

# The Role of Women in Economic Development in Makassar

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## ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out (1) to what extent is the role of women in economic development in Makassar City? (2) what factors hinder the role of women in economic development in Makassar City? The research method uses field research methods. The data obtained is qualitative in nature and is presented in a descriptive qualitative manner. All data collected, both primary data and secondary data, used as research material are discussed using the above. The results of this research reveal that the role of women in economic development has significant results. The obstacles experienced by women are (1) difficulty managing time, (2) unsupportive work environment, and (3) insufficient income.

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**Keywords:** Economic Development, Role of Women, Labor, Income

## INTRODUCTION

Women are creatures of God who are different from men. The role of women in nation building is increasingly necessary. In almost every area of life, women have been able to penetrate and establish their existence. Women as an element of society have a very significant role in the development and progress of a nation.

In the context of economic development, the dominance of development actors or as development subjects is not solely in the hands of men. Women are also a potential resource aspect if their existence is empowered optimally. Likewise, the history of world development and national development has proven that women are capable of having roles and functions in various areas of life just like men. A woman can explore her potential so that it can be utilized optimally for herself, her family and society. Emancipation teaches that we as women can be whatever we want without having to abandon our nature as Indonesian women.

As more and more women involve themselves in social, economic, educational activities, government institutions, formal and informal organizations and in the private sector in entrepreneurship, the role of women in the midst of social life is not only limited to giving birth to

the next generation according to their intrinsic nature. . To produce greater equality between women and men, a process of awareness and capacity building for greater participation and transformational action is needed. (Sunardi, et al., 2022). More than that, women with their natural nature have been able to position themselves as assets capable of encouraging economic development, especially in Makassar City.

Very fast economic growth is characterized by the growth of new industries which create many opportunities for the male and female workforce. According to (Asrahmaulyana, 2022), employment is one of the problems that usually arises in the field of labor force, namely the imbalance between the demand for labor (demand for labor) and the supply of labor (supply for labor), at a wage level. This imbalance can occur because supply is greater than demand for labor (excess supply of labor), and demand is greater than supply of labor.

The labor force participation rate can be expressed for the entire population of working age and can be expressed for a particular population group such as men and women. Women's TPAK patterns can provide useful clues in observing the direction and development of economic activity in a country or region. Currently, there are many women in Makassar City who choose to participate in the labor market, but their participation rate is lower compared to the male labor force participation rate. This can be seen in the table which shows the labor force participation rates for men and women in the time period between 2016-2020. Based on these data, it can be seen that the male participation rate is a higher percentage than the female labor force participation rate and every year the female TPAK experiences fluctuations which tend to decrease.

**Table 1.** Labor Force Participation Levels in Makassar City According to Gender

| Year | TPAK<br>(Percent) |       |
|------|-------------------|-------|
|      | Man               | Woman |
| 2016 | 57.73             | 42.27 |
| 2017 | 61.72             | 37.27 |
| 2017 | 54.10             | 45.90 |
| 2019 | 55.90             | 44.10 |
| 2020 | 57.75             | 41.15 |

*Source: Statistics Agency, 2021*

Judging from the data above, by gender, it is calculated that the TPAK of women in Makassar City in 2020 who were ready to enter the world of work was 41.15 percent, while the TPAK of men actually reached 57.75 percent. This indicates that there is male dominance in the world of work. It can be seen that the number of female workers tends to be small compared to the number of male workers. This can be measured from the labor force participation rate (TPAK).

Women's empowerment in the economy is a process so that women have the power and strength to have better quality and eliminate dependency and escape poverty. Gender equality is one solution in increasing economic growth, achieving gender equality means eliminating the development gap between men and women in all fields (Arifin, 2017). Why should gender equality be applied in the economic world? This simple question is not easy to find the answer to. Because it contains logical consequences, namely the inevitability of opposing the wave of countercurrents which can be very large coming from groups that support the establishment of patriarchal cultural domination and masculine civilization which has become the standard and absolute paradigm. However, if studied seriously, this is not necessarily true, especially if it is related to economic and development issues.

