

CHAPTER V

Conclusion and Recommendations

A. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and analysis conducted regarding Women's Participation in Coastal Community Empowerment Programs, the author can conclude that the living conditions in the Coastal City of Cirebon still face various complex challenges caused by various factors, including social, economic, and cultural factors. Coastal women often face challenges such as strong social and cultural norms that can hinder their participation and limit their active involvement in economic and social activities outside household affairs. In addition, other obstacles faced by coastal women in achieving welfare and self-reliance include their limitations in economic resources, education, and health services. Although there have been efforts by the government and various stakeholders to improve the conditions of women in coastal areas through empowerment programs, further steps are needed to overcome the challenges faced by women. The research findings outlined in this conclusion directly address the two problem formulations proposed, including the first problem formulation regarding the living conditions of women in the Coastal City of Cirebon.

Furthermore, Empowerment programs have been implemented by the Cirebon City Government to improve the welfare of coastal communities, especially women. Programs such as P2WKSS, Sekoper Cinta, 100 Adopted Families, and Cirebon Family Schools have helped and made significant contributions to empowering coastal women. Through the programs provided, opportunities have been given for women to improve their skills, increase their participation in social and economic life, and improve the quality of their family lives. With the implementation of empowerment programs, it is

hoped that the role of women in sustainable and inclusive development in coastal areas can be strengthened.

Overall, research on the analysis of women's participation in coastal community empowerment programs in the City of Cirebon has yielded several important findings, including:

- 1) To improve the welfare of coastal communities or fisherman families living below the poverty line greatly depends on the participation of women in empowerment programs. A significant challenge to be faced is how to increase women's participation in every empowerment program provided by the government. Many coastal women do not participate in empowerment activities for various reasons, such as being too busy with work, having a dual role in the family, lack of information about the empowerment programs offered, or lack of awareness of the importance of participating in empowerment programs. To address this issue, further efforts are needed, such as improving information provision, adjusting activity schedules to women's busy schedules, and raising awareness of their role in development.
- 2) Nevertheless, there are also women who are willing to actively participate in empowerment programs, such as becoming posyandu cadres or assisting in educational and training activities. Other forms of women's participation in empowerment programs include various aspects, such as participating in direct empowerment activities, economic activities, and social activities.
- 3) In addition to the obstacles faced by women in participating in empowerment programs, there are also supporting factors that can encourage women to actively participate in empowerment programs, such as their awareness and contribution to development, family support, economic needs that must be met,

and supportive environmental factors. By overcoming existing barriers and strengthening supporting factors, it can be expected that women's participation in the development of coastal areas will continue to increase, providing broader benefits to individuals, families, and communities as a whole.

This research highlights the complex factors affecting women's participation in empowerment programs in coastal areas. It shows the need to address both societal barriers and individual capabilities in theories of women's empowerment. By identifying specific challenges and supports, it enriches our understanding of how gender norms and economic conditions impact women's involvement. The study also emphasizes that women's active participation is crucial for sustainable and inclusive development. These insights can help improve future theories and strategies for empowering women in similar communities.

On the other hand, the research has also successfully identified and addressed the second problem formulation regarding women's participation in coastal community empowerment programs, namely that women's participation in empowerment programs has a significant impact on designing solutions that are suitable for local needs, reducing gender disparities, and creating a more inclusive environment. Although there have been efforts by the government and various stakeholders, there are still various obstacles that need to be overcome, such as the burden of dual roles, low levels of education, and cultural factors that limit participation. However, with strategies such as early socialization, deliberation, organization, and participatory review, it is hoped that women's participation can be increased so that they can actively participate in the development process of the coastal region of Cirebon. Thus, the research results have clearly addressed both problem formulations proposed, providing a deeper understanding

of the living conditions of women in the coastal areas of Cirebon and their participation in empowerment programs.

B. Recommendations

In conducting this research and analyzing the findings obtained, there are certainly some shortcomings, including:

- **Policy Recommendations for the Local Government of Cirebon City:**

1. **Improve Communication:** Ensure all women in coastal areas get information about empowerment programs through local channels.
2. **Flexible Timing:** Schedule activities at times that fit women's busy lives.
3. **Provide Support Services:** Offer childcare during program activities to help more women participate.
4. **Awareness Campaigns:** Run regular campaigns to highlight the benefits of women's participation.

- **Policy Recommendations for the Provincial Government of West Java:**

1. **Holistic Support:** Develop programs that address economic, educational, and health needs of coastal women.
2. **Collaborate with Local Governments:** Work closely with local governments to align resources and policies.

3. Capacity Building: Train local leaders to effectively manage and implement empowerment programs.
4. Monitor Programs: Set up systems to track and improve the impact of empowerment programs.

- **Policy Recommendations for Society:**

1. Support Networks: Encourage community networks to support women's participation.
2. Promote Gender Equality: Educate communities on the benefits of women's active roles.
3. Family Involvement: Get families to support women's involvement in programs.
4. Volunteer: Encourage community members to volunteer and support empowerment initiatives.

- **Recommendation for Future Researchers**

While conducting this research, several limitations were identified:

1. Sample Size: The study interviewed only 11 coastal women, which may affect the validity of the findings. Future research should use a larger sample size to provide a more accurate representation of women's conditions in coastal areas.
2. Interview Questions: Some interview questions were too complex or difficult for respondents to understand, potentially leading to inaccurate responses. Future

researchers should tailor questions to the respondents' age and educational background, using clear, simple language and avoiding technical terms.

3. Interview Method: Due to time and distance constraints, some interviews were conducted over the phone, which can hinder communication. Future research should prioritize face-to-face interviews to facilitate better communication and allow direct observation of the respondents' living conditions.

By improving these aspects, future research is expected to provide more accurate, relevant, and useful results in understanding the conditions of women in the coastal areas of Cirebon City and their participation in empowerment programs.