



The Role of the Wife as the Main Breadwinner for Household Harmony in Bagorejo Village, Gumukmas, Jember

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the roles of wivel as the primary breadwinners in the context of family harmony in Bagorejo Village, Gumukmas, Jember. Along with economic development and increasing family needs, many wives are taking over financial responsibilities in the household. The methodology used in this research is qualitative, with data collection through interviews and direct observations of wives who serve as breadwinners. The findings indicate that while working wives can improve the family's economic condition, this also brings new challenges, such as reduced time for household management and child care, as well as impacts on interpersonal relationships within the family. However, with proper management, the role of wives as breadwinners can positively contribute to family harmony, provided there is effective communication between husband and wife. This research is expected to provide insights into the dynamics of gender roles and the balance of responsibilities within families in the modern era.

Keywords: Living; Harmony; Family

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji peran istri sebagai pencari nafkah utama dalam konteks keharmonisan rumah tangga di Desa Bagorejo, Gumukmas, Jember. Seiring dengan perkembangan ekonomi dan kebutuhan keluarga yang meningkat, banyak istri yang mengambil alih tanggung jawab finansial dalam rumah tangga. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah studi kualitatif dengan pengumpulan data melalui wawancara dan observasi langsung kepada para istri yang berperan sebagai pencari nafkah. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun istri yang bekerja mampu meningkatkan kondisi ekonomi keluarga, hal ini juga membawa tantangan baru, seperti berkurangnya waktu untuk mengurus rumah tangga dan anak-anak, serta dampak pada hubungan interpersonal dalam keluarga. Namun, dengan pengelolaan yang baik, peran istri sebagai pencari nafkah dapat berkontribusi positif terhadap keharmonisan rumah tangga, asalkan terdapat komunikasi yang efektif antara suami dan istri. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan wawasan mengenai dinamika peran gender dan keseimbangan tugas dalam keluarga di era modern.

Kata Kunci: Nafkah; Keharmonisan; Keluarga

INTRODUCTION

In general, in society, the husband usually plays the role of breadwinner, while the wife is in charge of managing the household. However, at this time, the situation has changed. Women now have equal opportunities with men to excel in various aspects of life, including the economy, and are no longer dependent on men. Men are no longer the only main breadwinners, and women do not only function as additional breadwinners. In today's living conditions, where needs are increasing and the price of basic necessities continues to soar, many wives do not stay silent. This

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phenomenon can be seen in society, where women now play the role of the main breadwinner for their families. They must meet daily needs, such as clothing, food, and shelter.¹

Nowadays, there is a lot of role swapping among family members. For example, the role that should be carried out by the husband can be taken over by the wife, and vice versa, the role of the wife can be done by the husband. When viewed from the perspective of society in general, this exchange of roles is often considered deviant. In this modern era, people tend to view the economic benefits of changing the roles of husbands and wives, even though these actions are not always in line with the values and norms that apply in Indonesia. In this modern era, it is undeniable that the number of career women in the country is increasing. Many of them choose to pursue careers or work outside the home for economic reasons. In a society that has diverse views on the role and position of women, we now often see women working outside the home, both in the office and in the military and police, just like men do. Modern life today has eliminated restrictions for women in activities.²

Many factors influence the shift in the ideal role of family members. For example, the natural environment that gives different roles from ideal conditions, cultural differences, and economic demands that cause changes in roles in the family. This condition has a positive and negative impact on family members who experience the shift. In the family, the dominant and optimal role of the mother includes the main duties of housekeeper, financial management, and education and childcare, all of which can affect the level of family well-being. This may not be a big problem for unmarried women, but for those who already have husbands and children, this situation forces them to put aside their responsibilities as wives and mothers who should be more at home to take care of the household. As a result, the vacancy in the role makes the husband have to take over the task of taking care of the house. If this situation lasts for a long time, it can have a negative impact on the relationship between husband and wife in fostering a family, making it increasingly difficult to create a prosperous household.

