



Voices of Marginalized Women

Collection of Reports on Women's and Marginalized
Perspectives



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Prolog - Penyusun

The book entitled "Voices of Marginalized Women, a collection of Reportage from Women's and Marginalized Perspectives" was written after the training of journalistic on economic inequality and gender injustice held on 27-29 October 2024 organized by Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice and Konde.co.

This book presents reports on economic inequality that drives the poverty feminization, namely that more and more women are becoming poor and at the same time facing gender injustice. So far, coverage of the poverty feminization due to structural economic inequality has not received much public attention because more writers are interested in writing about women's lifestyles than the problems of poor women, the problem of women's inequality that is ignored by the state.

This book is a compilation of coverage by journalists and a number of women activists from various regions in Indonesia to provide a critical perspective that the rights, interests and views of poor women must be fought for in the midst of development that impoverishes them.

Editor Team

Foreword from Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice

The book Voices of Marginalize Women is a collection of voices and narratives of women's struggles from various parts of Indonesia who experience economic inequality and gender injustice. This book was born from a collaboration between Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice and Konde.co. for the Training of Feminist Journalism on Economic Inequality and Gender Injustice on 28-31 October 2023 in Jakarta, written by women journalists from 12 media outlets in various cities.

In this book, readers will find various coverage of the economic impacts that result in the poverty feminization, namely that women are often the most affected by structural inequality. Starting from the story of coastal women in Cilincing who are struggling with reclamation projects, to the story of Balinese women who face double challenges in meeting their clean water needs. Each article presents a portrait of real life, complete with the struggles and hopes of women for a more just life.

As a common thread, this book highlights how various development projects often sacrifice women who live on the poverty line. At a time when the government promises progress, these women are actually losing their source of life and are forced to adapt amidst limitations. This book is here to remind us all that economic inequality and gender injustice must be fought together, by presenting journalism that sides with social justice and sides with those who are marginalized.

We hope that Voices of Marginalize Women can be a material for reflection and inspiration for all parties to continue fighting for women's rights amidst the inequality that is still rampant.

In Justice and Peace,

Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice.

Foreword from Konde.co

Media coverage sometimes uses a short fuse: the writing is shallow, and the important thing is that it is consumed quickly. However, because fast coverage like this has become a habit that the market likes, in-depth coverage is sometimes ignored. In fact, in-depth coverage requires a lot of energy, care so that readers can see the depth or other side of an event. Of course, it is not easy to present the issue of women and poverty in a long coverage, because so far the media still has a framework: shallow and fast coverage is preferred, coverage about lifestyle or celebrity lifestyle is preferred, coverage about poverty is not preferred. This construction has long been embedded in the media. If all coverage always questions celebrities and the establishment, the content is only public officials who are interviewed, then when will there be space for women in remote parts of Indonesia who have never been considered important?

Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice then collaborated with Konde.co to create a training on journalism and in-depth coverage of women and poverty issues. A total of 20 journalists then participated in this training.

This coverage aims to discuss, invite journalists to go into the field and write about content that is often ignored. The journalists were invited to explore the city of Jakarta to meet women shellfish peelers, while seeing their life struggles. Some also came to North Jakarta, meeting residents who lack water and have to buy clean water, even though they have to earn money with all their might to survive.

Then there are women who are marginalized and displaced due to the construction of the embankment. This training is presented in class with journalists discussing feminism, about siding with the weak in journalistic work, by combining field coverage and then writing it. The next process is to present their journalistic work, and how journalists share their experiences meeting female sources in the field. This method is believed by Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice and Konde.co as a meeting space and providing space for women and marginalized groups who have been marginalized.

Another thing that is done is the importance of connecting journalists to the physical world of women's activism and struggle. There is an extraordinary world of grassroots activism by women in Indonesia whose stories are not recorded. In addition, there are many marginalized and vulnerable women living in poverty and conflict who do not have access to the world of journalism to voice their suffering and fight for their rights.

This challenge shows that there is homework to be done to ensure that the media space can become a more fluid, transformative and equal public space. Enjoy reading the in-depth coverage of journalists recorded in this book!

Luviana Ariyanti
Editor-in-Chief of Konde.co

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From Low Wages to Mussel Waste: The Fate of Fishers Community Amidst the Cilincing Reclamation Project

Mbah Ceni and the women who peel green mussels in the Cilincing Embankment Reclamation Project area, North Jakarta, are struggling with economic difficulties.

Novemy Leo

Mbah Ceni (72 years old) sits among young and adult male and female workers. The woman has been working as a green mussel cleaner for around 20 years. She is no longer young, and now she has three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mbah Ceni is one of hundreds of women who spend their lives working for seven hours a day as a green mussel cleaner, boiler, and peeler. We met her in RW 1, Kalibaru Village, Cilincing District, North Jakarta. When we met that day, Mbah Ceni was cleaning mussels in a cottage, right next to the retaining wall of the Cilincing Beach Reclamation Project.

Her only child, Komariah, always works with her, sitting right next to her every day. The two women are always together and share roles, supporting each other to be able to complete the work of peeling thousands of mussels every day.

Mbah Ceni's wrinkled hands were very agile in cleaning the shells that were covered in parasites and other plants. Compared to Komariah, Mbah Ceni's movements in cleaning the shells were no longer agile. However, that did not dampen Mbah Ceni's enthusiasm to be able to bring home money that day.

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The Life's of Mbah Ceni's and Family

That morning, Mbah Ceni looked skilled in using a cutter knife and an additional special knife for cleaning shells. She immediately took the pile of shells that had just been poured onto the ground from a plastic box by a man right in front of her. She placed it in front of her, then one by one the shells were cleaned with a cutter knife. That morning, Mbah Ceni looked skilled in using a cutter knife and an additional special knife for cleaning shells. She immediately took the pile of shells that had just been poured onto the ground from a plastic box by a man right

in front of her. She placed it in front of her, then one by one the shells were cleaned with a cutter knife.

The cleaned mussels were then placed in the plastic box. Within seven hours—from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Mbah Ceni struggled to earn Rp20,000 to Rp25,000 per day from the results of cleaning the mussels.

"I use the money to buy rice and other necessities for me and my family. I have lived with my child since my husband passed away decades ago," she said.

With her age no longer young, Mbah Ceni was often asked by her child to stop working cleaning mussels. However, Mbah Ceni ignored it. Stubborn, Mbah Ceni did not want to be a burden on her family. At least the results she earned every day could meet her living needs.

"My children told me to stay at home, but I didn't want to. After all, I'm always sleeping at home, if I were here I could get Rp10,000, Rp20,000 to buy rice, and other things. If I get it here, it's enough to eat, oh my God, it's enough," said the woman who covered her head with a cloth.

Every day, the woman who was wearing brown culottes and a blue patterned blouse that day brought food from home for lunch. Rice and vegetables, that was Mbah Ceni's daily food. She only took time off from work when she fell ill, for example with a fever.

Wearing a gold necklace and earrings, Mbah Ceni said that it was one of the heirlooms from her parents that she still keeps to this day. "This is from my parents, it must be looked after," she said.

As a child, Mbah Ceni only received education up to grade 2 of Elementary School (SD). Wanting to continue her education, her parents were unable to pay for her education.

That is part of the economic portrait of women in Cilincing: unwilling to sit still and fold their arms. Anything is done according to their abilities and capacities. Even though they can only earn a little money every day, these women work to continue to support their families.

Anti's Story, Working Hard Peeling Shellfish for Daily Wages

Another story is Anti (33 years old). Since the age of 5, she was introduced to green mussels by her mother and grandmother. In fact, this mother of one also helped clean and peel mussels with her mother and grandmother. She continues to act out those childhood memories and reminiscences.

"I forgot how much it cost to clean and peel mussels at that time. Maybe IDR 5,000 for a wholesaler, but now it's IDR 3,000 per kg," she said.