(Setyawati & Ningrum, 2017) argue that gender can be categorized as an operational tool in measuring men's and women's issues, especially those related to the division of roles in society which is constructed by society itself. Gender is not only aimed at women, but also at men, it's just that those who are considered to be experiencing a marginalized position now are women, so it is women who are given more prominence in discussions to pursue gender equality which has been achieved

by men several levels in the past. social role, especially in the economic field because this field is expected to encourage changes in the framework of thinking, acting and playing a role in various segments of social life.

Decision making in the world of work is a form of decision both in the form of thought and in the form of action. In decision making patterns, women and men in making decisions are divided into two patterns; First, the traditional pattern which gives authority to men to make decisions, and second, the modern pattern which gives authority to women and men together in making decisions without losing their respective roles (Gusnita, 2011). Thus, if gender functions in the world of work, decision making will no longer be dominated by men. In the world of work, equality of women and men in the decision-making process has a strategy and has a double impact. Strategic because it embodies balance, harmony and double harmony because it does not provide distinctions of type when making decisions.

This research raises the real reality of women's economic life by answering two research questions as a problem formulation, namely

(1) to what extent is the role of women in economic development in Makassar City?

(2) What factors hinder the role of women in economic development in Makassar City?

The objectives of this research are (1) to describe the role of women in economic development in Makassar City; and (2) to determine the factors that hinder women's role in development.

## METHOD

This research is qualitative. The data obtained is qualitative in nature and is presented in a descriptive qualitative manner. All data collected, both primary data and secondary data, which is used as research material is discussed using the approach mentioned above. The data obtained was based on research subjects. Data collection was carried out based on the techniques described in the following segment. The subjects are women or career women both in the micro and macro-economic sectors as entrepreneurs and. As an entrepreneur or in the government or private sector as a Civil Servant (ASN) or private employee domiciled in Makassar City.

In this study, the samples were women or career women in Makassar City, only 11 (eleven) people were taken. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling, namely the researcher chose respondents as the main informants with the aim of making the information obtained more accurate because they were deemed capable of providing data and information based on their competence according to the career field they were in.

Researchers collected data in 2 (two) types, namely primary data (primary data) and secondary data. Primary data is the main data which comes from the main respondents, namely women who play important roles in economic development in Makassar City. They come from entrepreneurs, private sector employees and civil servants. Secondary is sourced from book references or articles that are related to the research. the research team collected data in two ways or techniques. First, observation, namely where researchers observe phenomena and facts that occur in Makassar City society regarding the role of women in economic development in Makassar City. The instrument used is an observation sheet. Second, interviews, namely the researcher held face-to-face meetings with respondents to conduct interviews regarding their roles in economic development in Makassar. The instruments used were an interview guide, recording equipment and camera.

To process the data in this research, the researcher summarized all money data obtained from various sources, namely the people of Makassar City. All data is analyzed using several techniques. First, the presentation technique, namely the data obtained will be presented and explained descriptively-qualitatively, clearly and truthfully from all types and sources of data. Second, reduction techniques, namely reducing certain parts of the data obtained but which are considered unimportant and do not constitute the core or main material. Third, the conclusion technique, namely by making temporary conclusions in the data analysis process.

## RESULTS

### The Role of Women in Economic Development

Based on research results obtained through observation and interviews with all respondents, it shows that of the 7 respondents, 3 of them are married and 5 of them are not married. Apart from working as housewives, they also work as civil servants (ASN), non-government employees (private) and entrepreneurs.

#### 1. The respondent works as a civil servant

Based on research results obtained from observations and interviews, it shows that 2 respondents who work as ASN have a significant role in economic development in Makassar City. Some of the respondents were married and unmarried. This causes differences in needs.

Apart from that, family demands and lifestyle also have an impact on their spending levels. Shopping activities also have a significant role in supporting economic development. The level of shopping in large stores, for example malls, supermarkets and the like, has a large tax distribution which has an impact on improving the economy. This statement is supported by the statement of respondent as follows:

*"I am an ASN. Income of approximately 3 million. I also have a side business. I have never been in tax arrears. The tax was deducted from my salary. I shop once a week at traditional markets or modern markets" (Respondent NV).*

NV also confirmed several statements using a checklist system. From 25 statements submitted to NV, he submitted an additional statement that the respondent always paid infaq or zakat and taxes. He also stated that he had the intensity of shopping at large stores such as malls or supermarkets more than two to three times a month. And in traditional markets once a week.