Related to the above reality, in Bagorejo Village, Gumukmas District, Jember Regency, there is a phenomenon where the wife plays the role of the main breadwinner in the family. However, there is no clear data on how many families in the village have wives who earn more than their husbands. To get more information, researchers conducted interviews with village heads and found that in the area there are 551 heads of families, of which 11 have wives who act as the main breadwinners.³ The village head explained that many wives in Bagorejo Village have a higher income than their husbands. This is due to more job opportunities for women, such as

¹ Annisa Novita Sandi, Marleni Marleni, and Sri Rahmadani, "ANALYSIS OF THE DUAL ROLE OF WOMEN AS HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN JORONG BUNUIK NAGARI KINALI, KINALI DISTRICT, WEST PASAMAN REGENCY," *SOCIOLOGY: SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.23960/sosiologi.v25i1.397>.

² Lukman Budi Santoso, "THE EXISTENCE OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS THE HEAD OF THE OUTAGA (A STUDY OF THE COUNTER LEGAL DRAFT-COMPILATION OF ISLAM AND QIRA'AH MUBLÀ LAW)," *MARWAH: JOURNAL OF WOMEN, RELIGION AND GENDER* 18, no. 2 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.24014/marwah.v18i2.8703>.

³ In the statement of the village head, he explained that there are several reasons why in some families wives are the main support and even the main backbone in terms of the economy and welfare of their families, one of which is the educational background and physical ability.

kindergarten/elementary school teachers, bank employees, traders, and others. On the other hand, their husbands tend to have irregular jobs, such as odd jobs that work only when needed. Thus, there are husbands whose income is uncertain, so that the wife's income is the main source to meet the needs of the family. As a result, the husband's obligation to provide for himself cannot be fully fulfilled. The family's life is highly dependent on the wife's income, which makes them have to work to meet the family's living needs.

The phenomenon of wives as the main breadwinner in Bagorejo Village is not a widespread culture, but only an incident that occurs in a few specific families. Thus, this does not reflect the culture that develops in the people of Bagorejo Village, but rather a specific case experienced by certain families. The reason why the author chose Bagorejo Village, Gumukmas District, Jember Regency as the object of research is because the religious community environment should encourage husbands to be more responsible for family obligations. However, the reality is that there are still many heads of families (husbands) who have not fully fulfilled their responsibilities in providing support.

Several previous studies on household harmony show that the role of housewives is very important in household welfare. Research by Hasriani and colleagues explains that the role of women in having a significant impact on improving family welfare in the economic field. Meanwhile, Setyoningrum in his research also explained that not only in the economic improvement sector but women are also able to manage finances in the family so that they become more efficient in managing the family economy. Strengthened by Jalil and Tanjong who found that women have dual abilities in addition to helping the economy, they can also manage, educate and become partners in the welfare of the family. From this phenomenon, it is important to explore the factors that drive the wife to take on the role of the main breadwinner and examine the impact of that role on the relationship between husband and wife. This phenomenon shows a change in the role structure in the family that has the potential to affect the balance and harmony of the household. This study focuses on the analysis of the driving factors that cause wives to act as the backbone of the family and how these changes impact the dynamics of relationships in their families.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research approach used in this study is a qualitative approach with a case study method.⁴ This approach aims to deeply understand the phenomenon of wives as the main breadwinner in Bagorejo Village, Gumukmas District, Jember Regency. Through this approach, the researcher seeks to reveal the experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by the research subjects in the local social and cultural context. This research is field, where data is obtained directly from primary sources through interaction with informants in the environment where they live and work. Thus, researchers can obtain data that is more accurate, relevant, and in

⁴ Sugiyono, "Understanding Qualitative Research," *Bandung: Alfabeta*, 2016; Ahmad Rijali, "QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS," *Alhadharah: Journal of Da'wah Science* 17, no. 33 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.18592/alhadharah.v17i33.2374>.

accordance with real conditions in the field. The types of data collected in this study include primary and secondary data.⁵ Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with wives who acted as the main breadwinners, who were the key informants in this study, as well as additional interviews with family members and surrounding communities who had social or economic relationships with the main informants. In addition to interviews, the researcher also conducted direct observations on the daily activities of the main informants to better understand the context and their activities as breadwinners. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained through the study of literature, documents, and other relevant references to support the understanding of the phenomenon studied.

