FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISION MAKING BASED ON GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WAY BETUNG WATERSHED, LAMPUNG PROVINCE

Pitojo Budiono[1*], Zeda Erdian[3], Christine Wulandari[2,3], Eny Puspasari[4], A. Nizam Syahiib[2], Fadela Yunika Sari[3], Adella Putri Apriliani[3]
[1]Department of Government Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lampung, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia
[2]Master of Forestry Department, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Lampung, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia
[3]Department of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Lampung, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia
[4]Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park Regional Technical Implementation Unit, Kemiling, Indonesia
Email: ptjbudiono@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Environmental politics as part of social science has very broad aspects, one of which is the gender aspect. In fact, women can actively work in the public sector because it is important to balance gender roles between men and women. Cooperative decision making between men and women is a reflection of gender equality in forest resource management. This research analyzes the role of gender in decision making for forest resource management based on environmental politics in Pinang Jaya Village, Talang Mulya Village, and Cilimus Village around the Way Betung watershed. The data analysis used is descriptive quantitative. The research results show that gender roles in making decisions on forest resource management such as land preparation, seeding, planting, maintenance, harvesting and security activities are known to be dominated by husbands with an average percentage (77%), while women only dominate. in marketing activities with a percentage of (9%). The high role of men is caused by patriarchal cultural factors which still assume men have full access and good knowledge in managing forests. The correlation between job characteristics and decision making in forest resource management such as land preparation, seeding, planting, maintenance, harvesting, marketing and security is known to have a significant relationship. Meanwhile, there are still variables that are not correlated with the correlation between age, gender and education. Based on environmental political aspects, there is a need for intensive understanding and training regarding gender balance for site leaders because it has been proven that gender is correlated with the sustainability of natural resources.

Key words: gender roles; decision-making; forest management; village government; environmental politics

PENGAMBILAN KEPUTUSAN PENGELOLAAN SUMBER DAYA HUTAN BERBASIS KESETARAAN GENDER DI DAS WAY BETUNG, PROVINSI LAMPUNG

ABSTRAK

Politik lingkungan sebagai bagian dari ilmu sosial mempunyai aspek yang sangat luas, salah satunya adalah aspek gender. Sebenarnya perempuan bisa aktif bekerja di sektor publik karena pentingnya keseimbangan peran gender antara laki-laki dan perempuan. Pengambilan keputusan yang kooperatif antara laki-laki dan perempuan merupakan cerminan kesetaraan gender dalam pengelolaan sumber daya hutan. Penelitian ini mendeterminasi peran gender dalam pengambilan keputusan pengelolaan sumber daya hutan berbasis politik lingkungan di Desa Pinang Jaya, Desa Talang Mulya, dan Desa Cilimus di sekitar DAS Way Betung. Analisis data yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kuantitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peran gender dalam pengambilan keputusan pengelolaan sumber daya hutan seperti kegiatan penyiapan lahan, pembibitan, penanaman, pemeliharaan, pemanenan, dan pengamanan diketahui didominasi oleh suami dengan persentase rata-rata (77%), sedangkan perempuan hanya terlibat dalam derajat yang terbatas, tidak dominan. dalam kegiatan pemasaran dengan persentase sebesar (9%). Tingginya peran laki-laki disebabkan oleh faktor budaya patriarki yang masih menganggap laki-laki mempunyai akses penuh dan pengetahuan yang baik dalam mengelola hutan. Korelasi antara karakteristik pekerjaan dengan pengambilan keputusan dalam pengelolaan sumber daya hutan seperti penyiapan lahan, pembibitan, penanaman, pemeliharaan, pemanenan, pemasaran, dan pengamanan diketahui mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan. Korelasi variabel usia, jenis kelamin, dan pendidikan masih terdapat variabel yang tidak merusak. Berdasarkan aspek politik lingkungan, perlu adanya pelatihan pemahaman dan intensifikasi mengenai keseimbangan gender bagi para pemimpin lokasi karena telah terbukti bahwa ancaman gender terhadap kelestarian sumber daya alam.

