ANALYSIS ON FACTORS AFFECTING THE PARTICIPATION OF MARRIED WOMEN IN INFORMAL SECTOR

(Case study on The Traders in Ketawang Gede Sub-district, Malang)

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes factors affecting the participation of married women (in the age of 16-60 years) in informal sector in Ketawang Gede sub-district, Malang. Using Linear Probability Model and Logit Model on 50 respondents, this study reveals migration status, total working hours/day, number of dependent, level of income and husband’s employment status significantly affect the participation of married women in informal sector. On the other hand, age and education have no significant effect on participation of married women. Marital status has a significant role in affecting the decision of women for working in formal or informal sector. However, since informal activity can accommodate the family responsibility, married woman prefer to join in informal sector.

Keywords: Participation of married women, Informal Sector.

ABSTRAK


Kata Kunci: Partisipasi wanita yang telah menikah, sektor informal.
A. INTRODUCTION

In the recent decades, the involvement of woman in the development process of economy has been one of the main concerns in developing countries. Analysis on women’s labor force participation is a critical issue in the labor market of industrialized nations as well as in the less developed societies. Despite the quantitative increase on woman’s participation rates, it has also been simultaneously recognized that woman is clearly not equal to men in the labor force and that significant qualitative differences exist between their work participation. Women tend to hold different types of jobs from men’s and their occupational returns are much lower than male counterparts. In developing societies, many research have been devoted on understanding these persisting labor market gender inequalities.

The case of woman participation on labor market also affected by the marital status of woman. Perhaps, the most fundamental difference between the average single, unmarried person, the family unit of husband and wife is the presence of children and an increase of number of dependent. One of the important reasons for the division of labor by married couple is that the presence of children substantially increases the value of an hour of time spent at home relative to labor market (Blau, 2002).

The marital status of woman is related to work aspiration. Some women work before marriage, as they have less responsibilities of household chores or child care. On the other cases, sometimes female feels free after their education and before their marriage, they temporarily participate in economic activity. However, after marriage, average married women with and without children spend more time out of the labor force than unmarried (Khan and Khan, 2009).

The term formal and informal sector becomes a part of national economy. National economy supported by economic activities conducted in both formal (official) area and informal (unregulated, unofficial, unstructured) area. The informal sector exists, to a higher or lower extent, in all modern economies. It generates results, creates jobs, entails population income and is conditioning a significant part of consumption expenditure, while its presence contradicts the expert predictions, formulated few decades ago, on its predictable reduction and extinction as national economy development. The study on informal sector of the economy presents a theoretical interest for economics.

The informal sector is generally recognized as being an inferior alternative to formal sector employment in term of earnings, security and protection from
exploitation regarding things such as labor standards and other contractual arrangements. There are two different points of view about the existence of informal sector. From positive side, informal sector provides the poor people and most marginalized people who do not have access to formal sector with opportunities to earn income. Subsequently, the important survival strategy for people in informal sector and their families is promoting and supporting their involvement in informal sectors activities and giving barriers to participation of women. While in the negative perspective, informal sector is seen as further marginalizing the poor people and most vulnerable people in the society (Gallaway and Bernasek, 2002).

Positive perspectives of informal sector tend to argue that it is better to allow women to combine household activity and their job because many informal sector jobs can be undertaken at the home. Women choose informal sector employment due to its compatibility with their household work. While negative perspective of informal sector indicates that woman are forced into the informal sector because the formal sector fails to accommodate their household responsibilities. Given the inferiority of the formal sector, public policy should focus on the transformation of formal sector employment to make it compatible with women’s lives and particularly to accommodate the need for infant and child care.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Theory of Labor/Leisure Choices

There is a wide diversity in the hours per week that people are required to work. Some individuals work only as part-time while others may have two or three separate jobs called as moonlighter. Presumably, both the part time worker and the moonlighter have made a conscious choice to find the job that provides the working schedule as they want. There are 168 hours in a week, and each individual decides how to allocate those hours among various activities. The certain number of hours per week is not really discretionary, however, since there are fixed biological needs for sleeping, eating and so on. Assuming, for simplicity, these for fixed needs require 68 hours per week (or less than 10 hours per day), and the remaining 100 hours any choices can be made.

The Time Allocations of Household: Becker’s Model

The household model represents a significant generalization of the theory of choice. This generalization is derived from model conducted by Gary Becker. According to Becker, leisure time does not yield utility in and of itself; rather, time is best viewed as an input that is combined with purchase goods and service to produce
a various activities or experiences. Such activity as watching movie, eating a meal or rising children, each activity requires some combinations between time and market goods. The important point from Becker’s theory is that the cost of time changes, so the way how people experience yield utility. Particularly, if wage rates increase, individuals are motivated not only to substitute time from nonmarket uses to market work, but also to substitute away from activities that are relatively time-intensive, to less time-intensive but more income-intensive activities.