For data analysis, this study uses analytical descriptive analysis techniques, which include several stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn⁶. In the data reduction stage, researchers select relevant data and discard irrelevant data, so that the focus of the research becomes clearer. Furthermore, at the data presentation stage, the reduced data is compiled in the form of narratives or tables that facilitate further understanding and analysis. Finally, the researcher draws conclusions and verifies to gain a complete understanding of the interactive patterns and the influence of the wife's role as the main breadwinner on aspects of household life. This analytical descriptive analysis allows researchers to describe reality in detail, identify complex relationship patterns, and explore the social and economic impact of the wife's role as the main breadwinner in the family.⁷

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Wife as the Main Breadwinner in Bagorejo Village

The role of wives as the main breadwinner in Bagorejo Village is one of the main topics found in this study. Many families in this village face economic challenges that require women to play an active role in the household economy. The results showed that wives played a vital role in overcoming the family's economic difficulties, although many of them were still burdened with heavy household duties. Based on interviews with several married couples in Bagorejo Village, one of them in Bagorejo Village, Gumukmas District, Jember Regency, the phenomenon of wives as the main breadwinner in the family has become a fairly common reality. Based on the results of interviews with several couples, several main factors were found that encouraged women in this village to take on the role. Economic factors, access to education, and insufficient income for husbands who work in the agricultural sector are the main reasons why wives become the main breadwinners.

⁵ J Lexy Moleong, "J Lexy Moleong's Qualitative Research Methodology," *Scientific Journal*, 2020; Lexy J. Meleong, *Qualitative Research Methodology* (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2014).

⁶ Sugiyono, *Quantitative, Qualitative and R&D Research Methods* (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2011); Muhammad Rijal Fadli, "Understanding the Design of Qualitative Research Methods," *HUMANIKA* 21, no. 1 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.21831/hum.v21i1.38075>.

⁷ Matthew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman, *Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded Sourcebook* (sage, 1994), https://books.google.com/books?hl=id&lr=&id=U4IU_-wJ5QEC&oi=fnd&pg=PR12&dq=Miles+and+Huberman&ots=kF-H-FUZ1Q&sig=NP5tm16NpJLjqBzFbrpRz3o9vSY.

One of the main reasons found in this study is the limited economic resources owned by families in Bagorejo Village. Most of the families in this village depend on the agricultural sector, where the husband usually works as a farmer. However, the agricultural sector, which is the main source of livelihood, often experiences income uncertainty. Uncertain planting seasons, fluctuating prices of agricultural products, and the impact of climate change are major challenges that affect the stability of the family economy. As a result, the wife feels forced to earn an additional living to help overcome economic difficulties. The jobs taken by wives vary, ranging from small traders selling daily necessities, informal sector workers, to farmers who help their husbands in farming. For many wives, this job is not just an option, but an urgent need to meet basic household needs, such as food, children's education, and health expenses.

This phenomenon is in line with the findings of several previous studies that state that women in rural areas are often involved in informal sector work as a way to increase family income. According to Duflo, women living in rural areas are more likely to work in the informal sector, either as small traders, domestic workers, or other unorganized sectors⁸. Jobs in the informal sector are often considered a more flexible way for women to help the family economy, as they are not bound by fixed working hours and can be done at home. With the contribution of wives in the field of family economics, the overall economic stability of the family increases, although often the job is not guaranteed and is vulnerable to risks. This condition makes women have to adapt more to the various jobs they can do to supplement the family's income, even if it requires them to take up jobs outside the home or in an irregular sector.

In addition to economic factors, education factors also play an important role in the wife's decision to become the main breadwinner in the family. In this study, it was found that many wives in Bagorejo Village have a higher level of education compared to their husbands. Better education gives women skills that allow them to find more varied jobs and have greater earning potential. Higher education opens up opportunities for women to access more lucrative formal jobs, such as working in the education, health, or administration sectors. For many wives who have a good educational background, the formal job is more accessible because they have the necessary skills and also better understand the importance of qualifications in the world of work. As Kabeer revealed, women's education serves as an economic empowerment tool, giving women the opportunity to work outside the home and make a greater contribution to family income. Higher education allows women to improve their quality of life and that of their families, reduce economic dependence on their husbands, and help improve the social status of families.⁹

However, not all women with higher education are directly involved in formal work. Some wives choose to be entrepreneurial or work in the informal sector, such as traders or home workers, for reasons of time flexibility or to maintain a balance with their domestic responsibilities. In this context, women who have higher education not only contribute to the

⁸ Esther Duflo, "Women Empowerment and Economic Development," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 2012, <https://doi.org/10.1257/jel.50.4.1051>.