When met, Anti and three other residents were peeling mussels that had just been boiled. The green mussels that were still emitting smoke were stacked in front of her. Using a small cutter knife held in her right hand, Anti took each mussel one by one with her left hand. The mussels were pried open at the edge, then the contents were taken out and collected in a small plastic bowl on top of which was a medium-sized red plastic bag.

Previously, cleaning mussels was priced at IDR 7,000 per plastic box measuring 80 cm x 20 cm, with a height of about 10 cm. But since 2000, the price of cleaning mussel shells has become IDR 10,000 per plastic box. Meanwhile, the price of peeling mussels that have been boiled and the contents removed is IDR 3,000 per kg.

"I can bring home IDR 50,000 a day," she said.

Anti still lives at her parents' house. Every day, she leaves the house from 10:00 WIB until Maghrib, leaving her husband and toddler, in order to meet her family's needs.

Anti can bring home around IDR 50,000 because every day she can only peel around 16 kg of mussels to remove the contents. The money is used to buy rice, sugar, coffee, plus a cigarette for her husband.

Anti's husband, Rahman, does not help her work as a clam peeler because Anti does not allow it. Not only so that her husband can focus on taking care of their toddler. But there is another reason, namely so that her daily income is not less than the amount she usually gets.

"My husband takes care of the little child because my husband is not used to handling things like this (peeling clams). If he works like this, he gets little. It's better for him to stay at home, thank God he doesn't complain," Anti gave her reason.

Previously, Anti's husband had worked at an LPG Gas factory, but stopped during Covid-19. Anti also worked at a garment factory, then chose to quit because her monthly salary could not meet her daily needs.

"For the days there is nothing. If this (peeling shellfish) every day there is income even though it is small. We need it daily," she explained.

So far, Anti has never received government assistance. Anti, who is included in her husband's Family Card (KK) in Koja, does not know the reason she did not receive assistance. Therefore, there is no choice but to work for Anti.

"If there is a choice, who would want something like this? We also want it to be comfortable, no one wants to live a hard life. But, we are just grateful rather than having no income, where are we going to eat?" said the woman wearing a black t-shirt and brown cloth pants.

Occasionally, Anti helps her parents who are now traders after several years of cleaning shells as well.

"My parents used to work like this. Now they are traders. Later, if I help my parents, the money I get will be for my children's snacks. Not bad. I will do anything, as long as it is halal," she said.

Women in the Tangkul Area Sell Iced Tea to Sell Boat Assets

Not only cleaning and peeling shells, women on the coast of Cilincing Beach also do many other jobs. Like Suryani (44 years old), who chose to become an iced tea and fried food seller to increase her family's income. Her income averages Rp100,000 per day.

"During Covid-19, 'no work, what should I do?'. At first I sold jelly, helped my nephew. Because here there are many people exercising, then I made vermicelli and then made fried food and iced tea," said the woman in a pink t-shirt when met at her husband's place of business. "The results are quite good, an average of IDR 100,000 per day."

Suryani's husband works odd jobs as a fisherman, shell craftsman, and laborer. According to her, her husband has been off the sea for almost 2 months because of the embankment project. "Occasionally makes craft samples from shells," she said.

Her husband has a shell craft business called the 'Cangkring' Shell Craft Center. The 3x3 meter business is in the middle of the shell cleaning, boiling, and peeling location.

The shell craft business has only been operating for eight months. Its products include decorative lamps, picture frames, wall hangings, all of which are made from shells. There are also fine sand and coarse sand products made from shell materials.

Not only Suryani, another woman who is also creative in capturing economic opportunities in the area is Masturo (58 years old). For several years now, Masturo has been selling cassava chips and iced tea.

The cassava chips she sells are bought by her husband at the market. Then when they reach Masturo, the yellow cassava chips are re-seasoned with a 'secret' seasoning and dried, then fried and sold. Masturo is not yet able to make her own cassava chips so she buys ready-made ones, then processes them again.

"I don't know the secret to making these chips yet. So I buy ready-made crackers, then I season them again and sell them," she said.

This mother of four sells her wares under a cherry or kersen tree, not far from her house. Her targets are shellfish workers, ranging from motorcycle taxi drivers, cleaners and boilers, and shellfish peelers. Including coastal reclamation project workers who come and go in the area.

She sells iced tea for Rp1,000, while chips are sold for Rp2,500. "I open my shop at half past three in the morning and close at Maghrib. Thank God, every day if it sells well, I can get Rp100,000," said the grandmother of four grandchildren. Masturo's children went to high school and now work odd jobs.

Meanwhile, Masturo's husband is a pedicab driver. Every day the man brings home Rp50,000 for his wife.

"It's okay, it's my fortune," she said when we met him while drying his chips under the embankment wall.

Masturo's husband used to be a shellfish fisherman or diver, and even had a boat. However, his boat was sold when he could no longer dive. "He's old, he can't dive anymore," said Masturo. After selling the boat, they bought a pedicab.

Masturo has her own thoughts about the coastal embankment project in the Cilincing area. According to her, the project helps the people there, especially those who live on the coast.

"The development is okay. In fact, it's good, because usually the waves reach the yard. The house was once submerged in water. When I was little, I was carried during a flood, the waves pushed the house forward," said Masturo, who is also the daughter of a fisherman. "But now there is a flood retaining wall so we are safe now."

Another woman who also took advantage of economic opportunities in Cilincing is Nurvadila (42 years old). This mother of five has been divorced by her husband who took two children, while she now lives with her three children.

To be able to meet the needs of her family and the education of her child who is still in grade 5 of elementary school, Nurvadila opened a makeshift stall near the fishing boat mooring. Every 05.00 WIB, the resident of RT 10 / RW 1 brings her goods to the stall by riding a pedicab; the fare is Rp15,000,- one way.

At 05.30 WIB, her various wares are available. Starting from lontong for Rp2,000,-, salted eggs for Rp5,000,-, fried food for Rp1,000,-, boiled noodles for Rp5,000,-, and iced tea for Rp2,000,-.

"All the fishermen and mussel motorcycle taxis buy food and drinks here, the prices are cheap. I sell food until Asr," said Nurvadila.

Mussel Motorcycle Taxis, New Jobs Impact of Beachside Landfilling

Thousands of green mussels processed by Mbah Ceni, Anti, and women and children in the area, come from the waters of Cilincing, North Jakarta. The mussels are the harvest of local fishermen or divers. The mussels are transported from the beach 'pool' or boat mooring, about 50 meters from the location where the mussels are cleaned and boiled.

In the past, the mussels were unloaded from fishing boats that were right on the beach. The workers who cleaned, boiled, and peeled the mussels were waiting not far from the beach. Then the mussels were taken and started to be cleaned, boiled, and peeled there. But since the construction of the embankment project around 2021, there is no longer a beach because it has been filled in for the project. The boat moorings were made as 'parking lots' for fishing boats.

The male residents in the area transport the mussels to the processing site by motorbike. The long distance between the boat mooring and the mussel processing location has created a job for the community: mussel motorcycle taxis.

The motorcycle taxis have been preparing their motorbikes there since morning. One motorbike can transport 2 quintals or 200 kg of mussels that are put into sacks by fishermen. The sacks filled with mussels are tied at the top and ready to be transported.

Haryono (49 years old), a father of two, has been working as a mussel motorcycle taxi since 2021. In one day, Haryono can go back and forth dozens of times transporting sacks filled with mussels from the boat mooring to the mussel processing location.

Using a Yamaha DH 3734 HHG motorbike that he bought in 2014, Haryono earns IDR 100,000 per day. Two sacks of rice filled with mussels are placed on the back seat, two other sacks are placed on the front seat of his motorbike.

Haryono, who was squeezed between the sacks of shellfish, leisurely rode his motorbike from 07.00 to 16.00. His speed was also fast.

"This motorbike is very strong, it always accompanies and helps me to carry these sacks of shellfish," he said, Monday (10/30) while rubbing the seat of his motorbike.

