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## Legal Norms in Shaping the Dual Role of Women Farmers in Tanjung Harapan, Lubuklinggau City

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**Abstract:** This study analyzes the influence of legal norms on the dual role of single parent women in Tanjung Harapan, Lubuklinggau City. Using descriptive qualitative method, data were collected through interviews and observations. The results show that single parent women function as breadwinners and child caregivers, although they face major challenges due to social stigma and cultural norms that limit their roles. While there is a legal framework that supports women's rights, implementation is often inadequate, resulting in economic insecurity. This research recommends the need for more responsive policies, including skills training programs and access to business capital to empower women. By doing so, it is hoped that legal norms can adapt to social realities to improve women's welfare and active participation in socio-economic development in the community. The findings provide important insights for policymakers in formulating programs that support gender equality.

**Keyword:** Legal Norms, Single Parent Women, Women's Dual Role, Women's Empowerment.

### INTRODUCTION

Family, as the smallest unit in the social structure of society, can be defined as the bond between a male and female partner and the relationship between parents and children. The family can also be seen as a social group characterized by shared residence, economic cooperation, and reproduction established through socially recognized marital or adoptive relationships (Aziz, 2015). In the context of meeting the economic needs of families in Indonesia, it is generally illustrated that the responsibility for providing income and making decisions is the duty of men as the head of the family, while for women who are only in the domestic sphere taking care of the household (Pratisiya et al., 2023).

Community culture often constructs women's position as caretakers of domestic affairs, so social norms play a role in limiting women's mobility in the public sphere and decision making in the family. As in the Toba Batak community in Sialoumpu Village, where the patriarchal culture that still exists in the community is the cause of obstacles to progress

for the equality of women and men which ultimately has an impact on women's mobility in the public sphere, this patriarchy not only limits women's roles in the context of work but also affects people's perceptions of women's ability to make decisions (Gultom et al., 2024).

Although in Indonesia public roles are generally filled by men, the situation in Tanjung Harapan is different. Many women are not only housewives and wives but are also actively involved in the agricultural and livestock sectors. In Tanjung Harapan, many residents work as farm laborers and goat farmers but most of the agricultural land and livestock are owned by parties outside Tanjung Harapan.

Because agricultural land and capital ownership are owned by outsiders, local residents can only work as farm laborers and take care of goats owned by outsiders with a profit-sharing system, this is what the Tanjung Harapan community does to make ends meet due to limited access to land and capital. In society there are social norms that regulate individual behavior where legal norms, which include social norms, function to regulate human behavior in society, legal norms refer to positive laws established by state institutions to be obeyed by the community.

Legal norms can have a positive impact in relation to the protection of each individual in society, because legal norms are of interest to the state because the state must be present in protecting the rights of the community, including single parent women who often face challenges in maintaining access to resources after divorce or death by their spouse. Traditions and norms that position women as household organizers and child caregivers can hinder their participation in economic activities, legal norms serve not only to protect women's rights but also to empower them to participate more actively in the family and community economy (Natasya et al., 2024).

Previous research related to women's dual roles shows that many women face challenges when carrying out these two roles. For example, Wahidin & Nurwahyuliningsih (2023) found that there is a dual role for women Semende coffee farmers in Ulu Danau Village which is influenced by the waiting tubang custom. This custom mandates the first daughter to take care of the inheritance from their parents, thus forming a strong moral responsibility. Other research shows that increased family income often occurs when women/wives have multiple roles without abandoning their responsibilities as housewives (Salaa, 2015). On the other hand, the role conflict experienced by policewomen is due to the need to balance work and family demands (Sartin et al., 2019). Another study also highlighted how the wives of palm oil laborers experienced difficulties in carrying out both roles due to limited time (Budiarto & Taher, 2018).

This study aims to explore how legal norms influence the formation of dual roles for single parent women who work as farm laborers and cattle breeders while carrying out their functions as housewives in Tanjung Harapan, Lubuklinggau City. Thus, this study aims to understand how legal norms can shape the dual roles of single parent women in Tanjung Harapan and how community views influence the position of these women.

By highlighting the interaction between legal norms and gender roles in this local context, this research not only contributes to the academic understanding of gender dynamics but also provides practical insights for policy makers in formulating programs that support gender equality and women's empowerment at the community level. Through this research, it is hoped that more inclusive solutions can be found to improve women's welfare and encourage their active participation in socio-economic development in the area.

## **METHOD**

This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods. Descriptive qualitative research is based on the philosophy of postpositivism and is used to examine natural object conditions, where the researcher functions as the main instrument (Sugiyono, 2019). This

method was chosen because it is in accordance with the research objectives which want to provide an in-depth description of the phenomenon of the dual role of single parent women in Tanjung Harapan, Lubuklinggau City, and understand the meaning behind their experiences in the existing social context then produce descriptive data in the form of words from the objects observed (Moloeng, 2018).

