

The Multiple Roles of Women In Improving The Family Economy in Kradenan Hamlet

Khoirun Nisa', Arief Sudrajat

Sociology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, State University of Surabaya

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 30 December , 2025
Revised 12 January 2026
Accepted 19 January 2026
Available online 24 January 2026

Keywords

Dual Role, Women, Family



This is an open access article under the [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license.
Copyright © 2025 by Author. Published by Yayasan Daarul Huda

ABSTRACT

The advancement of technology and the advent of digitalization have changed perspectives. Previously, women were labeled as solely responsible for the family's needs at home. However, now both men and women have equal roles in earning a living. Women's dual roles have emerged as a smart strategy for improving family financial well-being. Furthermore, they are a way to realize family dreams that would otherwise be impossible if they relied solely on men or husbands. Increasing needs and uncontrolled prices have pushed a number of women in Kradenan Hamlet into jobs outside the home as housewives. This study employed a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach to gain detailed insight into the experiences of the research subjects. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation of women who perform dual roles in Kradenan Hamlet. This study utilized data analysis by Miles and Huberman, including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results of this study examine the various meanings they share in strengthening the family economy, using Alfred Schutz's theory.

Keywords:

INTRODUCTION

This research aims to examine and describe the dual role of women in the family. The family is a small unit within society that plays a vital role in the social order. According to Herbert Spencer a family is an organization consisting of parents and children. Each family member has a dynamic relationship. Therefore, to carry out their respective roles as a unit, cooperation and mutual support are necessary within the family. If one member is disturbed, the family's life journey will be affected temporarily or even indefinitely. Fathers and mothers in the household have equal rights to exercise power to ensure the happiness, safety, and well-being of all family members. Furthermore, what differentiates women and men is biological factors. Furthermore, psychologically, women are more emotional and passive, while men tend to be rational, active, and more aggressive (Yare, 2021). A husband and wife deserve respect for their contributions and actions. A family will stand strong when each member acts in harmony, in agreement, and in balance to achieve mutual harmony.

A family's success is inseparable from a mother's contribution in guiding her children, faithfully supporting her husband's work, and helping the family through work. However, the majority of society still views men as the primary head of the household and sole breadwinner. Meanwhile, women's roles are often relegated to secondary roles, bound by the obligation to care for children within the home. In addition, women are also the first madrasah for their children. Increasing family needs, while the demands of life continue to swell, can destabilize the continuity of family life and impact other needs. It was found that low economic conditions reduced family harmony (Afrizal, 2021). So that requires women to work to help the family economy. In Indonesia, many women are still found to have dual roles, even though they know their husbands work, such as in Padarincang District, Serang Regency.

Some men in Kradenan Hamlet work in the agricultural sector as farm laborers. However, income from this work is unstable and depends on conditions. During the rainy season and a rat infestation, farmers' crops can fail, resulting in significant losses. This income is therefore limited.

Furthermore, fertilizer prices are sometimes expensive and the dry season is a major factor. This situation forces wives to take on dual roles, which some consider beneficial, while others consider deviant from the socio-cultural norm that women should only perform domestic activities. The dual role of women is not simply a matter of equal rights with men. Women's ability to act can be significant for the development of family life. This phenomenon is common in various villages and cities, including Kradenan Hamlet. Many women contribute to the family economy by working, fulfilling dual roles as both housewives and workers.

The Kradenan Hamlet community is clear evidence of the dual role of women. The wife's involvement in the family's economic activities provides a unique perspective, demonstrating that there is no partiality between husband and wife in domestic or public roles. Instead, they share a shared responsibility to directly contribute to earning a living. The author's initial observations of women in Kradenan Hamlet revealed that conditions are now much more difficult than before. This forces women to continue contributing to the family economy, even if they receive little pay. This prompted the author to conduct further research on the dual roles of women in Kradenan Hamlet, Pasuruan Regency.

RRESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the author used a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. This type of research obtains data not through statistical processes but through experience and meaning. In qualitative research, the researcher engages with the phenomenon being studied. Qualitative research refers to the concepts of definition, meaning, and other aspects related to the research subjects during the interview process (Firmansyah et al, 2021).