⁹ Naila Kabeer, *Gender and Social Protection Strategies in the Informal Economy*, *Gender and Social Protection Strategies in the Informal Economy*, 2014, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315816197>.

economic aspect but also have an important role in changing social views and norms in their villages.

The Influence of Culture and Social Norms on the Role of Women

In addition to economic and educational factors, the influence of culture and social norms in Bagorejo Village also influenced the wife's decision to become the main breadwinner. In this village, although there is still a traditional view of gender roles, namely men as the main breadwinners and women as household managers, the reality is that many women choose to work outside the home to help the family economy. These changes in social and cultural structures are influenced not only by economic needs, but also by changes in the understanding of gender roles. In many households, wives who have their own jobs or businesses are often seen as independent and empowered women, despite the challenges in the division of household roles. The *role strain* theory put forward by Goode can be used to understand how role tensions arise among women who work outside the home. According to this theory, individuals who hold dual roles (such as women who work outside the home and also manage household chores) often experience tension, as the demands of the two roles can be at odds with each other.¹⁰ This tension can have an impact on women's physical and psychological well-being, especially when there is no adequate support from their partner or society.

However, despite the frequent role tensions, many women feel that their contributions outside the home give them more autonomy when it comes to financial decision-making and strengthen their position within the household. In some cases, working women are often involved in family decision-making, such as in terms of financial management or children's education. The wife's decision to become the main breadwinner also has an impact on the overall household dynamics. On the one hand, this role can strengthen household harmony because the economic burden can be divided between husband and wife, so that the family can survive better in the face of economic difficulties. Working wives provide more options for improving the family's quality of life, while husbands can focus more on their work outside the home.

However, on the other hand, the dual roles taken by the wife can also cause tension in the husband-wife relationship. The imbalance in the division of household duties often causes emotional stress in the wife, who feels physically and psychologically exhausted due to having to carry out the role of breadwinner as well as housekeeper. In some cases, this tension can affect the relationship between husband and wife, which requires efforts from both parties to create a fairer and more supportive division of duties. Based on this research, it can be concluded that although many wives feel compelled to work and become the main breadwinner, their contribution is very important for the well-being of the family. However, it is important to pay attention to the emotional and physical well-being of women who are taking on dual roles, as well as create a fairer division of duties within the household to maintain overall household harmony.

¹⁰ William J. Goode, "A Theory of Role Strain," *American Sociological Review* 25, no. 4 (1960), <https://doi.org/10.2307/2092933>.

Although wives are the main breadwinners, they still carry a heavy domestic burden. Household chores such as cooking, taking care of children, and cleaning the house are still done by wives, even after they come home from work. Many wives feel exhausted due to having to undergo a dual role, namely as a breadwinner as well as a household manager. This study reveals that despite changes in the division of roles between husband and wife, most wives still feel emotional and physical tension because there is no balanced division of duties. The *role strain* theory put forward by Goode states that a person who has a dual role often experiences stress due to the imbalance between the demands of the role¹¹. This tension often arises in the relationship between husband and wife, where the wife feels that she does not have enough support from her husband when it comes to household chores. In some cases, husbands help with household chores, but the amount is very limited. Many husbands feel that household chores are the responsibility of their wives, even though they acknowledge that wives work hard to support the family economy. This creates an imbalance in the division of roles that can lead to tension in domestic relationships.

The Impact of the Wife's Role as the Main Breadwinner on Household Harmony

One of the main objectives of this study is to explore the impact of the wife's role as the main breadwinner on domestic harmony. In general, the results of the study show that the active role of wives in supporting the family economy contributes positively to household harmony, although there are several challenges that must be faced. The role of the wife as the main breadwinner in Bagorejo Village has a significant impact on the family's economic stability. One of the most visible impacts is the increase in the ability of families to meet their basic needs. Before wives played the role of the main breadwinner, many families had difficulty meeting their daily needs, be it for food consumption, children's education, or health costs. However, with the additional income from the wife, these needs can now be met more easily, which in turn improves the quality of life of the family as a whole.