In term of time allocation, this theory states that individuals are faced with two choices that are to work or not to work for enjoying their leisure time. Working will generate wages which will further increase the individual revenue. Increased revenues can be used to purchase consumer goods that can give satisfaction. In the micro approach, the wage rate has a direct role in working hours offered, the majority of workers and the wage as a basic motivation that drives a person to work. The relationship between wages and working hours is positive, in which the higher working hours offered higher wage are.

**Theory of Human Capital**

There are three major kinds of labor market investment undertaken by worker namely education and training, migration and searching for new job. All these three investments involve an initial cost, and all of them are made in the hope and expectation that the investment will pay off in to the future. To emphasize the essential similarity of these investments to other kinds of investment in term of human capital, an embodied set of skill that can be offered out to employers. Knowledge and skill that a worker has obtained from education and training include their learning. The value of this productive capital is derived from how much these skill can be earned in the labor market. Job search and migration are activities that increase the value of one’s human capital by increasing the price (wage) received for a given stock of skill (Ehrenberg and Smith, 2003).

**Todaro Migration Model**

The economic theory of rural-urban migration is also stated by Todaro (2003), where it is assumed that rural-urban migration is basically an economic phenomenon. Therefore, the decision to migrate is also a decision formulated in rational way. Todaro notion that migration take place in response to the differences between urban and rural incomes. They will decide to migrate if the net income in the city exceeds
net income available in village. So, Todaro migration model have three basic ideas as follows:

a. Rural-urban migration is stimulated by rational economic considerations directly related to the profits or benefits and relative cost of migration.

b. The decision to migrate depends on the difference between expected revenue in the city and actual revenue in rural. There are two basic variables, the difference between actual earning in urban and rural or the chances for getting job in the city that offer expected income of workers.

c. The possibility for getting job directly related to the level of job availability in urban areas, so it is inversely related to the level of urban unemployment.

**Informal and Formal Sector**

According Rahbini (in Mulyadi; 2003), there are two factors that lead to the emergence of economic dualism between the formal sector and the informal sector, which is related to external and internal factor. The external factors lead to the emergence of dualism in a certain condition where first, institution that support formal modern economic activity. Second, the gap between the wages in informal and formal sector and the third is technical and politically issue. Although it looks like one unified system that is complementary related to each other, but the formal and informal institution are disagregative each other. In this case, the informal sector tends to subordinate and recessive. It causes the informal sector have to low bargaining power that the outlook is less favorable.
Table 1: The Characteristics of Formal and Informal Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Informal Sectors</th>
<th>Formal Sectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Difficult to obtain</td>
<td>Easy to obtain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Labor intensive</td>
<td>Capital intensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Family organization</td>
<td>Bureaucracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of Capital</td>
<td>Informal financial institutions</td>
<td>Formal financial institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State aid</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>Very important for the sustainability of formal sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of enterprises</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Highly depend on government protection and import</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>Relative small quantity and low quality</td>
<td>Relative large quantity and high quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment relationship with owner</td>
<td>Principle of mutual trust</td>
<td>Employment contract</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Alisahbana, Sutan T cited by Pepih Nugraha in Kompas 15/04/2006, pg.34

Previous Research

Lee, Jang and Sarkar (2008) identified the relationship between marital status and female labor force participation in Korea and argue that marriage remains a major obstacle to young Korea women employment. Using Probit estimation, this research find that an average married women less likely to participate in the labor force than single women in urban Korea. Further investigation find that husband’s occupation and age significantly affect the participation of women in Korea.

Khan and Khan (2009) highlight the factors that influence the decision of married woman (in the age group of 16-60 years) to participate in labor force activities. Using Probit model, variables such as woman’s age, woman as head of the household, woman’s education, household poverty, family size, number of girls (5-15 years), number of daughters over the age of 15 years, husband unemployment, low income and rural locality have significant positive effect on labor force participation of married woman.

Bibi and Afzal (2012) attempted to identify the determinants of married women labor force participation in WahCantt (Pakistan). Using 146 married women aged from 20-70 with descriptive analysis method, the study finds that education, number of offspring, number of dependents, family size, income of husband, monthly expenditure of the family, positive attitude of husband and family towards the job of women and job satisfaction have positive impact on married women labor force.
participation. In contrast, living with husband, strong relationship with spouse before marriage, satisfaction of housewives with their current life are negatively affect the decision of married women participation in the labor force.