Malang Embankment Project: Mussel Production Reduced, Beaches Disappeared

On the other hand, the negative impacts are also felt by the community with the construction of the giant embankment project. It is not easy to harvest mussels every day, especially now. Boat owners and fishermen have to turn around to be able to penetrate the ocean to reach their share. Even the production of mussels is currently starting to decrease. Even if production still exists, the results and quality are no longer the same as before. According to a number of fishermen, this happened due to the construction of the embankment project.

A number of fishermen and divers really want help with fishing gear or diving equipment. This is so that they can improve their jobs, which then also improves their standard of living.

"If you agree, the government can provide assistance with fishing gear to fishermen here. We want to have fishing gear and shellfish. There are compressors, blowang ropes, bamboo for

growing green mussels. There are also better diving equipment," Hasan hoped, Monday (10/30).

We met this father of two when he was buying iced tea at Nurvadila's emergency stall, which is next to the boat mooring. "Every day I drink iced tea three times," said Hasan.

Hasan also complained about waste from several companies. As a result, many cultivated mussels died and were damaged. There was even a large mussel production that was no longer optimal.

Previously, Hasan was a fisherman. But now he is a boat laborer, lifting the harvested mussels from the boat and putting them in sacks filled with mussels which will then be taken to the processing place.

Hasan works from morning, from 7 am to 7 pm. "I get paid one hundred thousand every day. I use it to buy rice, and for my children's school fees," he said. Hasan admitted that he could not do any other work than being a fisherman or boat laborer.

"I only fit in here. I can't move to another place because my soul is already here," he explained.

Other residents miss the condition of Cilincing as it was before the construction of the embankment. They want to see the beach, play on the beach, run around, and walk on the beach sand. Ika Anggriani (38 years old), admitted that she really misses the old Cilincing Beach.

"In the past, when I was little, I could still play in the water on the coast, walk on the beach sand. Now, just to see the beach I have to walk far and there is no more sand like before. I miss that atmosphere," said Ika.

Unresolved Shellfish Waste Problem

Cilincing, one of the coastal areas north of Jakarta, is indeed very far from the luxurious life of the Capital City of the Republic of Indonesia. Hundreds of Heads of Families (KK) there still live in economic and future uncertainty, especially women and children.

How could it not be? Most of the people still work as shellfish fishermen who are not supported by adequate infrastructure and facilities and education. The results of shellfish production and processing are still sold at low prices.

Moreover, the North Jakarta Bay reclamation project also narrows the fishermen's room for movement. Fishing boats have to turn far due to construction; the consequences have an impact on the operational costs of ships when going to sea. Not to mention the consideration of time to reach the bagan and return to the boat mooring.

The shellfish processed in Cilincing are generally brought in by fishermen from the coastal areas of North Jakarta, Dadap, Banten, and Cirebon. After that, they are sold to Muara Angke Market, Muara Baru Market, and other places.

On the one hand, green mussels can improve the economy of fishermen and other economic actors. However, there is a problem that the government and all parties must now pay attention to, namely shellfish waste.

After the shells are removed, the shells are piled up and thrown along the management location. It was observed on Monday (30/10) afternoon, that the green mussel waste, which is included in the Pelecypoda class, was scattered at the mussel management location, about 50 meters from the fishing boat mooring. A pungent odor was also smelled from the pile of mussel waste that had not dried. If wrong, people who have just arrived and passed the place can immediately feel nauseous, even vomit because of the unpleasant aroma. In addition to being a bad view, this condition also interferes with health.

Local government officials should play a role in dealing with mussel waste in the Cilincing area, precisely in RW 1. The Head of RT 5 / RW 1, Kali Baru Village, Cilincing District, North Jakarta, Winaryo, also highlighted the problem. According to him, the problem of mussel waste has been going on in the area for a long time, but has not been resolved until now.

Almost all of the people in RW 1 have worked as fishermen, oyster taxi drivers, and oyster cleaners for decades. According to Winaryo, the oyster waste dumped by the community and oyster entrepreneurs around the oyster processing area was not solely their fault. Not defending the community; he said that the condition also occurred because of the absence of trash bins in the area for years. In addition, there is a lack of awareness among the community, especially oyster entrepreneurs, to be disciplined in disposing of waste in the proper place.

When met at his residence on Monday afternoon, Winaryo admitted that it was difficult to overcome the waste problem in his area because he had repeatedly conveyed the community's request to provide trash bins to the local village head and sub-district head. However, there were no results.

“The meeting was a long time ago. We haven’t had a trash can for years, but it was never given,” he said. In fact, public facilities such as trash cans should be there so that shellfish waste doesn’t pile up.

Accompanied by his wife, Winaryo also assessed that shellfish entrepreneurs are not yet aware of cleanliness because they just throw away shellfish waste. He said, although there are no trash cans from the government, about 6 years ago PT WIKA has provided temporary trash cans in the form of containers in the area.

“It’s just that the community, entrepreneurs, are not disciplined. They are also stubborn, they don’t want to throw trash in its place, even though the location is close. This is our problem here that has not been resolved until now,” he said.

The waste problem in DKI Jakarta has not been handled, as in the Cilincing area. Although trash bins are available, people are reluctant to dump their industrial waste there. Therefore, Winaryo appealed to the public, especially shellfish entrepreneurs, to be more disciplined in collecting and disposing of shellfish waste in its place. He also hopes that the upper level government can utilize the potential of shellfish in Cilincing to be processed into crafts to improve the community's economy. "So that there is economic empowerment here. The shellfish meat is sold, the shellfish waste can also produce something valuable," Winaryo hopes.

Solutions for Cilincing

As a shellfish processing area, Cilincing actually has several important problems that need to be solved. Among others are shellfish waste and community economic empowerment.

Environmental observer and Geography lecturer at the FKIP Nusa Cendana University Kupang, Dr. Hamzah H. Wulakada, also commented on the issue. Hamzah said, seen from the regulations, indeed plans for the development of any space, whatever the intervention, should have an environmental document that precedes it. At a minimum, the zone change is already available.

"Unfortunately, then if this is a government project, then several steps that are taken also need to be wise. So not only considering the physics, chemistry or physical problems. But also the socio-economic problems that are more difficult to portray," said Hamzah, Monday (10/30) night.

In the initial planning of the portrait of the socio-economic system conditions of the community with a coastal lifestyle pattern, the area was categorized as a protected area. This means that the treatment must also be different. Then, the issue of mussel management efforts is actually not difficult because there have been community activities there since the beginning. At least, there must be other program interventions that accompany it.

In other words, the mussel business is actually a supervisory function for the maximum limits of its efforts. The large amount of waste produced, there must be other production activity facilities that accompany it, so that it does not cause waste.

"There are many techniques for recycling shellfish waste. If it is only limited to the provision and storage of shellfish waste, I think that does not solve the problem of shellfish waste there," said Hamzah.

He continued, instead of being asked to stop their businesses, the community must be facilitated. There must be technological intervention in business activities and waste management. This must be accommodated in a policy for businesses that also prevents environmental damage.

Hamzah assessed that there are two possible objectives of the government's policy of building a dike in Cilincing. Namely, to project waste from land so that it does not directly interact with or pollute the sea. Second, to provide protection to ensure that the lives of marine biota on the coast are safe from disturbances to life on land.

Hamzah suggested that the objectives of building the dike be explained to the community so as not to cause polemics. "Does the presence of the project provide benefits or negative impacts for the community and a way out must be found," he said.

According to him, there must be a good solution so that the community is not harmed and their economic livelihood can be supported. "We can't dismantle it again, of course. The most likely thing is to intervene with further policies, namely the rehabilitation of coastal habitats for shellfish and other life in the coastal area, with other interventions that may be more environmentally friendly," he suggested.

Another solution is to educate the community and intervene in policies to revive the community's economy. From shellfish processing to waste recycling, this may be able to change people's behavior.

