

# Role of Waste Picker Wives as Recipients of Social Welfare Services in Household Income Enhancement in South Banjarmasin District, South Kalimantan

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## ABSTRACT

Scavenger families have long been known to be classified as poor and in need of Social Welfare Services. Based on the facts in the field, women (mothers) often become the saviors of the family's economy. Women (mothers) who participate become additional breadwinners for economically disadvantaged families. The aim of this research is to analyze the social welfare services received by scavengers and to analyze the role of scavengers' wives in increasing household income. The sample in this research was carried out using purposive sampling with the criteria of women working as scavengers, having husbands who also worked as scavengers and receiving social welfare services. The data collection techniques used were questionnaires, interviews and documentation. The research results show that the majority of scavengers are satisfied with the social welfare services they receive. The contribution of a scavenger's wife's income to total household income is categorized as high as indicated by a percentage value of >30%.

**Keywords:** Household Income; Recipient of Social Welfare Services; Scavenger; Wife's role

## INTRODUCTION

The poverty rate in Indonesia in March 2023 was 25.10 million people or 9.36% of the total population (BPS, 2023). This figure breaks down to 7.88% in urban areas as of September 2020, while the percentage of impoverished rural population was 13.20% during the same period (BPS, 2020). These conditions have prompted the government to undertake various poverty alleviation efforts aimed at achieving social welfare from the national to the village level. This aligns with one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), known in Indonesian as Tujuan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa (PBB), specifically Goal 1: No Poverty, End poverty in all its forms everywhere. The poverty alleviation process impacts the sustainability of service implementation outlined in Law Number 11 Year 2009 concerning Social Welfare Administration, emphasizing structured efforts towards achieving social welfare through integrated systems involving local communities and governments to balance

social service provision to meet citizens' basic needs, including social security, social rehabilitation, social protection, and social empowerment.

According to the Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS) of South Kalimantan in 2020, there were 637 waste pickers under the Social Welfare Service Providers (PPKS) in the province. Banjarmasin City had the highest number among other cities and regencies with 579 individuals, comprising 433 male and 146 female waste pickers. Research conducted by Tatambihe et al. (2017) identified economic factors as the primary reason why these housewives work as waste pickers in landfill sites in Sumompo Village, typically due to their husbands' unstable jobs and insufficient income, often working as casual laborers, leading to economic vulnerability. Waste picking becomes a viable option for them, especially with the proximity of landfill sites to their residences.

Given the above context, this study aims to investigate the role of waste picker wives as recipients of social welfare services in enhancing household income in South Banjarmasin District, Banjarmasin City. This research focuses on families where wives work as waste pickers and are recorded as recipients of social welfare services to improve household income and meet family needs.

## **MATERIALS & METHODS**

The types of data used in this research include both qualitative and quantitative data. Data sources consist of primary and secondary data. Data collection techniques employed are questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. Purposive sampling is utilized for sample selection. Data analysis involves descriptive analysis and Spearman's Rank correlation analysis.

## **RESULT**

In accordance with Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 39 Year 2012 concerning the Implementation of Social Welfare, social welfare refers to the fulfillment of citizens' material, spiritual, and social needs so that they can live decently and develop themselves, enabling them to fulfill their social functions. Poor and vulnerable populations, within the paradigm of social services, are referred to by the state as Social Welfare Service Recipients (PPKS) (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2019), previously known as Persons with Social Welfare Problems (PMKS) (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2012).

Social Welfare Service Recipients (PPKS) as defined by Ministerial Regulation Number 5 Year 2019 on the Management of Integrated Social Welfare Data includes waste pickers. PPKS encompasses individuals, families, groups, and/or communities who, due to barriers, difficulties, or disruptions, are unable to fulfill their social functions and thus require adequate and reasonable material, spiritual, and social needs to sustain their livelihoods. Waste pickers are characterized by their lack of steady employment and their collection of recyclable materials from various residential areas, shops, and markets for recycling or resale to meet their livelihood needs. Families of waste pickers have long been recognized as falling into the category of Social Welfare Service Recipients.

