

Article

The Role of Women in Supporting the Economy through Woven Bamboo

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to describe the role of women in supporting the economy through woven bamboo, this type of research is descriptive qualitative, the results of the study illustrate that women who are involved in woven bamboo are able to create job and income opportunities for themselves and their families. able to manage a business so as to form an entrepreneurial spirit. Through woven bamboo, women can experience economic empowerment which includes financial autonomy, increased social status, and influence in decision making. Women who have access to bamboo weaving skills can increase their independence in managing personal and family finances. Woven bamboo is an integral part of the cultural heritage of a society. Women involved in woven bamboo play an important role in the preservation of this tradition. They maintain the woven techniques that have been passed down from generation to generation, and preserve the designs, motifs and stories associated with woven bamboo. In this case, they maintain their local cultural identity and respect their ancestral heritage. Woven bamboo also has a positive impact on the environment. Bamboo is an environmentally friendly material because it is a fast growing plant and can be renewed easily. By using bamboo as the main material for woven bamboo craftswomen help reduce the use of synthetic materials that have a negative impact on the environment. It also contributes to the promotion of a sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyle. Through their role in woven bamboo, women make a real contribution to the local economy, safeguard cultural heritage and promote a sustainable environment.

Keywords: Women; woven bamboo

1. Introduction

In almost all regions of the world, the existence of traditional skills is a silent witness to the cultural richness of society. One of the skills that have high historical and artistic value is bamboo weaving, which is supported by the community. The community is one of the places where women have an important role in preserving regional culture. In Cipta Karya Village, Sungai Betung District, Bengkayang Regency, there is a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation, namely bamboo weaving. These skills have become a cultural identity and a side livelihood for women in this village. Through these skills, they are able to create, maintain, and develop them to produce beautiful and useful products from natural materials. Bamboo weaving skills have become a part of community life in Cipta Karya Village. Woven bamboo is inherited from their ancestors and is a symbol of craftsmanship and the beauty of art through the weaving they produce. The existence of woven bamboo is supported by bamboo around the village, which provides abundant raw materials for these women to create designs, ragas, elbows, and various other goods. Woven products also have economic value, because they can be sold in local markets and outside the village (Elyta & Razak, 2019), even at cultural festivals.

The process of weaving bamboo begins with choosing the right bamboo (Dwi, 2021). Then, the bamboo is cut, peeled, and divided into fine fibres. These women weavers have unique expertise in sorting and tidying bamboo fibre, weaving it with diligence and precision. They use traditional weaving techniques that have been passed down from generation to generation. This process requires a lot of time and patience to create a quality final product. The women in Cipta Karya Village are the backbone of the bamboo

Citation: Vuspitasari, Benedhikta Kikky et al. (2023). The Role of Women in Supporting Economy through Woven Bamboo. *Journal of Islamic Economic and Business Studies*, 1(1), 54-61..

Received: 20th May 2023

Revised: 25th May 2023

Accepted: 30th May 2023

Published: 1st June 2023



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plaiting practice. They are the holders of the knowledge and skills of weaving bamboo, in maintaining and developing this tradition. Through plaiting bamboo, they can make an contribute economically to their family, while supporting their traditional roles as mothers and housekeepers. They are also the protectors of the culture and local identity of their village.

Bamboo planting has had a positively impacted socially and economically in Cipta Karya Village. These women can generate additional income for their families, which helps improve their welfare and support their daily needs. Apart from that, this skill also strengthens social bonds between women in the village, because they often get together and share experiences and knowledge in weaving. On a broader scale, woven bamboo products are exhibited in cultural events such as the Maka Dio II activity held by Cipta Karya Village, Sungai Betung District. Bamboo weaving is a process that combines natural beauty with human ingenuity. Bamboo, as the primary material, is a strong and versatile symbol of life. Bamboo weavers can transform bamboo stalks into stunning works of art, combining intricate weaving techniques and innovative designs. From traditional baskets to emodern household items, their creations convey the unique beauty and character of each community. Bamboo weaving skills have been practised by women so far, becoming an integral part of everyday life in Cipta Karya Village. Through a process that requires high skill and patience (Rusdi et al., 2020), bamboo weavers preserve the woven techniques that have been passed down for generations. They learned from their mothers and grandmothers, honing their skills over time. This is what enables them to create high-quality products that become valuable cultural heritage.