IW made a similar statement through interviews and observations. Of the 25 questions asked to respondents related to the role of IW respondents in economic development in Makassar City. As an ASN he has an income of over two million and also expenses of approximately two million. He stated that he spent around one million in shopping centers such as malls and even traditional markets. The remainder, IW allocates his income to pay zakat, infaq or alms.

#### 2. Respondents work as private employees

Based on interviews and observations conducted with 3 respondents as non-PNS or private employees, it shows that they have a significant role in economic development in Makassar City. We can see their role from several points which support economic improvement in Makassar City. These points include their income which they use for things such as paying taxes, giving alms or infaq. Apart from that, their shopping level is in shops such as malls or supermarkets which have a large tax distribution with spending levels of more than IDR 500,000.00 - IDR 2,000,000.00. This will definitely contribute to improving the economy in Makassar City. This statement is supported by Brother LL's statement below:

*"I work at a company in Makassar City with a salary of UMR. I always pay taxes regularly and it is deducted from my basic salary. Basic expenses for a month are more than one million. Every month I also do secondary shopping and I often do it at the mall. I also budget my income for alms every month." (Respondent LL).*

The same thing was conveyed by respondents CH and NN. That he has a monthly UMR income and pays taxes and regularly gives alms.

*"Every month I definitely shop at the mall or at the market. I usually only go to the mall twice a month. But I shop at the market regularly every weekend." (Respondent CH) "I have an income of approximately three million excluding bonuses from the office. "Alhamdulillah, there*

*is enough for daily needs and if you want to go for a walk." I usually go to the mall every week to relieve fatigue and shop at the same time. I also usually shop at traditional markets if basic necessities run out. Apart from that, I always have a budget to give charity to my parents, close family or outside the family." (Respondent NN).*

### 3. Respondent works as an honorary employee

This research data was taken through an interview and observation process with PT brothers as honorary employees which shows that they not only work to fulfill personal needs but also for family needs. From the income he earns, this amount is not enough so he has to look for side income to make ends meet. However, he remains consistent in giving alms every month. He also continues to contribute taxes from every purchase he makes.

*"I am not married and have worked for three years as an honorary employee. My income is not much, only IDR 500,000.00/month. In order to be fulfilled, I inevitably have to look for side income. I routinely shop at the market every day and go to the mall approximately twice a month. I also regularly pay zakat and infaq and give alms." (PT respondent).*

### 4. Respondents work as entrepreneurs/entrepreneurs

Based on research conducted on AN respondent who have professions as entrepreneurs, it shows that these respondents have made a significant contribution to economic development in Makassar City. The results of research conducted through interviews and observations found that respondent AN earned a net income from his business of more than IDR 3,000,000 per month. Another thing that shows that he has a role in economic development is the consistent payment of annual taxes, infaq and zakat. He also shops at large stores such as supermarkets or malls. Based on the results of the interview, he said that he needed to spend IDR 1,000,00.00 and above every month.

*"I have been married and an entrepreneur for two years. My net income from sales is more than IDR 3,000,000.00 per month. I often shop at traditional markets and at the mall. Every month, just for basic needs, I usually spend more than IDR 1,000,00.00. Meanwhile, I use the rest for things like shopping or walking at the mall, alms, zakat, infaq and paying taxes". (Respondent AN).*

## Factors Inhibiting the Role of Women

After the first problem formulation has been answered, then in this section the researcher will explain the research results of the second problem formulation, namely; What factors hinder the role of women in economic development in Makassar City?<sup>1</sup>. Research data was taken using the same technique, namely interviews and observations with 7 respondents who had different statuses and jobs. 4 of them are already working and 4 are still unmarried. The results of research related to this problem are as follows.

Respondent NV works as a teacher at a state school in Makassar. In carrying out his career as an ASN, NV faced several inhibiting factors, one of which was his limitation in managing his time between family and work.

