

Analysis of the influence of socioeconomic factors on women's decision to work in the formal-informal sector in east Lombok Regency

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the influence of socioeconomic factors on women's decisions in East Lombok Regency to work in the formal or informal sector. With a quantitative approach and logistic regression methods, data were collected from 908 respondents registered in the National Labor Force Survey. The results show that education, income, and working hours significantly affect women's choice of job sectors. Lower education increases the chances of choosing the informal sector, while the increase in working hours is related to the tendency to work in the informal sector. Although income has a significant impact, its influence on sectoral decisions is not as large as education and working hours. These findings can be a reference for policymakers in designing more effective women's empowerment programs.

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1. Introduction

Indonesian economic development is frequently influenced by intricate labor relations. The large proportion of women employed in the informal sector is one intriguing aspect. This sector, while providing flexibility, is often faced with greater challenges than the formal sector. In East Lombok Regency, the growth of the informal sector is one of the options for women, especially in a socio-economic context that is often not supportive. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the influence of socioeconomic factors on women's decision to work in the formal or informal sector.

The decision to work cannot be separated from the socioeconomic condition of the individual. Education, income, and working hours are factors that greatly influence women's job choices. Higher education usually provides better opportunities in the formal sector, while limited income can force women to choose jobs in the informal sector as a source of income.

In addition, long working hours can affect women's ability to balance work and household responsibilities, potentially causing stress and reduced marital satisfaction (Fala et al., 2020). However, other studies examining women's employment determinants in the informal sector in West Kalimantan during the pandemic, did not see any impact of working hours on women's decision to work (Munawaroh, 2021).

The formal sector is usually identified with large industries that are strictly regulated, while the informal sector is identified with small industries that have freedom of entry (Rosaldo, 2021). The informal sector can serve as a buffer against the structural transformation of unbalanced employment, making a significant contribution in terms of output capacity and employment opportunities (Ananada, 2022). The informal sector is often a complex alternative to the formal sector, especially in the context of employment

and economic output (Ananada, 2022). The informal sector is characterized by several key features: (a) low barriers to entry; (b) use of local resources; (c) family-run businesses; (d) small operational scale; (e) labor-intensive methods and appropriate technology; (f) skills gained outside formal education; and (g) unregulated and competitive markets. (Rosaldo, 2021).

The informal sector plays a crucial role in developing the economy. In many nations, unemployment and socioeconomic disparity will continue to fuel the growth of informal companies because of certain long-standing structural issues. Even though this is not the best situation, concrete measures can be taken to leverage the large number of people employed in the informal sector for economic growth and development by giving the informal sector better infrastructure, social support, and technology support. In order to promote the growth, the open innovation paradigm must be adopted. As a result, informal business owners will be more productive, which will unavoidably spur socioeconomic and economic development in these two nations (Etim & Daramola, 2020). Many individuals in the population rely on the informal sector for their livelihoods. However, the lockdown measures have worsened the already struggling conditions of this sector. The study indicates that the most significant negative effect of COVID-19 on the informal sector has been an increase in poverty and reduced income, leading to greater levels of extreme poverty within this community. (Kudzai & Witness, 2021).

Contrary to previous views, The development of the informal and formal sectors is influenced by factors such as wage inequality, institutional support, and political attention to modernization (Mingas & Bastos, 2020). Vital to economic growth, yet workers endure subpar working conditions and lack social security; other significant problems include low pay, unstable employment, and insufficient training. vital to economic growth, yet workers endure subpar working conditions and lack social security. Other significant problems include low pay, unstable employment, and insufficient training (Padmasundari, 2021).

There are a lot of factors influencing women's decisions in choosing a job sector such as social economic factors. Women's decision to work in the informal sector is influenced by a variety of economic and social factors. This study aims to analyze these factors and how they affect women's employment choices in the informal sector. The informal sector plays an important role in developing economies, but is often overlooked in public policy.

Economic and social factors have a significant influence on women's decisions to work in the informal sector. To increase women's participation in the public sector and improve their well-being, there is a need for a change in attitudes in society as well as more inclusive and supportive policies from the government. More research is needed to better understand how these factors interact and influence women's work decisions across different geographic and cultural contexts.

