

Harmony at Sea: A Study of Fishermen's Community Solidarity in Lala Village, Buru Regency

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ABSTRACT

In the fishing community, social solidarity is a fundamental aspect of daily life, fostering deep social interactions among members. This qualitative and descriptive study examines the manifestations of social solidarity within the fishermen's activities. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation, with research informants selected through purposive sampling. Analysis involves data reduction, presentation, and verification. The findings reveal two forms of solidarity: (1) Cooperative solidarity, evident during fishing trips, and (2) collaborative solidarity, observed during activities such as boat repairs, net mending, coastal area cleaning, and providing assistance at sea. This research sheds light on the importance of social solidarity in enhancing the efficiency and well-being of the fishing community. In addition to highlighting the diverse forms of solidarity within the fishing community, this research offers valuable insights for policymakers, community leaders, and fisheries management. Understanding the dynamics of social solidarity among fishermen can lead to more effective support and resource allocation.

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1. Introduction

The series of life journeys as social creatures naturally involves interaction with others, and humans consistently engage with one another (Achdiani, 2017; Sumitro et al., 2022). Humans are inherently social beings, and their socialization process occurs within groups, enabling them to adapt to their environments. Consequently, humans require social groups for their development.

The fishing community constitutes a segment of society that relies on the management of potential fisheries resources. Living in coastal areas, they exhibit distinct social characteristics compared to highland dwellers. In some rapidly developing coastal regions, community structures are diverse, characterized by strong social solidarity, openness to change, and deep social interactions (Saleha, 2013; Pontoh, 2010; Rahman, 2019). Fishermen, accustomed to the challenges of the ocean, play a pivotal role in preserving and empowering marine resources.

As a social unit, fishing communities thrive and evolve in coastal regions, contributing to the overall social fabric of these areas. Although not all coastal villages have residents engaged in fishing (Dila, 2022; Rolitia, et al., 2016; Noviarwati & Setyawan, 2021), the fishing culture significantly influences the cultural identity of coastal communities. Fishing communities, in general, exhibit a profound pattern of interaction, evident in cooperative relationships during their activities.

Collaboration nurtures norms and mutual trust, making it essential to foster social interactions with cultural ties to maintain social solidarity and community engagement (Asis, & Irsat, 2020; Rusdi et al., 2021; Wabula et al., 2019; Akhmar et al., 2022). These interactions highlight values of togetherness, shared responsibility, and mutual reliance, ultimately reinforcing social solidarity.

Several characteristics define the social attributes of fishing communities, including a strong work ethic, the ability to leverage their skills, competitiveness, achievement orientation, and an appreciation for skills (Damayanti et al., 2022; Rusdi et al., 2020; Arifin et al., 2023; Sam et al., 2019). Fishing communities exhibit robust social solidarity. However, socio-economic and cultural challenges persist within these communities over time, resulting in limited development, with traditional work organizations passed down through generations.

Furthermore, fishing is a high-risk occupation, predominantly carried out by men, leaving other family members with limited involvement. Fishing is chosen as a profession because it aligns with the skills of coastal residents and is supported by available resources—primarily the sea and its economically valuable contents. Living along coastal areas often leaves people with no alternative but to become fishermen or engage in sea-related trades.

The social solidarity prevalent in fishing communities continues in their daily activities, fostering gatherings that lead to profound social interactions between different community groups, ultimately strengthening social solidarity. This study aims to describe the composition of fishermen's groups and the forms of social solidarity among the fishing community. Additionally, it seeks to uncover and explain the positive values inherent in the solidarity of coastal fishing communities in Lala Village, Buru Regency.

This research was initiated based on previous studies conducted by M. Rahmat Budi Nuryanto, published in the *Sociology Concentration* journal, and research conducted by Saliko Hais, available in the UNG Repository. Refer to the State of the Art table below for further information.

Martina (2014) conducted the research entitled *The Impact of Management of Kawah White Natural Tourism Park on Community Social and Economic Life*. It talked about the influence on these various aspects which are not only positive, but it can also have negative impacts. One of the tourist destinations that is the focus of research is the Kawah Putih Nature Tourism Park which is located in Ciwidey Village. This research aimed to analyze how tourism activities in the Kawah Putih Nature Tourism Park, Ciwidey Village, affect the surrounding community in a social and economic context. This research used a qualitative approach, with data collection carried out through direct observation. The research results show that tourism activities at the Kawah Putih Nature Tourism Park have a positive impact on the local economy by increasing the income of the local community. However, on the other hand, the negative impact on social aspects can be seen in the decline in the values of local community norms which tend to imitate the behavior of tourists who come from outside the region, even abroad.