Kata kunci: peran gender; pengambilan keputusan; pengelolaan hutan; pemerintah desa; politik lingkungan

INTRODUCTION

Economic expansion driven by environmental politics often has a significant impact on people's socio-economic behavior, especially for indigenous groups or forest dwellers who depend directly on natural resources to meet their basic needs (Savitri, 2014). Communities around forests are encouraged to utilize available land due to increasingly dense population conditions and high unemployment rates. According to Manggala (2021), the definition of environmental politics is politics in managing the environment and natural resources so that their sustainability is maintained. Thus, social aspects related to human populations must be considered in the implementation of environmental politics in the field. Talking about human aspects certainly cannot be separated from the influence of gender. Differences related to gender equality will certainly arise due to community involvement in forest management. According to Nur and Arafah (2023), gender roles in forest management to support forestry development programs are different. Gender roles in forest management are diverse and influenced by a variety of factors, including cultural, social, economic, and the type of forestry development program underway. These role differences are often not explicitly visible, but gave a signification impact on program success and community welfare. Differences in gender roles in forest management can be seen from several aspects, namely knowledge and skills generally, men have more in-depth knowledge of traditional and modern forest management techniques. Whereas women have medicinal plants, forest food, and local ecology. They also have skills in managing natural resources sustainably. Forest management in question is Planning, Organizing, Actuating, Controlling (POAC) towards Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) which involves a decision-making process consisting of several important stages (Triantafyllou *et al.,* 2024).

Gender roles encourage the emergence and development of differences in roles, attributes, traits, attitudes and behavior in society. The level of gender equality in decision making regarding forest resource management is very important, because individual responsibility, access to forest management, and overall use of forest resources can be influenced by gender. Achieving gender equality in decision-making will open up opportunities for more perspectives and innovation, drive more inclusive economic growth, and create a more just and prosperous society. Conversely, without gender equality in decision making, we will continue to be trapped in the same cycle of injustice, where women continue to be marginalized and do not have an equal voice in shaping their future. In environmental politics, decision-making procedures in this area are very relevant. Sustainable management of forest resources over time while still considering gender equality and not sacrificing the needs of future generations is very important (Wulandari and Inoue, 2018). To achieve gender equality in implementing sustainable forest management (SFM) policies, every government member must actively participate (Wulandari *et al*., 2019). Based on the concept of environmental politics, leaders in a location have the authority to determine the policies that will be implemented (Siahaan, 2020). Based on the concept of environmental politics, leaders in a location have the authority to determine the policies that will be implemented (Siahaan, 2020).

The aim of this research is to measure the effect of environmental damage caused by the needs of forest farming households, which generally have a dominant economic dimension and are unable to translate gender phenomena into government and life. Meanwhile, the focus of the analysis or unit is the analysis of farming families in gender-based decision making on the role of land management and sustainability.

Gender Policy in Environmental Politics

Gender policy is a strategic framework that outlines an organization's commitment and approach to advancing gender equality in its operations and in the programs and projects it implements (Sulastri, 2013). This policy aims to ensure that the implementation of environmental politics that considers gender is integrated into all aspects of the organization's work to promote equal rights and opportunities for all individuals, especially women and girls (Utaminingsih, 2017).

Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Regulation Number 6 of 2023 concerning Gender Equality Parameters shows that the state guarantees gender equality for all people in law, government and social life. Every development program must measure a gender perspective to achieve gender equality. According to this law, gender equality occurs when men and women obtain the same rights and opportunities as humans. Through Minister of Forestry Regulation Number 65 of 2011, the Ministry of

Forestry also shows its concern for gender equality. In accordance with Pesawaran Regional Regional Guidelines Number 8 of 2021 concerning Orientation in Regional Changes, mainstreaming orientation is expected to advance the work, position and character of women as well as realizing balance and equal distribution of the orientation being developed. The guidelines indicate that government organizations, both state and local, ensure that all individuals play a fair role, access and benefit in improving ranger services (Martins, 2014).

