1987, which highlighted the growing interest in the vast potential of the ocean as a significant resource provider. Consequently, a narrative emerged that interconnected the development of the blue economy with maritime defense, giving rise to the concept of security. This concept extends beyond the traditional notion of safeguarding sovereignty and national interests through military capabilities. It also encompasses the capacity to monitor and enforce maritime law, facilitating access to prolonged sea power and the utilization of natural resources (Voyer et al., 2018).

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Laiya Island faces external threats from fishermen who encroach upon the island's waters to catch fish, using methods that can disrupt marine life. Internal disturbances arise due to the disposal of waste into the sea, resulting in an unpleasant odor for residents near the landfill. To mitigate these challenges, it is imperative to engage in discussions involving the local government and the fishermen to obtain mutually beneficial solutions. During the training sessions, the community service team introduced conflict resolution techniques, emphasizing the importance of women's empowerment initiatives. Therefore, there has been a notable increase in the number of women, comprehending the significance of entrepreneurship, particularly in the processing of marine products. Even though the current involvement of women's groups in MSMEs and home industries remains relatively low, the eagerness to participate in training activities and their determination to become active entrepreneurs are commendable.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This community service received funding from Hasanuddin University under the name Unhas Community Service Program - Campus Intellectual Product Business Development Program (PPMU-PPUPIK) 2023 with contract number: 00675/UN4.1/KEP/2023.

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