Babalola and Akor (2013) conducted the research on labor force participation of married woman in Nigeria. Using Linear Probability and Probit Model, the research examines factors influencing the decision of married woman within the working age bracket (18-60 years) to participate in labor force activities. It is found that woman education has a positive effect on labor force participation of married woman and on the other hand, husband’s employment and household size have shown a negative effect.

Chen, Shao, Murtaza and Zhao (2014) explain the factors that influence female labor force supply in China. Using the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS) database of the employment of married women in 2006. This paper analyzed the factors that influenced the labor force participation of female workers in urban and rural areas from the perspective of individuals and family. Using Probit Model, this research find that education, age, childcare, husband work and family size significantly affect the female labor force participation in China.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the method for quantitative and descriptive analysis. Descriptive analysis was employed to summarize set of data as the result of survey i.e. socioeconomic characteristics. Descriptive statistics methods were used to find out information about the variables, such as the frequency distribution as a summary tabulation of data figuring out the percentage of frequency in each class. To analyze the determinants of married women decision, this study utilized econometric methods. For quantitative analysis, the Linear probability model and Logistic model of married women were employed. This model was used to investigate the factors that are associated with the probability of married women to participate in informal sector. The following table shows the variable of the study.
### Table 2: Description of Dependent and Independent Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variables</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit of Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Participation of married women</td>
<td>Dummy variable of decision 0 = Formal sector 1 = Informal sector</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Independent Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$X_1$</th>
<th>Age of married woman’s</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$X_2$</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Total years of schooling for married women’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X_3$</td>
<td>Migration status</td>
<td>The migration status of married woman’s 0 = Non Migrant 1 = Migrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X_4$</td>
<td>Total working hours</td>
<td>Number of hours used by married women to join in informal sector activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X_5$</td>
<td>Number of dependent</td>
<td>Number of persons being a number of dependent of married women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X_6$</td>
<td>Level of income/wage</td>
<td>Amount of money that married women receive per month during joining the informal sectors activity. 0 = &lt; IDR 1,587,000 1 = ≥ IDR 1,587,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X_7$</td>
<td>Husband’s Employment Status</td>
<td>The husband’s job status 0 = Not Working 1 = Working</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: author illustration, 2014

The accuracy of sample in linear probability model function estimates the actual value that can be tested with the Goodness of Fit. Statistically, goodness of fit measured the coefficient of determination, the value of F and t statistics values. Statistical calculation is significant if the values of the test statistic are less than 0.05, the independent variable is significantly affecting the dependent variable otherwise the variable is not significant if the value of the test more than 0.05. While for logistic regression, the result are measured from five categories. The five categories are Assessing the feasibility of the regression model (Hosmer and Lemeshow Test of Goodness of Fit Test), Testing -2 log Likehood, Nagelkerke ’s R Square, Partial Logistic Regression, and Simultaneous logistic regression (Omnibus tests of model Coefficient).
IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

*Descriptive Analysis*

**Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondent Based on Age**

Around 38% of married women in Ketawang Gede are in the age of lower than 20 years old. It implies that most of women below 20 are married. It might be caused by socio-cultural factors based on the assumption that women in the range of age ≤ 20 years old are mature for being a part of household as wife and mother. The figure above also shows that 84% of total respondent are in the range of age between 16-30 years old. It may imply that young married woman is more likely to join in economy activity because of their physical conditions.

**Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents Based on the Level of Education**

The respondent education is below ≤ 12 years. It implies that the highest education level of married women's in Ketawang Gede is senior high school. Furthermore, the basic skills of women’s are only reading, writing and counting without any other skills. However, for some of them who are graduated from Vocational High School, they have skills in culinary, sewing, or computer. It is also related to notions on gender discrimination long years ago that stated woman is unnecessary to get a high level of education because eventually women will manage the household chores, take care of children and woman is productive than man.

**Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents Based on Migration Status**

Residential is status defined into both non migrant and migrant. The definition of migrant is related to people who domicile outside of Malang who deliberately come to Malang for seeking job. While, for non migrant, it is related to people who domicile and live in Malang. Most of respondents (around 54%) are migrants. This implies that migrants are more likely to work in order to survive for their lives in Malang. Based on the result of survey, those who are informal workers are commonly non migrants, while migrants tend to participate in formal sector. The reason is women are more likely to migrate if they get a better job, for example job in formal sector and less likely to migrate if they work in informal sector in destination area. The decision of married women to migrate is affected by the decision of their husbands during the migration process. The migrants came from area such as Kediri, Madura, Banyuwagi, Trenggalek, and other area in East Java. Malang becomes a popular migration destination because the development of business and education
activities create many opportunities to work and due to the low cost of living compared to the other big cities such as Surabaya.

**Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents Based on Total Working Hours per day**

Based on the observation, most of the respondents spend 7-8 hours per day to participate in labor market. In case of informal sector, the total working hours per day is closely related to the total income that will be received. The higher time spent in labor market, the higher earning that will be received. Most of young married women are more likely to enter the informal sector because it is assumed that they are more energetic and productive. Those who are informal workers spend approximately 8-10 hours/day to work. While in formal sector, the total of working hours is not related to the total income because the salary received each month are fixed, except due to overtime work. Because most of informal sectors activities can be undertaken from home, married women are not worried about taking care of children when joining in the economic activity.

**Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents Based on Number of Dependent**

The majority of married women have 2-3 numbers of dependents. It is implied in the household that most husbands and wives are working. Married woman participates in the economic activity or working to support the husband’s income for growing their children. While, for 20% of respondents who have 4 or more number of dependent, it is implied that the husbands are not working because of some reasons such as the health consideration. But, for married women whose husbands are self-employed in the tertiary sector, family workers or unemployment are almost three times more likely to participate in the labor market. That’s why women should take responsibilities to work in order to get additional income and support the family needs. For this case, husband will respect all family chores and take care of children while his wife is working.

**Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents Based on Level of Income**

This part explains the total of earnings that women will receive if they decide to work. The wage indicator is IDR 1,587,000 which becomes the regional minimum wage rate of Malang. Approximately, 52% of total respondent receive income per month which is higher than IDR 1,587,000. In contrast, 48 % receive wage below the minimum regional wage. The decision of women to work or participate in the labor
market is assumed to be a function of the variables that influence a person’s expected offered wage and the reservation wage.

The total income received in informal sector is determined by the total of working hours. The higher the working hours of women, the higher the income will be. A person will choose to enter the labor market if the offered wage is greater than expected wage. Human capital variables are expected to influence the offered wage, while the characteristics of the household may influence the reservation wage by affecting productivity in the home and the demand for leisure.

**Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents Based on Husband’s Employment Status**

The result shows that more than a half of respondents husband are working. It is related to the main duty of husband for responsible for the household income. While 42 % of the husbands are not working because of some factors such as health or the husband who is already passed away. Women with unemployed husband are more likely to involve in the economic activity. In case of informal worker based on the survey, most of their husband is not working while for formal worker their husband are commonly working. Unemployment and husband’s low level of income lead to poverty of households. It means that poverty occurs in all aspects, such as lower household per capita income. Lower educational, income level and unemployment of husband increases the labor force participation of married women. That is why the husband employment status is closely related to decision of women whether to the work or not to work.
### Linear Probability Model and Logistic Regression

**Table 3: Result of Linear Probability Model and Logistic Regression**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Variables</th>
<th>Linear probability model</th>
<th>Logistic Regression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Std. Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>0.054</td>
<td>0.484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ($X_1$)</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education ($X_2$)</td>
<td>-0.010</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration status ($X_3$)</td>
<td>-0.288</td>
<td>0.113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total working hours ($X_4$)</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>0.054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of dependent ($X_5$)</td>
<td>0.146</td>
<td>0.072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Income ($X_6$)</td>
<td>-0.276</td>
<td>0.094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband’s Employment Status ($X_7$)</td>
<td>-0.343</td>
<td>0.103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * indicating significance at 5%

Source: writer’s own calculations (based on data of own survey), 2014

Due to the difference of the result of the econometrics tools models, the result from Logit Regression drawn as conclusion because it have more significant variable. Therefore, the significant variables that influence the participation of married women in informal sector based on logistic regression are migration status ($X_3$), working hours ($X_4$), number of dependent ($X_5$), level of income ($X_6$), and husband’s employment status ($X_7$). While the non significant variable are age ($X_1$) and Education ($X_2$).

**The Effect of Migration status on the Participation of Married Woman on Informal Sector**

The result of analysis shows that there is a negative relationship between migration status and the participation of married women in informal sector. Married migrant women tend to decrease their willingness to participate in informal sector as
much as 0.014. Furthermore, non migrant workers less likely to participate in formal sector as much as 0.014. Rural-urban migration is economic rational consideration based on economic phenomenon. Rural-urban migration is a response to differences in the expected income rather than actual earnings. Individual will decide to migrate when the net income in the destination area is higher than the net income in the rural area as weighted by the possibility to get a job. The migration phenomena of migrant married women in Ketawang Gede are closely related to husband’s mobility. Women tend to follow the men’s decision to migrate to Malang.

