

## EXPLORING HUSBAND-WIFE INTERACTIONS AND CULTURE OF FISHING FAMILIES IN WEST JAVA COASTAL AREAS

Risda Rizkillah, Defina<sup>\*)</sup>, Dwi Hastuti, Istiqlaliyah Muflikhati

Family and Consumer Sciences Department, Faculty of Human Ecology, IPB University,  
Lingkar Kampus street IPB Darmaga, Bogor, 16680, Indonesia

<sup>\*)</sup>E-mail: [defina@apps.ipb.ac.id](mailto:defina@apps.ipb.ac.id)

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### Abstract

Coastal areas are areas with high extreme poverty with low family interaction. This research explores husband-wife interactions and cultural roles in fishing families in the northern and southern coastal areas. This research used an exploratory study following a mixed methods research approach (concurrent embedded). Husband and wife interactions were measured using a modification of the Chuang instrument. Respondents of survey method consisted of 456 fishermen's wives in West Java, in-depth interviews consisted of 18 husbands and 18 wives, and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) 1 and 2 consisted of 120 people. The research results show that there are no couples in the high category for total husband-wife interaction. The majority of husband-wife interactions in this study were in the low category. Wives in the north region express affection and make decisions for their husbands more often than wives in the south region. On the other hand, wives in the south region are more often angry and annoyed with their husbands than wives in the north region. However, wives in the south region also more often feel safe when their husbands must make essential decisions than wives in the north region. This research implies that the findings can be input for stakeholders to improve the quality of family interactions based on the north and south coastal areas.

Keywords: coastal areas, cultural roles, family conflict, husband-wife interaction, verbal expressions

### Eksplorasi Interaksi Suami-Istri dan Budaya Keluarga pada Keluarga Nelayan di Wilayah Pesisir Jawa Barat

#### Abstrak

Wilayah pesisir merupakan wilayah dengan kemiskinan ekstrim yang tinggi dengan interaksi keluarga yang rendah. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi interaksi suami-istri dan peran budaya pada keluarga nelayan di wilayah pesisir utara dan selatan. Metode penelitian ini menggunakan studi eksploratif mengikuti pendekatan penelitian dengan metode campuran (concurrent embedded). Interaksi suami istri diukur menggunakan modifikasi instrumen Chuang. Responden dengan metode survei terdiri atas 456 istri nelayan di Jawa Barat, wawancara mendalam dengan 18 suami dan 18 istri, dan Focus Group Discussion (FGD) 1 dan 2 dengan 120 orang. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tidak ada pasangan yang masuk dalam kategori interaksi yang tinggi. Mayoritas pasangan masuk dalam kategori interaksi yang rendah. Istri di wilayah utara lebih sering mengungkapkan kasih sayang dan membuat keputusan untuk suami dibandingkan istri di wilayah selatan. Sebaliknya, istri di wilayah selatan lebih sering marah dan kesal kepada suami dibandingkan istri di wilayah utara. Namun, istri di wilayah selatan juga lebih sering merasa aman saat suami harus mengambil keputusan penting dibandingkan istri wilayah utara. Implikasi penelitian ini adalah temuan penelitian dapat menjadi masukan bagi stakeholder untuk meningkatkan kualitas interaksi keluarga berdasarkan wilayah pesisir utara dan selatan.

Kata kunci: interaksi suami-istri, konflik keluarga, peran budaya, ungkapan verbal, wilayah pesisir

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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an archipelagic country where some of its people work as fishermen. Fishermen in Indonesia live in coastal areas. However, based on Kominfo data (2022), coastal areas have high

levels of extreme poverty. The extreme poverty rate in coastal areas reached 4.19 percent. Of the 10.86 million people in national poverty, 12.5 percent or 1.3 million are in coastal areas (KNTI, 2023). In general, fishing communities have welfare vulnerabilities due to low formal education

and poor health (Das et al., 2023; Hjorthen et al., 2022), large family size (d'Armengol et al., 2018), and poor female-headed households (d'Armengol et al., 2018; Ngarava et al., 2022).

