



Biak Women and Their Role in the Household Economy in Soryar Village

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the strategic role of Biak women in supporting the household economy in Soryar Village, Biak Numfor Regency. This employs a descriptive qualitative approach, utilizing interviews and observations as primary data sources. The results show amidst the uncertainty of fishermen's income due to seasonal and weather factors, Biak women not only carry out domestic roles as wives and mothers. They actively contribute productively through selling seafood at Bosnik Market, processing fishery products, making crafts from shells, and managing subsistence gardens. Thus becoming the main support for family economic stability. This study contribution to household economic resilience through the perspective of Biak culture which is organic and less dependent on external intervention compared to fishing communities in other regions.

INTRODUCTION

The dynamics of economic development in coastal areas often place women in crucial positions. Comprehensive development can only be achieved if both men and women play an active role in all sectors. Women have the right and obligation to have equal opportunities with men to participate in all development efforts (Dosunmu & Dichaba, 2023; Hartiwi et al., 2025). Thus, women are a strategic human resource asset that contributes to the success of national goals: the creation of a just, prosperous, and prosperous society.

In today's era, the role of women as a strategic resource in development is increasingly pressing. Indonesia is at a critical moment in achieving sustainable national development goals. One manifestation of this is the ability of policies to facilitate gender equality. In general, women's participation in social life and development can be categorized into traditional and transitional roles. Traditional roles encompass women's domestic responsibilities as wives, mothers, and homemakers, maintaining family stability (Ruswinarsih, 2013). Transitional roles, on the other hand, represent a shift toward broader involvement. These include roles as productive workers, active members of society, and direct contributors to the national development process and a more advanced society.

In this latter role, women's significant contribution aligns with Talcott Parsons' (1951) social role theory. According to this theory, social roles are structured expectations related to specific interaction situations (Weiss & Gomes Neto, 2021). This directly shapes actors' motivational orientations. Through internalizing cultural patterns and normative behavioral models, individuals gain an understanding of who they are in social relationships and how they should act toward others. Thus, roles become the primary mechanism for integration and stability of social systems. Furthermore, according to Rahmawati & Karmeli (2022), women's economic roles are divided into three classifications. First, domestic, where women only organize and manage activities within the home such as cooking, washing, and caring for children. Second, production roles; this role encompasses non-domestic activities where women can also generate additional income outside the home. Third, socialization roles; in this context, women's roles are manifested through social groups or organizations such as social gatherings (*arisan*), which have a more micro-scale scope than community groups.

In coastal fishing communities, women (fishermen's wives) play a highly strategic socio-economic role on land. Meanwhile, men focus on fishing at sea. This gender-based division of labor makes land the domain of women and sea the domain of men. The dependence of fishermen's income on unpredictable seasons and weather forces coastal women to actively seek a living in other sectors as a coping mechanism and to support the family economy (Cahya et al., 2019). Economic uncertainty, including unstable incomes, limited employment opportunities, and income stagnation, threatens household stability. As a result, many housewives, previously confined to domestic roles, are now being pushed into the public sector to contribute to the family economy. This phenomenon is particularly evident among fishermen's wives, where the uncertainty of their

husbands' income forces women to take on a double burden as the primary supporter of household stability. In lower-middle-class families, economic pressures are changing patriarchal patterns that force women to work outside the home to supplement their income. This situation allows fishermen's wives to fulfill a dual role as a survival strategy amidst coastal economic uncertainty.

The government, through Regulation of the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia (Permen PPPA) Number 2 of 2016 concerning General Guidelines for the Development of Home Industries to Improve Family Welfare Through Women's Empowerment, is attempting to implement a more gender-equitable empowerment formula. This regulation is a comprehensive guideline issued to direct the central and regional governments and various stakeholders in developing home industries with a primary emphasis on women's economic empowerment. This guideline aims to increase productivity and market access for women entrepreneurs. At the same time, the government strives to ensure holistic family welfare through a gender-responsive approach. This includes providing skills training, protecting women's workers' rights, and actively involving women's groups in program planning. Thus, this regulation strengthens women's positions within families and communities while supporting overall improvements in living standards.