"We can't immediately blame the community because they have limited facilities and others," said Hamzah. The community must be facilitated to be able to recycle shellfish waste. "Prepare technology and prepare markets so that shellfish waste is no longer thrown into the sea and the community's economic life can improve every time," he suggested.

Asa Wulan, Shell Peeling Girl in North Jakarta Amidst the Splendor of the Capital City

When women have to suppress their dreams.

Dini Suciati Ningrum



A fishy smell stung our noses as we opened the door of a car parked in an alley in Kampung Kerang Hijau, RT 6 RW 22, Penjaringan, North Jakarta, Monday (30/20/2023).

It didn't take long for our entire body to be immediately filled with an unpleasant odor. The crunchy sound of green mussel shells crushing as our feet stepped deeper into the village seemed to create a welcoming rhythm.

Several times, my feet were pricked by crushed mussel shells that slipped between my sandal-clad toes. However, the five small children running and laughing on the sea of mussel waste that had become land seemed not to be a problem. Including for Rizki, this two-year-old child even played barefoot behind the house that was already strewn with mussels.

Wulan Forced to Bury Her Dreams



Not long after, a girl came to Rizki. She deftly removed Rizki's diaper that was already full of dirt. The girl who is familiarly called Wulan then bathed her little brother on a pile of shells. The bathroom was far from decent, it had no roof and was only covered by a dirty curtain.

Wulan suddenly stopped the water that was wetting her little brother when I asked Wulan about her dreams.

"I want (my family) to be pleasing to the eye, basically successful," said Wulan.

When I was a Child, I Became a Shellfish Peeler



Growing up in a fishing family, Wulan couldn't miss out on a fun childhood. She said that since she was in elementary school, she had helped her parents peel clams.

Yes, Wulan's mother is a clam peeler who depends on her father's fishing income.

"Since she was little, she has (peeled clams), when she got home from school until the evening, and still does now," she said.

Wulan Wants to Go to College



Wulan's desire to go to college also had to be suppressed. Wulan chose to help earn money by peeling green mussels.

"There is (the desire to go to college), but..." she said softly and stopped.

Currently, Wulan only wants to help her parents and be able to fix the house, because currently her house is threatened with sinking because it is on the edge of the beach.

Construction of Embankment Creates Fear of Eviction



The construction of a seawall on the coast of Jakarta also made Wulan confused. She was afraid that if the house that had been her shelter for 14 years would be evicted, it would also result in the loss of her livelihood.

"I just want to fix the house and the environment, not evict it," she said.

As is known, the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government, in the DKI Jakarta Regional Development Plan (RPD) 2023-2026, plans to build a 22 km long seawall. The construction of this safety embankment is part of the National Capital Integrated Coastal Development (NCICD) project which plays a role in flood control efforts.

Referring to the NCICD graphic map belonging to the DKI Jakarta SDA Service, the total length of the embankment that has been built is 8,043 meters, which is divided into several clusters: Marunda, Muara Baru, Pantai Mutiara Daratan, Muara Angke, Pluit, and Pantai Indah Kapuk.

Woman Above the Sea of Shells in North Jakarta, Stick with the Smell of Fish for Life

The hard life of women shellfish peelers in the capital

Dini Suciatiningrum



"Kruk-kruk" the sound of green mussel shells being crushed when stepped on sounded crisp as if welcoming my footsteps entering Kampung Kerang Hijau, RT 6 RW 22, Penjaringan, North Jakarta, Monday (10/30/2023).

As far as the eye can see, there is no soil or concrete plaster, only green mussel waste piled up until it is crushed into land for the residents of Kampung Kerang.

At the mussel peeling location, there are many drums of steaming mussels. The faces of two men guarding the furnace are visible, holding back the glow of the boiling furnace. Not far away, dozens of older women are lined up with piles of mussels. They seem to be competing to remove the mussel filling. Without a word, only their hands work.

Get used to being surrounded by flies



Siti Julaeha's fingers looked skilled at separating the clams from their shells. The eyes of the clam peeler occasionally glanced at her child Syifa (3) who was playing with balloons. As if she was already familiar with the buzzing of the flapping wings of flies that were in every corner, Siti remained diligent in peeling the clams.

"You have to peel these quickly, if you're slow you won't get any money," said Siti while continuing to peel.

Daily Income Rp70 Thousand to Rp80 Thousand



Siti said she has been a clam peeler since 2010. In one day she can peel one to two drums containing green clams. For one drum, Siti gets a wage of Rp40 thousand.

"In one day, I can get Rp70 thousand to Rp80 thousand. Usually starting in the morning around 09.00 until evening," she explained.

Be Grateful Even Though Your Body Aching



The back pain that often comes to Siti has never been felt. She has to sit from morning to evening so that she can get a lot of shellfish peeled so that the kitchen keeps smoking.

Siti's husband is a fish trader, but his income is also uncertain. Siti admitted that she is not bored peeling shellfish almost every day, on the contrary she is grateful even though she only wears a housedress every day and smells fishy as long as she can get money to pay for the increasingly suffocating living expenses.

"Never go out, take a holiday, the important thing is being able to peel shellfish every day is grateful," she said.

Shellfish Peelers' Lives Not Destroyed by Dike Construction



Siti's burden seems to be getting heavier, not only is her house almost submerged because it is located on the coast of Jakarta, but she also cannot access clean water which is the source of life.

Siti explained that in one month she buys water for washing and bathing for IDR 200 thousand, while drinking water for two refill gallons for IDR 300 thousand in one month.

"Every time (the water) runs out, I carry it myself to the base to buy six blong (jerry cans) for IDR 15 thousand. This water is for washing, bathing but for drinking I buy it myself," she said.

For this 36-year-old woman, the smell of mussels is a source of income that is the breath of a better life. She hopes that the lives of mussel peelers will not be destroyed along with the construction of the embankment of the National Capital Integrated Coastal Development (NCICD) program which is part of President Joko Widodo's National Strategic Project (PSN).

Giving Voice to Poor and Marginalized Women Through Feminist Journalism

Gender inequality is a priority in newsrooms

Dini Suciatingrum



Economic inequality makes many women fall into the poor group and at the same time face gender injustice, which triggers the feminization of poverty.

Executive Director of Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice, Titi Soentoro said, poor women do not have access to decision-making and to sources of life, due to Indonesia's economic development which is based on foreign investment, foreign debt, and international trade since the New Order regime until now.

This economic growth development model continues to rely on the exploitation of natural and human resources, so that more and more women experience discrimination and gender-based violence.

"The phenomenon of economic inequality and gender injustice that triggers the feminization of poverty does not receive much public attention. Therefore, we need many female journalists

who are committed to reporting to help fight for women's rights for a better and fairer life," said Titi in her statement, Thursday (2/11/2023).

Giving Voice to Women Living in Poverty and Marginalized



Executive Director of Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice, Titi Soentoro (doc. Novel Basente)

Aksi! for gender, social, and ecological justice in collaboration with Konde.co conducted training of feminist journalism on economic inequality and gender injustice to fill this need.

The training was participate by 20 women, consisting of journalists, activists, and community women from Maluku, Ambon, Jakarta, Bali, Makassar, Central Kalimantan, Papua, and Bengkulu.

"The activity was carried out to strengthen the understanding of activists and journalists regarding the reality of development in Indonesia, economic inequality and the feminization of poverty, by using feminist analysis and encouraging solidarity and commitment to jointly voice the voices of women who live in poor and marginalized conditions," she explained.

Pluit Reservoir Development for Residents with Water Crisis



Construction of Jakarta Bay Embankment (IDN Times/Dini Suciatiningrum)

Meanwhile, the Indonesian Home Workers Network, Muhayati said, the construction of giant embankments to prevent tidal flooding due to climate change, in fact, makes it more difficult for fishermen to catch fish, damages the environment, displaces homes, eliminates livelihoods, and causes a clean water crisis.