In many cases, greater incomes allow families to have better access to basic necessities, such as food, clothing, and healthcare. Children can be enrolled in school or get a better education, while families can access more adequate health services. This is in line with the findings of Kabeer, who stated that women's involvement in out-of-home work can improve the economic well-being of families, especially in terms of increased income and greater control over household financial management. Thus, women who work outside the home not only make a financial contribution, but also play a role in making better decisions regarding family spending and investments.¹² In this context, women who are the main breadwinners get the opportunity to control household finances and actively participate in the management of family economic resources. Greater control over household finances is often associated with improvements in the family's quality of life, such as improved children's education and improved housing conditions. Essentially, women who work outside the home often have more influence over family financial

¹¹ Goode.

¹² Kabeer, *Gender and Social Protection Strategies in the Informal Economy*.

decisions, allowing them to make more strategic choices when it comes to spending and financial planning.

However, while there are many clear economic benefits of women's involvement in out-of-home work, the study also shows that tensions persist in the family due to the dual roles played by wives. Although additional income can help meet the basic needs of the family, many wives feel pressured by the workload they have to bear, both outside the home and inside the home. Not only do they work hard to make ends meet, but they are also responsible for household chores, such as cooking, cleaning the house, taking care of children, and so on. This strain often leads to physical and psychological fatigue that can affect their overall quality of life. Stress due to the dual role carried out by this wife is an important issue that needs more attention. Most of the wives interviewed in the study revealed that even though family income is increasing, they feel overwhelmed by the double burden they have to bear. They have to work hard outside the home to meet economic needs, but at the same time they have to carry out their traditional role as household managers. This leads to fatigue that not only impacts their physical well-being, but also affects their mental health.

The phenomenon of stress due to dual roles has also been discussed in various literature related to the role of women in the family and the world of work. According to *the role strain theory*, individuals who hold multiple roles in their lives often experience role strain, which can lead to emotional and psychological exhaustion.¹³ In this context, women who work outside the home and also take care of household chores must balance these two roles, which can be very burdensome, especially if there is no adequate support from the husband or other family members. Duflo also pointed out that although women's economic empowerment can improve family income and overall quality of life, the dual role tension remains a major challenge for many women, especially in rural areas. Many women feel pressured by the expectation of meeting the demands of work and domestic tasks at the same time, which often leads to stress and burnout.¹⁴

To overcome these challenges, it is important for husbands to be more actively involved in the division of household chores and provide greater support to their wives. A fair and equal division of duties within the household will help reduce the double burden felt by wives and allow them to enjoy the economic benefits they generate without having to deal with excessive stress. In addition, social support from communities and government agencies is also crucial in creating an environment that supports women to better manage their dual roles. In this regard, education about the equal division of duties in the family and the importance of support for working women is very important. Women's empowerment programs that involve skills training, access to health services, and policies that support women's well-being, can help ease the burden they bear. This is also in line with the government's efforts to improve family welfare at the local level, by creating an environment that supports a balance between family life and work. On the other hand, despite the challenges associated with dual role stress, the study also shows that working women often feel more empowered and have greater control over family financial decisions. This gives them a

¹³ Goode, "A Theory of Role Strain."

¹⁴ Duflo, "Women Empowerment and Economic Development."

sense of accomplishment and autonomy in their lives, which can ultimately strengthen their position in the household and in society. The positive effect of this increase in income is not only limited to the economic aspect, but also has an impact on increasing women's confidence and recognition of their contribution in the family.