Rationale For This Study

Political leaders have the authority to make environmental management decisions. According to Susanto (2020), the concept of environmental politics confirms that decision making in government is at the top of leadership. If leaders are not pro-environment, for example in overcoming population density, this will lead to increased environmental damage. Research conducted by Green Network Asia in (2023), showed that the gender gap in natural resource management is still an issue that hinders women's role in natural resource protection and management. The study also identified three main factors that hinder women's roles: Limited access to resources and technology, Social and cultural norms that limit women's roles, and Lack of recognition of women's knowledge and skills.

Thus, there is the potential for increased environmental damage in meeting individual needs, meaning that there needs to be wise management based on gender. Gender policies ensure that both women and men have equal access to natural resources, opportunities to participate in environmental decision-making, and benefits from conservation efforts. When environmental policies are designed with gender in mind, they will be more relevant and effective in achieving the desired goals. This is because the policy will accommodate the needs and interests of both sexes.

Gender equality in forest management can support sustainability goals. Basic gender theory refers to feminist theory which emphasizes a generalized system of ideas, covering many things about the social life and experiences of women which is developed from a perspective that is centered on women in two ways (Jackson *et al.,* 2009). First, the starting point is the situation and experiences of women in public. Second, the theory attempts to describe the social world from a unique position that benefits women. The connection with gender decision making focuses on the trend of environmental damage which tends to continue to increase. Decision itself means analyzing and choosing a strategy or action to solve a problem. According to Drummond (2013, p. 68) that a decision is identifying and objectively assessing all possible options for solving a problem by considering the advantages and disadvantages of each. Thus, the novelty of this research is improving the environment based on gender-based decision making.

For this reason, this research is very important to find out how gender-based community work and support is in the dynamics of forest asset administration around the Way Betung watershed towards sustainability while also proving that regulations regarding gender equality are important to be emphasized. Apart from that, this research is important because so far there has been a lot of research on gender roles which discusses the roles and activities carried out by women and men in the household. According to Saleh (2020), gender justice must be considered in environmental politics because women are still considered marginalized subjects. This means that women have an important role in supporting environmental sustainability in an area.

The research location was chosen because the Way Betung watershed is an area that is vulnerable to disasters such as floods and landslides, and has limited area (Pratama *et al,* 2018). Based on existing conditions, the research aims to support gender equality based on sustainable and sustainable management of forest resources.

METHOD

Research Methodology and Data Sources

The research approach is quantitative. The research stages refer to quantitative research steps which include observing activities that meet the needs of the community in the research area, conducting face-to-face interviews regarding the role of gender in decision making for forest resource management in the research area, and documenting information from observations and interviews using diaries and recordings. audio.

After the data collection process is complete, the next step taken by the researcher is to analyze all the information that has been collected. This analysis aims to organize and categorize data into

relevant groups according to the research objectives. Thus, researchers can get a clearer picture of the patterns, trends, or relationships between the variables being studied. At this stage, researchers will try to give meaning to the data that has been analyzed. One common way is to compare research findings with relevant theories or previous research results. Through this comparison, researchers can test the extent to which their findings support or even contradict existing knowledge.

This research uses a quantitative approach with a survey method. Determination of the number of samples using the Slovin formula, obtained 33 respondents. Determination of the number of respondents in each plot using proportional sampling. The selection of respondents was done purposively. Data were collected using observation, interview, and documentation study techniques. Data analysis used gender analysis of the Harvard Analytical Framework model, and statistical analysis. The data required in this research is primary data collected through in-depth interviews in the form of a Forum Group Discussion (FGD) by following interview rules. Primary data collection was carried out through direct interviews with local communities (household husbands and wives), community groups (Forest Farmers Group (KTH), Farmers Group Association (Gapoktan), Women Farmers Group (KWT), Forestry Extension Officers, and village government officials. Secondary data was collected from previous similar research in the same area but with a different research focus, as well as from relevant literature sources.

