

ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of the marine and fisheries sector in Pati Regency, Indonesia, which is vital to the local economy, especially for small-scale fishers who depend on marine resources. The objectives of this study were to identify the characteristics of Banyutowo fisher households, analyze the differences in economic creativity that emerged among fishermen's wives during the migration period, and identify the vulnerabilities experienced by migratory and non-migratory fisher wives. The methodology used included primary data collection through semi-structured interviews and questionnaires distributed to 94 fisher households, consisting of 47 migratory fisher households and 47 non-migratory households. The results showed that the majority of fishermen were small-scale fishers with boat sizes of less than 5 GT, and migration occurred in response to declining fishery resources and overfishing. Fishermen's wives experienced different vulnerabilities depending on their husbands' migration status, which impacted their workload and economic creativity. Migratory fishermen's wives tended to adapt better by diversifying their work, such as processing fish into shrimp paste or shredded fish, while non-migratory fishermen's wives were often hampered by their customary roles as wives. This study recommends empowerment strategies through skills training, socialization about the importance of women's roles, the formation or reactivation of fishermen's wives' groups, and formulating protection policies to increase the resilience of fishermen's households.

Keywords: *Empowerment, Wive Nelayan, Migrant, Seasonal Change*