Overall, while the involvement of wives in primary breadcrumbs can improve the family's economic well-being, it is important to pay attention to the balance between their work outside the home and their domestic responsibilities. A fair division of duties, support from husbands and the community, and policies that support women's welfare will play an important role in maintaining household harmony and improving the overall quality of life. Emotional harmony in a husband-wife relationship can be significantly influenced by the division of roles in the household, especially in the context of the wife who is the main breadwinner. Based on interviews conducted with several married couples in Bagorejo Village, it was found that many couples feel that their relationship is getting stronger because of a fairer division of roles. Husbands who support their wives in household chores and are actively involved in family financial planning feel more appreciated. This husband's support not only has a positive impact on the family's economic well-being, but also strengthens their emotional relationships. When the husband not only acts as a breadwinner, but also participates in domestic duties, it creates a sense of togetherness and strengthens the bond between the two.

The husband's involvement in a fair division of duties reduces the pressure on the wives and improves the quality of their relationship. For example, some couples revealed that when their husbands were involved in household management, they felt more emotionally connected to their partner. This suggests that balancing work and home life can create stronger emotional bonds, which in turn promotes harmony in the husband-wife relationship. However, the findings of this study also reveal that this does not apply to all households. Some wives still feel like they have to manage almost all aspects of household life alone, even though they also work to earn a living outside the home. In this case, even though wives play the role of the main breadwinner, they feel isolated and unsupported by their husbands in carrying out domestic duties. Some wives even express frustration because they feel that the husband is only focusing on their work outside the home, while the domestic burden remains entirely the responsibility of the wife. These feelings often lead to emotional stress and tension in their relationships. This suggests that despite the economic increase in the family, emotional tension can arise due to an imbalance in the division of household roles.

Repetti explained that harmony in a husband-wife relationship can be disrupted when one partner feels burdened by an unbalanced role. When wives feel that they have to juggle two roles at once—as breadwinners and housekeepers—physical and emotional exhaustion can arise that affects their relationship with their husbands. This can lead to the emergence of disappointment and frustration that, if not handled properly, can damage harmony in the household. In addition, the *gender role theory* proposed by Eagly is also relevant to explain this phenomenon. According to the theory, the expected roles in the family are often influenced by existing social norms, which

distinguish between male and female roles¹⁵. In traditional society, women are more often considered to be housekeepers, while men play the role of breadwinners. When women begin to play the role of primary breadwinners, these social norms often conflict with traditional expectations, which can add to the pressure on women to fulfill their dual roles. This can potentially cause strain in their relationship with their husband, especially if the husband does not provide balanced support in terms of household duties.

In line with this, research by Hochschild and Machung on the "second shift" shows that even though women work outside the home, they are still responsible for household chores, which are often not appreciated or acknowledged by their partners. This inequality contributes to the emotional tension that occurs in the household.¹⁶ Therefore, it is important to recognize and appreciate the contribution of women in all aspects of family life, both in earning a living and in managing the household. Ultimately, emotional harmony in the household depends heavily on good communication between husband and wife, as well as a fair division of duties. Husbands who support wives in carrying out their role as the primary breadwinner, as well as jointly managing domestic responsibilities, can create stronger and more harmonious bonds in their relationships. Conversely, an imbalance in the division of roles can cause emotional tension that negatively affects the husband-wife relationship. Therefore, it is important for couples to continue to communicate openly about the division of duties and find ways to support each other in order to maintain emotional harmony and healthy relationships in the household.

The Influence of the Role of the Wife as the Main Breadwinner on Children and the Change of Gender Paradigm

The role of the wife as the main breadwinner has a significant impact not only on the family economy, but also on the development of children and changes in public views regarding gender roles. In Bagorejo Village, this phenomenon changed the young generation's perspective on women and their role in the family and society. Through direct interaction with mothers who act as the main breadwinners, children become more open to the idea of gender equality and more appreciate women's contributions outside the household. Children who grow up in households with working mothers often develop a more progressive and egalitarian view of gender roles. They not only see mothers' work as a form of sacrifice, but also as a way to understand the role of women in society more broadly. These children learn to appreciate the struggles of their mothers, who in many cases also have to balance work outside the home with domestic responsibilities.

For example, in interviews with several parents in Bagorejo Village, they reported that their children showed pride in their mother's work and began to understand that women also have the same abilities as men at work. One of the mothers interviewed told how her son, who previously viewed his mother's role as a mere "housekeeper", is now beginning to understand that mothers also have the right to work and contribute to the family economy. This shows that the role of the

¹⁵ Edmund G. Doherty and Alice H. Eagly, "Sex Differences in Social Behavior: A Social-Role Interpretation," *Contemporary Sociology* 18, no. 3 (1989), <https://doi.org/10.2307/2073813>.