Research area

This research was conducted from December 2023 to January 2024 in the upstream area of the Way Betung watershed (Pinang Jaya Village, Talang Mulya Village, and Cilimus Village). This city is located in the Betung River Basin and is the Wan Abdul Rachman Forest Park area in Pesawaran Regency. The reason for choosing this location is that communities in the upper watershed are generally very dependent on forests to fulfill their daily needs, such as firewood, building materials, medicines, and clean water sources. This dependency creates a close relationship between the community and the forest, so the role of gender in its management becomes very significant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent Characteristics

A total of 33 people were surveyed, consisting of village government, community leaders, group leaders, forest communities, and communities around the Way Betung watershed. This study analyzed the demographics of the respondents based on their age, gender, education and occupation. These characteristics are important to use as a research benchmark and as a source of data. The following are the characteristics of the respondents analyzed.

Table 1. Respondent Characteristics

Characteristics		Number of Respondents	Persentase (%)
Age			
1	17-25	1	3%
2	26-45	19	58%
3	46-72	13	39%
	Total	33	100%
Education			
1	Elementary	14	42%
2	Junior High	9	27%
3	High School	10	30%
4	College	0	0%
	Total	33	100%
Type of Gender			
1	Male	21	64%
2	Female	12	36%
	Total	33	100%
Jobs			
1	Farmer	24	73%
2	Self-employed	0	0%
3	Labor	0	0%
4	Merchants	1	3%
5	Housewife	6	18%
6	Village Government	2	6%
7	Civil Servant	0	0%
	Total	33	100%

Source: Primary Data (2024)

Based on the results presented in Table 1, it shows that the management of existing forest resources, based on the age level of respondents, has a productive age level. The majority of respondents were between 26-45 years old, as

many as 19 respondents representing 58%. There were 12 people aged between 46-72 years (39%), and 1 person aged between 17-25 years with a percentage of 3%. In general, respondents in this location are physically healthier and adopt technology and information faster than older respondents. Research by Rahmawati et al. (2020) shows that productive people have a more mature thinking capacity compared to young or too old people; the results show that productive people are more motivated to manage the resources they have.

Education characteristics are also known from 33 respondents, 14 respondents, or 42% of respondents who have completed elementary school, junior high school graduates with a rate of 27% (9 respondents), and high school graduates with 10% (10 respondents). The table findings demonstrate that the majority of respondents in the upstream sector had a low level of education, with 42% having graduated from elementary school. This is because most respondents place less emphasis on education. They struggle to receive useful messages due to their poor level of knowledge. In line with research by Johnson et al. (2015), showed that respondents with low levels of education have a low level of confidence in decision making and tend to rely on other people's decisions, while high levels of education consider long-term consequences.

This study also identified respondents based on gender out of 33 respondents, 21 were male (64%), and 12 were female (36%). This is related to the role of men as heads of households who have a great responsibility to earn a living for their families. Agricultural and forestry activities are associated with men's work, hence several frequent agricultural groupings are performed by males. Men are more likely to make decisions based on logic and facts, while women are more likely to consider emotions and social values when making decisions, according to research by Sari (2022).

According to the occupational characteristics of the respondents, this study found that the majority of the 24 respondents worked as farmers, with a percentage of 73% of the total respondents. In addition, respondents also worked as traders, with a percentage of 3%, housewives, with a percentage of 18%, and village government, each with a percentage of 6%. The occupation table that has the highest percentage is farmers. According to research conducted by Damanik et al. (2021), respondents who work in agriculture have a greater tendency to make decisions based on their knowledge and experience in agriculture.