Socioeconomic status refers to the position of an individual or family in relation to widely accepted cultural standards concerning ownership, income, possessions, and participation in community activities. Soekanto identified several factors that influence socioeconomic status, including occupation, education, income level, number of dependents, property ownership, and type of housing (Sastrawati, 2020). These informal workers, however, they have an essentially nonexistent safety net and state support (Akuoko et al., 2021).

General standards as objective and subjective indicators of socioeconomic status, as follows (Sastrawati, 2020); Education level, job positions assessed through scores, income from salaries or wages, ownership of visible valuables that are often perceived as symbols of social status recognized by the community, and community acknowledgment, which serves as a subjective indicator.

Socioeconomic status consists of three main things that are interrelated with each other, namely education level, employment status, and income. The majority of families who are unable to provide basic necessities for their families are families that often experience difficulties in the material field (Nurwati & Listari, 2021).

Economic factors such as age, marital status, education, and income influence significantly on women's decisions to work in the informal sector. Studies in West Nusa Tenggara Province show that marital status has a positive impact on women's decision to work in the informal sector, while age, education, and income have negative significant effects (Fadliyanti et al., 2023). In addition, economic factors also affect the level of women's participation in home-based work (HBW) in the informal manufacturing sector in India. High fixed costs are the main driver for women to choose to work from home (Dadheech & Sharma, 2022).

The education level of women is an important determinant of women's labour market activity (Lopez-Acevedo et al., 2021).

Previous studies show the factors that influence a woman's decision to work. The degree of education, the husband's income, and the number of dependents were found to significantly influence the employment decisions of married women in Banjarmasin and Balikpapan (Safariah et al., 2019). According to research, female employees don't give a damn about family disputes when they're at work. Because they are under pressure to earn money from their jobs, female employees are able to concentrate on their work (Asbari et al., 2020). This study highlights the complex interplay of socioeconomic factors that influence women's employment decisions in different regions of Indonesia.

Social and cultural norms also important deterministic factor for women's work decisions. These norms often limit women's job choices, forcing them to choose home-based jobs only (Dadheech & Sharma, 2022). In Malaysia, women's participation in the informal services sector is influenced by demographic factors and household needs, which in turn affects the personal perception of economic well-being among households (Othman et al., 2022). Many women who struggle to secure employment in the formal sector now find a "safe haven" in the informal sector as a result of the decline in formal sector employment. Due to their restricted access to vital resources like credit, education, land, and technology, they have turned to the informal economy as a method of surviving (Anyanwu, 2022).

Income is one of the factors influencing women's decision-making. Research on women's employment decisions in Indonesia reveals several influential factors. Income plays an important role, with higher household incomes negatively impacting women's likelihood of working (Amelia & Dewi, 2022). Education levels have a positive impact on women's employment decisions (Amelia & Dewi, 2022). Family-related factors, such as the number of dependents, also have a positive impact on women's choice to work (Amelia & Dewi, 2022). Economic and socio-cultural factors influence women's job choices (Yogi et al., 2022). The study highlights the complex interplay of economic, social, and personal factors in shaping women's decisions to enter the workforce in various sectors, including informal markets and plantation work. The primary factors influencing informal sector workers' participation in formal social security programs include sex, contribution rates, monthly income, capital, and the type of business. (Masanyiwa et al., 2020).

Working hours is one of the factors influencing women's decision to work. Research on women's employment decisions in Indonesia reveals several influencing factors. The connection between work arrangements and childcare time is fairly balanced, with both men and women spending less time with their children when working. Additionally, studies on work-life balance satisfaction indicate that working mothers with children aged 0 to 5 face the greatest challenges in managing their work and family responsibilities during COVID-19. (Del Boca et al., 2020). Social and cultural factors also contribute to this decision (Yogi et al., 2022). However, women's involvement in decision-making remains limited, both at work and at home (Nurbayan & Syaifullah, 2019). The informal sector, particularly trade, is a common choice for married women who balance work and household responsibilities (Febriani & Chaidir, 2023). The study highlights the complex interplay of economic, social, and cultural factors that shape women's employment decisions in Indonesia, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

