

Women Farmers and Skills Development: Unlocking Potential Through Education and Training

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Abstract. *With the empowerment of women optimally and on target, it will produce good welfare and produce intelligent, high-achieving and healthy families. The purpose of this study is to determine the role of skill education and training and understanding of the empowerment of female farm workers in improving the family economy. The method and technique of data analysis in this study are descriptive qualitative through a data triangulation model, namely field observation, documentation and literature review. The sampling technique uses probability sampling. The results of the study showed that all female farm workers stated that their level of welfare was much higher when compared to when they did not work as farm workers and only relied on income from their husbands. This can also be seen in terms of the facilities they have such as two-wheeled vehicles, household appliances, home renovations and they can also send their children to college, all of these facilities are obtained from women's efforts as farm workers in the fields and gardens.*

Keywords: *skills education, training, empowerment, Farm workers, women*

1. Introduction

Economic development is an effort and aspiration of the entire nation, especially Indonesia. A number of economic problems in Indonesia such as poverty that occurs in both urban and rural areas, in addition to low income, poverty and slow economic development are also complex problems and require special and appropriate handling (Kurniawan & Melati, 2022; Suherman et al., 2022). The poverty that occurs requires mitigation measures such as community empowerment. The empowerment process can be expressed in the form of real action and accompanied by steps. Empowerment is how to make someone able to stand alone and even be able to help others or the term is called helping people to help themselves, meaning that when we are going to empower someone we have helped someone to help themselves (Ulandari et al., 2023). Empowerment itself also applies to all family members in an effort to increase income and welfare. Basically, the success of a prosperous family life cannot be separated from the big role of a mother in guiding, educating and directing her children as well as accompanying her husband and even helping her husband with his work to lighten his burden.

The reasons why women take part in supporting family needs are certainly diverse, starting from their desire to enter the world of work because they want to apply their knowledge and have abilities and skills, but there are also those who have to work because of the increasing economic demands so that circumstances force them to help the family economy whose conditions are mediocre, even though these women do not have knowledge or skills but they rely more on physical strength, one of which is by becoming farm laborers. Women who work will increase family income, which automatically improves the nutritional quality and welfare of all family members (Andayani et al., 2022; Hapsari et al., 2022)

Women, especially poor families living in villages do not really care about what work they will do, most of them work as farm laborers, the rest they work on gardens owned by people from outside the village where they live, meaning they are forced to

become farm laborers on other people's gardens that are deliberately entrusted to them in order to improve their family's standard of living and economy. Another goal of empowerment is also to improve people's standard of living and welfare in various aspects of life in a social environment (Ardiani & Dibyorini, 2021; Zunaidi & Maghfiroh, 2021).

In improving the family economy, it is inseparable from the element of income generated from the work done. In addition, empowerment for female farm laborers must also continue to be carried out so that female farm laborers are better able to improve the welfare of their families from the income they earn. This is due to the absence of other options to continue to earn income to meet family needs, even though the wages given are relatively low, if we pay attention to work as a farm laborer, it requires a lot of energy so that not everyone can do this job, especially this type of work is done by women and the income obtained is not comparable to the energy expended. So female farm laborers need to be empowered so that they are better at managing the family economy and can continue to improve the welfare of their families, such as skills education and training as well as socialization about empowerment in order to open women's minds to how they can continue to be productive and learn to manage to improve the family economy so that prosperity is realized. (Suherman et al., 2022; Sholehah, 2018). With the empowerment of female farm workers, it is hoped that it will provide them with opportunities to manage land and participate in advancing the agricultural sector in Lamkabeu village, Aceh Besar district.

Lamkabeu Village, Aceh Besar Regency is the location used as the object of this research. The target of the location selection in Aceh Besar Regency is because this area has extensive agricultural land, plantations and rice fields, so that the majority of people in Aceh Besar Regency, especially those domiciled in the village, are farmers, so that the community has extensive employment opportunities, especially in the agricultural sector. The formulation of the problem in this study is how the role of skills education and training in empowerment in increasing the income and welfare of female farm laborers in Lamkabeu Village, Aceh Besar Regency. The hypothesis in this study is that with the empowerment of female farm laborers through skills education and training optimally and on target, it will produce good welfare and produce intelligent, high-achieving and healthy families.

2. Method

The instruments used in the data collection process consist of observation sheets, interview guidelines, validation sheets and documentation. Data collection techniques through observation, direct interviews, documentation, review, validation and literature studies. Data analysis techniques use qualitative descriptive analysis techniques that are processed and explained inductively using data tabulation and interactive analysis models.

3. Results and Discussions

Improving the community's economy can be done through various efforts, one of which is by involving women in working outside the home to support the family economy, this is done because women besides carrying out their main duties are taking care of the household (Afifah & Ilyas, 2021). By increasing the family economy, people's lives will automatically be more prosperous, this can be achieved through one of them, namely empowerment, where empowerment is an effort to provide skills and facilities for the community so that they also have the opportunity to develop and improve their

welfare (Kurniawan & Melati, 2022). The purpose of empowerment is an effort to realize equality of roles, access, and control of women and men in all areas of development. Women's empowerment programs carried out by the government and society so far are efforts to always realize the creation and distribution of development benefits for men and women in a balanced manner (Suherman et al., 2022), therefore it can be explained that empowerment is a process to make people more empowered or more capable of solving their own problems, by giving trust and authority so as to foster a sense of responsibility (Ulandari et al., 2023). One of the empowerment concepts is through skills education and training provided to female farm workers, so that they gain insight and understanding to think better and more progressively, so that their welfare is better.



Figure 1. Research activities in Lamkabeu village, Aceh Besar district

Skills education and training is one of the tools to adjust tasks and jobs with the abilities, skills or abilities and expertise of each person/employee/staff and is an effort to improve the performance of people/employees/staff as an introduction to certain jobs for those concerned (Hapsari et al., 2022). Furthermore, Kurniawan & Melati (2022) stated that education is transferring values, knowledge and experience and skills to the younger generation as the older generation in preparing the life functions of the next generation, both physically and spiritually. Education has a goal, namely, the ability to develop so that it is useful for the interests of life. To achieve this goal, skills education makes planned efforts in choosing content (materials), strategies, and assessment techniques that are appropriate for educational activities carried out in the family, school and community environments (formal and non-formal).

The skills education and training that has been provided to female farm workers are (a) sustainable agricultural skills training: By providing training on modern and sustainable agricultural techniques including how to use organic fertilizers and how to control pests naturally, (b) additional skills training: Teaching additional skills such as handicrafts, food processing or other services that can increase family income, and (c) financial education: Training female farm workers on financial management, budget planning and saving. Women in society whose families experience economic difficulties are often encouraged to play an active role in economic activities in order to increase income and meet family needs. (Hanum & Juwita, 2022). With the three steps in implementing skills education and training, it is hoped that female farm workers in Lamkabeu village, Aceh Besar district can be empowered and help them increase their family income so that their families are more prosperous.

4. Conclusions

By choosing to work as a female farm laborer, it has had a significant influence in supporting the family economy in obtaining income and increasing welfare, where female farm laborers have been able to meet the daily needs of their families. In addition, with the empowerment given to female farm laborers through skills education and training, it helps them open their minds and educates them on how to manage the income they earn to be used for other side businesses. With the income earned, the level of fulfillment of living needs can be met and their welfare is better and increases. Thus, the welfare of society towards a prosperous family can be realized.

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