Decision Making in Forest Resource Management

Systematic selection of the best option from various options to be followed up (used) as a problem solving method is called decision making (Rahmawati et al., 2022). The percentage of decision making used shows the role of men and women in decision making in forest resource management. This role includes decision making starting from the stages of land preparation, seeding, planting, maintenance, harvesting, marketing and security. Decision making in forest resource management activities can be seen in Figure 1 as follows.
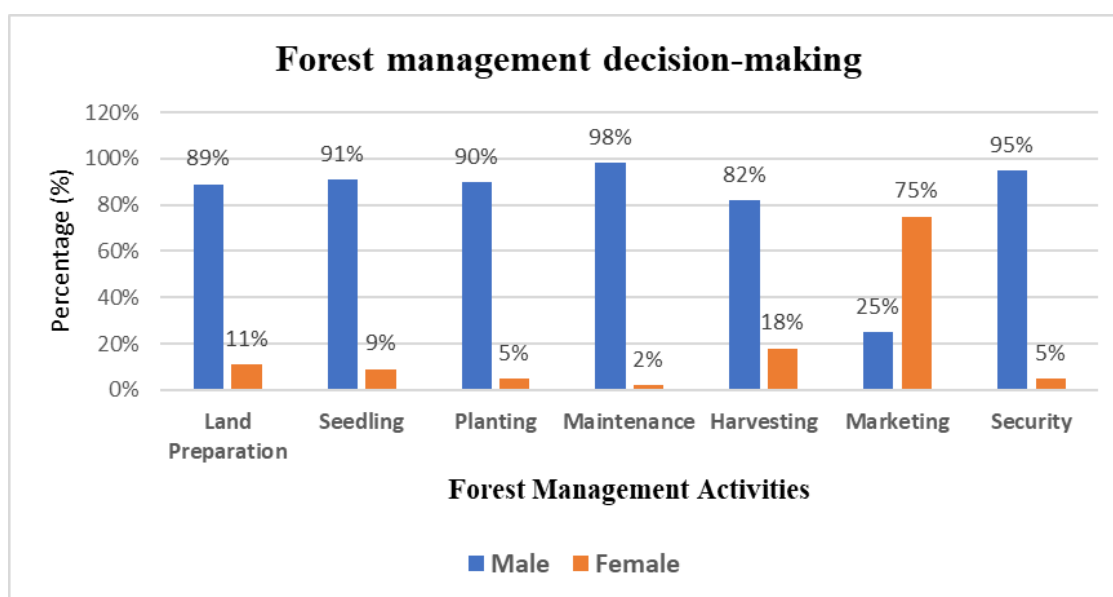

Figure 1. Percentage of decision making

Source: Primary Data (2024)

Forest Resource Management Decision Making Based on Gender Equality in the way Betung Watershed, Lampung Province
(Pitojo Budiono, Zeda Erdian, Christine Wulandari, Eny Puspasari, A. Nizam Syahiib,
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Based on the results presented in Figure 1, it shows that men have a greater role in making decisions regarding land preparation, where 89% are decided by the husband and 11% are decided jointly by the husband and wife. The high contribution of men in land preparation is

Multivariate Linear Regression Test Results about Decision-making

Based on the data reported in Table 2, the log linear model for multiple linear regression can be created as follows: Y = -1714.29 + 554.17X1 + 354.50X2 + 469.77X3 + 171.86X4 + Ɛ.

Table 2. Multivariate Linear Regression Results on Decision Making

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient	Q	signature.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-1714. 291	998,618		-1,847	,068
	Gender (X1)	554,177	285,037	,214	1,929	,057
	Education (X2)	354,500	138,893	,244	2,358	,020
	Age (X3)	469,775	147,321	,235	2,346	.021
	Work (X4)	171,867	666,723	,296	2,614	,010
A. Dependent Variable: Decision Making						

Source: Primary Data (2024)

influenced by various interrelated social, cultural, economic and physical factors, namely social and cultural norms, access to resources and traditional division of labor.

The gender division of labor has been in place for a long time. Women are often burdened with domestic work and childcare, so they have limited time and energy for agricultural activities. Meanwhile, men often have greater access to productive resources such as land, agricultural tools and capital. This allows them to be more dominant in decision-making regarding land management. Nurhayati's research (2018), shows that men have a greater role in making decisions regarding land preparation. In nursery activities, it is known that husbands have a decision making percentage regarding nursery activities including selecting seeds, providing planting media, and maintaining seedlings of 83%, while wives have a decision making percentage of 17%.

Gender equality in forest resource management also has an impact on the economic and social welfare of the community. Expanding women's access to training, resources and markets can increase their income and economic independence. In addition, ensuring that forest management policies and programs actively involve women can strengthen their role and position in society, and reduce any gender gaps that may exist (Rahma *et al*., 2021).

The importance of gender equality in forest resource management is also related to rights and protection. Women are often vulnerable to exploitation and violence regarding access to and control of natural resources, including forests. By empowering women in forest decision making and providing equal access to resources, we can help protect them from these threats and improve their security (Ulum and Ngindana, 2017).

