

## **Gender Dimension of Malay Tradition in Rice Farmer Households at Serdang Bedagai Regency North Sumatera**

Ulfa Nadra

*Faculty of Economics, University of Al-Azhar Medan  
Jl. Pintu Air IV No. 214 Padang Bulan Kwala Bekala Medan Johor 20142*

**ABSTRACT**– *This research aims to analyze: time allocation and type of women farmer's working and men farmer's working in rice farming. Time allocation of men farmers on rice-farming in Serdang Bedagai Regency is longer than women farmers. In reproduction activities, wife and husband are helping each other. The form of household decision making was decided together. Each access to resources could be accessed by women. While, the control of resources still at the men or husband. Wife and husband jointly running their business as making "dodol", processing the fresh fishes to salty fishes, running prawn fishery and other activities. The influence of Malay tradition that very strongly influenced by Islamic Shari'a is reflected in farmer households at Serdang Bedagai, where the husband becomes the leader in the household is very concerned about the physical situation of his wife and jointly improve the family economy.*

**Keywords:** *gender dimension, time allocation, rice farmer households, Malay Tradition.*

---

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Farming is the nature organization, labour and capital that dedicated to farming production. At labour supply of farming activities, the household has the important roles to people choice; work or not work. It means that, the people decision to be the labour force was not his decision himself but jointly with the family members. The labour supply was become the simultant process to reach maximum satisfaction with the limited resources (Becker, 1976). Each member of family is faced with two choices: work or leisure. Working means to give more income and allocating their time for reaching consumption needs, while if not work so the leisure time was more than income (Gronou, 1977).

Work, actually separated into paid work and unpaid work. Houseworking such as housekeeping, cooking, washing clothes, gardening and other works were unpaid work. According to the research of Alinda Aldair et.al. (1998), when the income of another family member raises up, woman tends to decrease their willingness to do the paidwork. The willingness of woman to do the paidwork increases when she believes that her husband's income is not enough to fulfill the family needs. So does the woman has low willingness of doing paidwork when she has children (Alinda Aldair, et.al, 1998). This research findings was similar with Dominique Axco (2007) finding that the existing of children has negative influences to women at labour market and decreasing as the age of her children.

Serdang Bedagai Regency has the homogen society: Malay Tribe. The Malay Culture that very strongly influenced by Islamic Shari'a was reflected in farmer households at Serdang Bedagai, where the husband become the leader of household is very concerned about the physical situation of his wife and jointly improve the family economy. In farmer households at Serdang Bedagai, the farming activities are the husband responsibility, while their wives only as complementary actress.

The research questions are: (1) How about the working time allocation and kind of works women farmer and men farmer on farmer households at Serdang Bedagai Regency, North Sumatera Province? (2) How about gender participation of Malay Tribe households at Serdang Bedagai Regency, North Sumatera Province?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### Time Allocation And Labour Supply

Each activity that people do must use time. People have the same time: 24 hours a day or 168 hours a week. The activities that people do or community do were various. Judith Monostory (2009) on her research "Work, Leisure, Time Allocation" said that, There were five activities of time use: (1). Paid Work, (2). Routine housework, (3). Maintenance housework, (4). Child Care and (5). Individual Leisure. Willingness to allocate time for an activity, means willingness to work for current job. Labour supply can be defined by time allocation for current type of work (Nicholson, 2002). The classification of time allocation can be classified into three groups: (1) Paid work, (2) Unpaid work and (3) No work (Rania Antonopoulos, 2008). According to Judith Monostory (2009) that 24 hours time was used for : (1) work, (2). house work, (3) Leisure, and (4) Individual Personal Development, so that the relationship could be formulated:

$$T = 24 = TW + THW + TPD + TL$$

T : Total time

TW : Time for work (jam)

THW : Time for house work

TPD : Time for individual personal development

TL : Time for Leisure

Based on the formula, can be defined the equalization of time allocation and type of women and men farmer working on Toba Samosir Regency. It was also used on Axco Dominique, 2007 and Eniza Saleh and Yunilas, 2004 research:

$$CT_{p,l} = CL + CB + CN + CS + CF + CI + CH$$

$CT_{p,l}$  = Total time allocation of women or men farmers of rice farming (hour per planting time)

CL = Time allocation of land clearing activity (hour per planting time)

CB = Time allocation of seeding activity (hour per planting time)

CN = Time allocation of planting activity (hour per planting time)

CS = Time allocation of weeding activity (hour per planting time)

CF = Time allocation of fertilizing activity (hour per planting time)

CI = Time allocation of killing insect activity (hour per planting time)

CH = Time allocation of harvesting activity (hour per planting time)

### Gender Concept

'Gender' could be defined as the differences of act, function, status and responsibility of man and woman as a construct of social cultural that socialized from one generation to the next one. So, gender was a commitment between peoples that not be a destiny. Gender was so varied from a place to another from one time to the next time. Gender was not a destiny, it can be changed and turn from one people to another, depend on time and culture.