Several studies have been conducted on the topic of women's dual roles. Each study has a specific and distinct emphasis, as well as differing from the current research topic. First, a study conducted by Siang et al., (2024) entitled "The Role of Fishermen's Wives in Building Household Economic Resilience in Bulukumba Regency." In this study, Siang et al. (2024) stated that although significant responsibility rests on the husband's role in fishing, fishermen's wives play an important role in meeting household needs. The role of fishermen's wives is crucial, especially since their husbands' income from fishing may be uncertain. Second, a study conducted by Wahyuni et al. (2022) entitled "Self-Agency of Fisherwomen in Bulang Village, Tanjungpinang City, Riau Islands." In this study, Wahyuni et al. stated that women in fishing economic activities tend to be identified through their involvement in selling their catch. Women are required to innovate so that their husbands' catches can support the household economy.

However, these studies generally focus on fishermen's wives in coastal areas of western Indonesia, emphasizing their supporting roles, economic resilience, self-agency, dual roles, gender analysis, and empowerment through empowerment and diversification programs. This study specifically examines women from the Biak ethnic group in Soryar Village, Papua, within the context of Biak traditional culture. This includes kinship values, a relatively flexible gender division of labor, and women's economic autonomy based on local traditions. Consequently, their roles are more organic, integrated with customary systems, and less dependent on external intervention or modern market innovations than fishing communities in other regions studied (Gultom, 2025; Idris et al., 2020; Putri & Kamala, 2026; Saleh et al., 2024; Salehuddin et al., 2024).

Soryar Village, located in East Biak District, Biak Numfor Regency, Papua Province, is a coastal rural community that reflects the characteristics of the Biak indigenous community in general. As an area with limited access to the sea and

limited agricultural land, the family economy in this village relies heavily on primary sectors such as fishing, subsistence farming (such as taro, tubers, and betel nut), and small-scale trading. In general, Biak women hold a strong position in the domestic economy. In contrast to the strict patriarchal patterns found in some other communities, Biak women often play a dominant role in decision-making regarding the management of family resources, including aspects of children's education and household finances. They are not only responsible for domestic matters (such as childcare and home management) but also actively contribute directly to family income through productive activities.

In terms of gender, unlike other villages in East Biak District, which are predominantly male, Soryar Village has a balanced population of 63 men and 61 women (BPS, 2023). Women's contributions are evident in the trade and marketing of natural products. Like women in East Biak in general, the women of Soryar Village largely manage the sale of seafood (fish and shellfish) through local networks. Utilizing the Bosnik Market, the center of women's economic activity, they also sell various agricultural products. This activity serves as a major source of additional family income, especially when their husbands' income from fishing or casual labor fluctuates.

Although the PPPA Ministerial Regulation No. 2 of 2016 has been implemented in many villages across Indonesia, preliminary research observations indicate limited human resources and capacity in Soryar. Women's education and skills in Soryar are relatively low, compounded by a lack of regular training, business capital, and technical assistance from relevant agencies. This complex situation makes it difficult to sustain the development of home industries. Many women also bear a double burden without adequate balance.

Furthermore, there is an organic strength in the local socio-cultural system, where many women are involved in seafood processing and work in sectors other than seafood. For example, they manage family gardens and ensure household food security. This indirectly reduces family expenses and adds economic value. This role makes women both homemakers and breadwinners. This contribution is increasingly crucial amidst the challenges of the rural economy. Women's flexibility in establishing social networks in the market also creates social capital that strengthens local communities' bargaining power against modern market pressures.

Based on this description, the purpose of this study is to analyze the role of women in Soryar Village in supporting the household economy. Furthermore, this study aims to identify supporting and inhibiting factors for Soryar Village women in the household economy and to design strategies for Soryar Village women to improve their household economy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public Administration Theory

Public administration, according to Chandler and Plano (in Keban, 2008), is the process of organizing and coordinating public resources and personnel to formulate, implement, and manage public policy decisions. Keban (2008) adds that this term describes the role of government as a single agent with power or

regulator, which is proactive and takes the initiative in regulating and taking steps deemed important to society. This is based on the assumption that society is passive, less capable, and must submit to government regulations.