Geographically, the coastal and marine areas of West Java Province are divided into two regions, namely the north coast and south coast. The north coast is the region of West Java which borders the Java Sea. Meanwhile, the south coast region borders the extensive and open Indian Ocean. The South coast of West Java has a natural landscape compared to the north coast. However, on the other hand, the south coast is more at risk for the safety of its people because it faces directly the Indian Ocean, whose coast has considerable wave energy, steep depths, and higher intensity of rip current formation, to the threat of a tsunami (Taofiqrohman, 2021).

West Java has several small islands with potential for ecology and economy. Many fishermen's welfare levels in West Java are still in the low category (Guritno et al., 2014; Siregar et al., 2017; Triyani & Firdaus, 2016). To survive, the strategy used by coastal communities is to borrow money from formal/informal sources (Padhan & Madheswaran, 2022). Even the fishing exchange rate (NTN) in West Java fell by 0.13 percent, as did East Java (1.85%) (BPS-Jatim, 2023). From a cultural perspective, fishermen on the north coast generally have more variety in their work, such as farming, so they have more sources of income. On the other hand, fishermen on the south coast are more focused on fishing and have fewer side jobs (Septiana, 2018; Mardiaty, 2022). The north coast has an intense history with foreign culture, while the south coast has traditions and customs that tend to be more conservative and have local elements. The cultural differences between northern and southern coastal communities reflect diversity influenced by geographic, historical, and social conditions unique to each region.

In simple terms, *family welfare* is defined as the condition that results from the family's ability to fulfill its basic needs and development needs, and this welfare can be measured objectively and subjectively (Sunarti, 2021). Subjective well-being is a phenomenon that includes individuals' cognitive and emotional evaluations of the lives they live (Oriol et al., 2017; Varela et al., 2019). Subjective well-being has a positive correlation with basic needs satisfaction and supportive parenting style (Abidin et al., 2022); subjective level of satisfaction with the welfare provision

process (Sunarti, 2018) influences individual characteristics (age, education, family size, finances) (Widyaningsih & Muflikhati, 2015). Family welfare is also influenced by family characteristics (Muflikhati et al., 2010), stress, and social support (Puspitawati, 2017), as well as husband-wife interactions (Raharjo et al., 2015) and the level of communication between husband-wife (Puspitawati, 2017). Unlike welfare goals, welfare goals are related to the income and resources owned by the family (Chen et al., 2020; Sunarti, 2021).

Low family welfare can influence weaker family ties between family members (Galappaththi et al., 2021). For this reason, it is necessary to rebuild communication with the family (Defina & Rizkillah, 2021). Even in the life of a fisherman, there is limited time for interaction between husband, wife, and family members because the husband spends much time at sea, around 15-16 hours per day. Certain types of fishermen can spend days or even weeks at sea. This is done because additional time at sea can increase fishermen's income (Azizi et al., 2017).

Interaction is one way that families organize themselves in carrying out activities that provide characteristics for survival in specific groups and conditions (Aldous, 1977). Family interactions occur between family members involving communication and emotional ties to understand the roles and functions of the family better (Puspitawati & Setioningsih, 2011; Waldinger & Schulz, 2006). Husband and wife interaction has the benefit of maintaining harmony in family functions, especially in the division of roles, tasks, and work. Mutual interaction and openness are keys to optimizing marriage quality (Wheatly, 2014). According to Chuang (2005), husband and wife interactions can be measured based on affection, directing, dominating, hostility, and respect. So far, research related to husband-wife interactions in Indonesia has been conducted in Indonesia (Aspary et al., 2021; Herawati et al., 2018; Rachman et al., 2020). However, research has yet to explore husband-wife interactions in fishing families along the northern and southern coasts, elaborate on stakeholder discussions, or depict culture's role in the family. For this reason, this research aims to: 1) explore husband-wife interactions and cultural roles in fishing families in the northern and southern coastal area; 2) analyze differences in husband-wife interactions based on the northern and southern coastal area.

## METHODS

### Design, Location, and Time

This study is included in the category of descriptive analytical studies. The aim is to describe and analyze husband-wife interactions and cultural roles in fishing families in the southern and northern regions. The focus is on the interactions carried out, conflicts between couples, and cultural roles that occur in coastal areas. The research was conducted through survey, in-depth interviews, and FGD. Survey data is used to quantitatively capture the conditions of husband-wife interactions, then supplemented with qualitative data obtained through interviews and FGDs which include more in-depth discussions. This research was carried out from June to October 2023. The selection of research locations in West Java Province for 2023 was based on the total number of fishermen on the north coast and the south coast, with six selected locations, namely: the north coast including Indramayu, Cirebon, and Sukabumi regency, while the south coast includes Pangandaran, Garut, and Subang regency.