Education is also one of the factors influencing women's decision to work. Research shows that education levels significantly influence women's decisions to work in Indonesia. Higher education increases the likelihood of female workforce participation (Amelia & Dewi, 2022; Callista et al., 2024). Socio-demographic factors also play a role, with age and status as heads of households positively influencing women's employment possibilities (Callista et al., 2024). However, marital status, the presence of young children, and urban residence tend to reduce these possibilities (Callista et al., 2024). The number of family dependents has a positive impact on women's decision to work (Amelia & Dewi, 2022). Meanwhile, the husband's income has a negative effect (Amelia & Dewi, 2022). Motivation is another important factor influencing women's employment decisions (Epinda et al., 2021). These findings highlight the complex interaction between educational, economic, and social factors in shaping women's labor force participation in Indonesia.

Research on informal sector workers in Lombok Timur reveals various factors influencing their employment choices. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted informal workers, causing a 43% income reduction and necessitating increased working hours to sustain livelihoods (Suroso, 2021). Research indicates that women in Indonesia, particularly in regions like Lombok Timur, often choose to work in the informal sector due to various factors such as education and income significantly influence women's

employment decisions (Fadliyanti et al., 2023). However, there is no specific policy of government to support women tend work in formal or informal sector.

The research method used in this study is logistic regression, which allows researchers to analyze the relationship between dependent variables—women's decisions to work in the formal or informal sector—and independent variables that have been determined. Using data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), this study will provide a clearer picture of the factors that influence women's decision to work in the formal-informal sector in East Lombok Regency. The results of this analysis are expected to contribute to public policies and women's empowerment programs in the area.

Thus, this study not only aims to understand the factors that influence women's decisions to work in the formal-informal sector, but also to provide strategic recommendations for the government and other stakeholders. Women's empowerment in the informal sector needs to be considered, given their important role in the local economy. Therefore, this research is expected to be a reference in efforts to improve women's welfare and create a better working environment for them.

2. Research Method

This study employs a quantitative approach to examine how socioeconomic factors affect women's choices to work in either the formal or informal sector in East Lombok Regency. The research is designed as associative, focusing on identifying the relationship between independent variables—socioeconomic factors—and dependent variables, which are the decisions made by women regarding their employment in these sectors. The findings aim to enhance our understanding of the factors that influence women's employment decisions within the local labor market context. By analyzing these relationships, the study seeks to provide insights that could inform policies and programs designed to support women's workforce participation in the region.

In this study, there were two types of variables used. The dependent variable (Y) is a woman's decision to work in the formal or informal sector. Women's decision to work in the form of binary consisting of 0 (formal sector), and 1 (formal sector). Meanwhile, the independent variable (X) includes Education (Number of years of education completed), income (rupiah) and working hours (Number of working hours in hourly units). Each independent variable will be measured and analyzed to determine how much influence it has on women's decisions in choosing a job sector. Data collection was carried out through a questionnaire distributed to respondents, which included questions about socioeconomic background.

The data in this study was obtained from the Central Statistics Agency. Data from BPS will be used to complete the necessary information regarding the socio-economic characteristics of women in East Lombok Regency. The data collection method follows the national labor force survey method used by BPS. The sample used for this study is based on the sample used in the 2023 National Labor Force Survey (Sakernas) in East Lombok Regency. The data used is sourced from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) which provides information related to socio-economic conditions. Samples are taken using the BPS sampling method. The questionnaire for collecting data follows the questionnaire from BPS. The women who became the sample in this research were all workers women who were aged above 15 years without any other specific criteria. The BPS is the national legal institution for collecting data in Indonesia, thus the method is trusted. The researcher got the data from BPS, thus the researcher did not survey independently.

To analyze the data that has been collected, this study uses the logistic regression method. This method was chosen because it can handle categorical dependent variables, namely women's decision to work in the formal or informal sector. The logistic regression model will be used to identify the influence of each independent variable on the dependent variable. The results of the analysis will show the magnitude and direction of the influence of socioeconomic factors on women's decisions. The socio-economic factors used in the research are in the form of education, income and working hours. So the variables used in this study are Women's Decision to Work in the Formal-Informal Sector (Y), Education (X1), Income (X2), Business Hours (X3).