Data collection in this study was carried out through three techniques, namely observation, interviews, and documentation conducted in the Tanjung Harapan community directly with a focus on single parent women. The observation technique was carried out to obtain data on the activities of single parent women in Tanjung Harapan, both at home and at work, then interviews were conducted with single parent women who were the primary data source to dig deeper information about their dual roles. Then documentation is carried out to obtain secondary data on legal norms and policies relevant to the research (Sugiyono, 2019). In determining informants, researchers use purposive sampling in determining informants, this is done because not all people in Tanjung Harapan Lubuklinggau City can be interviewed, this is because they see according to the needs of the research with a focus on single parent women and husbands or men in Tanjung Harapan as supporting informants in this study.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Legal Norms in Shaping Women's Dual Roles**

Legal norms in Indonesia have a significant influence in shaping women's dual roles, especially in the context of a strong patriarchal culture. Undang-Undang Tentang Perkawinan Pasal 34 No. 1 Tahun 1974 stipulates that the husband is the head of the family responsible for providing for his wife and children, while the wife is expected to take care of the household. This provision creates a legal framework that often restricts women from taking on roles in the public sphere. In many cases, these norms not only create restrictions but also influence the way society views women, such that they are often deemed unfit to participate in economic activities outside the home.

In this context, legal norms in Indonesia, such as those stipulated in Pasal 27 Ayat (2) UUD 1945 Constitution guarantee the right of every citizen to work and a decent livelihood. However, the implementation of these norms often encounters various obstacles, such as a lack of awareness of women's rights and discriminatory practices in the workplace. This suggests that while there is a supportive legal framework, further efforts are needed to ensure that women can fulfill their dual roles without being constrained by existing norms.

The findings in Tanjung Harapan show that single parent women who have been left divorced by death face major challenges in making ends meet. In the legal context, existing norms often do not provide adequate protection for them. They play a dual role as breadwinners and child caregivers, but are often trapped in economic and social uncertainty. This indicates that legal norms need to be strengthened to better support women in these situations so that they are not just victims of circumstance but also empowered and independent.

In Tanjung Harapan, these women often have to fight against stigma from some residents who think that work outside the home should be the responsibility of men. In this situation, their dual role as breadwinners and child caregivers becomes a forced choice, not because of personal desire but because of urgent economic needs. Efforts to change societal views and strengthen legal norms are important so that women can better fulfill their dual roles without feeling pressured by social expectations. Working women help raise awareness about the role of women in society. They demonstrate that women have the same abilities and potential as men, and that they deserve equal opportunities in all fields (Afrizal & Lelah, 2021).

The dual roles undertaken by single parent women also reflect changes in the structure of the family and society. They are not only responsible for childcare but also have to fulfill the economic needs of the family. In this case, legal norms must adapt to existing social realities by creating policies that support women's welfare. For example, providing access to skills training and business capital can help them to be more financially independent and reduce dependence on unstable informal employment. Legal norms can thus serve as a tool to empower women and strengthen their position in society.

### **Challenges, Barriers and Adaptation Strategies**

The findings in Tanjung Harapan show that single parent women who are left behind by divorce face various challenges in fulfilling their needs. Most of them work as farm laborers and goat breeders owned by people outside Tanjung Harapan. In this condition, they not only act as breadwinners but also as child caregivers. This dual role is often difficult to live up to, especially when coupled with a lack of social and economic support from the surrounding environment, which makes them have to struggle harder to meet the needs of the family.

One of the main challenges faced by single parent women in Tanjung Harapan is financial. The income earned from working as farm laborers or goat farmers is often insufficient to meet the basic needs of the family. This uncertainty in income is often felt by the people of Tanjung Harapan, as in the interview with Mrs. G:

"I work daily grazing vegetables, lumai, kale, spinach every day. She earns Rp. 50,000.00 a day, but if she doesn't work, she doesn't work, because she doesn't work every day and some days she has a day off because there is no work" (interview result (Mrs. G) on October 6, 2024).

In addition, many of them do not have access to resources, this is because agricultural land and livestock are owned by people outside Tanjung Harapan, while residents can only work as farm laborers or breeders with profit-sharing wages due to the education of the community, most of whom only graduated from junior high school or even elementary school.

With the low quality of the last education of residents making it difficult for them to get a job with a more decent salary and resource capital, this is also felt by single parent women in Tanjung Harapan, based on the results of an interview with Mrs. N:

"It's the buying of the food that is difficult, sweeping and cleaning the house is not, but finding the food is" (interview with Mrs. N on October 6, 2024).