### Sampling Technique

The population in this study was fishing families in the coastal area of West Java Province. The northern and southern coastal areas were selected purposively. The sample criteria were fishing families with a complete family structure. Respondents per location included 76 fishermen's wives, making 228 respondents in both the northern and southern coastal areas, with a total of 456 fishermen's wives for quantitative data. In the qualitative method, in-depth interviews and FGDs were conducted. The in-depth interview respondents were husbands and wives from three different families (three husbands and three wives) per region. The total number of interview respondents was 18 husbands and 18 wives. FGDs were conducted twice per location. FGD I was for fishing families (wives and husbands from different families) with a total of 60 informants. FGD II involved ten stakeholders per location, totaling 60 informants.

### Data Collection Procedures

Before starting data collection, all respondents and informants gave their voluntary consent to participate in the survey, interviews and FGDs. This study complies with ethical guidelines

accepted by relevant professional ethical standards. The survey data collection technique was carried out through interviews with fishermen's wives using a research questionnaire with closed questions. Qualitative data was collected through in-depth interviews using questionnaires with open questions and focus group discussions. Interviews and FGD were recorded and transcribed for qualitative analysis.

### Measurement and Assessment of Variables

The questionnaire distributed contained family characteristics, namely the ages of husband and wife (years), education level of husband and wife (years), income of husband and wife, occupation of husband and wife, and number of family members and children. Family interaction is a reciprocal relationship between family members that aims to maintain family harmony (Chuang, 2005). The husband and wife interaction in this research is a modification of Chuang's instrument, which measures interactions based on five dimensions, namely affection (nurturing), direction (friendly dominance), domination (hostile dominance), hostility, and respect for each other. Each consists of two items. The answer scale uses a Likert scale of 1=never, 2=sometimes, and 3=often. The number of question items was 12 items, with Cronbach Alpha 0.519. In in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, respondents and informants were asked open questions regarding the characteristics of fishing families, family interactions, and cultural roles, which are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 In-depth interview questions and focus group discussion

No	Question
Deep interview:	
1	Name
2	Types of Fishermen
3	How is the interaction between husband and wife in this area?
4	What makes a husband or wife annoyed with their partner?
5	What is the role of culture in child rearing in this region?
Focus Group Discussion	
1	What is the wife's role in helping her husband's work?
2	What conflicts often occur between husbands and wives in this region?
3	How does culture play a role in influencing husband-wife interactions?

Table 2 Characteristics of fishing families (n=456: descriptive analysis)

Family Characteristics	North	South	Family Characteristics	North	South
<b>Wife's Age</b>			<b>Husband's Education</b>		
21–40	61.8	72.4	No school	2.2	0.9
41–60	38.2	27.2	Elementary school	36.8	8.8
>60	0.0	0.4	Finished elementary school	43.9	45.6
Total	100.0	100.0	Junior high school	0.9	4.8
<b>Husband's Age</b>			<b>Wife's Income</b>		
23–40	51.3	47.4	Finished middle school	10.5	27.2
41–60	47.8	50.0	Senior high school	0.9	0.4
>60	0.9	2.6	Finished high school	4.8	11.8
Total	100.0	100.0	College	0.0	0.4
<b>Wife's Job</b>			<b>Husband's Income</b>		
Housewife	58.3	71.9	IDR 0	53.9	68.0
Fish traders	6.6	1.8	IDR 1–1,000,000	9.6	7.9
Traders	19.33	20.2	IDR 1,000,001–5,000,000	25.0	17.5
Fish processors	11.8	1.3	IDR 5,000,001–10,000,000	8.8	4.4
Others	3.9	4.8	> IDR 10,000,001	2.6	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	Total	100.0	100.0
<b>Husband's Job</b>			<b>Wife's Education</b>		
Labor fishermen/ABK	58.8	65.8	No school	1.3	0.4
Fisherman owner/master	41.2	34.2	Elementary school	22.4	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0	Finished elementary school	39.0	34.6
<b>Wife's Education</b>			<b>Husband's Income</b>		
No school	1.3	0.4	IDR 1,000,000	5.7	10.1
Elementary school	22.4	11.4	IDR 1,000,001–5,000,000	50.4	53.5
Finished elementary school	39.0	34.6	IDR 5,000,001–10,000,000	26.3	18.0
Junior high school	3.1	2.6	IDR 10,000,001–15,000,000	12.7	11.4
Finished middle school	22.4	31.1	> 15,000,001	4.8	7.0
Senior high school	0.9	0.4	Total	100.0	100.0
Finished high school	11.0	18.4			
College	0.0	0.8			
Total	100.0	100.0			