"Clean water is one of our basic needs. Where I live, it is very difficult to get clean water because of the construction of the Pluit Reservoir. We have to spend around IDR 20 thousand to IDR 30 thousand per day. I hope that after this training, journalists and the media can report on the clean water crisis faced by women in Jakarta," Muhayati hoped.

Ketimpangan Ekonomi dan Ketidakadilan Gender Jadi Isu Prioritas di Ruang-Ruang Redaksi



Women peeling shellfish in Muara Angke, North Jakarta, Monday (30/10/2023). (IDN Times/Dini Suciatiningrum)

To improve their in-depth reporting skills and the multiple injustices faced by women, the participants visited Kalibaru, Rawa Badak, Muara Angke and Muara Baru in North Jakarta.

“Activities like this are very important and necessary to improve journalists’ knowledge of feminism. Economic inequality and gender injustice must be written about and become priority issues in newsrooms. Journalists need to look more deeply into the causes and effects of impoverishment experienced by grassroots women in Indonesia, especially in South Sulawesi,” said Sunarti Sain, a journalist from Radar Selatan.

Realizing justice for women who have not had a voice so far



Training of Feminist Journalism (doc. Novel Basente)

The training also presented several resource persons who have experience in in-depth coverage strategies, by looking at the causes and effects of the feminization of poverty. Among them were Ahmad Arif, a member of the Kompas daily and an administrator of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), and Ati Nurbaiti, Chair of AJI for the 2002-2003 period and one of the founders of the Women's Solidarity Association.

"Through this training, I hope to strengthen media coverage and support advocacy to realize justice for women in communities that have not been voiced enough," said Rori Marwani Subaing from the Institute for Capacity Assessment and Strengthening, Papua.

Balinese Women's Workload Doubles During Rainy Season

Women are always burdened with domestic duties

Ayu Afria Ulita Ermalia

The rainy season, in addition to having the potential threat of natural disasters, also has an impact on the workload and safety of women. Several working women in Denpasar City then shared their stories with IDN Times. That their workload at home and outside has doubled. Here is the full story.

The Burden of Cleaning the House Increases

Triwidianti (41) feels that her workload at home has increased with the arrival of the rainy season. This mother and private worker mostly does all the domestic work alone, such as cleaning the house and washing clothes. Moreover, her husband works abroad. She has to be an alert mother to take care of her two children, including her father-in-law.

Triwidianti said that every rainy season, no one repairs the roof of the house when it leaks. The house she lives in is flooded when it rains. So it takes extra time and energy to clean the house before going to work. This condition also makes it difficult for the family at home to access clean water sources.

"The obstacles I face are flooding, and puddles can make access to important resources such as clean water difficult," said the woman from Denpasar Baratini District, on Tuesday (5/12/2023).

Preparation for the Work Location Becomes More Complicated

Not much different from a woman who lives in East Denpasar District, Putu Sinta Lestari (29). The rainy season always limits her from doing activities outside the home. More preparation is needed to be able to get to the office, where she works. Especially using a two-wheeled vehicle.

Going to work must wear sandals, pants folded, wear a raincoat so that her clothes do not get dirty and wet. Maybe it's a common thing, but it's actually troublesome. She must arrive at the office clean. Her body, clothes, and shoes must be completely dry so that they don't smell while in the office. If they are wet, it will definitely take a long time to dry them. Meanwhile, she has to work on time at the office.

Not to mention the burden of household work. If it rains for a long time and routinely, the roof of the house she lives in often leaks. She has to move some items to avoid the raindrops. Then wipe the floor that is exposed to the water droplets.

"For now, the only solution is to replace the roof support ring of the house. It's just that I don't have enough funds to fix it," she explained.

Rainy Season is Risky for Workers Who Wear Glasses

Meanwhile, Khania (20) who lives in South Denpasar District admitted that her laundry becomes more during the rainy season. From the usual wet clothes that can dry in one or two days, now she has to wait for days and it takes longer. So that it adds to the financial burden to finish it.

"So it increases, and we have to spend more on laundry," she said.

As a woman who wears glasses, she has to face feelings of anxiety while driving on the highway. Because her vision is obstructed by foggy minus glasses. This condition is even riskier when she has to travel long distances for work.

The demands of outdoor work also take longer to complete because of this situation. The safety factor during the trip is a separate consideration, because some of the roads passed are potholed and uneven.

Plus, if she is menstruating, it makes her even more uncomfortable. She has to prepare some replacement clothes or shoes to bring to work.⁴ Men's workload is not affected by the rainy season.

Meanwhile, a man who lives in South Denpasar District, Ferry (34), admitted that the rainy season does not have a big impact on his workload. Because besides working in the field, he often helps his wife to finish her household chores. The rest of his time is then used for other more productive things.

"It doesn't matter. It depends on our productivity," she said.

Their stories are simple and trivial. However, the description shows that there is a stereotype against women, that their space to move is only in the domestic area and they receive a double burden in the home. Is this a form of discrimination?

The Splendor of Makassar New Port Eliminates Living Space, Gives Birth to Poverty of Fisherwomen

The Makassar New Port National Strategic Project (PSN) takes away the living space of fisherwomen.

Chaerani



Residents of Manggara Bombang Village, Tallo Subdistrict, Tallo District when processing seafood. (Doc. Chaerani/Republiknews.co.id)

Mrs. Syamsiah, that afternoon was wearing an orange knee-length housedress. On the right arm of her housedress was the Fendi logo with an elongated shape around her armpit. Although it was one of the famous fashion brands, I was sure that the housedress she was wearing was a fake product (KW).

My arrival that afternoon apparently disturbed her sleep a little. Because when she entered her wooden house, she was lying down with her daughter who was about 5 years old.

Mrs. Syamsiah's house, located in Kampung Manggara Bombang, Tallo Village, Tallo District, is very simple. It is made of zinc with a cement floor. Inside there are plastic chairs, and a long sofa of the old style that looks shabby. Two old cupboards are arranged next to the sofa, I am sure that the wooden cupboard is older than me.

"Yes, this is my current activity after I can no longer go to sea. I feel like I have more and more problems, especially in terms of income," she said while adjusting her seat.

Mrs. Syamsiah is one of hundreds of fisherwomen affected by the construction of the Makassar New Port (MNP) built by PT Pelindo IV Makassar. This MNP is included as a National Strategic Project (PSN), and was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo on Thursday, February 22, 2024. This port is claimed to be the largest hub and increase the efficiency of logistics costs in Eastern Indonesia.

The splendor of the MNP, which costs around IDR 5.4 trillion, apparently robs the livelihoods of fisherwomen in the development area. One of them is the area where Mrs. Syamsiah lives.

The loss of livelihood from fishing cost her two children. They were forced to drop out of school because they could not afford to pay for their education. At that time, she registered her three children for elementary and junior high school for the 2021 and 2022 new student admission periods.

"My two children had to drop out of school because we could not pay for their uniforms. That's Rp400 thousand per child, imagine if I wanted to send three children to school," she said.

"I also have a child in grade 2 of junior high school, until now we have not been able to pay his tuition fees, so he is in arrears, so he doesn't go to school," she explained again.

Syamsiah's lack of economic income was felt after she changed her profession from a fisherwoman to a plastic cup scavenger. She chose this job after she decided to stop fishing. At that time there were no more seafood that could be sold. In the sea after the reclamation only produced mud, oil, and garbage. So the marine habitat died.

From the results of her scavenging for three weeks, she was able to produce 3 sacks of plastic cups. This amount when exchanged with the collector was only paid Rp. 30 thousand. This income is certainly very different from when she was still fishing, Syamsiah could earn Rp. 150 thousand once going to sea with a duration of half a day.

Her and her husband's income as conventional motorcycle taxi drivers is certainly not enough to support her and her six children, out of 10 siblings.