Beyond this, administrative theory seeks to define the universal functions performed by leaders and the principles that shape effective leadership practices. In the context of administrative design, policy is the most crucial element and the core of administrative theory. Policies contain provisions that outline principles for guiding actions in a planned and consistent manner to achieve goals (Shauma & Purbaningrum, 2022). Policies are realized through effective service programs, providing action options and priorities.

Gender Theory

According to Mosse (1998), gender refers to the social identities, roles, and expectations attached to men and women, which are shaped by society. For example, the tasks of cooking, fetching water, collecting firewood, helping plant or market crops are usually assigned to women, while men clear land, weed, or determine the bride price. This division is not directly related to biology, but rather is a social construct formed by society to create harmony, balance, and equality of rights, obligations, responsibilities, and roles in development.

The social construction of gender dialectically influences biological aspects. For example, the expectation that men should be strong and aggressive drives socialization that leads them to develop larger and stronger physiques. Conversely, women, who are expected to be gentle, experience influences on their emotions, vision, and even physical development. Over time, it becomes difficult to distinguish between biological nature and social construction. Mansour's (2019) guidelines state that traits inherent to a particular sex are usually the result of societal construction, not divine nature. Sahin (2025) expands on gender differences caused by the social environment within the family and community. Etymologically, gender derives from grammatical classifications that roughly correspond to sex and neutrality, thus social sciences use it to analyze male-female relationships in various societies. Role theory in sociology and social psychology views everyday activities as socially assigned roles. This theory is linked to the interactional perspective, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, and modern gender theory (Herbert, 2024). These theories are used to explain gender perspectives, women's dual roles, and women's participation in the workforce.

Dual Role

Dual roles refer to the condition of women who hold more than one role simultaneously, namely as workers (outside the home) as well as wives and housewives. This role often creates conflict and difficulties due to the cultural dualism: the domestic sphere (domestic/household) and the public sphere (public/work). Dual roles mean that women manage household duties while also working to earn a living. Dual roles allow women to develop their personalities, self-actualize, and participate in socio-economic life like men, while still maintaining the home and family. According to role theory, these demands can come from traditional partners (husbands) (who expect women to focus on

domestic roles) or from the women themselves (perceptions of dual obligations as housewives and career workers).

Increasing the role of women as equal partners to men in development means increasing their responsibilities as independent individuals within the family. Thus, both men and women are equally responsible for the well-being and happiness of the family. The phenomenon of differences in the roles of men and women is influenced by biological factors, the environment, and socio-cultural conditions. Women's roles are complex, encompassing three main roles (Mishra, 2022; Moser, 2012). First, the productive role, which involves activities that directly contribute to family income (paid or unpaid). Second, the reproductive role, which involves activities that ensure the survival of individuals and families (e.g., childbirth, childcare, housework). Third, the social (or community) role, where women engage in communication and interaction outside the family. These three roles demonstrate that women participate fully in all areas of life as equal partners with men in the family and society. The concept of gender fundamentally recognizes these different roles and their interconnectedness and interdependence—which are flexible according to the socio-cultural conditions of society.

Theory Strategy

The word strategy comes from the ancient Greek word *strategos*, which literally means "military commander" or "general" during the Athenian democracy. This term refers to a leader responsible for planning and directing overall military operations. According to Siagian (2019), strategy is defined as a large-scale plan oriented toward the long-term future. This plan is carefully formulated to enable an organization to interact effectively with its environment amidst competitive conditions, with the primary goal of optimizing the achievement of overall organizational goals and objectives.

Based on this opinion, strategy is the skill of systematic, large-scale planning with a long-term orientation. Strategy involves positioning resources advantageously, enabling an organization to interact effectively with its competitive environment, all directed toward optimizing the achievement of organizational goals and objectives.

SWOT is an acronym for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. A SWOT analysis is a systematic process for identifying and sorting various internal and external factors affecting an organization or business, with the goal of formulating appropriate strategies for the situation (Christian et al., 2024). Therefore, this analysis is a comprehensive evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats faced by an individual, organization, or business.