## Data Analysis

This research collects qualitative and quantitative data and then analyzes it using descriptive statistics for quantitative data and narrative analysis for qualitative data, which focuses on the stories expressed by participants during interviews or FGDs. The factors revealed in the FGD sessions, interviews, and surveys were analyzed using narrative analysis to present further factors intuitively and effectively.

## RESULTS

### Family Characteristics

**Characteristics of survey respondents.** Most wives are aged 21–40 years and have six years of education. More than half of the wives are

housewives. Almost half of the husbands were aged 23–40 years. Almost half of the husbands have studied for six years. The majority of husbands are in good health. More than half of husbands have an income during the harvest season of 1–5 million IDR. Then, it was discovered that over half of the fishermen who owned boats had incomes above five million IDR (Table 2).

### Characteristics of FGD and in-depth interview informants.

The total number of in-depth interview informants was 18 husbands and 18 wives. FGD 1 was for fishing families, with the total number of informants was 60 people. FGD II with stakeholders as many as ten people per location, so the total number of FGD II informants was 60. FGD informants consisted of parties who represented certain agencies. Informants involved

in the FGD included sub-district officials, community leaders, non-governmental organizations, women entrepreneurs, religious leaders, fishing communities, and village unit cooperatives (KUD).

### Family Interaction

**The dimensions of affection (nurturing).** One in two wives in both the North and South often express affection for their husbands. There is a

significant difference in expressions of affection for husbands (P-Value=0.031), namely that wives in the north coast (2.53) are higher compared to the south coast (2.39). Likewise, in the second item on the affection dimension, namely being happy to help your husband, there is a significant difference (P-Value=0.014), wives in the north coast (2.68) express more love for their husbands than wives in the south coast (2.53). Three out of four wives in the north coast often feel happy to help their husbands (Table 3).

Table 3 Distribution of family interactions among fishing families on the north and south coast (n=456: t-test analysis)

Item	North (n=228)				South (n=228)				P-Value	
	N (%)	S (%)	O (%)	Mean	N (%)	S (%)	O (%)	Mean		
<b>Nurturing</b>										
1	Expressions of affection for husband	26.3	18.8	54.8	2.53	11.4	37.7	50.9	2.39	0.031***
2	Happy to help husband	8.3	14.9	76.8	2.68	14.5	18.4	67.1	2.53	0.014***
<b>Friendly Dominance</b>										
3	Make important decisions for the husband	16.2	19.3	64.5	2.48	25.4	27.2	47.4	2.22	0.000***
4	Remind husband about what to do	5.2	8.3	86.4	2.81	3.5	8.7	87.7	2.84	0.496
<b>Hostile-Dominance</b>										
5	Gets angry when her husband does not comply with her wishes	48.3	30.7	21.1	1.73	28.9	38.1	32.9	2.04	0.000***
6	Asks husband to be quiet (not talk too much)	26.3	18.8	54.8	2.29	17.1	16.7	66.2	2.49	0.007***
<b>Hostility</b>										
7	Wants revenge for what her husband has done	6.1	8.3	85.5	2.79	2.6	7.9	89.5	2.87	0.096
8	Feel very annoyed with your husband	42.1	43.0	14.9	1.73	21.9	54.8	23.2	2.01	0.000***
<b>Respect (Friendly Submission)</b>										
9	Asking for husband's advice/advice	7.9	11.8	80.3	2.72	7.0	13.6	79.4	2.72	1.000
10	Feel safe (trust) when your husband has to make crucial decisions	4.4	14.9	80.7	2.76	1.3	8.3	90.4	2.89	0.002***
<b>Total Family Interaction</b>										
Min-Max		21.00–35.00				18.00–35.00				
Mean		28.18				28.52				
P-Value		0.215								

Note. N: never, S: Sometimes, O: Often; \*\*\*Significant at p<0.05

**The dimension of directing**, a very significant difference (P-Value=0.000) was found in the item

making essential decisions for the husband, with a higher value in the north (2.48) compared to the

south (2.22). However, in the item reminding husbands about things to do, there is no significant difference (P-Value=0.0496) between the north and south coast. The results show that most wives often remind their husbands about things they must do for wives in the North and South.