Bamboo-weaving women play an essential role in maintaining and preserving their cultural heritage. They act as guardians of tradition, passing on their skills to the next generation. In addition, they also take a role in promoting and expanding the influence of these skills through the local market (Anggi Hasian Silaban & Indra Bhaskara, 2020). In maintaining the continuity of these skills, these women not only ensure their own economic, but also strengthen their cultural identity and pride. In general, women make a significant contribution to the economy through various roles and sectors. In the formal sector, they are engaged in professional, management, technology, finance, and public sector work. In the informal sector, women are often involved in micro-trading, agriculture, home industry and small and medium enterprises. They are also the driving force in the creative economy, such as arts, fashion and crafts. Women's economic contribution is not only visible on an individual, but also on a national and even global level.

The increasing role of women in the economy has had a positive impact on social transformation. Economically independent women tend to have greater self-confidence, are wise in making decisions, and have the ability to influence social and cultural change. Women who are successful in the world of work also set strong role models for the younger generation, inspiring them to pursue their dreams and overcome existing social barriers. The economy through weaving gave rise to a new economy known as the creative economy. The creative economy has become an increasingly important in global economic growth (Purnomo, 2016). During of this development, women play an essential role in driving innovation, creativity and the sustainability of the creative economy. One group of women that reflects skills and uniqueness in the creative economy are bamboo artisans.

Bamboo craftswomen not only create stunning, but also play an essential role in strengthening the creative economy. They are prime movers in the local creative industries, creating employment and income opportunities for themselves and their communities. In many cases, these women run micro or home-based businesses, making significantly contributing to the local economy. By expanding market reach and marketing, they also contribute to the development of tourism and the promotion of local culture.

Bamboo artisans provide empowerment opportunities for women in several aspects. The purpose of this research is to provide an overview of the role of women in improving the economy through woven bamboo.

2. Results

The role of women in supporting the economy through woven bamboo has an important significance. They not only maintain their cultural heritage and traditional, but also contribute to local and sustainable economic growth. In many communities, women play an essential role in preserving culture and contributing to the economy through traditional skills such as bamboo weaving. Bamboo weaving, women are often the backbone of the practice, maintaining and developing the skills they inherited from previous generations. Through plaiting bamboo, women can create beautiful and valuable products. They produce a variety of plaiting that has economic value and can be sold in local markets and outside the village. By generating income from these skills, these women can make an economic contribution to their families (Deffrinica, 2019) while maintaining their traditional roles as mothers and housekeepers. The role of women in weaving bamboo also includes cultural preservation. They maintain the weaving traditions passed down from generation to generation, including the traditional weaving techniques, designs, motifs, and stories associated with woven bamboo. In maintaining the continuity of these skills, these women are not only ensuring their economic, but also strengthening their cultural identity and community pride. In addition, women bamboo artisans also play a role in strengthening the creative economy. They create employment and income opportunities for themselves and their communities (Beni et al., 2021) through the small and medium enterprises they manage. By expanding market reach and marketing, these women also contribute to the development of tourism and the promotion of local culture. Overall, women play an essential role in supporting the economy through woven bamboo. They make a real contribution to local economic growth, cultural preservation, and the development of the creative economy sector. Support and appreciation of their skills are essential to ensure the survival and development of this sector, as well as the empowerment of women in the economy as a whole (Benedhikta, 2021). The following are several aspects of the role of women in supporting the economy through woven bamboo, including:

2.1. Income and Employment

Women involved in bamboo weaving can create employment and income opportunities for themselves and their families. They produce various woven products that are in demand by local and international markets, such as baskets, bags, mats, and home ornaments. By selling these products, they can generate additional income and reduce economic dependence on others.