Connected with research entitled "The Impact of Tourism Development on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Communities on Nusa Lembongan Island" by Shantika & Mahagganga (2018). This research was conducted with a focus on tourism development on Nusa Lembongan Island, aiming to identify the impact of socio-economic conditions on the tourism community. The methods used in this research include qualitative and quantitative approaches, using a mixture of methods, primary data sources obtained through direct observation and interviews, as well as secondary data. Sampling was carried out using purposive sampling technique, and data analysis was carried out using the case study method. The results of this research show that tourism has a significant impact on the community and government on Nusa Lembongan Island, seen from eight aspects, including increasing foreign exchange, growth in local community income before tourism, price increases that exceed their actual value, employment opportunities for local residents, and control over tourism accommodation. Apart from that, there is the distribution of benefits to traditional villages, general tourism development, and government income from taxes. Therefore, recommendations that can be put forward include steps to improve facilities, support tourism infrastructure, strengthen revenue sharing regulations for traditional villages, and expand access and employment opportunities for local communities on Nusa Lembongan Island in the future.

2. Methodology

This research employs a qualitative approach to describe phenomena in the social environment relevant to the study. The primary aim of this research is to provide a descriptive account of fishermen's groups and their manifestations of solidarity during activities in Lala Village, Buru Regency. The focus of this study is to offer a descriptive qualitative analysis of these aspects. Informants were selected using Purposive Sampling, where the researcher deliberately chose individuals based on predetermined criteria aligned with the research objectives. The informants were selected based on their direct involvement, experience, knowledge, and understanding of the specific issues under investigation. The criteria for informants include: 1) Individuals engaged in fishing as their profession; 2) Individuals involved in fish trading within coastal areas; 3) The Village Head; 4) Community and traditional figures.

Data collection techniques utilized in this research include:

2.1. Observation

This method involves direct observations of fishermen's groups and their expressions of solidarity. Researchers actively participate in community activities, including collaborative efforts among coastal communities.

2.2. Interviews

Interviews are conducted to gather information concerning fishermen's groups and their forms of solidarity. During this process, researchers communicate the research objectives while fostering a comfortable and open atmosphere. Questions are tailored to align with the research focus. The interview process will be supplemented with recording and note-taking techniques to collect primary data from informants, complemented by secondary data derived from observations, field notes, and a review of library materials, including books, journals, articles, and relevant photographs.

2.3. Documentation

This method involves gathering data about the research location, such as population size, geographic area, and environmental conditions. Additionally, it includes data pertaining to the description of fishing groups and the manifestations of solidarity among fishing communities during their daily activities in coastal areas.

In the data analysis process, the following stages will be implemented: 1) Data Reduction: This phase involves organizing data to achieve clarity regarding the research problem. Data collected from both the field and the library is managed, selectively chosen, and aligned with the research focus. 2) Data Presentation: In this stage, data collected from the field is presented in relation to the research problems. Relevant information is selected, categorized, and defined within the scope of the research questions. 3) Verification: This stage entails drawing conclusions after data presentation. The verification process is ongoing throughout the research. Researchers have consistently sought to derive meaning from the collected data since the outset of the study. Conclusions are based on the data collected throughout the research process.

3. Result and Discussion

This section presents objective-wise findings. To study the findings of objective one, a descriptive and content assessment of the questionnaire on teachers' perceptions of online teaching-learning was performed.

3.1. Fisherman Group Description

In Lala Village, a coastal fishing community, life is intricately tied to the management of local fisheries resources. However, the community's unique characteristics are shaped by the coastal environment and their daily activities. Despite the challenges they face, including limited income due to a surplus of fishermen and variable weather conditions, fishing remains the primary occupation for many in this community.

To mitigate these challenges, fishing groups have emerged as a pivotal part of the community's dynamics. These groups not only foster a sense of togetherness but also provide opportunities for knowledge exchange and cooperation. In Lala Village, technology adoption, such as GPS navigation and fish tracking, has improved the efficiency of fishing operations, contributing to increased income.

Economic principles also play a crucial role in the community's activities. Fishing equipment and the number of gear utilized are seen as direct determinants of catch quantity. Thus, investment in better equipment is perceived as a means to improve livelihoods.

This long and collaborative process of fishing, involving various stakeholders, has led to the formation of strong solidarity within the fishing groups. These alliances serve to protect members' interests, share expertise, and enhance the economic and social well-being of the community. Moreover, they play a crucial role in conserving marine resources and maintaining sustainability in the region.