**The dimension of hostile-dominance**, a very significant difference (P-Value=0.000) is seen in the item where the wife gets angry when the husband does not comply with her wishes, with a higher value in the south (2.04) than in the north (1.73). Likewise, for the item asking the husband to be quiet, a significant difference (P-Value=0.007) exists with a higher value in the south (2.49) than in the north (2.29).

**The dimension of hostility** is that four out of five wives in the north and south often want to take revenge for their husbands' actions. Wives on the south coast (2.01) felt annoyed with their husbands more often than wives in the northern region (1.73).

**The dimension of respect (friendly submission)**. Most wives often ask for advice/suggestions from their husbands and feel safe when their husbands must make crucial decisions. Wives in the southern region (2.89) more often felt safe than wives in the northern region (2.76). Overall, the interaction between husband and wife in the North and South shows Sig's value. (2-tailed) of 0.215. However, the average value of husband-wife interaction in the north (28.18) is slightly lower than in the south (28.52).

Based on the data, nurturing, friendly dominance, and respect categories are high in both regions. In

the North, 50 percent of couples were high in nurturing, 58.8 percent in friendly dominance, and 70.6 percent in respect. In the South, 36 percent were high in nurturing, 43.4 percent in friendly dominance, and 74.1 percent in respect. Overall, 43 percent, 51.1 percent, and 72.4 percent of couples were high in these categories, respectively (Table 4).

Based on the research results, no couples are in the high category for total husband-wife interaction, with most couples in the Low category, both in the North (75.9%) and the South (68.9%). Overall, 72.4 percent of couples are in the Low category. In the nurturing category, 50 percent of couples in the North are high, compared to 36 percent in the South, indicating higher nurturing in the North. Friendly dominance is also higher in the North at 58.8 percent versus 43.4 percent in the South. Respect (friendly submission) is high in both regions, slightly higher in the South (74.1%) than in the North (70.6%) (Table 4).

**In-Depth Interview**

**Husband-wife interaction.** The survey results show that husband-wife interactions are mostly in the low category. In-depth interviews with fishermen and their wives addressed the question, "How is the interaction between husband and wife in this area?" In fishing families in the North, husband and wife typically interact from the afternoon until evening while engaging in other activities.

*"Ngobrol biasanya pas ada waktu aja, waktu makan atau sebelum tidur" (We usually chat when we have time, at mealtime or before bed) (GT Garut)*

Table 4 Category of family interactions among fishing families on the North and south coasts (n=456)

No	Category	North (n=228)			South (n=228)			Total (n=456)		
		Low (<60)	Medium (60-79)	High (≥80)	Low (<60)	Medium (60-79)	High (≥80)	Low (<60)	Medium (60-79)	High (≥80)
1	Nurturing	22.4	27.6	50.0	31.1	32.9	36.0	26.7	30.3	43.0
2	Friendly Dominance	25.9	15.4	58.8	32.0	24.6	43.4	28.9	20.0	51.1
3	Hostile-Dominance	63.2	21.9	14.9	47.8	25.0	27.2	55.5	23.5	21.0
4	Hostility	46.1	39.0	14.9	28.1	48.7	23.2	37.1	43.9	19.0
5	Respect (Friendly Submission)	16.2	13.2	70.6	9.6	16.2	74.1	12.9	14.7	72.4
6	Total Husband-Wife Interaction	75.9	24.1	0	68.9	31.1	0	72.4	27.6	0

*"Kalau senggang ya ngobrol habis magrib sambil lihat TV" (If we are free, we chat in the evening while watching TV) (CS Cirebon)*

*"Paling sering ngobrol pas sore sambil midang minum teh..." (Most often, we chat in the afternoon while drinking tea...) (ST Indramayu)*

The results of in-depth interviews show that husband and wife interactions are only carried out in between free time, if there is no free time then interaction is not carried out. Several informants also stated that the time they have is quite a lot used for fishing, so when they arrive on land, they tend to spend their time sleeping/resting. Some respondents do express affection through kind words and praise. The word of affection most often used is "sayang". Husbands also expresses his affection by praising his wife's beauty.