3. Result and Discussion

In this chapter, we will present the results and discussions related to research on women's decisions to work in the formal and informal sectors. In this discussion, this study will analyze more deeply how each factor contributes to women's decisions in choosing a job sector.

The state of women's decisions to work in the formal and informal sectors in East Lombok Regency based on data from the 2023 national labor force survey can be described in the following data:

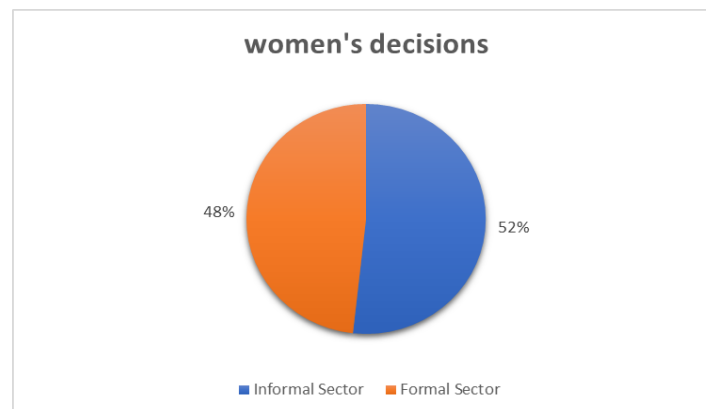


Figure 1. Women's decision to work in formal or informal sector
Source: BPS (Processed)

This data shows the distribution of women's decisions in choosing a job sector. Of the total 908 respondents, 470 women (51.76%) work in the formal sector, while 438 women (48.24%) work in the informal sector. The formal sector is slightly more dominant in women's choices, with 51.76% of the total respondents. This shows that more than half of women choose jobs that have formal structures, and social security, and usually provide more stability in terms of income.

Although the formal sector dominates, almost half (48.24%) of women are also involved in the informal sector. Jobs in this sector are often more flexible and may be more accessible, although they tend to offer a lack of social protection and job security.

This data reflects women's choices in the world of work, where there is a tendency towards the formal sector, but there is still a significant proportion who choose the informal sector. This can be influenced by various socio-economic factors such as education level, economic needs (income) and working hours.

The results of logistic regression testing can be displayed as follows: Figure 2 The Logistic Regression Result

Logistic regression					Number of obs =	908
					LR chi2(3) =	536.38
					Prob > chi2 =	0.0000
Log likelihood = -360.62133					Pseudo R2 =	0.4265
work	Odds ratio	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
education	.8295291	.0166662	-9.30	0.000	.7974988	.862846
income	.9999996	9.35e-08	-3.81	0.000	.9999995	.9999998
workhours	1.115213	.0082878	14.67	0.000	1.099087	1.131575
_cons	.6191829	.1014504	-2.93	0.003	.4491106	.8536594

Figure 2. The logistic regression result
Source: Processed from Stata

The logistic regression analysis shows education, income, and work hours affect women's decisions to work in the informal sector. The lower levels of education are significantly associated with a higher likelihood of women working in the informal sector. This suggests that women with less formal education may have fewer opportunities in the formal job market, driving them toward informal employment. The results show that lower income levels are also linked to a higher probability of working in the informal sector. This relationship may reflect the necessity for women with limited income options to seek out informal work as a means of survival. The findings suggest that women who work fewer hours are more likely to be employed in the informal sector. This could indicate that informal work may offer more flexible or part-time opportunities, appealing to those who cannot commit to the standard hours often required in formal employment. These results highlight the significant role of education, income, and working hours in shaping women's decisions to work in the informal sector.

The Influence of Education

This study aims to analyze the factors that affect women's decision to work in the formal or informal sector. In this context, the formal sector refers to jobs that have official contracts, social security, and legal protection, while the informal sector includes jobs that are not officially registered, without protection or guarantees.

The method used is a logistic regression test, which is suitable for situations where the dependent variable is binary—in this case, women's decision to work in the formal sector (code 0) or the informal sector (code 1). Using a logistic regression model, this study can measure the influence of independent variables (education, income, and employment) on the probability of women working in one of the two sectors.