So, gender consist of social rules that depend on human sex; male and female. The biologist differences of sex between male and female exactly has its consequence. The different of reproduction function (woman has menstruation, pregnant and breast feeding; man fertile with his sperm). This kind of sex was the create of Allah SWT, destiny and cannot be changed, and for a lifetime.

But, the culture that dominated by patriarchy culture had made the biological differences to be the properly indicator in behaviour, at last it had been the restriction of rights, access, participation, control of using resources and information. At last, the action, work, position and responsibility that proper or not proper doing by man or woman were so varied from one community to another. There were a part of society that so strength of making restriction between man and woman, for example, there was forbidden to a man doing cook or hold his children; and there was forbidden a woman go out of her house daily for working.

### III. METHODS

#### Gender Analysis in Rice Farming

The analysis technique of gender participation was Harvard Model Analysis. This analysis was chosen in this research because it was very suitable to get the efficiency of production with gender based analysis. The steps of Harvard Model Analysis: The profile of activity analysis (three actions) or triple roles; consists of public action (productive), domestic action (reproductive) and public actions (social culture), access and control profile, factors that affected access and control (Puspitawati, 2012). But, in this research, profile analysis was profile analysis of activity and action and factors that affected activity. Through this analysis hopefully could give the map of gender participation of rice farming at Serdang Bedagai North Sumatera Province.

#### Datas' Source

This research used primary data with direct interview using questionnaire. This respondent was rice farming households in some district at Serdang Bedagai Regency 57.693 households. That amount of samples 100 rice farming households. The procedure of sampling taken was purposive sampling. To get sample of this research was used the Slovin equation with error terms 10 percent (Sugiyanto, 1998).

### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Time Allocation and Kinds of Women Farmer's Working (Wife) and Men Farmer's Working (Husband) in Rice Farming at Serdang Bedagai Regency North Sumatera Province

Working time allocation and kinds of women farmer's working (wife) and men farmer's working (husband) in rice farming at Serdang Bedagai Regency, as seen on table 4.1:

**Table 4.1 Time Allocation and Kinds of Women Farmer's Working (Wife) and Men Farmer's Working (Husband) in Rice Farming at Serdang Bedagai Regency**

No.	Kinds of Working	Time Allocation of Women Farmer Hours/planting season	Time Allocation of Men Farmer Hours/planting season
1.	Land clearing	0	41,4
2.	Seeding	0,6	14,48
3.	Planting	0,84	21,96
4.	Weeding	0,24	10,68
5.	Fertilizing	5,16	12,24
6.	Killing insect	0	4,30
7.	Harvesting	11,28	8,64
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,12</b>	<b>113,7</b>

Source: Primary Data, Processed, 2017

According to table 4.1, in each planting season (4 months), time allocation of women farmer: seeding (0,6 hour), planting (0,84 hour), weeding (0,24 hour), fertilizing (5,16 hours) and harvesting (11,28 hours). The land clearing activity was not done by women farmer because it needed big power. While the killing insect activity was not done by women farmer because rather dangerous and need special skill. Time allocation of men farmer: land clearing (41,4 hours) seeding (14,48 hours), planting (21,96 hours), weeding (10,68 hours), fertilizing (12,24 hours), killing insect (4,30 hours) and harvesting (8,64 hours). According to this data, the total amount of women working time allocation are less than men farmer: only 18,12 hours per planting season. The women farmer only helping her husband (men farmer) for certain time. The men farmer are the central figures in rice farming at Serdang Bedagai Regency with total amount of working time 113,7 hours for each planting season.

#### Harvard Analysis of Rice Farmer Households at Serdang Bedagai Regency Activities Profile

According to instrument of Harvard Analysis: Activities Profile, there are two activities in rice farmer households at Serdang Bedagai, production and reproduction. The women farmer production activities are: seeding, planting, weeding and harvesting. But the time allocation for these activities were less and only for helping their husband. While the production activity that are done by men farmer: land clearing, fertilizing,

killing insect, with more time allocation include side jobs as fishery, producing “dodol” and processing fresh fishes to salty fishes.