2.2 Entrepreneurship

Many women bamboo artisans have started small and medium enterprises. They become independent entrepreneurs and manage the woven bamboo business independently. In this role, the woman is not only an earner, but also a savvy business decision-maker. They manage the production, marketing and administration of their own business, thereby having a positive impact on the local economy.

2.3 Economic Empowerment

Through woven bamboo, women can experience economic empowerment which, includes financial autonomy, increased social status, and influence in decision-making. Women with access to bamboo weaving skills can increase their independence in managing personal and family finances. In many cases, they are also leaders and activators within local organizations and communities.

2.4 Preservation of Culture

Woven bamboo is an integral part of the cultural heritage of a society. Women involved in woven bamboo play an essential role in the preserving of this tradition. They maintain the woven techniques passed down from generation to generation, and preserve the

designs, motifs and stories associated with woven bamboo. In this case, they maintain their local cultural identity and respect their ancestral heritage.

2.5 Environmental Impact

Woven bamboo also has a positive impact on the environment. Bamboo is an environmentally friendly material because it is a fast-growing plant and can be renewed easily. Using bamboo as the primary material for woven bamboo craftswomen helps reduce the use of synthetic materials that hurt the environment. It also contributes to the promotion of a sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyle.

3. Discussion

Income and Employment

Woven bamboo has become a significant source of income for the women involved. Through the skills of woven bamboo, women can create various products that are in demand by local and international markets. Woven bamboo products such as designs, ragas, elbows, and various other items for home decoration have high aesthetic value they are often the choice of consumers who care about unique and environmentally friendly products. By selling woven bamboo products, women can generate income. In addition to themselves and their families, it gives them greater financial freedom and helps reduce their economic dependence on others. In many cases, women bamboo craftsmen are also able to set their own work schedule, which allows them to manage time with their families and fulfil household chores. In addition, women's participation in the woven bamboo industry also provides broader economic benefits. Within the local community, the existence of women as bamboo artisans creates job opportunities for other women around them. This can help reduce the unemployment rate and improve the economic welfare of the local community.

The international market also provides significant opportunities for women bamboo artisans. With increasing awareness of its sustainability and uniqueness, woven bamboo products are increasingly in demand by consumers in various countries. Bamboo craftswomen can take advantage of this access to international markets to expand their business reach and increase their income. Thus, the income generated through woven bamboo provides an opportunity for women to become financially independent, reduce dependence on other parties, and improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. In addition, the economic contribution of women bamboo craftsmen also has an impact on local economic growth and improves the welfare of society as a whole.

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship of women bamboo artisans plays an essential role in strengthening the local economy. Many of these women started their small and medium enterprises, taking complete control of the production, marketing and administration of the woven bamboo business. This initiative has positive impacts in several aspects:

- **Job Creation:** By starting their own businesses, women bamboo artisans create job opportunities for themselves and members of the local community. They can recruit additional employees to assist in the production, sales and distribution of woven bamboo products. This helps reduce the unemployment rate and contributes directly to local economic growth.
- **Enhanced Skills and Knowledge:** As independent entrepreneurs, women bamboo artisans are involved in every aspect of their business. They develop the management skills, market knowledge and marketing strategies necessary to manage a business successfully. This process provides an opportunity to increase the capacity and competence of women in the economic sphere, broadening their knowledge beyond the skills of bamboo weaving.

- **Influence in Decision Making:** In their role as entrepreneurs, women bamboo artisans have authority in making business decisions. They can plan long-term strategies, manage resources efficiently, and make intelligent decisions to develop a woven bamboo business. The involvement of women in business decision-making is important to strengthen their role in the economy and promote gender inclusion in the entrepreneurial world.
- **Encouraging Innovation and Creativity:** Women bamboo artisans contribute to innovation and creativity in the woven bamboo industry. As entrepreneurs, they drive change and the development of new designs, combining traditional techniques with modern elements. This helps maintain the attractiveness of woven bamboo products in a competitive market and increases added value for customers.