The log linear model above can explain the independent variables as follows:

a) The constant value of -1714.29 indicates that if the independent variables (gender, education, age, livelihood) are fixed or zero then the decision making variable is -1714.29.

b) The gender variable (X1) has a positive regression coefficient of 554.17 indicating a unidirectional relationship with the decision making variable. This means that for every 1 unit increase in gender, the decision making variable increases by 554.17 assuming other variables are constant.

c) The education variable (X2) has a positive regression coefficient of 354.50 indicating a unidirectional relationship with the decision making variable. For every 1 unit increase in education, the decision making variable increases by 354.50 assuming other variables remain constant.

d) The regression coefficient for the age variable (X3) has a positive sign of 469.77, indicating that there is a unidirectional relationship between the age variable and the decision making variable. Assuming other variables remain constant, the decision making variable increases by 469.77 for every 1 unit increase in age.

e) The livelihood variable (X4) has a positive regression coefficient of 171.18 indicating a unidirectional relationship with the decision making variable. This means that for every 1 unit increase in livelihood, the decision making variable increases by 171.86 assuming other variables remain constant.

Correlation between age and SDH management decision making: The Spearman Rank correlation statistical approach is used to determine the relationship between the age

variable and the decision making variable because the data is in ordinal form as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Correlation of Age with Decision Making

Correlation			
			Age
Rho Spearman	Land Preparation	*Correlation coefficient*	,065
		signature. (2-tail)	0.600
		N	33
	Seedlings	*Correlation coefficient*	-.075
		signature. (2-tail)	,005
		N	33
	Planting	*Correlation coefficient*	,061
		signature. (2-tail)	,001
		N	33
	Maintenance	*Correlation coefficient*	-.220
		signature. (2-tail)	,219
		N	33
	Harvesting	*Correlation coefficient*	,051
		signature. (2-tail)	,780
		N	33
	Marketing	*Correlation coefficient*	,402
		signature. (2-tail)	,000
		N	33
	Security	*Correlation coefficient*	,367
		signature. (2-tail)	,000
		N	33

Source: Primary Data (2024)

Based on Table 3 above, it is shown that the age variable and the land preparation, planting, harvesting, marketing and security variables have a positive relationship (r = 0.065, r = 0.061, r = 0.051, r = 0.420, and r = 0.367). However, the correlation value between the age variable and the breeding and maintenance variables has a negative correlation or does not appear significant (r = -0.075 and r = -0.220). On the other hand, the linearity of the correlation between the age variable and decision making in breeding and maintenance shows that the results are not significant, which means there is no connection or relationship. Kansiri et al. (2020) stated in their research that age susceptibility has no effect on the specifications for plant maintenance and breeding. This is because the younger a person is, the higher their enthusiasm and curiosity, and the older they are, the more experience they have in managing forest resources. Therefore, it can also be interpreted that the higher the age at work, the better the performance.

Correlation between gender and Forest Resource Management decision making: The relationship between the gender variable and the decision making variable uses correlation statistical techniques because the data is ordinal as shown in Table 4 below:

Table 4. Correlation of Gender and Decision Making

Correlation			
			Sex
Rho Spearman	Land Preparation	*Correlation coefficient*	-.267
		signature. (2-tail)	.133
		N	33
	Seedlings	*Correlation coefficient*	.024
		signature. (2-tail)	,895
		N	33
	Planting	*Correlation coefficient*	-.048
		signature. (2-tail)	,792
		N	33
	Maintenance	*Correlation coefficient*	,302
		signature. (2-tail)	,002
		N	33
	Harvesting	*Correlation coefficient*	,461
		signature. (2-tail)	,003
		N	33
	Marketing	*Correlation coefficient*	,409
		signature. (2-tail)	,000
		N	33
	Security	*Correlation coefficient*	,308
		signature. (2-tail)	,001
		N	33

Source: Primary Data (2024)

The variables seeding, maintenance, harvesting, marketing and safety have a positive correlation (r = 0.024, r = 0.302, r = 0.461, r = 0.409, and r = 0.308). However, the correlation value between the gender variable and the land preparation and planting variables has a negative correlation or does not appear significant (r = -0.267 and r = -0.048). On the other hand, the linearity of the relationship between gender and decision making in land preparation and planting shows insignificant results, meaning there is no relationship. In fact, the calculated values show that the relationship between the two variables has the opposite or negative direction. This shows that there are differences in attitudes between women and men.