The results of logistic regression analysis show that education has an odds ratio value of 0.8295291 with a probability of 0.000. This means that for every increase in the level of education, women's chances of working in the informal sector (value 1) decrease. Specifically, an odds ratio of less than 1 indicates that higher education tends to increase the likelihood of women choosing to work in the formal sector rather than the informal sector.

These results highlight the importance of education in influencing women's career choices. With better education, women are more likely to be involved in the formal sector, which often offers more stability and protection than the informal sector. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers in designing programs that support women's education and encourage their participation in the formal sector.

Revenue Influence

This study aims to explore the influence of education, income, and employment status on women's decisions to choose to work in the formal or informal sector. The formal sector refers to jobs that have formal contracts and legal protections, while the informal sector includes jobs that are not officially registered and often do not have social security.

The method used in this study is a logistic regression test, which allows the analysis of the relationship between independent variables (education, income, and work) and binary dependent variables—in this case, the decision to work in the formal sector (value 0) or the informal sector (value 1).

The results of logistic regression analysis show that revenue has an odds ratio value of 0.9999996 with a probability of 0.000. This odds ratio value very close to 1 shows that the increase in income has no significant impact on women's likelihood of working in the informal sector compared to the formal sector. In this context, a very low probability value (0.000) indicates that the relationship is statistically significant.

These findings indicate that while income has a role to play in women's decisions to work, the increase does not substantially change their choice between the formal and informal sectors. This may indicate that other factors, such as education or job market conditions, may be more dominant in influencing the decision. This study provides insight for policymakers to consider various factors in designing programs that support women in entering the formal sector.

Effect of Working Hours

This study aims to examine how education, income, and working hours affect women's decisions to work in the formal or informal sector. The formal sector includes jobs with formal contracts, social security, and legal protection, while the informal sector consists of jobs that are not officially registered and often less secure.

The method used in this study is a logistic regression test. This test is appropriate to analyze the relationship between independent variables (education, income, and working hours) and binary dependent variables, where 0 indicates that women work in the formal sector and 1 indicates they work in the informal sector.

The results of logistic regression analysis show that working hours have an odds ratio value of 1.115213 with a probability of 0.000. This odds ratio value greater than 1 indicates that the increase in working hours is related to an increase in women's likelihood of working in the informal sector. In other words, the more hours worked spent, the more likely women were to be involved in the informal sector.

These findings suggest that working hours have a significant influence on women's decisions to work, with higher working hours tending to lead them to the informal sector. This may reflect the need for flexibility or availability of work in the informal sector, which often offers a wider variety of working hours. This research provides insight for policymakers to consider the importance of regulating working hours and developing the formal sector to make it more attractive to women.

4. Conclusion

This study shows that women's decision to work in the formal or informal sector in East Lombok Regency is influenced by several socioeconomic factors, namely education, income, and working hours. The results of the logistic regression analysis revealed that: a) Education has a significant influence, which means that women with higher levels of education tend to choose the formal sector over the informal sector; b) Income shows a significant influence on women's decisions in work; c) Working hours have a positive effect on women's tendency to work in the informal sector; The more hours worked, the more likely it is to be involved in the informal sector.

The suggestion for this research are: a) Governments and relevant institutions need to increase access to education and skills training for women, in order to encourage their participation in the formal sector. Public policies that support women are needed, such as subsidies for education, capital support, and regulations that pay attention to the welfare of the informal workforce. b) Campaign programs that educate the public about the importance of women's education and opportunities in the formal sector can help change existing social norms; c) There needs to be an effort to design flexible working hour regulations in the formal sector to make them more attractive to women who have domestic responsibilities; d) Further research is needed to explore the interaction between socioeconomic factors and cultural contexts that can influence women's career decisions.

The research is limited to see how people choose to work in the formal or informal sector. In particular, see how socioeconomic factors consisting of education, income and working hours influence the choice of work in the formal or informal sector. The influence of other variables is an option for further research. Future research can determine any other aspect to get comprehensive knowledge such as added marital status, family number.

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