"I really feel the lack of income now, in the past when my father and I, helped by the children to go to sea, could only buy food, the rest was saved for the children's school. Now it's hard to even eat," she said in a hoarse voice.

In her daily life, Syamsiah does depend on her catch at sea. She and her husband catch seafood such as Kanjampang (Clams) and Tude' every day.

Being a fisherwomen is not the first time she has done it. Syamsiah, who was born in 1997, comes from fisherman parents. Doing activities at sea is a habit that she really enjoys, besides it has become her main livelihood.

The economic burden she felt also made her want to end her life. She tried to commit suicide almost three times, feeling unable to bear the burden that she considered very heavy.

"I always felt that suicide was the way out. Sometimes I couldn't do it, I felt devastated. There were children who wanted to go shopping but had no money, and my father's income was sometimes only Rp25 thousand a day, so I wanted to eat, I wanted to buy this and that," said Syamsiah with teary eyes.

Several times she was forced to sell the contents of her house, just to buy basic necessities.

"All gone. My plates, my bowls, my refrigerator, my television, I sold them all. I don't have money to eat, my children also have to pay for school, my life is really hard after this reclamation," he said again.

Currently, Syamsiah relies on her life by working as a plastic scavenger, a laborer, and various other job offers. He does it just to prolong life with his family.

From a Fisherwomen to be a Laborer



The fishing activities of fisherwomen have become increasingly quiet since the construction of the MNP was carried out in Tallo District. (Doc. Chaerani/Republiknews.co.id)

The choice to change jobs from a fishermen/fisherwomen to a laborer is a choice that people have to choose, whether they like it or not, due to the construction of the MNP. Especially women.

Saenab, a resident of RT1 RW 2 Kampung Manggara Bombang had to choose to become a cleaning service at a warehousing company in Makassar so that she could still help generate additional income for her family.

She chose to become a laborer at the company because the marine products in her fishing area were no longer as promising as before the reclamation of the MNP construction. This condition certainly reduced her family's income. Moreover, at that time she was still sending her three children to school.

"I only lasted 8 months, because we are more used to working at sea than in a company," said Saenab.

Not a few people also choose to look for work outside Makassar by migrating to other areas or cities.

"Some go to Morowali, Palopo, even to Papua, there are some who are fishermen and some are laborers. They follow their families, many are men," she explained.

Before the construction of the MNP was carried out, male fishermen focused on catching crabs, while fisherwomen caught clams, tude, and ambari. But since the construction was carried out, a number of catches have slowly disappeared and died. Like ambari which Saenab said was no longer found in the Tallo sea.

She admitted that fisherwomen contribute greatly to helping the family economy. For example, Saenab, with her husband's income as a laborer with a salary of Rp75 thousand, of course it will not be enough to cover living expenses. But from the results of fishing she can live comfortably.

"My husband's salary is only enough for the kitchen, so I use the income from the sea for education costs, or family celebrations. Now it is difficult for us to fulfill it," she said.

In addition to Saenab, there are more than 400 people from Buloa, Cambayya, to Tallo Villages affected by the deprivation of their right to life due to the construction of the MNP. Some are vulnerable groups such as women and children.

"Specifically in our area alone, there are around 100 women affected," she said.

Causes Increasing Poverty

Program Coordinator of the Aksi! Program for gender, social, and ecological justice Risma Umar said that the National Strategic Program (PSN) built by the government such as the MNP Development only displaces living space and creates poverty.

"It even creates gender injustice for fisherwomen whose livelihoods come from the sea," she said.

Risma said that in the last five years, the increase in poverty was considered worrying. Based on data as of March 2023, the number of poor people in South Sulawesi reached around 788 thousand million people. Meanwhile, the number of poor people in Makassar City reached 74 thousand people.

"In the data, there are also around 1,000 extreme poor people in Makassar. In addition, from this poverty data, many heads of families are women," she said on the sidelines of the Multi-Party Dialogue entitled "Ending Economic Inequality and Gender Injustice by Providing Recognition and Access to Living Space, Social Protection and Decent Work for Women in South Sulawesi".

The condition of poverty is not only the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, but is caused by policies that affect the access space for poor people to improve their welfare.

She gave an example, in the Job Creation Law which gave birth to many kinds of policies that closed access and impoverished the community. Where, industrial workers really felt the impact, such as wages only calculated per hour, thus killing their income, even this is outside of outsourcing and others.

"So it's not just the impact of Covid-19, but the policy of evicting homes and evicting living spaces and many other things. Not to mention the average woman who is most vulnerable to the impact, because it is also affected by construction because they are never counted, never considered, and others," she said.

On the other hand, the government also often makes social assistance a solution to overcome poverty. Meanwhile, he sees social assistance as not being a solution to overcome poverty, instead creating dependency or losing the ability of people's critical thinking to get a better quality of life.

"Almost the aid does not solve the problem. So the government should review the effectiveness of the aid to reduce the increase in poverty because in many cases this aid is politicized," concluded Risma.

Compensation Does Not Answer Basic Needs

Saenab said, PT Pelindo IV Makassar as the party managing Makassar New Port does want to provide compensation as an effort of social responsibility. It's just that the compensation offered does not meet the basic needs of the community, especially women's groups.

The compensation program initiated through the corporate social responsibility (CSR) program of PT. Pelindo IV Makassar for the affected community is through a coaching system to become business actors. Technically, one business group consists of 10 women. They are

then given capital to develop the business. Another program is a free health check-up which is considered not a current community need.

"Why do we need a health check-up when we are already guaranteed in the KIS, not to mention other social assistance from the government that we have received. That's why we need compensation, that's what we really need," she said.

"Then they want to provide coaching for business groups, we think this will bring new conflicts for us, the community here. That's why until today we reject all forms of compensation," said Saenab.



*The construction of MNP Port has caused damage to marine habitats on the Talo coast.
(Doc. Chaerani/Republiknews.co.id)*

The Chairperson of the SP-Anging Community Executive Board, Mammiri Suryani, said that today's government policy in terms of city governance is made by adjusting the development of ongoing projects.

"So it's as if this regulation is adjusted to ongoing projects. Not to mention when planning a policy, the community, which should be the main party involved, is not involved in making the policy, as a result they are the ones responsible and affected," she said.

According to her, the government's steps in building a city, including in Makassar, need to be appreciated. It's just that it must be able to avoid the birth of new inequalities that are actually experienced by the lower classes.

Sawerigading University Makassar academic Rahma Amin said that in ecofeminism studies, women and nature have similarities as sources of livelihood, because of their ability to produce life. So if living space is evicted, the environment is damaged, then symbolically the survival of women will also be affected.

In addition, women are the most economically affected by the eviction of living space by looking at the geographical conditions of Indonesia, including in South Sulawesi. This is because many women are still economically dependent on an agrarian life or those who live on the coast and rely on natural resources in the sea.

"They (women) are economically directly involved in the management process, or help their husbands. When their living spaces are taken away, not only will their source of income be lost but it will cause new problems for women," said Rahma.

This Gender Sociology lecturer assessed that Makassar as a gathering place for people from various backgrounds to seek opportunities in general still faces various challenges related to gender inequality. Even until now, Makassar City has not been friendly to women.

"In the future, the government must initiate policies that are based on gender mainstreaming and involve women in development, even though there are many legal material products that do not support the active involvement of women, are discriminatory and gender unfair," she explained.

Not Involving Residents Directly



Women and traditional fishermen during a protest against the construction of MNP Port which was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo, in front of the Tallo PLN Main Substation, Thursday, (22/02/2024). (Doc. SP Anging Mammiri)

Suryani admitted that during the advocacy process, they did not only take actions of rejection, but also dialogue spaces in the form of Hearing Meetings (RDP) with Pelindo Region IV Makassar, to the local government conducted by Commission D of the South Sulawesi DPRD at that time.