Gender relations between men and women and forest resource management decision making are not directly related to biological differences between the two. Forest management requires analytical skills, creativity, and the ability to think logically and objectively. Differences in decision making between men and women can be caused by gender roles determined in society and patriarchal culture which places men in a higher

position than women. Management of forest resources requires cooperation between men and women, as well as gender equality in decision making. Gender equality means that women and men have the same rights and obligations in various aspects of life, including forest management.

Correlation between Education and Decision Making: Because the data is ordinal in nature, the relationship between the education level variable and the decision making variable is calculated using the Spearman Rank correlation statistical approach, as shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Correlation of Education and Decision Making

Correlation			
			Education
Rho Spearman	Land Preparation	*Correlation coefficient*	,047
		signature. (2-tail)	,796
		N	33
	Seedlings	*Correlation coefficient*	,804
		signature. (2-tail)	,002
		N	33
	Planting	*Correlation coefficient*	-.265
		signature. (2-tail)	.136
		N	33
	Maintenance	*Correlation coefficient*	,532
		signature. (2-tail)	,003
		N	33
	Harvesting	*Correlation coefficient*	,504
		signature. (2-tail)	,001
		N	33
	Marketing	*Correlation coefficient*	,784
		signature. (2-tail)	,003
		N	33
	Security	*Correlation coefficient*	,457
		signature. (2-tail)	,000
		N	33

Source: Primary Data (2024)

Based on the results presented in Table 5, it shows that the education variable and the land preparation, seeding, maintenance, harvesting, marketing and security variables have a positive relationship (r = 0.047, r = 0.804, r = 0.532, r = 0.504, r = 0.784 and r = 0.457). However, the correlation value between the education variable and the investment variable has a negative or insignificant correlation (r = - 0.265).

The level of education has a significant relationship with decision making in forest resource management. According to Mamuko et al. (2016), higher education can improve individuals' ability to make more rational and data-based decisions, as well as increase their awareness of the importance of sustainable forest resource management. According to Setiadi and Pradanan (2022), higher education can also improve an individual's ability to communicate and collaborate with other parties, such as the government, organizations and local communities, to achieve the goal of sustainable forest resource management.

Correlation between village governance and decision making: Because the data is ordinal in nature, the relationship between Village Government variables and decision making variables is examined using the Spearman Rank correlation statistical approach as shown in table 6 below.

Table 6. Correlation between Government and Decision Making towards Sustainable Forest Resources

Correlation			
			Village Government
Rho Spearman	Land Preparation	*Correlation coefficient*	-.347
		signature. (2-tail)	,296
		N	33
	Seedlings	*Correlation coefficient*	-.404
		signature. (2-tail)	,142
		N	33
	Planting	*Correlation coefficient*	-.175
		signature. (2-tail)	.136
		N	33
	Maintenance	*Correlation coefficient*	,172
		signature. (2-tail)	,002
		N	33
	Harvesting	*Correlation coefficient*	,204
		signature. (2-tail)	,004
		N	33
	Marketing	*Correlation coefficient*	,725
		signature. (2-tail)	,004
		N	33
	Security	*Correlation coefficient*	,957
		signature. (2-tail)	,001
		N	33

Source: Primary Data (2024)

Based on the results presented in Table 6, it shows that the village government variables and the maintenance, harvesting, marketing and security variables have a positive correlation (r = 0.172, r = 0.204, r = 0.725 and r = 0.957). However, the correlation value between village government variables and land preparation, seeding and harvesting variables has a negative correlation or does not appear significant (r = - 0.347, r = -404, r = -175). This means that village

government policies do not correlate with decision making based on sustainable forest resources.