This research utilizes Alfred Schutz's phenomenological theory, which focuses on understanding social action through the interpretation of meanings given by individuals within the context of social interactions. This means that humans strive to understand their own actions and those of others in social life. Schutz proposed two distinct stages underlying social action:

- a. Because motives are reasons that come from past experiences or cases in the field so that they influence social actions.
- b. To motivate is a motive to achieve goals that one wants to achieve in the future through social action.

Through this theory, it is possible to understand how the people of Keradenan Hamlet understand their views on women's dual roles. The research subjects were selected using a purposive sampling method, namely by selecting informants based on certain considerations and criteria relevant to the research objectives, such as having worked in dual roles for at least three years. There were seven female subjects in this study. This study used general data collection techniques, namely in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation. This study used data analysis techniques from Miles and Huberman, which state that data analysis is carried out through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions.

DISCUSSION

Education for Children

Education is the most basic need in a family which plays an important role for every individual. In the family, education is a learning process that begins with the development of knowledge, intelligence, and interests, focusing on a child's talents and passions. Therefore, parents are obligated to instill character values in their children, so they will grow into independent and resilient individuals who can face future challenges and adapt to new environments. Education not only teaches reading and arithmetic, but also helps individuals distinguish between what is right and what should be avoided. Furthermore, education teaches how to think and manage emotions to act and solve problems. Therefore, education plays a vital role in life.

Family education is a mandate for parents to guide their children to broad knowledge. In reality, life is inseparable from education. Humans were created not only to survive but also to create and achieve goals (Lubis et al., 2021). Therefore, humans need knowledge to become more

noble individuals. Education is seen as a key aspect in shaping the next generation, as it creates high-quality and responsible individuals. Families dream of successful children in the future.

Based on the research results, it was concluded that there were three subjects who had reasons for carrying out dual roles due to their children's education. One of them was because she had a child who was still in elementary school. The subject wanted her child to graduate from elementary school and continue to a higher level of education because the subject only graduated from elementary school and did not continue to junior high school. However, with her job as a tailor in a boutique, social interactions with her child were disrupted. The subject explained that her child was left to play alone in front of the house and sometimes with his friends. The subject felt sad because she could not accompany her child to play every day intensively. However, the subject's efforts were also for the good and future of her child.

Another subject successfully educated her child to a bachelor's degree using her income from teaching at a madrasah diniyah and running a food stall at home. The subject's experience of accompanying her child to graduation was a source of great pride for her. Although the teaching salary was modest, she was able to impart her religious knowledge to her children. Despite managing the household, she felt unencumbered by the burden of contributing to the family's financial well-being. Meanwhile, a subject who sold salted eggs through food stalls was able to send her child to college in Surabaya. She also felt happy that her child received a better education than her own with the small amount of money she earned from selling salted eggs. Therefore, the perspectives of these three working subjects included consideration of better education for their children. Thus, education is one of the factors that motivates women to work and contribute to the family economy.

Work

Work is generally defined as an activity undertaken by humans to produce work in exchange for monetary rewards (Baiti, 2020). Working parents, especially women, earn a living by focusing on their own needs and supporting the family economy. Basic family needs such as clothing, food, shelter, healthcare, and education are now soaring in cost. Meanwhile, secondary needs such as entertainment, electronics, and vehicles have also skyrocketed due to inflation and lifestyle choices. Children need school uniforms and extra tutoring, parents need regular medication, and daily gasoline and mobile data packages. Social welfare problems within the family can arise due to the failure to meet basic needs.

Work is one of the main reasons that influences the subject's decision to take on a dual role as a woman. The results of the study with subjects revealed that their income was significantly lower than when they worked as tailors. Their employers valued each stitch/embroidery piece at 5,500 rupiah. This work situation reflects a low-income situation with very limited benefits. This reflects the situation of informal employment or homework, where income is relatively small and irregular, thus providing only minimal benefits for the research subjects. Despite knowing the low wages, the subjects continued to work and were unable to switch to other jobs because they felt they only had sewing skills. The subjects also could not rely on wages from their husbands' work as construction workers, unlike before. This encouraged the subjects to continue working despite the low income.

This type of work is typically less economically stable and often makes it difficult for tailors to meet their daily needs. Furthermore, income is low due to limited funds for things beyond basic needs. This situation is classified as work with minimal social protection. In addition to working as a tailor, another subject also works as a salted egg seller, selling her own salted egg products to kiosks. This business provides a supplemental source of income for her family. This situation indicates that selling salted eggs is a small-scale, home-based business with limited profit margins, but is self-sustaining.