It's just that from the dialogue space, although it produced a number of agreements, it was not accommodated properly. One of them, when Commission B of the South Sulawesi DPRD agreed to communicate with PT Pelindo Pusat together with representatives of fishermen in Jakarta, it was not done. So that fishermen as the aggrieved party rejected the results of the meeting between Commission B of the South Sulawesi DPRD and PT Pelabuhan Indonesia in Jakarta, because they were not involved.

"Even in that meeting, the aspirations and demands of the community as victims were not discussed," she explained.

Seeing the government's lack of support, SP-Anging Mammiri as an organization that accompanied then complained to the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission, to the Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women.

From this complaint, in 2022 the National Human Rights Commission Team then went down to see the field conditions directly through indicators of human rights violations. Similar to the National Commission on Violence Against Women, the results of the field review that was carried out then produced a number of recommendations for the South Sulawesi Provincial DPRD to immediately discuss and prioritize resolving the problem.

"After the recommendation was issued, we came to the DPRD to be followed up immediately. But what happened was that we were not received well, where we hoped to meet directly with the Chairman of the South Sulawesi DPRD, we were instead transferred to Commission C, even though the first one who mediated us was Commission D," she said.

To this day, coastal women affected by the construction of the MNP are still fighting for justice so that their economic income can recover as before the establishment of the magnificent port.

Makassar New Port, a Giant Project that Eliminates Coastal Community Rights and Impoverishes Female Fisherwomen

Social, economic, and gender inequality has occurred since the start of the giant Makassar New Port project. The PSN has actually caused misery for coastal communities, including fisherwomen.

Sunarti Sain



(doc. RadarSelatan.co.id)

President Joko Widodo has just inaugurated a new port in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. Its name is Makassar New Port (MNP). The inauguration of MNP was carried out by Jokowi on February 23, 2024. On the moment of International Women's Day today, Friday, March 8, 2024, we again highlight the struggle of coastal women who have been eroded by the presence of a new port called Makassar New Port.

This MNP upgrades the old port from a capacity of 750 thousand to 2.5 million TEUs per year. MNP is the port with the largest capacity after Tanjung Priok Jakarta.

The inauguration was carried out by President Joko Widodo who was present with Ministers such as Minister of SOEs Erick Thohir, Minister of Transportation Budi Setiyadi, and Minister of PUPR Basuki Hadimuljono.

Jokowi said that Makassar New Port is the largest port after Tanjung Priok in Jakarta.

However, the existence of MNP is not always good news for coastal communities who have long lived and depended on the sea for their livelihoods.

Since the beginning of the MNP mega project development plan, coastal fishermen in the area have rejected it and protested.

Even during the inauguration, a number of female fishermen held a demonstration against the inauguration of the Makassar New Port (MNP) by President Jokowi in front of the Tallo PLN Main Substation.

Rejection of the construction of MNP Port has actually been carried out years ago. To be precise in 2017 by coastal women together with traditional fishermen in Cambaya Village, Buloa, Tallo, Makassar.

The protest was because the development activities had eliminated the livelihoods of fishermen, women's food sources, environmental pollution, mud from the impact of heavy equipment transportation, garbage to oil waste.

Not only that, the MNP project also gave birth to social, economic and gender inequality.

Even more pathetic because a number of female fishermen who took action against the rejection of the inauguration of the Makassar New Port, received violent actions by security forces by forcibly taking a number of posters unfurled by the female fishermen.

Ramlah, a coastal woman who has been vocal about the existence of MNP said that before the Makassar New Port, her husband's work as a fisherman was going very well. Her family's needs could be met and fulfilled.

However, after the presence of MNP, her husband's and her livelihoods were shifted. They even had difficulty accessing clean water. "Indeed, Pelindo had come to us but only to ask questions. There has been no solution until now. Initially we were promised clean water, but it turned out there was no clean water for fishermen," she said.

Ramlah hopes that there will be no development or reclamation that will bury their dreams. "We only want the restoration of our rights. We don't need CSR," she said.

For the fishermen, voicing their concerns is now almost impossible. During the demonstration at the inauguration of MNP, a number of fishermen were intimidated.

According to Ifha from the Solidaritas Perempuan Anging Mammiri, this situation is a form of violation of the right to freedom of expression and opinion in public as guaranteed by law. "To this day, 150 women fishermen are still fighting to maintain their management space on the coast affected by the MNP project. Violations of women's rights have been reported to the National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission on Violence Against Women of the Republic of Indonesia, but there has been no clear resolution of the conflict by the government or the company," said Ifha. According to her, various efforts have been made by coastal women and traditional fishermen in seeking justice for their living space on the coast. Including meeting with the company (Pelindo), having a dialogue with the South Sulawesi Governor's government, the Makassar City Government, Commission E, Commission B, Commission C, and the Secretary of the South Sulawesi Provincial DPRD.

In various dialogue spaces, Coastal women and traditional fishermen conveyed their demands, namely urging the government and companies to restore economic rights and restore environmental rights. Even in the RDP held on January 24, 2023, the DPRD government and the company PT. Pelindo IV agreed to go to Jakarta together to meet with PT. Pelabuhan Indonesia to discuss this issue.

However, once again Commission B and the company ignored the results of the agreement. "Commission B met with PT. Pelabuhan Indonesia in Jakarta without involving representatives of women and fishermen," said Ifha, who could not hide her disappointment.

Non-compliance with the results of the RDP and the government's lack of seriousness in resolving women's issues were called a disregard for women's rights.

Too many losses experienced by the community, especially female fishermen. The reclamation activities of the MNP Port Development have an impact on the loss of jobs for female shellfish seekers, kanjappang and reducing the income of traditional fishermen. Women have to work and think extra to continue to meet the needs of their families. Moreover, the characteristics of the sea which are identified with masculinity, are often considered as an area that cannot be managed by women. As a result, women are never involved in the consultation process, their identity as fishermen is not recognized even though they have used the coast as a management space for generations. Fisherwomen do not receive empowerment programs, fisherman insurance cards while they are active at sea just like male fishermen.

According to Suryani, Chairperson of SP Anging Mammiri, the National Strategic Project (PSN) scheme as an Effort to Centralize Natural Resource Management, through Presidential Regulation Number 109/2020 is a regulation that is oriented towards extractive and infrastructure development. A series of agrarian and environmental problems have arisen as a result of PSN, which has had a negative impact on people's lives. One of them is the Makassar Newport Port (MNP) Project which has impoverished coastal women and traditional fishermen on the coast of Makassar. "The inauguration of the MNP port by President Joko Widodo is a real form of the state's neglect of the fulfillment and protection of the human rights of coastal women and traditional fishermen. The rejection and protests voiced by coastal women are a form of disappointment and anger of fisherwomen who have been fighting for their rights to their sea space. We condemn all forms of intimidation and violence carried out by security forces under any pretext. Expressing opinions in public is the right of every citizen, including fisherwomen," said Suryani, Chairperson of the Executive Board of SP Community Anging Mammiri.

Decades of Difficulty in Accessing Water, Women in Kedisan Begin to Take Action

Clean Water and Sanitation Deserves to be included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda. On the other hand, the Konyel community in Kedisan Village, Bali, still has difficulty accessing it. This has moved the women in Kedisan to do something.

Ni Luh Putu Wahyuni Sri Utami



(personal doc)

"I surrendered to the situation, never discussing the issue of water access with anyone."

These words came from a woman when I first came to her residence in the Konyel Environment, Subak Taksu, Kedisan Village, Kintamani District, Bangli Regency, Bali Province. It was early 2023; in this modern and sophisticated era, access to clean water should no longer be a problem. Especially on the island of Bali, a major world destination. But that's the reality. The Konyel community, who live only 15 minutes from the Kintamani tourist center, need to walk for hours through steep terrain to get water. The lack of access to clean water has made it difficult for them for years.