This is different from PT respondents who indicated several factors that were inhibiting factors. PT respondents work as honorary employees in government offices. Several things that he thinks are inhibiting factors are a work environment that is not cohesive and salary or income that is not appropriate. This statement is supported by his statement in the interview as follows:

*"What hinders me is not only dividing my time between work and family, but a work environment that is less supportive due to a lack of collaboration. Apart from that, the salary does not match the sweat I put in. I have limited time and money to raise capital."*

Respondent LL felt the same thing. The obstacle factor experienced was time constraints. He works in a private office in Makassar with 7 hour working hours. This is supported by his statement in the interview as follows:

*"I come to work at 9 am and go home at 6 pm. This condition makes it difficult for me to manage my time. Likewise, when I want to earn additional income. Even though I really want to have a side business."*

Data taken from four other respondents, namely IW, CH, NN, and AN, shows that the four respondents did not face factors that became obstacles during their work and in their careers, both internally and externally. They feel they enjoy their work. This shows that these respondents have made a very large contribution to economic development in Makassar.

## DISCUSSION

After presenting the research results from data obtained from interviews and observations, in this section the researcher will present a discussion related to the data. These data represent two problem formulations which are the main keys in this research. Namely the extent of the role of women in economic development in Makassar City and the factors that hinder women in economic development in Makassar.

Based on the research results above, it can be stated that the 7 respondents who were research subjects had different backgrounds or professions. Research results obtained from interviews and observations show that the role of women in economic development in Makassar City has significant results.

Based on these data, the role of women in economic development cannot be doubted. This can be seen from the income they earn, income taxes and different needs. Apart from that, the intensity of shopping in traditional markets and modern markets contributes to taxes for the country. Women in the modern era can play a role in improving the economy at all levels. Whether it is a small scale or large-scale business level. Such as street vendors (PKL), flower makers and household goods all come from women.

They occupy a lot of space in corners of cities both large and small. Many of them have a role in shortening people's distance from shopping centers, making it easier for people to get what they need with cheaper transportation costs. Apart from their direct active participation in the wider community, business people also have a significant contribution because they always pay taxes to the government in a disciplined manner. The tax is then used or exploited to develop the region and the interests of the community through non-physical and physical development. So, it can be concluded that even at the small business level, women are not left behind in actualizing themselves to help run the wheels of the economy.

Apart from that, women also have a role in economic development on a medium and large scale. This is in line with the view previously expressed, namely that medium-scale entrepreneurs such as clothing stores, grocery stores, etc. are dominated by women. Not only business owners, including employees, almost all of them are women. This can be an indication of how dedicated women are to show their seriousness in carrying out their roles.

The entrepreneurial ecosystem is one of the driving factors of the economy and is related to economic growth. The concept of an entrepreneurial ecosystem as a collection of interdependent actors and factors that are coordinated in a way that enables productive entrepreneurship. If productive entrepreneurship is understood as entrepreneurial activity in a high-quality entrepreneurial ecosystem that enables a positive contribution to economic growth, this means that the level and type of entrepreneurial activity and its relationship with economic growth should vary systematically across different entrepreneurial ecosystems (Fajri, 2021).

Income growth and productivity levels tend to have a positive effect on gross domestic product (Urbano and Aparicio, 2016). Separately, the influence of entrepreneurship in developing



and developed countries is different. Developing countries have a larger population running small nascent companies than developed countries, a marginal increase in the level of entrepreneurship in developing countries has a positive effect on growth. In contrast, in developed countries, there is no growth because in developed countries as a whole, entrepreneurship is now approaching optimal levels, whereas in developing countries the opposite is true (Prieger et al, 2016).

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, researchers can conclude two things. First, the role of women in economic development in Makassar City is very large and significant. This can be seen from the allocation of their income which aims to help the family economy and by directly contributing to the regional income of Makassar City. Second, perceived inhibiting factors such as dividing time between family and work. This could be because the responsibility for caring is focused on women. Apart from that, other inhibiting factors are a work environment that is not conducive and income that is considered insufficient.

After conducting research on gender which emphasizes the role of women in economic development in Makassar City, researchers can provide suggestions, namely that similar research is needed by other researchers related to the role of women in economic development in Makassar City or in other areas. It is hoped that this will provide encouragement for women to develop their careers in all sectors.

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