In summary, the fishing community in Lala Village faces economic challenges, but through the formation of fishing groups, technology adoption, and a deep understanding of economic principles, they strive for improved livelihoods while ensuring the preservation of their environment.

3.2. Form of Solidarity

Fisherman solidarity is a profound sense of unity and mutual support among groups of fishermen in Lala Village. It stems from shared interests in their work, the preservation of marine resources, and economic well-being. This solidarity manifests in various ways, including cooperation and mutual assistance to overcome challenges.

a) Cooperation

In their daily activities, the fishermen of Lala Village collaborate extensively. They venture out to sea together and divide tasks efficiently during the fishing process. Cooperation also extends to the relationships between capital owners and fishing workers. These social bonds are considered a valuable form of social capital because they offer support to resolve life's challenges. Moreover, information sharing among group members, such as fishing locations and weather updates, is a form of cooperation that enhances catch rates and ensures safety. Importantly, this spirit of cooperation isn't limited to a single group but extends to cooperation with other fishing groups to guarantee collective well-being.

Table 1. Percentage of Fisherman Productivity in Lala Village

Years	Financial Fisherman	Gathering Fisherman	Worker Fisherman	Owner Fisherman
2018	78%	88%	88%	75%
2019	61%	80%	82%	70%
2020	59%	77%	81%	70%
2021	65%	79%	78%	67%
2022	75%	86%	90%	75%

Data on the percentage of income of fishermen from various groups over the last five years in Lala Village reveals an interesting pattern. Financial Fisherman started 2018 with the highest income level of 78%, but experienced a gradual decline until it reached 75% in 2022. In contrast, Gathering Fisherman experienced a significant increase from 88% in 2018 to 86% in 2022. Meanwhile, Worker Fisherman also shows a fairly stable increase until it reaches its peak in 2022 with an income level of 90%. Owner Fisherman, on the other hand, maintained a relatively stable income level throughout the period, with little fluctuation, ranging from 67% to 75%. This data shows that cooperation between fishing groups is likely to provide benefits to Gathering Fisherman and Worker Fisherman in increasing their income over time.

Furthermore, Gathering Fisherman and Worker Fisherman are two groups of fishermen who have experienced an increase in income over the last five years in Lala Village. This increase in income is related to cooperation and collaboration between these groups and achieving better results in their businesses. Therefore, it can be concluded that Gathering Fisherman and Worker Fisherman are examples of fishermen groups who have received positive benefits from cooperation and collaboration in their communities.

b) Mutual Cooperation

Fishing communities in Lala Village engage in mutual cooperation throughout their work routines. They assist each other in tasks like repairing boats, mending nets, and cleaning coastal areas. This shared effort not only advances the livelihoods of the fishermen but also contributes to the sustainability of marine resources. These cooperative relationships are not constrained by factors like age, wages, or social status. They nurture social bonds, creating a cycle of assistance and reinforcing a sense of unity.

In these cooperative and mutually supportive relationships, solidarity takes various forms. It exhibits both organic solidarity, stemming from specialization in the division of labor, and mechanical solidarity, arising from social connections and collective responsibility. The existence of mutual trust among fishermen strengthens these bonds, leading to a shared sense of responsibility in Lala Village. This solidarity is deeply rooted in trust and shared experiences, emphasizing collaborative efforts to share workloads and support one another.

4. Conclusion

The portrayal of fishermen's groups can be observed through their daily activities, as they form various fishermen's groups to conduct fish-catching processes. With the establishment of these fishermen's groups, fishermen

find mutual assistance by exchanging information on the use of technology while at sea. Consequently, their income from fish catching increases. Additionally, there is a sharing of thoughts and collective experiences in addressing issues related to fisheries and marine matters. As a result, the fishing community in Lala Village, particularly those affiliated with fishermen's groups, becomes more self-reliant, striving to improve the well-being of their families and the community.

The forms of solidarity practiced by the fishermen revolve around the relationships between individuals, between individuals and groups, and among different groups within the community. These relationships are based on strong emotional bonds and trust that have been collectively embraced and further reinforced by shared emotional experiences. Solidarity indicates a sense of togetherness for sharing and lightening each other's workloads. Two forms of solidarity are practiced: cooperation and mutual assistance. The fishing community consistently cooperates in fish catching, embarking on sea journeys together with their respective groups, with cooperation evident in the division of tasks during fish catching. Meanwhile, mutual assistance is manifested in helping repair damaged boats, mending torn nets, cleaning coastal areas, and providing aid when a ship encounters issues at sea.

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