¹⁶ Julie Brines, Arlie Hochschild, and Anne Machung, "The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 52, no. 1 (1990), <https://doi.org/10.2307/352858>.

wife as the main breadwinner is influential in fostering a positive attitude towards gender equality in children. This view is supported by research showing that children who grow up in households with working mothers are more likely to develop more inclusive attitudes towards gender roles and value women's contributions to public life. Studies by Charles and Grusky show that exposure to diverse role models at home can change children's perspectives on work and gender obligations. Children who see their mothers at work often become more independent, more open to gender equality, and learn to appreciate their multifaceted role as mothers, both as family caregivers and as breadwinners.¹⁷

On the other hand, this phenomenon also has a positive impact on girls. Girls who grow up in this environment tend to have higher aspirations to pursue education and careers, as they see that women also have equal opportunities for careers and development. This helps to reinforce the paradigm that gender equality is not only about the division of duties within the household, but also about the freedom to choose a life path that suits the interests and abilities of the individual, without being bound by gender stereotypes. However, this change did not happen out of nowhere. There are challenges that children face in processing this change, especially when they have to confront strong social and cultural norms related to gender roles outside the home. Therefore, it is important for parents, especially working mothers, to provide proper explanations and educate children about the meaning of gender equality and the role of women in society.

The role of wives as the main breadwinner also encourages changes in the public's view of gender justice. In Bagorejo Village, although traditionally the role of men as the main breadwinner is still dominant, the phenomenon of women working outside the home has a positive impact in terms of the division of roles in the family. Society is beginning to realize that women also contribute economically and have equal rights with men in terms of family economic management. In many cases, working wives not only contribute to the economic well-being of the family, but also serve as examples of changes that raise awareness of gender equality. For example, some families with wives as primary breadwinners report that they feel more open to the idea that women and men should have equal roles in the family, both in economic and domestic affairs. People who previously viewed women only as housekeepers are now starting to see them as important contributors to the family economy.

Research by Kabeer shows that women's empowerment in the economic context tends to change people's perspective on the role of women in the family and society. When women are given the opportunity to participate in the labor market, it leads to recognition of women's roles that are fairer and equal to men.¹⁸ This is an important step in introducing a more equitable understanding of the division of roles in the family and society. However, despite these changes, not all married couples in Bagorejo Village fully accept the new role of wives who are more dominant in terms of economy. Some husbands are worried about this change because it is considered to damage the existing power structure in the family. This fear is related to the

¹⁷ David B Grusky and Manwai C Ku, "Gloom, Doom, and Inequality," *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective*, 2007.

¹⁸ Kabeer, *Gender and Social Protection Strategies in the Informal Economy*.

concern that the role of men as the main breadwinner and head of the household will be disrupted by women's economic dominance. This reflects what Connell described in the theory of *hegemonic masculinity*, in which patriarchal power structures in families and societies maintain male dominance over women.¹⁹

This kind of conflict can cause tension in the husband-wife relationship, especially if the husband feels that his position is threatened or if there is an imbalance in the division of domestic and economic roles. Therefore, although the role of women as the main breadwinner can lead to gender equality, it is still important for couples to have open communication and resolve differences of opinion regarding the division of roles in the family. This is important to maintain harmony in the household while facilitating a more equitable gender paradigm change.

CONCLUSION

It shows that the role of the wife as the main breadwinner has a significant impact on household harmony in Bagorejo Village. Although working wives can improve the family's economic condition, they also face challenges, such as less time to take care of the household and children. However, with good communication and effective task management between husband and wife, this role can support the creation of harmony in the family. Therefore, it is important to understand the dynamics of gender roles and find a balance in the division of responsibilities in the modern era in order to achieve harmonious and prosperous family relationships.

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¹⁹ James W. Messerschmidt, "The Saliency of 'Hegemonic Masculinity,'" *Men and Masculinities* 22, no. 1 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1177/1097184X18805555>.

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