*"Iyaa sayangku, yah nanti sih sayang..." (Yes, my darling, well, later darling...) (DT Cirebon)*

*"Bunda cantik nggak ada duanya..." (You're beautiful, you're second to none...) (RY Indramayu)*

*"Ibu ayeuna mah lebih geulis..." (Now, you look more beautiful) (MD Sukabumi)*

Word of affection are rarely used by husbands and wives, as they tend to be shy and view verbal expressions as excessive. Affection is more often shown through actions, such as a husband helping his wife or a wife serving her husband.

**Husband-wife conflict.** Interactions between husband and wife can also cause conflict. In this in-depth interview, respondents were asked, "What makes a husband or wife upset with their partner?". Most wife respondents stated they were often annoyed with their husbands when the catch of fish is small, so the money given to the wife was only a little and could not meet the family's living needs. Wives sometimes threaten their husbands to work in the public sector if their husband cannot earn enough money.

*"Saya suka kesel sama suami paling kalau lagi gak ada uangnya..." (I get annoyed with my husband when he doesn't have any money...) (DT Cirebon)*

*"Wis baka nganggur bae, kita pengen kerja bae" (If you are unemployed, I want to work in the public sector) (ST Indramayu)*

Based on the results of interviews with husbands, husbands often feel annoyed with their wives because they are too fussy, quick to anger, and do not want to accept gifts from their husbands. Husbands also often feel annoyed when their wives do not cook, rude to the children, and do not obey their husbands.

*"Saya suka kesel kalau pulang dari laut, udah capek, tapi ibu marah soalnya hasil yang dibawa pulang gak sesuai harapan..." (I like to get annoyed when I come home from the sea. I am tired, but my wife is angry because the results I brings to home do not match her expectations...) (GN Pangandaran)*

*"Suka kesel kalau lagi ada kerusakan kapal ibu nggak mau tau kenapa mintanya beres terus..." \*I get annoyed when there is damage to the ship; my wife does not want to know why she keeps asking for it to be repaired...) (IS Cirebon)*

Family income is a factor that influences husband-wife conflict. The lower the income, the greater the possibility of husband-wife conflict. Conflicts between husband and wife can also have an impact on children. The annoyance felt by the wife resulted in the mother's harsh parenting for her child.

**The role of culture in child-rearing.** The question to husbands and wives was, "What is the role of culture in child rearing in this region?". Based on the interview results, many respondents still expressed familiarity when caring for children. There are many beliefs that parents still hold in raising their children.

*"Sering ngasih tau anak pamali gak boleh keluar nanti ada setan pas magrib" (Often telling Pamali to children not to go out or there will be demons) (WS Cirebon)*

*"Nggak boleh duduk dilawang, rezekine balik maning..." (You cannot sit on the opposite side; your fortune will turn around...) (ST Indramayu)*

Table 5 Results of FGD with stakeholders (n=60) and fishing families (n=60)