**The Effects of Total of Working Hours on Participation of Married Woman in Informal Sector**

The result shows that there are positive relationships between working hours and labor force participation of married women. An increase in 1 hour of working hours tend to increase the willingness of married women to participate in informal sector as much as 81.933. This result of analysis on positive relationship between working hours and married women participation in informal sector are closely related to the total earnings. In case of informal sector, the total of working hours proportionally affect the total income, so the higher the proportion of working in informal sector, the higher the income that will be received. In the case of married women in Ketawang Gede, since almost married women who participate in informal sector are young married women who are more productive and tend to increase the total of working hours to generate more income. In contrast, formal workers are not worried about working hours because their working hour do not proportionally affect their income. The location of business activity that is close to their house makes it easier for women to manage the household chores and economic activities. In addition, informal sector might allow more autonomy and flexibility and it may be compatible with family responsibility.

**The Effects of Number of dependent on Participation of Married Woman in Informal Sector**

The positive relationship between number of dependent on participation of married women in informal sector implies an increase of 1 person in number of dependent tends to increase the participation of married women in informal sector as much as 3.394. This implies that an increase on number of dependent led an increase the economic pressure for the family so they have more economically active. In Ketawang Gede sub-district, almost every woman has 2-3 number of dependents.
There are two perspectives on the relationships between family size and family work. First, larger member of households indicates surplus on labor supply within the households and the likelihood of labor force participation of women becomes low. Second, a larger member of household tends to increase the total of expenditure so women should be more active to work.

The Effects of Level of Income on the Participation of Married Woman in Informal Sector

The negative relationships are found in the relationship between income and the participation of married women in informal sector. If the income received < IDR 1,587,000, women tend to reduce their willingness to participate in formal sector as much 0.025 while if they get ≥ IDR 1,587,000, women tend to decrease their willingness to participate in informal sector. An understanding on the aspiration and motivation of women is important for analyzing their decision to be economically productive.

The Effects of Husband’s Employment Status on the Participation of Married Woman in Informal Sector

Negative relationship is found between husband’s employment status and married women participation in informal sector. If husband’s are working and able to generate income it tends to decrease the willingness of married women to participate in informal sector and more likely to join in formal sector. In contrast, if husbands are not working, women tend to increase their willingness to participate in informal sector as much as 0.018. The informal sector becomes an alternative for women to get an income because if their husband does not work, they have to work in order to survive. Husband’s employment status and income level are also critical for the decision of women’s labor force participation, on the assumption that women’s labor force participation is generally caused by the households economic vulnerability where husband is responsible for household expenditures.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

Based on the study on the characteristics of married women and factors influencing their participations in informal sector, so several conclusions are drawn as follows:
1. Informal activities of married women in Ketawang Gede increase the productivity of women through their participation in labor market as trader.

2. Variables that significantly affecting the participation of married women in informal sector are migration status ($X_3$), total working hour ($X_4$), number of dependent ($X_5$), level of income/wage ($X_6$), and husband’s employment status ($X_7$).

3. Most of informal workers are non migrants while migrant worker tends to participate in formal sector.

4. The growth of informal sector may to increase the economic level of low-middle class of societies household while household with more than one family member has a positive attitude towards informal sector.

5. Most of married women are interested joining informal activity because many informal activities can be undertaken from house where mothers can combine household chores and family responsibilities with economic activities.

6. The total working hours of informal job is identical with the long time activity which requires more than 8 working hours because in informal sector, working hours is positively related to level of income.

7. Husband employment status has significant role in determine the participation of married women in informal sector.

**Recommendation**

Based on the findings of the study on participation of married women in informal sectors, some recommendations are presented as follows:

1. Because most of migrant worker who takes place in formal sector, and non migrant worker are forced to work in informal worker, so the government should covered the existence of indigenous people to work in formal sector due to an increase in purchasing power and maintain the living standard of people in Malang.

2. The difficulties of informal sector to obtain the capital and expand their business should be covered by the regulation from the government. Informal sector can be supported through capital injection from the local government by providing funding or partnership program with private sector such as in the form of credit support.

3. Regulation concerning informal activity is needed to stimulate the existence of informal sector in Malang by the provision of training and supervision, etc.
4. For the next study dealing with the participation of married women in informal sector, the existence of insignificant variable in different model analysis needs to be considered some additional variables estimated have relationship with married women’s participation in informal sector, should be involved so many significant variables can be revealed.

VI. REFERENCES


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