Economic Empowerment

Through entrepreneurship, women bamboo craftsmen experience economic empowerment which includes financial independence and increased social status. By managing their own business, control over their income and expenses. This woman is also a role model for other women in the community, encouraging courage and confidence to be involved in economic activities. Overall, the entrepreneurship of women bamboo artisans has a positive impact on the local economy. They create jobs, develop skills and knowledge, influence uptake.

- **Economic Empowerment**
Economic empowerment through woven bamboo gives women the opportunity to achieve financial autonomy and increase social status. Following are some essential aspects of women's economic empowerment through woven bamboo:
- **Financial Autonomy:** Through bamboo weaving skills, women can generate their income and manage their finances independently. By having access to a stable source of income, they can meet their personal and family financial needs without having to depend on others. This financial autonomy gives them freedom and control over their financial decisions.
- **Improved Social Status:** Through bamboo weaving skills, women can gain recognition and elevate their social status. As skilled and independent artisans, they are respected and appreciated for contributing to the local economy and cultural preservation. This gives them self-confidence and strengthens their position in society.
- **Influence in Decision Making:** Women bamboo artisans are often leaders and movers in local organizations and communities. Influence in decision-making related to woven bamboo activities, including production, marketing and product development. Active involvement in decision-making provides an opportunity for women to make a real contribution in directing the direction of industry development and advocating their interests.
- **Role Model and Inspiration:** Women who succeed in woven bamboo become examples and sources of inspiration for other women in the community. Their accomplishments in this field encourage other women to develop skills and take an active economic role. Bamboo craftswomen play an essential role in breaking gender stereotypes and proving that women can be successful in traditional economic fields.
- **Community Sustainability:** Through woven bamboo, women not only derive personal benefits, but also contribute to the economic and cultural sustainability of their communities. By maintaining their bamboo weaving skills and producing a desirable product, they help maintain traditional livelihoods and promote local economic growth. The economic empowerment of women bamboo artisans has a positive impact on the sustainability of the community as a whole.
- Through the economic empowerment obtained through woven bamboo, women can increase their financial autonomy, social status, and influence in decision-making

influence. By playing the role of leader and mover, women bamboo artisans make a significant contribution to strengthening.

Cultural Preservation

Cultural preservation is an essential aspect of the role of women in woven bamboo. The women involved in woven bamboo not only maintain the woven techniques that have been passed on from generations, but also preserve the designs, motifs, and stories associated with woven bamboo. Here are some points that explain the role of women in cultural preservation through woven bamboo:

- **Safeguarding the Woven Technique:** Women, as bamboo artisans play a crucial role in maintaining the weaving traditions that have become an integral part of their culture. They study and continue the long-standing traditions of weaving, preserving the artisans ship and skills required in the woven bamboo process. By mastering this technique, women keep their knowledge and skills in weaving from being lost and continue from generation to generation.
- **Preservation of Traditional Designs :** Woven bamboo often has distinctive designs and motifs that reflect local cultural identity. Bamboo craftswomen play a role in maintaining the authenticity of these designs and motifs, and applying them in their woven products. By preserving traditional designs and motifs, they retain their cultural identity and pass it on to future generations.
- **levels and Cultural Values:** In addition to designs and motifs, woven bamboo also often has stories and cultural values associated with it. Bamboo craftswomen play an essential role in telling and preserving these stories. They preserve and respect the cultural meanings and values associated with woven bamboo, and pass it on to the younger generation. It helps enrich and maintain the cultural heritage of a society.
- **Collaboration with Cultural Communities:** Women bamboo artisans are often involved in local artistic communities. They participate in cultural activities and events, interact with other artisans and artists, and collaborate on cultural preservation projects. Through this collaboration, women can strengthen bonds with cultural communities and participate in broader conservation efforts.
- **Through the preservation of woven techniques, traditional designs and motifs, as well as stories and cultural values, women bamboo artisans maintain their local cultural identity and respect their ancestral heritage. The role of women in cultural preservation through woven bamboo not only contributes to the conservation of cultural heritage, but also increases awareness and appreciation of the cultural richness of society.**

Environmental Impact

Environmental Impact Woven bamboo also has a positive impact on the environment. Bamboo is an environmentally friendly material because it is a fast-growing plant and can be renewed easily. Using bamboo as the primary material for woven bamboo craftswomen helps reduce using synthetic materials that have a negative impact on the environment.