No	Variable	Stakeholders (n=60)	
		North	South
1	The wife's role in helping her husband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing food</li> <li>- Parenting</li> <li>- Become a worker in MSMEs</li> <li>- Selling fish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parenting</li> <li>- a group of women farmers.</li> <li>- Become a worker in MSMEs</li> </ul>
2	Conflict between husband and wife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snapped</li> <li>- Grumble</li> <li>- Express animal language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Angry</li> <li>- Disagreement because of low income</li> <li>- Express animal language</li> </ul>
3	The role of culture in husband-wife interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can control emotions</li> <li>- Hard</li> <li>- Parenting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Friday, Kliwon is an opportunity for husband and wife to interact</li> <li>- Interactions during the husband's rest time</li> <li>- Walking to the beach, fishing together</li> </ul>
No	Variable	Fishing Families (n=60)	
		North	South
1	The wife's role in helping her husband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing food</li> <li>- Parenting</li> <li>- Doing household chores</li> <li>- Become a worker in MSMEs</li> <li>- Selling at the stall</li> <li>- Helps clean and cut fish</li> <li>- Selling fish</li> <li>- Participate in making nets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parenting</li> <li>- Doing domestic work</li> <li>- Providing fishing needs</li> <li>- Manage family finances</li> <li>- Selling at the stall</li> <li>- Become a salted fish porter</li> </ul>
2	Conflict between husband and wife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expressing anger silently</li> <li>- Fight with partner because of low income</li> <li>- Difficulty managing family finance</li> <li>- Wife threatens husband</li> <li>- Wife doesn't want to feel wrong and defeated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The wife will be sad, angry, and upset if her husband does not get fish</li> <li>- Conflict due to debt at Emok Bank</li> <li>- The economy is a factor that creates conflict</li> <li>- The wife expresses it silently, nagging and comparing</li> </ul>
3	The role of culture in husband-wife interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feeling that verbal expression is excessive</li> <li>- Use body language</li> <li>- Interact with husband in the afternoon/maghrib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The wife is happy if the husband gets fish</li> <li>- Interaction is carried out when the husband is off at sea by chatting or joking</li> </ul>

Note. MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)

### Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

**Wife's role.** Based on the results of the FGD, wives have a more dominant role in the domestic sector, such as caring for children and doing housework. However, some wives also have roles in the public sector that make money, such as working, selling, and joining women's farming groups. The wife and husband interact when the husband returns home from the sea. Interaction occurs while doing other activities such as walking, fishing together, or watching TV. The behavior shown during the conflict between husband and wife is shouting, nagging, and even uttering

"animal language." Disputes between husband and wife can result in divorce, and the main factor in the conflict is economic problems in the family (Table 5).

FGD in this research was also carried out with fishing families consisting of husbands and wives. The results of the FGD show that the role of wives is dominant in the domestic sector, especially in caregiving, household work, and financial management. Wives also have a role in helping their husbands to provide for fishing needs, such as buying petrol nets and cutting and mending nets. There are also fishermen's wives who have



roles in the public sector, such as being MSME workers, managing marine products (cleaning and selling fish), and selling at stalls (Table 5).

**Husband-wife conflict.** conflict between husband and wife is also something that cannot be avoided. Based on the results of the FGD, wife participants stated that wives did not want to serve their husbands if they missed them and threatened their husbands. Husbands and wives often fight when there are economic problems. The wife finds it difficult to manage the family finances. When communicating, wives on the South Coast tend to express their anger silently. Meanwhile, husbands feel that wives are too fussy and do not want to accept them sincerely and compare themselves to their husbands. Economic factors influence family conflicts. Some families also find it difficult, especially when they are in debt from Emok Bank.

**The role of culture.** Interactions between husband and wife are carried out when the husband is on holiday at sea. Friday, especially in kliwon is not allowed to go to sea so that there is an opportunity for husband and wife to interact. The interaction went smoothly, especially when the husband got the fish and handed the money to the wife. When interacts, husbands and wives are not used to verbally expressing their love because they think this is excessive and prefer body language to show their love and affection.

## DISCUSSION

The coastal area on the island of Java consists of two parts, namely, the north coast and the south coast. Coastal areas have higher levels of extreme poverty and complex regional problems (Gai et al., 2018; Rukin, 2018). This research shows that only one in ten fishermen has an education up to high school. The majority only received education up to the end of elementary school. These results align with previous research, which states that the final educational attainment of household heads in coastal areas is minimal; most have only completed elementary school (Fama, 2016; Prasasta et al., 2012). One in two fishermen has an income from one million to five million rupiah. It is still felt that fishermen's income is insufficient to meet household needs, so more than one-third of fishermen's wives also play a role in the public sector in earning a living. The wife works in the public sector to help her husband meet household needs. The majority of wives work as traders.

Work as a fisherman has the characteristics of being dangerous, dirty, and challenging (Amin et al., 2018); in fact, the working time of a fisherman is quite long and results in a lack of opportunities to interact with his wife. Based on these limitations, the exploration of husband and wife interactions felt by wives shows that half of the wives often express affection for their husbands. Fishermen's wives in the northern coastal region express affection more often than wives in the southern region. The results of in-depth interviews also confirmed that wives in the northern region often receive expressions of affection such as praise from their husbands who say their wife's physique is beautiful and affectionate calls from their husbands. This research confirms previous research, which shows that northern coastal communities have straightforward expressions and use vulgar and expressive diction (Mulyana, 2022).