SWOT analysis can be flexibly applied to support strategic decision-making. This approach uses a systematic framework to evaluate a company's basic strategic alternatives. Every organization has strengths and weaknesses across various social and business functions, so a SWOT analysis helps identify and minimize existing weaknesses or disadvantages while maximizing potential.

SWOT analysis consists of four main factors, as explained (Christian et al., 2024):

1. Strengths

It is a unique competency or advantage that is at the core of an organization. This strength provides added competitive value, enabling the company to better face competition and optimally meet the needs and expectations of stakeholders and customers.

2. Weaknesses

These are internal limitations or weaknesses that organizations naturally experience. Weaknesses can hinder performance, such as weak management capabilities, limited financial resources, or a lack of marketing skills. Therefore, organizations need to develop policies and improve their performance to minimize or address these weaknesses.

3. Opportunity

These are favorable external conditions or situations that an organization can exploit to improve performance. Examples include improved relationships with suppliers or buyers, changing market trends, or regulatory support that supports growth.

4. Threat

These are external conditions that have the potential to harm or disrupt an organization's stability and performance. Examples of threats include changes in government regulations, increased competition, or shifts in consumer preferences that could hinder the achievement of objectives.

Thus, a SWOT analysis serves to provide comprehensive information that helps an organization identify opportunities to achieve its goals while also anticipating potential obstacles. Its primary advantage is its ability to identify internal (strengths and weaknesses) and external (opportunities and threats) issues in a structured manner.

SWOT analysis serves as a strategic tool within this framework: Strengths include culture (Biak culture gives women a dominant role in managing household finances and the domestic sphere, as demonstrated by the study of Biak family communication), equal roles in household economic decision-making, women's capabilities (high skills and motivation in daily activities), and supportive social institutions such as women's groups or traditional customs; Weaknesses include a lack of training, underdeveloped home industries, and limited product marketing facilities due to remote infrastructure. Opportunities lie in the potential for utilizing local resources for home industries and support from government programs such as women's empowerment through productive businesses; while Threats include patriarchal norms that limit women's roles outside the domestic sphere, geographical barriers, and lack of access to capital. Overall, this framework leads to a deep understanding of women's empowerment in fulfilling household economic needs in Soryar Village, with the aim of identifying sustainable strategies for Biak women to strengthen their contribution to family welfare through gender-responsive and contextual home industries.

METHODOLOGY

Research Paradigm

This research will analyze the role of women in the household economy. This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative methods and a case study approach. According to Moleong (2021), qualitative research is research to understand phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, and so on, holistically, through verbal descriptions in a specific, natural context and utilizing various natural methods. Prior to conducting field research, careful planning was carried out regarding data formulated in the form of questionnaires and interview items, informants who will provide data, and the place and time for data collection. The research will include in-depth interviews, participant observation, and documentary research to obtain supporting data for the completeness of reporting and research.

The research location, Soryar Village, East Biak, was chosen as the target area due to the consideration that the location still maintains the strength of traditional systems and culture. This research will be conducted for 5 (five) months. The focus of this research is the conflict and dual role of Papuan women, with their domestic roles as mothers and wives, intrapersonal, and economic roles represented by their public and social roles. Therefore, the main focus of this research is the intersection of empowerment policies with the actual social, cultural, and economic situations that women have played so far to meet family needs.

Informants were selected purposively according to the research objectives. Qualitative research uses a small sample size and is selected based on the research objectives. This statement is also supported by Sugiyono's (2020) opinion that in qualitative research, there is no absolute standard for determining the number of informants. Informants are selected with the aim of describing a particular social phenomenon or social problem based on certain considerations, thus referred to as purposive sampling. The subjects studied were married Papuan women who worked in the village government, with three informants serving as key informants and nine additional informants, namely family members who worked to support the household's economic needs.