- **Environmentally Friendly Properties:** Bamboo is a fast-growing plant and can be renewed easily. Compared to synthetic materials or materials that take a long time to produce, the use of bamboo as a woven material helps reduce pressure on limited natural resources. Bamboo also does not require the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers, which have can potentially to damage the environment.
- **Reduced Carbon Emissions:** Bamboo has a better ability to absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) than most trees. As bamboo grows, it absorbs CO₂ from the atmosphere and stores it in its fibre network. By utilizing bamboo as a woven material, bamboo

craftswomen play a role in reducing carbon emissions and helping to fight climate change.

- **Reducing the Use of Synthetic Materials:** By using bamboo as the primary material for woven, the use of synthetic materials that hurt the environment can be reduced. Synthetic materials such as plastic or chemicals have the potential to pollute the environment and produce waste that is difficult to decompose. In this case, weaving bamboo is a more environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative.
- **Waste Recycling and Reduction:** Woven bamboo can also be recycled or biodegradable after its useful life. Bamboo that has been used can be reprocessed into various products or can be decomposed into organic materials that do not pollute the environment. Thus, the use of woven bamboo helps reduce the amount of waste generated. Through the use of bamboo as a woven material, bamboo craftswomen play a role in promoting the use of environmentally friendly and sustainable materials. The resulting positive impact on the environment helps minimize environmental damage and increases awareness of the importance of nature conservation.

4. Materials and Methods

This type of research is descriptive qualitative with a data analysis method according to (Bonnie Soeherman, 2019) three steps in interpreting qualitative data or research stories with three stages namely: Exploration, which is the initial stage which is carried out by reading the discourse or sequence of events in the transcript to obtain descriptions, impressions and general descriptions. so that researchers can understand and find out the findings from the research conducted. In the next stage these findings will be interpreted to create new constructions and try to reveal explicit or implicit things in the discourse. in the final stage, namely contextualization, here the researcher absorbs and interprets the text according to the social context of the research.

5. Conclusions

Through woven bamboo skills, women can create a variety of products that are in demand by local and international markets, through woven bamboo provides opportunities for women to become financially independent, reduce dependence on other parties, and improve the quality of life for themselves and their families, bamboo craftswomen create employment opportunities for themselves and members of the local community. They develop the management skills, market knowledge and marketing strategies necessary to manage a business successfully. This process provides an opportunity to increase the capacity and competence of women in the economic sphere, broadening their knowledge beyond the skills of bamboo weaving. Bamboo craftswomen also contribute to innovation and creativity in the woven bamboo industry. Cultural preservation is an important aspect of the role of women in woven bamboo.

Women who are involved in woven bamboo not only maintain the woven techniques that have been passed on from generation to generation. Women as bamboo craftsmen play a key role in maintaining the woven techniques that have become an integral part of their culture. Women bamboo craftsmen play a role in maintaining the authenticity of these designs and motifs, as well as applying it in their woven products. Through the preservation of woven techniques, traditional designs and motifs, as well as stories and cultural values, women bamboo craftsmen maintain their local cultural identity and respect the heritage of their ancestors. The role of women in cultural preservation through woven bamboo not only contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage, but also increases awareness and appreciation of the cultural richness of a society. Woven bamboo also has a positive impact on the environment. Bamboo is a fast growing plant and can be renewed easily. Compared to synthetic materials or materials that take a long time to produce, the use of bamboo as a woven material helps reduce pressure on limited

natural resources. Bamboo also does not require the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers which have the potential to damage the environment. Through the use of bamboo as woven materials, bamboo craftswomen play a role in promoting the use of environmentally friendly and sustainable materials. The resulting positive impact on the environment helps minimize environmental damage and increases awareness of the importance of nature conservation.

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