According to her, household matters are not difficult for her to complete, but she feels that in the process of earning money to complete economic needs, one of which is used to meet daily food needs and her child's school tuition, it becomes difficult. This is due to her status as a single parent so that she has to carry out public and domestic roles at the same time and the income from daily wages is still insufficient to meet the needs that make her have to take two jobs at once, namely as a farm laborer and goat breeder with a profit-sharing system.

In fulfilling the needs of single parent women in Tanjung Harapan, there are also obstacles from the psychological side experienced by residents after their husbands died, it is natural as humans to feel it when they lose. However, there is another view from the results of the interview with Mrs. R:

"The name is after 40 days, the mind is still confused about resting, so I think about it, if I don't work, who will feed myself? Yes, too, if we take care of the children, yes, the name is child, he already has a family and there are many children. Well my mind is long in the end, yes that's all fate, don't ever get carried away because while she said (her husband before he died) crying is okay but don't get too carried away, well that's because it hinders her

journey. Yes, that means now I have to stand up, stand up means if we don't work, who will feed us?" (interview with Mrs. R on October 6, 2024)

In the midst of these challenges, single parent women in Tanjung Harapan develop various adaptation strategies to survive. One visible strategy is job diversification. Many of them do not only depend on one type of work, but also look for other opportunities to increase income. For example, some women take additional jobs in other fields such as those whose main job is goat breeding also take jobs as rubber farmers, or other agriculture, and vice versa. This is done in order to get more income to increase money for economic needs. The application of economic adaptation strategies is important for single parent women in maintaining their family life. They tend to optimize all their potential and existing resources to meet their daily needs (Rahayu, 2018).

### **Community Perceptions and Attitudes**

George Herbert Mead was instrumental in developing the theory of symbolic interactionism because he emphasized how social interactions shape a person's identity and perceptions. This theory can be used to understand community perceptions and attitudes towards single parent women in Tanjung Harapan in the context of society. Mead argued that people form meaning through their interactions with others, which means the community's view of women is shaped by social norms and their daily experiences and interactions as well. In this case, women who work as breadwinners and childcare providers are often stigmatized and stereotyped, which impacts on how they are seen by society.

The influence of legal and social norms on societal perceptions can also be significant. It is known that the views of a society where there is still a patriarchal culture and its relation to Undang-Undang Tentang Perkawinan Pasal 34 No. 1 Tahun 1974 It is often interpreted that earning a living or the public sphere is the domain of men and women should only be in the domestic sphere or family. This creates a social framework where women are deemed unfit to engage in economic activities outside the home. Strong conservative perceptions in society reinforce this belief that taking care of the household is women's primary duty. Thus, single parent women are often trapped in a difficult position, where they have to fight against social stigma while making ends meet even though they themselves feel the dual role is normal.

From the perspective of symbolic interactionism, changes in community perceptions can be achieved through positive interactions between single parent women and the surrounding community. When these women engage in economic activities and demonstrate their abilities, they can change the way society views gender roles. When women actively participate in the agriculture and livestock sectors, they not only improve family welfare but also contribute to broader social change. These interactions allow new symbols to emerge that represent women's abilities and potential in society (Natasya et al., 2024).

However, challenges remain. Many single parent women in Tanjung Harapan face significant financial hardship due to the uncertainty of income from their work as farm laborers or goat farmers. This is compounded by a lack of access to resources and social support from the surrounding environment. In this context, Mead underlines the importance of social support to form a positive identity for individuals. If society can provide support to single parent women, there will be positive changes in their perceptions of gender roles and women's abilities. Likewise, according to Herbert Blumer dalam Ritzer (2021) a modern figure in the theory of symbolic interactionism that "a person's response is not made directly to the actions of others, but is based on the meaning given to the actions of others", this means that if more women are in the public sector and they can adapt well, the conservative view of single parent women can slowly change to a positive view.



The adaptation strategies adopted by single parent women also reflect the complex dynamics of social interaction. They often have to find ways to balance the dual roles of breadwinner and caregiver while still meeting social expectations. Many women successfully navigate the dual role by utilizing informal networks for additional support. This shows that despite major challenges, women have the ability to adapt and find solutions through interactions with others (Wahidin & Nurwahyuliningsih, 2023).

The importance of public awareness of women's role in socio-economic development cannot be ignored. When society begins to appreciate the contributions of single parent women, there will be positive changes in their attitudes and perceptions. Therefore, awareness campaigns on the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment are necessary to encourage more inclusive social change. Thus, Mead's theory of symbolic interactionism provides a useful framework for understanding how people's perceptions and attitudes can change through positive social interactions.

