



## Note

# Job preferences between fisheries and other sectors in coastal region of Pekalongan, Indonesia

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## ABSTRACT

The study examined the job preferences of coastal communities between the fisheries sector, traditional textile industry (Batik printing) or other sectors in the Wonokerto-Pekalongan District, Indonesia. Data collected based on interviews with informants were analysed with Atlas Ti software to build triangulation from qualitative data. The results indicated that the coastal communities prefer to work in other sectors because it is more formal and stable compared to the fisheries sector.

Keywords: Atlas Ti, Batik, Fisheries, Job selection, Pekalongan

Currently, the fisheries sector is facing many challenges and the uncertainty in production leads to uncertainty with respect to income in fisheries sector. People in this sector look for alternate jobs or livelihood diversification in addition to fishing. Job selection is profoundly affected by the desire to improve welfare; hence people prefer a more reliable job to support their household. Opportunities outside the fisheries sector require competencies including education and training. Access to education is the investment of coastal communities to obtain employment outside the fisheries sector. Education, training and work experience in the concerned subject area are essential for job diversification (Avila-Foucat and Rodríguez-Robayo, 2018). Climate change and non-environment-friendly exploitation has resulted in vulnerability of the coastal communities and decrease in income from fisheries sector. A study conducted by Avila-Foucat and Rodríguez-Robayo (2018) observed that rural households have shifted to non-agricultural activities, as a strategy to improve income, where households increase the number of economic activities in various sectors.

Currently, young generation orient their job preferences towards non-fisheries sector, which has become a great concern, since management of natural resources is crucial to ensure food availability. In this context, the present study aims to analyse the comparative job preferences between the fisheries sector, the traditional textile industry (batik) and other sectors in Wonokerto Subdistrict, Pekalongan Regency in Indonesia.

The analytical method used in this study is a qualitative method with a content analysis approach. This

approach is sometimes referred to as quantitative analysis of qualitative data. The key to the approach used to analyse the content of qualitative data, is more focused so that it can validate or conceptually expand the theoretical framework (Downe-Wamboldt, 1992). Data were collected based on interviews, followed by targeted questions about predefined categories. This study used directed content analysis with targeted coding using predetermined codes employing ATLAS.Ti software. Data not contained in the predetermined initial code was then identified, analysed and determined whether it represents a new category or a subcategory of the existing code. This directed coding analysis was also based on experience when the interview involves the emotional reactions of the informants.

The study was carried out in the Wonokerto District, Pekalongan Regency, Central Java, Indonesia. Primary data was collected during June 2018 and then updated in January 2022, based on in-depth interviews with key informants and field observations. Purposive sampling was used for selection of respondents. The 21 key informants interviewed comprised 3 small boatowners (men), 2 medium boatowners (men), 2 big shipmasters (men), 5 fish sellers (women), 4 fish processing unit owners (women) and 5 batik workers (women).

The uncertainty in the fisheries sector forces people to look for alternate jobs to meet household needs. Table 1 shows the results of analyses of job preferences between fisheries, textile (batik) and other sectors. The results are based on content analysis by calculating the emphasis on answers from informants, the analysis assisted by Atlas Ti software.

Table 1. Results of job selection coding in Wonokerto District

| Opinion on job options                                     | Score |
|--|-------|
| Traditional textile industry (Batik)                       | 6     |
| Others (Working in private firms or being a civil servant) | 16    |
| Fisheries sector   | 12    |

Primary data processed using Atlas Ti

As shown in Table 1, key informants in this study are more dominant in choosing other sectors, which refers to the formal jobs that offer higher income as well as income stability as compared to fisheries sector and the traditional textile sector. The perception of job selection in Table 1 is further explained in Fig. 1 with respect to reasons for job preferences in Wonokerto-Pekalongan District.

The reasons for the informants choosing a job as depicted in Fig. 1, support the data presented in Table 2. These results explain that jobs in other sectors (formal) are more preferred by coastal communities, because the income earned is stable compared to the fisheries sector, which has fluctuating income. However, the fisheries sector also remains a choice of the informants because it does not require soft skills. In the fisheries sector, although income fluctuates, when catch is abundant, the income is also high. Cultural factors, namely jobs that come from ancestors, still maintain the existence of fishers. In contrast, the traditional textile industry, which only serves as an alternative job to complete household needs, is not the main source of family income.