**Table 1 Social Welfare Services Received by Scavengers**

No.	Criteria	Respondent's Answer	
		Number of (people)	Percent (%)
1	Very satisfied	10	28,57
2	Satisfied	13	37,14
3	Quite satisfied	12	34,29
4	Not satisfied	0	0
5	Very Dissatisfied	0	0
Amount		35	100

Based on the findings presented in Table 1, it is evident that the majority of respondents are satisfied with the social welfare services they receive. Specifically, 22 respondents, accounting for 62.86%, expressed satisfaction. Additionally, 10 respondents (28.57%) indicated they were very satisfied, while 3 respondents (8.57%) reported being somewhat satisfied. These results indicate that the social welfare services, including service requirements, procedures, timeliness, cost, form, competence of service providers, their behavior, facilities, infrastructure, and complaint handling, are well-perceived by the majority of respondents. However, 3 respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the social welfare services they received.

Further interviews revealed that one of the reasons for dissatisfaction among these respondents was the disparity in the types of services received among female waste pickers at the research site. This disparity contributed to their perception of only being somewhat satisfied with the services provided.

Income is a crucial factor influencing welfare. According to Puspitawati et al. (2019), economic issues often stem from a family's inability to meet their needs due to insufficient income. Income is defined as the total earnings an individual receives

from work over a specific period, allocated to sustain their own and their family's livelihood (Tiara, 2019). Women play a significant role in addressing poverty and improving household welfare (Darmawani, 2015). Pangaribuan's (2017) research highlights that many housewives still work as waste pickers in the study area due to their husbands' insufficient income to support their families.

**Table 2 Contribution of Scavenger Wives' Income to Household Income**

No.	Criteria	Respondent's Answer	
		Number of (people)	Percent (%)
1	Low Contribution	13	37,14
2	High Contribution	22	62,86
Amount		35	100

Based on the research findings, it is noted that 22 respondents, or 62.86%, make a significant contribution to household income. On the other hand, 13 respondents, or 37.14%, have a low contribution. This indicates that women working as waste pickers can indeed enhance household income substantially through their earnings. This finding aligns with Alinti et al.'s (2023) study, which found that wives contribute 31.63% to the total household income among fishing households, while husbands contribute 68.37%. A wife's contribution is considered high when it exceeds 30% of the total household income.

Research by Tatambihe et al. (2017) identifies economic factors as the primary reason why these housewives work as waste pickers in Sumompo Village's landfill. Often, their husbands have unstable jobs, and their incomes are insufficient to meet family needs, with many husbands working as casual laborers. Consequently, their economic situation is precarious, prompting them to work as waste pickers, supported by the proximity of the landfill to their homes.

**Table 3 Spearman Rank Correlation Test Results**

Correlations			Peran	Pendapatan
Spearman's rho	Role	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.379*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.025
		N	35	35
	Income	Correlation Coefficient	.379*	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.025	.
		N	35	35
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).				

Based on Table 3, the significance value of the Spearman's rank correlation test in this study is reported as 0.025, which is greater than 0.05. This indicates that there is a correlation between the role of wives in contributing to household income. The Spearman's rank correlation coefficient obtained is 0.379, falling within the range of 0.200 to 0.399, suggesting a low level of correlation between the role of wives and household income enhancement.

The research findings illustrate that all respondents play a role in sustaining their households and meeting family members' needs. Wahidin (2017) notes in his research that female waste pickers allocate their earnings not only for daily expenses but also for other needs such as rent, house or motorbike installments, and children's education. It was also observed that some female waste pickers have to allocate a portion of their earnings to pay for rent or house installments.

Tatambihe et al. (2017) mention that housewives, who traditionally manage household chores, now work as waste pickers due to unmet needs. They juggle dual roles to help improve their family's economy through income from waste picking, considering landfill sites as a source of livelihood. Pangaribuan (2017) indicates that most waste picker housewives continue fulfilling their roles as mothers, managing economic functions, affection, socialization, and protection within the family. Some receive assistance from their husbands and eldest children in household

chores, fostering a harmonious division of labor within the family.

Furthermore, Alghaasyiyah (2014) highlights that female waste pickers at landfill sites contribute significantly to their families' economic well-being. They support their children's education, meet basic family needs, and save for emergencies through earnings from waste picking. This contribution includes daily, weekly, and monthly savings, depending on the selling system of recyclables.

## CONCLUSION

1. The majority of waste pickers are satisfied with the social welfare services received, as indicated by 13 respondents or 37.14% expressing satisfaction.
2. The role of waste picker wives in increasing household income involves actively participating in waste picking activities. The contribution of wives' income to total household income is categorized as high, demonstrated by a percentage value exceeding 30%.

## Declaration by Authors

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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