Data Collection Techniques

These data sources consist of primary data, data obtained directly from informants, and secondary data, data obtained from reference sources that have been recorded. Secondary data comes from literature studies: from books, papers, previous research, archives on the role of women. Primary data is obtained from field studies that include direct and indirect observation methods, in-depth interviews (unstructured) and structured.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data obtained from the field is then presented descriptively, describing the research findings in the field based on systematic research stages so that they can be easily understood by the reader. These stages include data reduction, data organization, and interpretation. Data analysis was conducted from the initial

data collection stage through to the report writing and conclusion drawing stages.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The Role of Women in the Household Economy

As previously explained, the Soryar community is largely comprised of fishing families. The division of roles between men and women is based on technical factors, such as relying on physical abilities for men, while women are involved in creative activities. In economic activities, Soryar women play a core role in the domestic sphere, but are also fully involved in non-domestic activities to support the family economy. In-depth interviews with several informants in Soryar Village revealed that women in this area are actively involved in various economic activities. These economic activities have been ongoing. Women's involvement has evolved into integral participation in supporting the family economy. The most common and dominant economic activity is trading, such as selling fresh fish at Bosnik Market, selling ready-to-eat and fried foods, and selling household commodities such as betel nut and kerosene. Through these activities, women demonstrate high adaptability in responding to local market needs.

In addition to trading activities, most women in Soryar Village also rely on gardening as a source of food and family income. Gardening serves not only as a means of subsistence but also as an economic reserve that can be monetized when needed. Furthermore, some women work as domestic helpers, clean coastal tourist areas, and develop handicraft businesses using shells. As confirmed by Village Head Yakobur Wader, approximately 80 percent of husbands in Soryar work as fishermen. This situation encourages women to take over the distribution of seafood and the management of all domestic needs, making women's productive role irreplaceable in the village's economic ecosystem.

All female informants interviewed in this study consistently acknowledged that they simultaneously fulfill dual roles, namely as household managers and active breadwinners. The daily routine of Soryar women generally begins in the morning with completing domestic duties, such as cooking, preparing children for school, and cleaning the house, before continuing with economic activities outside the home. As an illustration, informant YM stated that she leaves early in the morning and only returns home afterward to continue cooking for lunch and dinner. This illustrates the intensity of the workload women bear on a daily basis.

Such a dense time-sharing pattern indicates that Soryar women actually bear a multi-layered workload that encompasses both the domestic and public domains simultaneously. Furthermore, informant ME, who works as a trader, only sells at the market on certain market days and utilizes days outside of market hours to complete household chores. Meanwhile, informant WF runs two businesses simultaneously, namely selling at the market and managing a stall in a hut in front of her house, without relinquishing her inherent domestic responsibilities. This condition empirically supports the theoretical proposition regarding the double burden experienced by women in a society undergoing economic transformation, where patriarchal norms that attach household responsibilities to women have not undergone significant change.

Research findings indicate a flexible and situational division of labor between husband and wife in the context of household life in Soryar Village. This flexibility appears to have developed organically in response to the demands of the economic activities undertaken by both parties (Banks, 2023; Chinsamy & Koitsiwe, 2016). When the wife carries out economic activities outside the home, such as going to the garden or selling at the market, the husband takes over some of the domestic work. Conversely, when the husband is at sea or working outside, the wife handles all household chores.

While there is flexibility in the division of labor, this dynamic does not apply equally across households. All informants consistently acknowledged that women's income contributions play a significant role in meeting daily family needs. This recognition indicates that some families in Soryar Village are completely dependent on women's income. Informant YM emphasized that she is the sole breadwinner in her family. Thus, women's economic role has transcended their supplementary role and become the primary backbone of family survival.

Recognition of women's significant contributions came not only from women themselves, but also from male key informants. Informants RF and HF assessed women's contributions to the household as significant. Women in Soryar are significantly more economically active than men. These perspectives collectively confirm that Soryar women have taken on a central role as economic agents within the family and community.

Supporting and Inhibiting Factors

a. Strength

Women in Soryar Village possess a number of internal strengths that serve as the foundation for developing their economic capacity. Local craftsmanship is one of the most important assets that distinguishes Soryar women from other groups in the region. The various craft products they produce include bracelets, earrings, and jewelry made from shells, which have both aesthetic value and commercial potential. Informant FF, for example, produces broomsticks and bracelets. Informants WF and YF are skilled at making traditional ornaments such as crowns and designing traditional clothing for cultural performances.