In the research location, although it is not correlated, the implementation of village government policies based on gender equality has been carried out in several efforts to increase women's participation and influence in village management. In implementing the Village Law, this program seeks to increase gender equality by increasing women's awareness of their rights and increasing their participation in village management. This program also seeks to increase gender equality in the decision-making process by increasing women's access to information and equal opportunities to earn income and become agents in decision-making and development. Women's empowerment programs in implementing the Village Law and women's collective action can help improve gender equality in decision making and development processes in villages (Diprose et al., 2020). In this case, village governments can also improve gender equality by increasing the role of women in forest management. For example, in forest resource management, women can play an active role in forest management, including in decision making and income management. In this way, women can have greater influence in forest management and increase gender equality in decision-making and development processes.

Recommendations for the Role of Village Government in Gender Policy

Village governments have a strategic position to support gender equality. They can identify problems faced at the local level and formulate programs that suit their needs, so that gender-based village government policies correlate with environmental empowerment achievements. Looking at some of the roles of village government in promoting gender equality can be done in the following ways:

a) Provide access to education

Education is an important factor in empowering gender justice. Through inclusive policies, village governments can ensure that all boys and girls have equal access to education. They can build or improve educational infrastructure, provide tuition assistance, and conduct training programs to improve teacher quality.

b) Increased Access to Utilization of Forest Resources

Access to quality forest resource management is everyone's right. Village governments can ensure that all communities, both men and women, have equal access to forest resources in terms of distance, use and usage. They can also

conduct training programs on sustainable forest resource management. According to Wulandari and Kurniasih (2019), gender-based training programs that are appropriate to natural resource potential and community needs can be implemented through social forestry programs.

c) Increasing the role of village government in implementing gender policies

To improve the position, role and quality of life of women, as well as efforts to achieve gender equality and justice in family, community, state and state life, the village government believes in the importance of using gender mainstreaming techniques in the entire national development process. . Gender mainstreaming is an important component in the operations of all government agencies and institutions, both central and regional, including villages. In order to encourage, make effective and optimize gender mainstreaming efforts in an integrated and coordinated manner in the context of planning, drafting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national development policies and programs that are gender-oriented in accordance with their areas of duty and authority. their respective functions and authorities (Wulandari et al., 2019).

d) Empowerment through basic economic training and development

Economic empowerment is an important part of poverty alleviation. Through policies that support economic inclusion, village governments can provide training and business capital to men and women to start or develop micro and small businesses. They can also help in gaining access to markets and marketing their products.

Decision making is a series of selection processes from available alternative options by considering the various interests of the parties involved (Krisnandi et al, 2019, p. 78). The selection process usually starts from identifying problems and objectives, compiling, analyzing, selecting various relevant alternatives, making decisions that are considered the most appropriate, to evaluating the effectiveness of the decisions that have been taken. The problem of environmental damage cannot be separated from the unit of analysis, namely the forest farming family in the area.

An interesting phenomenon in this research is that farmers are administratively recognized through Identification Cards which are based on local government or government based on villages or pekons, but the development of forest farmer groups is also supported by the forestry service so that they remain as guardians and conservationists of the environment. The lack of collaboration in the main tasks and functions for farmers between the Village Government and the regional

government which uses extension workers as the spearhead has become increasingly clear. From the results of this research, which uses quantitative methods, it produces the potential for a sustainable development model.

CONCLUSION

Based on research, decisions on managing forest resources around the Way Betung watershed are still dominated by husbands (77%), while women only contribute 7%, husband and wife together 13%, and children 1%. This shows that gender equality in decision making is considered not important to support sustainable forest resource management. Even though women have equal competitiveness with men, a lack of environmental insight hinders women's contributions. Good environmental knowledge enables women to play an effective role in influencing their husbands at every stage of management.

The village government has a strategic role in encouraging gender equality through the implementation of Pesawaran Regency Regional Regulation (PERDA) Number 8 of 2021 concerning Gender Mainstreaming in Regional Development. Thus, the relevance of gender decision making is very unequal in the process of developing forest sustainability. Therefore, to realize sustainable forest management, communities need to be given access to utilize forest resources that support economic empowerment while strengthening women's participation.

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