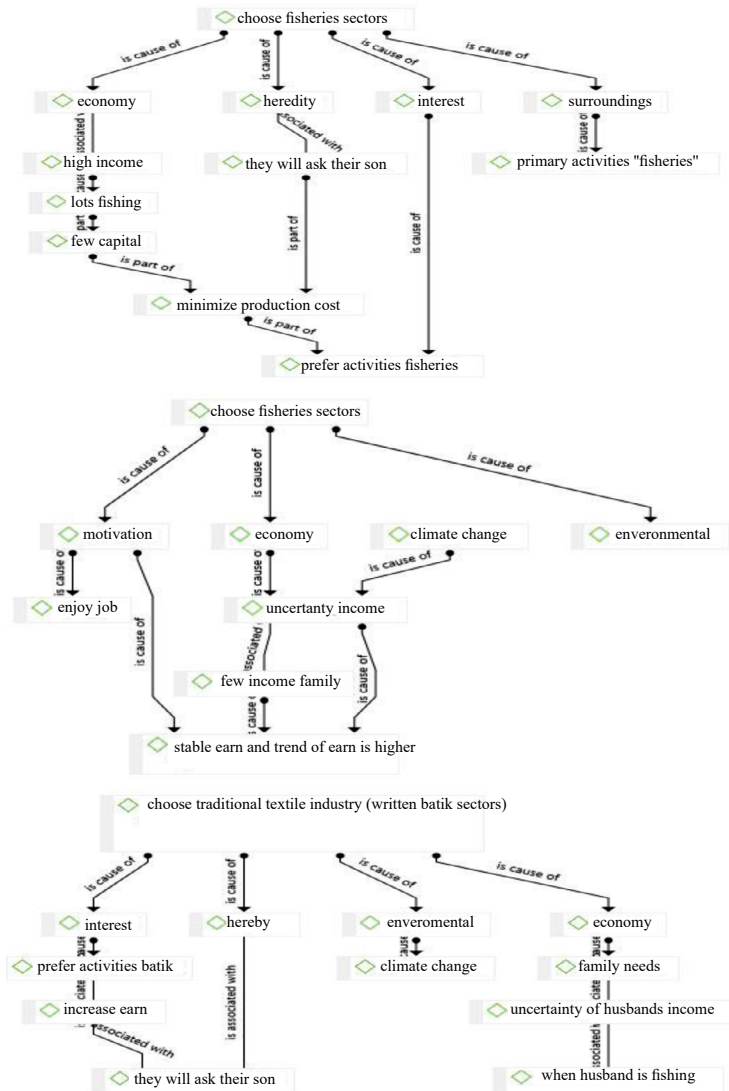


Fig. 1. Reasons for selecting fisheries sector jobs, traditional textile industry sectors (Batik) and other sectors in Wonokerto-Pekalongan District, Indonesia

Source: Primary Data processed in Atlas Ti

Table 2. The reasons of choosing fisheries and other sector jobs

| Work options                          | Reasons          | Score |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Fisheries                             | Economic factors | 14    |
|                                       | Heredity         | 9     |
|                                       | Environment      | 14    |
|                                       | Interest         | 7     |
| Traditional textile industry (Batik ) | Economic factors | 5     |
|                                       | Heredity         | 7     |
|                                       | Environment      | 6     |
|                                       | Interest         | 2     |
| Other sectors                         | Economic factors | 4     |
|                                       | Heredity         | 0     |
|                                       | Environment      | 2     |
|                                       | Interest         | 10    |
|                                       | Motivation       | 7     |

Primary data processed in Atlas Ti

Pekalongan Regency is known as one of the cities in Indonesia that produces batik that has developed since the time of the Majapahit Kingdom (Allo and Piliang, 2015). Pekalongan community's life has a lot to do with batik-related work, both in the process of making batik and selling products (Maziyah *et al.*, 2021). The present study also identified that the coastal women of Wonokerto Pekalongan Regency take up jobs in the batik sector to meet household needs.

The problem faced by coastal communities in meeting household needs, is fluctuating incomes that tend to be low and highly dependent on nature (Berkes and Nayak, 2018; Smith and Basurto, 2019; Kaur, 2020). This prompts the coastal communities to diversify their portfolio of work to achieve viability to overcome poverty, capital access, food security and sustainability (Avila-Foucat and Rodríguez-Robayo, 2018). The coastal community of Wonokerto has two dominant job choice preferences, namely the fisheries sector and the traditional textile industry (batik) in addition to other sectors. The fisheries sector will always remain one of the job options of Wonokerto coastal communities because it has been hereditary, besides that the sector is still considered profitable when there is abundant fish production. However, there are fluctuations in fishery income due to natural calamities and climate change.

Economic and environmental factors dominate the preference of employment in the fisheries sector. In the traditional textile industry sector (batik), the reasons that significantly affect are hereditary and environmental factors in the Wonokerto District. People who work in the traditional textile industry sector (batik) are the wives of fishermen who are not allowed to work outside their homes; and it is more flexible for them in managing time to do other obligations concerning managing the house,

caring for children, and socialising with the surrounding community. They also train their daughters in batik work and expect them to work in the traditional textile industry sector in the future.

Other sector jobs refer to the formal sector which offer a steady income. However, access to the formal sector tends to be low due to low education levels. Job preference is influenced by the motivation to change the life style of future generations. Economic growth and structural changes have created diversification outside the fisheries sector. Structural changes regarding the selection of livelihoods outside traditional sectors such as the fisheries sector will affect food security to meet national food needs. Enhancing governance and livelihood opportunities related to natural resources are important. Government intervention should focus on fisheries, because it will involve a range of livelihoods that exist in the sector (Mills *et al.*, 2017). This advancement must be in line with the increase in human capital. Hence, it is expected that the increment in human capital and good governance may increase the interest and motivation of the people, eventually leading to a more stable fisheries sector.

### Acknowledgments

The research formed part of the scheme of Magister Education towards Excellent Scholar (PMDSU), Grant No. SPK 14-08/UN7.P4.3/PP/2020. The authors express gratitude and appreciation to the Research and Public Service Institution (LPPM), Diponegoro University for funding support.

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