The diverse skills possessed by Soryar women reflect the untapped potential of culture-based creative industries. The village head emphasized that Soryar women possess high creativity in handicrafts and the ability to process various materials into products with economic value. Soryar women's productive capacity has been recognized by local authorities. With appropriate development support, these skills have the potential to be transformed into superior products that can enter broader markets, including the growing tourism market in the Soryar coastal area.

b. Weakness

The biggest obstacle consistently cited by almost all female informants in this study was limited access to business capital. Capital is a structural barrier that hinders the transformation of women's skills and productive capacity into sustainable economic enterprises. The lack of capital prevents women from

expanding handicraft production on a larger scale. This situation creates a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break.

In addition to limited capital, other systemic weaknesses also limit the economic capacity of Soryar women. Skills training provided by government agencies is not accompanied by ongoing post-training support. The knowledge gained cannot be effectively implemented. GS's informant cited age as a limitation that further impacts her work capacity. Health conditions often prevent consistent economic activity. Another weakness is the lack of a structured and active women's organization.

c. Opportunity

Soryar Village's geographical location as a coastal tourism area with high natural potential presents a strategic opportunity recognized by almost all informants in this study. The presence of domestic and international tourists visiting the Soryar coastal area opens up various business opportunities that local women can exploit. Informant WF revealed that the profits from selling in the tourist area are substantial. The volume of buyers in this area is higher than in conventional markets. This statement indicates a fairly good awareness among Soryar women of the economic potential of tourism.

In addition to tourism opportunities, the diversity of Soryar Village's natural resources also presents economic opportunities. The village head emphasized that Soryar's natural beauty and high tourist arrivals should be utilized as opportunities that need to be systematically optimized. With adequate support, local economic development based on natural and cultural resources can enable women to become key actors in leading economic transformation.

d. Threats

The most frequently cited threat to the economic survival of Soryar women was adverse weather conditions. In these unpredictable conditions, adverse weather contributed to a decline in marine catches and reduced tourist visits to coastal areas. Economic dependence on the fisheries and tourism sectors also exacerbated women's vulnerabilities, such as income fluctuations. Several informants emphasized that adverse weather directly impacted significant income declines. This vulnerability highlights the need for broader business diversification and a lack of reliance on natural factors.

DISCUSSION

The primary motivation driving Soryar Village women to enter the public sphere and engage in productive economic activities is essentially centered on the need to meet daily living needs and strengthen their families' economic capacity. Informant KW stated that her goal in working was to supplement the family income. This motivation is pragmatic and deeply rooted in the economic realities faced by families in Soryar in general. Furthermore, informant FF expressed a similar sentiment. Her involvement in public economic activities was motivated by the need to supplement her husband's income. This statement indicates that Soryar women recognize the importance of diversifying household income sources. This motivational pattern reflects that Soryar women have

served as the primary pillar of the family economy. This finding aligns with the economic strategy perspective, which emphasizes the importance of women's agency in responding to economic uncertainty (Chairus Shadiq, 2021; Hartiwi et al., 2025; Zakaria et al., 2025). At the same time, these findings empirically reject the narrative that women's involvement in non-domestic spheres is an optional phenomenon (Kasim et al., 2025; Khikmawati et al., 2024; Rosyidi & Rofiq, 2025).

The financial management strategies employed by women in Soryar Village are generally simple, adaptive, and oriented toward meeting basic needs. For example, informant KW allocates remaining sales proceeds for daily expenses and children's education. Similarly, YM implements a strategy of dividing her income into two parts to better plan her spending. The general principle is to align all expenses with available funds. This reflects practical wisdom in household financial management.

While these strategies do not meet optimal formal financial management standards, the fact that Soryar women are able to maintain household economic stability with limited resources demonstrates the presence of social capital and local economic acumen. However, the majority of female informants interviewed in this study admitted that they had never received skills training.