On reproduction activities, wife and husband jointly each other, such as guiding children, cooking and preparing foods, housekeeping, getting water, taking care of sick children, guiding children to study at home and shopping to traditional market. But, there are some workhouse that only done by men, such as getting woods for cooking, repairing houseroof, painting wall.

### **Access and Control**

The forms of household decision making between husband and wife are decide together. All access to resources could be accessed by women. While control of resources are still on men hand. The other income, own assets, education, can be accessed by women; but the political power and prestige are still only can be accessed by men or husband. Women or wives can access benefits such as primary needs, just like foods, clothes and house. While controls to these benefits are still on men hands or husbands.

### **Factors That Affected**

In rice farmer households at Serdang Bedagai, the rice farming activities are husband responsibilities (men farmer) while his wife only the complement one. The working time allocation of women to rice farming was less. In reproduction activities, husband helped his wife on doing houseworks as washing, cooking, guiding children, repairing house, getting water and others housework. Husband and wife are jointly doing side jobs such as producing “dodol”, processing fresh fishes to salty fish, fishery, and other business. The influence of Malay tradition that very strongly influenced by Islamic Shari’a is reflected in farmer households at Serdang Bedagai, where the husband becomes the leader in the household is very concerned about the physical situation of his wife and jointly improve the family economy.

## **V. CONCLUSIONS**

1. At Serdang Bedagai Regency, time allocation of women farmer on rice farming are less than men farmer.
2. The results of Harvard Analysis in rice farmer households at Serdang Bedagai: The women farmer production activities are: seeding, planting, weeding and harvesting. But the time allocation for these activities were less and only for helping their husband. While the production activity that are done by men farmer: land clearing, fertilizing, killing insect, with more time allocation include side jobs as fishery, producing “dodol” and processing fresh fishes to salty fishes.
3. On reproduction activities, wife and husband jointly each other, such as guiding children, cooking and preparing foods, housekeeping, getting water, taking care of sick children, guiding children to study at home and shopping to traditional market. But, there are some workhouse that only done by men, such as getting woods for cooking, repairing houseroof, painting wall.
4. The forms of household decision making between husband and wife are decide together. All access to resources could be accessed by women. While control of resources are still on men hand. The other income, own assets, education, can be accessed by women; but the political power and prestige are still only can be accessed by men or husband. Women or wives can access benefits such as primary needs, just like foods, clothes and house. While controls to these benefits are still on men hands or husbands. Husband and wife are jointly doing side jobs such as producing “dodol”, processing fresh fishes to salty fish, fishery, and other business.
5. The influence of Malay tradition that very strongly influenced by Islamic Shari’a is reflected in farmer households at Serdang Bedagai, where the husband becomes the leader in the household is very concerned about the physical situation of his wife and jointly improve the family economy.

## **LITERATURES**

### **Journal Papers**

Becker Gary S. 1976. A Theory of The Allocation Time. *The Economic Journal*, Vol.75, N0.229 page: 493-517 (1)

Eniza Saleh dan Yunilas.2004. Perbandingan Alokasi Waktu Tenaga Kerja Wanita dan Pria Dalam Usaha Penggemukkan Sapi di Kecamatan Hamparan Perak Kabupaten Deli Serdang. *Jurnal Komunikasi Penelitian* 16(6):70-76. (8)

#### **Books**

Gronou M. and S. Methfessel .1976. *Theory of The Allocation of Time*. Berlin. (2)

Nicholson, Walter. 2005. *Microeconomic Theory*. Ninth Edition. United states of America. (5)

Puspitawati, H.2012. *Gender dan Keluarga: Konsep dan Realita di Indonesia*. PT IPB Press. Bogor. (9)

Sugiyanto.1998. *Teknik Sampling*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Pustaka. (10)

#### **Proceeding Papers**

[1.] Alinda Aldair, Gultiano Socor and Avita Josephine, 1998. *Childbearing, Women'a Work and Household Decision-Making in Cebu*: The Women's Studies Project Family. (3)

[2.] Dominique Axco, 2007. *Time Allocation Between Work Family Over The Life-Call A Comparative Gender Analysis of Italy, France Sweden and The United States*: IZA\_DP No 3193. (4)

[3.] Rania Antonopoulos. 2008. *The Unpaid Care Work-Paid Work Connection*. Working Paper No.541: The Levy Economics Institute. (6)

[4.] Judith Monostory, 2009. *Work, Leisure, Time Allocation*: Turkey European Social Report. (7)