The study results stated that wives in the northern region also more often participate in making important decisions for their husbands than wives in the southern region. One in four wives in the south never make critical decisions for their husbands. This can happen because almost half of the wives in the northern region play a role in the public sector, so wives have a broader role in line with previous research, which states that working wives have the ability and are given the power by their husbands to be able to contribute to decision making (Latifatunnikmah & Lestari, 2017).

The interaction on the dominance dimension shows that wives in the southern region are more often angry when their husbands do not comply with their wishes than those in the northern region. Two out of three wives in the southern region often ask their husbands to be quiet/not talk too much. In the hostility dimension, wives in the southern region also feel annoyed with their husbands more often than wives in the northern region. Based on the results of in-depth interviews, wives are often annoyed with their husbands, especially when the husband does not get results that match his expectations. Firdiati and Nurahaju (2021) stated that fishermen's wives were emotional when their husbands returned home but did not bring the expected results. The results of the FGD also confirmed that wives often expressed annoyance by shouting, nagging, and even using animal language. This is in line with research by Fajrie (2017), which shows that people in coastal areas have a direct,

spontaneous attitude, and their speech tends to be harsh. Even when communicating, coastal women have a high-pitched voice, wanting to dominate, giving the impression of being noisy (Nurhidayah, 2017). Disputes between husband and wife can even end in divorce, and one of the contributing factors is economics. These results confirm the results of previous research, which stated that economic factors are one of the highest causes of divorce (Garwan et al., 2018; Manna et al., 2021; Wijayanti, 2021).

In the respect dimension, most wives often ask their husbands for advice/suggestions. Although based on hostility and dominance, wives in the southern region feel it more often, on the dimension of respect, wives in the southern region more often feel safe when their husbands have to make essential decisions compared to wives in the northern region. This is almost the same as the finding of Zuhdi et al. (2023) that the wife has no power to dispute the decision made because she understands that her husband is already struggling to earn a living as a fisherman. Based on in-depth interviews, husbands and wives often interact in the afternoon until evening. Interactions occur while drinking tea, watching TV, or even going for an evening walk. Wives with husbands communicate vertically; wives must communicate politely with their husbands (Nurhidayah, 2017).

The portrait of husband-wife interaction from the results of this research is that husband and wife feel that they are not used to verbally expressing their love because they feel that this is excessive. Expressions of love are more often expressed using body language and a serving attitude. For example, the wife prepares drinks and food for the husband while the husband supports the wife. Women use non-verbal communication more often, especially with men, such as touching, facial expressions, and body movements (Nurhidayah, 2017).

This research has several limitation, namely that the quantitative data collection did not involve the husband, so the perception of interactions from the husband's perspective was not captured. Apart from that, in in-dept interviews the number of informants used was limited.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The research results show that there are no couples in the High category for total husband-

wife interaction. The majority of husband-wife interactions in this study were in the low category. The nurturing and friendly dominance dimensions are higher in the North than in the South. However, the respect dimension is higher in the Southern region. Wives in the northern region express affection and make decisions for their husbands more often than wives in the southern region. Almost all wives in the northern region play a role in the public sector, so they make a more significant contribution to decision-making. Meanwhile, wives in the southern region are more often angry and annoyed with their husbands than wives in the northern region. The wife often shows annoyance by shouting, criticizing, raising her voice, and even using animal language. What most often causes wives and husbands to conflict is when the husband only earns a small income, which cannot meet household needs, resulting in the family being trapped in debt. In the respect dimension, wives in the southern region more often feel safe when their husbands have to make essential decisions compared to wives in the northern region. Also, most wives in the South and North often ask their husbands for advice.

Based on research results, the most frequent cause of poor interactions between husband and wife is when the husband earns little income. Apart from that, long working hours also result in limited interaction time between husband and wife. Based on these results, husbands and wives must be equally committed to building quality time when interacting with their partners. Husband and wife schedule particular time to interact and implement effective communication in its implementation. The government is also expected to create a unique program focusing on strategies to improve the quality of interactions between husband and wife in coastal areas, such as fishing family interaction day activities or competitions between fishing families.

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