The application of symbolic interactionism theory in the context of community perceptions and attitudes towards single parent women in Tanjung Harapan shows that change can be achieved through constructive social interaction. By strengthening legal norms and providing support to women, as well as changing society's views on gender roles, we can create a more inclusive environment for all members of society.

### **Impact on Family and Society**

The presence of single parent women in Tanjung Harapan greatly affects the community and family structure. Women who do double duty as breadwinners and household organizers often face difficult issues in the family context. Not only are they responsible for meeting their financial needs, but they are also responsible for providing love and care to their children. This results in an environment where children learn independence and responsibility early on, which can shape their personality in the future.

Independence in the family increases as a result of single parent women. Children are often inspired to become more independent and responsible when a mother struggles to meet their daily needs. They understand the value of their parents' efforts and learn to appreciate hard work. Children benefit from this independence as they face life's challenges. They also learn skills that will be useful in the future.

However, the difficulties faced by single parent women can also affect the family. They often experience stress, physical exhaustion and mental health issues as a result of the double burden they have to bear. The relationship between children and parents can suffer in these situations. Children may feel neglected or not get the attention they need as the lack of quality time together can reduce emotional bonding. This can affect children's social and emotional development.

How it impacts the community is also important to note. Single parent women often join community social networks where they exchange information with other women in their social environment, helping each other to overcome various problems. The communication and interaction between women in Tanjung Harapan can provide moral support and information about job opportunities and social services specifically in Tanjung Harapan. However, if the community does not provide adequate support, single parent women may feel isolated and not gain access to the resources necessary to improve their quality of life.

In addition, the presence of single parent women can also help the community see the role of women in a more favorable light. As more women participate in local economic activities, this contributes to a change in society's perception of women's capabilities. As more women engage in work and contribute economically, stereotypes about gender begin to fade, and society begins to realize that women and men are equally capable in various fields (Mince, 2021). This realization led to the creation of a more inclusive and supportive

environment for all members of society, thus strengthening women's role in social and economic development.

Women's multiple roles in improving the family economy have different effects on the family and society. On the one hand, this role can improve family welfare by earning extra money, but it can also create tension within the family as women have to balance responsibilities at home with the work they do outside the home. At the community level, women's dual roles can encourage increased participation of women in the economic and social sectors, but also pose challenges to gender equality as women still face discrimination and double burdens (Rochaniningsih, 2014).

The existence of single parent women has a very complex impact on families and society. Although they face many challenges, their role is crucial in shaping the next generation and driving social change. Single parent women have to juggle the dual roles of head of household and child caregiver, which often affects their psychological well-being and that of their children (Primayuni, 2018). Therefore, support from the community is crucial to help them better navigate this role. By providing the necessary support, we can all contribute to creating a better environment for single parent women and their families, so that these benefits can continue to grow and have a positive impact on society (MardikantoTotok & Soebiato, 2015).

### **Policy Recommendation**

The policy recommendations proposed in this study aim to empower single parent women in Tanjung Harapan, Lubuklinggau City, to better fulfill their dual roles. First, it is important to develop skills training programs that are relevant to the needs of the local job market. This training will help women improve their skills in agriculture and animal husbandry, so that they can contribute more effectively to the family economy. In addition, access to business capital should also be expanded, by providing microloans or grants that can help women start or expand their businesses. This way, women are not only dependent on unstable informal employment but also have the opportunity to create better sources of income.

Furthermore, public awareness campaigns need to be promoted to change negative views of women's roles in society. The community must be invited to understand that women have the same abilities as men and deserve equal opportunities to participate in the public sphere. Strengthening legal protection policies for single parent women is also very important to ensure their rights are protected and they receive adequate social support. By implementing these policy recommendations, it is hoped that single parent women in Tanjung Harapan can improve their welfare and contribute more significantly to the family structure and overall community dynamics.

### **CONCLUSION**

The conclusion of this study confirms that legal norms in Indonesia have a significant impact on the formation of women's multiple roles, especially in the context of a patriarchal culture that still dominates. Although there are legal provisions governing women's rights, such as those contained in the Marriage Law, their implementation is often insufficient to protect and empower women, particularly single parent women in Tanjung Harapan. They are faced with enormous challenges in making ends meet while carrying out their roles as breadwinners and child caregivers. This research shows that legal norms should not only serve as a means of protection, but also as a means to empower women to actively participate in the family and community economy.

The results of this study highlight the importance of policies that are more responsive to the needs of single parent women. Policy recommendations include the development of

skills training programs, access to business capital, and public awareness campaigns to change negative views of women's roles. Thus, it is hoped that legal norms can adapt to existing social realities and create policies that support women's welfare. This research not only provides academic insights into gender dynamics, but also offers practical solutions for policymakers to formulate programs that support gender equality and women's empowerment at the community level.

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