The effectiveness of existing training programs faces structural barriers. The village head believes that previous training provided by the Fisheries Service, including those on fish floss and fish ball production, was not supported by adequate capital. Consequently, the acquired knowledge cannot be transformed into sustainable, productive businesses. Traditional skills in processing seafood without access to capital prevent these businesses from developing optimally.

Household economic resilience in Soryar Village fundamentally relies on women's ability to optimize the diversity of livelihood sources available in their environment. When economic conditions are under pressure, women take the initiative to maximize the use of existing natural resources. This livelihood diversification strategy has proven to provide economic resilience. The Village Head described the Soryar community's survival ethos as always seeking to sell what can be used from available resources.

The survival philosophy embedded in the Soryar community reflects local wisdom in economic risk management (Chotim, 2025; Indraprasta, n.d.; Irjayanti & Lord, 2024). The combination of land and sea resources provides multiple layers of economic protection for Soryar households. The case of Gritje Saba, who managed to sustain her family's financial well-being until the end of the month by relying on her pension and income from street vendors, demonstrates that this adaptive strategy applies not only to women of productive age but also provides a guarantee of sustainability for older women with limited physical resources.

According to the Village Head, the participation of Biak women in Soryar Village in the productive economic sector remains generally static and has not undergone significant transformation in terms of the quality or scope of their businesses. Informants RF and HF observed that Soryar women are, in fact, the main backbone of domestic and productive household management. Women not only carry out reproductive functions such as caring for the house and children. They also take the initiative in gathering firewood, harvesting vegetables from

the garden, and managing family finances. This observation reinforces the research's main finding that Soryar women bear a workload far beyond what is officially recognized by local social norms.

At the time of this research, there was no formal, structured women's empowerment program within the Soryar village government. The support received by residents so far has been limited to Direct Cash Assistance (BTL), general village fund distributions, and religious activities within the church that were not specifically designed to increase their economic capacity. This lack of empowerment programs represents a policy gap that lacks a focus on women's economic roles.

Therefore, a comprehensive and structured women's empowerment strategy is needed in Soryar Village. This strategy could include developing specific programs based on local potential, economic skills training, micro-enterprise mentoring, and collaboration between the village government, the church, and relevant institutions to ensure sustainability. By integrating a gender perspective into village development planning, women are no longer merely recipients of aid. Instead, they can become key actors in improving family welfare and village progress. Consistent implementation of this strategy will be a corrective measure to address the shortcomings of women's empowerment policies at all levels (Anjellika & Lestarka, 2024; Mandasari, 2022; Rosyidi & Rofiq, 2025). This will ensure that gender-based policies have a strong foundation at the grassroots level and serve as a more inclusive and sustainable development arrangement in the future.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study comprehensively reveals the reality of the role and contribution of Biak women in the complex and multi-layered economic ecosystem of Soryar Village. Based on an in-depth analysis of interview data obtained from various informants, several substantial conclusions can be drawn that illustrate women's strategic position in the economic life of the community. These conclusions are not only descriptive but also have important normative implications for designing gender-responsive empowerment policies at the local level. Overall, the findings of this study confirm that Biak women in Soryar Village are active, resilient, and adaptive economic actors. However, the full potential of Soryar women has not been optimally developed due to various structural constraints that require policy intervention.

Based on the research findings and conclusions presented, this study recommends synergy between the village government, relevant agencies, and other stakeholders to improve the role and well-being of women in Soryar Village. With appropriate, planned, and sustained support from all stakeholders, the potential of Soryar women can develop optimally, achieving better family well-being and sustainable village progress.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

This study has two main limitations. First, the scope of the study focused only on Soryar Village with a limited number of informants, so the findings are contextual and cannot be generalized to all Biak women in Biak Numfor Regency

or Papua. Second, this study used an entirely qualitative approach based on in-depth interviews, making it less able to provide a more objective quantitative measurement of the magnitude of economic contributions and the structural variables that influence them.

For further research, a comparative study between villages using a mixed-methods approach and a longitudinal design is recommended. This is crucial to understand the dynamics and sustainability of Biak women's economic roles amid ongoing socioeconomic changes.

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