On the other hand, there is a subject who works as a factory worker with low wages, working from morning to evening. The subject has no other choice because his partner died, and the subject must provide for his own needs by working as a factory worker. This situation illustrates that the condition of family responsibilities influences work decisions, and the income earned by the spouse is not enough to meet the family's needs. Another subject has a husband

who works as a motorcycle taxi driver who relies on passersby for his services. The subject's partner does not use online motorcycle taxi applications because he feels he does not understand the application on his cellphone. As a result, the subject earns very low income. Therefore, the subject helps the family economy by sewing and taking care of his grandchildren at home.

Job problems like this illustrates the pattern of women carrying dual responsibilities due to their partner's financial limitations and the pressure of pressing needs. This situation emphasizes that the decision to work is not a free choice, but rather a necessity when the primary income is insufficient to meet basic household needs. Furthermore, this pressing need places women's role as a crucial economic balancer amidst the uncertainty of their partner's income. Furthermore, other subjects felt that women work not only because of circumstances but because they want to work according to their abilities, such as the subject of a teacher who is supported by her partner and family.

The Dual Role of Women According to Alfred Schutz

In today's modern world, the phenomenon of women pursuing careers has become commonplace, no longer ostracized by society. In Kradenan Hamlet, the phenomenon of women working has two distinct perspectives. First, it's a necessity to support the family economy, and second, it's a desire to express themselves and produce work. Equal rights for women and men give women complete freedom to achieve success and pursue professional goals in line with their passions and talents.

Based on Alfred Schutz's phenomenological theory, women's dual roles arise for two reasons: cause and purpose. Schutz stated that there are two important aspects to consider regarding a person's knowledge and actions. This situation demonstrates the understanding of women who want to support their partners by working while also taking care of the household. According to Alfred Schutz's theory, these women's social realities are shaped by their daily experiences with limited funds and increasing needs, resulting in dual responsibilities.

According to Schutz, individual actions are based on personal knowledge. Women view work as a solution to improving the family's economy. Meanwhile, other women's perspectives emerge regarding women working to create. When analyzed with objective reality includes social norms and economic structures that require women to play both domestic (housekeeping and childcare) and public roles (working part-time). While the reality subjectively, women construct the meaning of their dual roles as an effort to balance the needs of family well-being, not simply a burden. Furthermore, experiences such as time management, partner support, and a sense of personal accomplishment shape women's financial motives, particularly those seeking social recognition.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that a wife's dual role does not reduce the domestic workload or hinder her public role. This occurs because women can manage their time between domestic activities (taking care of the family's needs at home) and public activities (their work). Then some women view dual roles not as a burden but as motivation to boost the economy for both their personal and family interests. Furthermore, women can express their passion and work through their work. This condition can produce a harmonious household and fulfill all family needs.

REFERENCES

- Afrizal, S., & Lelah, P. (2021). Peran Ganda Perempuan Dalam Peningkatan Perekonomian Keluarga: Studi Kasus Pada Perempuan Bekerja Di Kecamatan Padarincang Kabupaten Serang. *Indonesian Journal of Sociology, Education, and Development*, 3(1), 53-62.
- Baiti, N. (2020). Pengaruh pendidikan, pekerjaan dan pola asuh orang tua terhadap kemandirian anak. *JEA (Jurnal Edukasi Aud)*, 6(1), 44-57.
- Firmansyah, M., Dewa, I., & Yudha, K. (2021). Esensi Perbedaan Metode Kualitatif Dan Kuantitatif (Vol. 3, Issue 2).
- Lubis, Z., Ariani, E., Segala, S. M., & Wulan, W. (2021). Pendidikan keluarga sebagai basis pendidikan anak. *PEMA*, 1(2), 92-106.

Yare, M. (2021). Peran Ganda Perempuan Pedagang Dalam Meningkatkan Kesejahteraan Keluarga di Kelurahan Karang Mulia Distrik Samofa Kabupaten Biak Numfor. *Copi Susu: Jurnal Komunikasi, Politik & Sosiologi*, 3(2), 17-28.