It is very clear that water is a source of life and a basic need for people so that they can live healthy and productive lives and improve their welfare. In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda, Clean Water and Proper Sanitation are listed as target number 6. The SDGs agenda in 2030 is to achieve all of these targets, including ensuring the availability and management of water and sustainable sanitation universally. This can be achieved through various efforts to improve water quality, manage integrated water sources, protect and restore

water ecosystems, expand international cooperation and support, and strengthen local community participation.

But will the achievement of SDGs target number 6 also change the lives of women in Kedisan immediately?

Global data from the UN until 2022 shows that as many as 2.2 billion people still lack access to clean water. In fact, more than 3 billion people do not have access to sanitation. In Indonesia, according to data from the World Health Organization (WHO) and several international studies, until 2022 around 60.1% of the population will only have access to clean water or there are still 35.3 million people in Indonesia who do not have access to clean water. The majority of people who do not have access to clean water live in rural areas; this is a very big challenge.

Statistically, there are still many regions in Indonesia that are below the national average in terms of water quality and clean water sufficiency. Water quality varies widely. Bappenas noted that Bali is one of several regions, along with NTT, Jambi, Central Java, Bengkulu, and DKI Jakarta, that are still struggling with poor water quality. Improving water quality will greatly help achieve better access to clean water.

Although the data implies a gloomy condition and as if there is no chance of a brighter future, surrender should certainly not be an option. I believe that any small step taken will have a big impact. Together with the Bali Women Crisis Center (LBH BWCC) Legal Aid Institute team, we tried to start with the simplest thing. Namely inviting women in Konyel, Kedisan Village to talk together. The hope is that from this small talk, awareness will emerge that getting access to clean water and sanitation is their right, and there is a way to voice it and fight together.



Then in mid-2023, LBH BWCC conducted further research as advocacy material on access to clean water and sanitation, especially through the perspective of gender and development justice. The research results found that most local communities, including women—especially in the Taksu area as the research locus—still experience problems with access to clean water. Several factors identified as the causes include poor economic factors or poverty, access to water sources that are difficult to reach due to extreme terrain, poor water quality, prolonged dry seasons, and others.

The lack of clean water then raises various problems. Some of them are public health problems, disrupted food security, declining living standards, and vulnerability to violence against women. The research was continued with a meeting with the local government attended by the Deputy Regent of Bangli Regency, the Environmental Service of Bangli Regency, the PKK of Bangli Regency, the Head of Kintamani District, the PDAM of Bangli Regency, Representatives of Bendesa Adat (Customary Leaders), Representatives of Subak, Representatives of Banjar, academics from the Faculty of Law, Udayana University, and of course women from Konyel, Kedisan Village.

From the meeting, it was later discovered that there are 415 surface water sources in Bangli Regency and only a small part of them are utilized due to limited infrastructure. Residents have difficulty accessing clean water because there are no supporting facilities (shared pipes and wells), damaged road access, distant access to water sources, high costs to buy tools or facilities to access water independently, or buy water or register with PDAM. Therefore, support from various parties is needed to expand access to clean water.

Some residents also use makeshift rainwater reservoirs, aka non-permanent; only made of tarpaulin. While others do not have water reservoirs, so they look for their own water or buy water. Low water quality and the availability of inadequate sanitation facilities (MCK) also cause other problems, such as stunting and other health impacts. Vulnerability to violence against women as a result of difficulties in accessing clean water includes the potential for domestic violence to sexual harassment against women when looking for water in distant water sources. In addition, the involvement of women at the customary level, village forums, and community deliberations needs to be encouraged in decision-making to fulfill access to clean water and proper sanitation.

Starting from that condition, the Water for Life in Kedisan program was finally initiated. This program will be implemented during the period from February to August 2024, followed by several series of activities, such as the construction of clean water facilities, sanitation-related training on Clean and Healthy Living Behavior (PHBS), and a campaign to the public about fulfilling the right to access clean water and sanitation as basic needs.

The dream of the women in Konyel is simple, "We want there to be a tap at home one day. From that tap, there will be flowing water." They will soon be able to realize that dream because they are no longer resigned to it, but have begun to dare to take action.

About the Writer

Novemy Leo, or familiarly called Novel, is a senior journalist and editor who has had a career in the press world since 1999. Born in Kupang on November 17, 1974, Novemy began his journalistic career at the Pos Kupang Daily, and until now serves as the Online News Editor at the media. A graduate of the Faculty of Law, Nusa Cendana University (Undana) Kupang, she has covered various regions in East Nusa Tenggara and has served in Jakarta as the Online Editor of Tribunnews.com. She is also active in participating in various journalism, human rights, and women's and gender issues training. Novemy has been a member of PWI NTT since 1999 and is also known as a journalism trainer, content creator, and motivator for students and professionals. Outside of the world of work, she enjoys playing music and gardening.

Dini Suciatingrum, is a professional journalist who has been active in journalism since 2012. Born on April 5, 1987, Dini studied at the Department of Indonesian Language and Literature, IKIP PGRI Semarang University. Her career began at Tribun Jateng (Kompas Gramedia Group), before joining IDN Times in 2019. Currently, she covers various national strategic issues, including the activities of the Vice Presidential Secretariat, the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government, and related ministries such as the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Health. In addition to being active in the media, Dini was also part of the Central Java Women Journalists Network (2015–2017). She lives in Pondok Gede, Bekasi, with her family.

Ayu Afria Ulita Ermalia, a Bachelor and Master graduates from the Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Brawijaya University, Malang, through the fast track program. Since 2016, Ayu has been pursuing journalism and is currently working as a journalist at IDN Times Regional Bali, after previously working at Bali Express, Jawa Pos Group. Ayu is known to be active in raising social, cultural, and humanitarian issues through writing and documentaries. Some of her works include the documentaries "Papa" (about sexual harassment by a sulinggih), "Victim of Wrongful Arrest of the Police, Grandmother Pempin", and "The Story of a 200-Year-Old Sacred Wayang in Bangli". She also won 3rd place in the 2022 Denpasar Police Writing Competition and was involved as a notary in the C20 Side Event Climate Adaptive Financing event.

Chaerani, a women journalist domiciled in Gowa Regency, South Sulawesi. This graduate of the Muslim University of Indonesia has pursued a journalism career since 2013 in various media, such as Bisnis Sulawesi, Koran Sindo Makassar, Harian Amanah, Harian Saudagar, and is currently active as a journalist at Republiknews.co.id. In addition, she is also the founder and administrator of the Makassar Women's Journalist Space since 2021. During her career, Chaerani has actively participated in various journalism training, especially those focusing on issues of women, children, the environment, human rights, and gender diversity. She is also a frequent recipient of scholarships in in-depth reporting programs and residencies in legal and anti-corruption journalism.

Sunarti Sain, is a journalist and editor-in-chief who has been pursuing her journalism career since 1996. Sunarti completed her education at the Faculty of Economics, Muslim University of Indonesia, Makassar. She currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Radar Selatan Daily and the Editorial Board of the Fajar Daily, after previously being an editor and journalist at various well-known media. In addition to being active in the media, Sunarti is also a Google News Initiative Trainer (2017–2022), a member of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), and is involved in various forums and organizations that focus on women's issues, media, and film. She is also known as the Executive Producer of a number of feature films such as Uang Panai, Silariang, and Maipa Deapati and Datu Museng.

Ni Luh Putu Wahyuni Sri Utami, is a Management graduate from Warmadewa University, Bali. Her career is diverse, ranging from finance and administration, to entering the world of journalism as an online reporter at Tribun Bali, focusing on health, economic, and human interest issues. In addition to being a survey partner at the Central Statistics Agency of Bali Province and Denpasar City, Wahyuni is also active in utilizing social media in her professional activities, including when serving as an admin and property marketing. She is known as a dynamic, meticulous, and enthusiastic person in exploring various fields.

Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice engages critically in debates and discourses on development and climate change policies to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, women's rights and the rights of affected communities, and supports grassroots women's action to achieve gender, social and ecological justice.



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