

Gender and Income Equity in Social Forestry Programs

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Introduction

This study aims to assess the role of women in social forestry programs and impact on income equity.

Java is only 6% of the total area of Indonesia but it is inhabited by 70% of the 230+ million Indonesians. More than 60% of the rural communities in Java depend on agricultural activities as their main source of income. Most of the rural communities are poor and live on the forest margins with an average land holding of less than 0.5 ha per household. This situation has hampered socio-economic development of the forest margins.

Available land for agriculture in Java is limited. More than 50% of its forest is managed by *Perum Perhutani* (State Forest Company). Farmers have limited access to this land. Nevertheless, due to economic pressure and lack of governance during the *krismon* (monetary crisis) period, farmers' communities around state forest land opened up the areas. This led to conflict between *Perum Perhutani* and farmers' communities in many parts of Java.



2. Equity Dimension of Social Forestry Programs



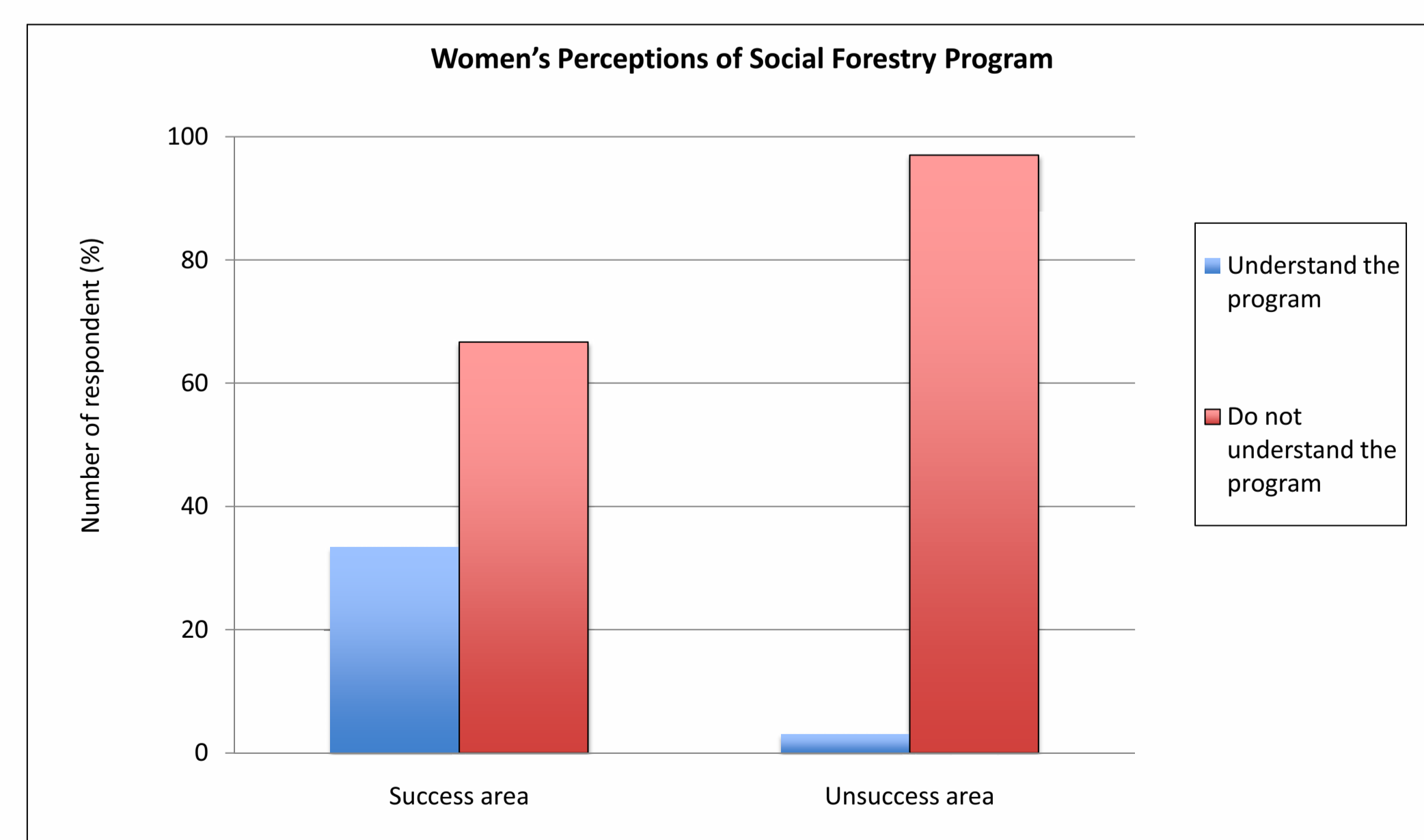
Using the poverty standard measure of US\$ 1 per capita per day, farmers in Ngantang District still earn below the poverty line. Pujon farmers, however, have income per capita per day of US\$ 1.55, making them seem like prosperous farmers. However, even though Ngantang farmers are categorized as poor, they take better care of their environment.

1. Role of Gender in Social Forestry

Variables	Logit			
	Coef	Odds Ratio	SE	P> z
Age of respondent	0.02	1.02	0.02	0.349
Household income	-3.88	1.00	1.63	0.018**
Formal education	0.23	1.26	0.17	0.083*
Secondary job	1.56	4.74	3.41	0.031**
Technical Assistant	1.72	5.60	3.12	0.002***
Wife's knowledge about Social Forestry Program	3.84	46.52	52.96	0.001***

Remarks: *** significant to level $\alpha = 1\%$; ** significant to level $\alpha = 5\%$; * significant to level $\alpha = 10\%$

Women's knowledge of the social forestry program is the most determinant factor of success of the program



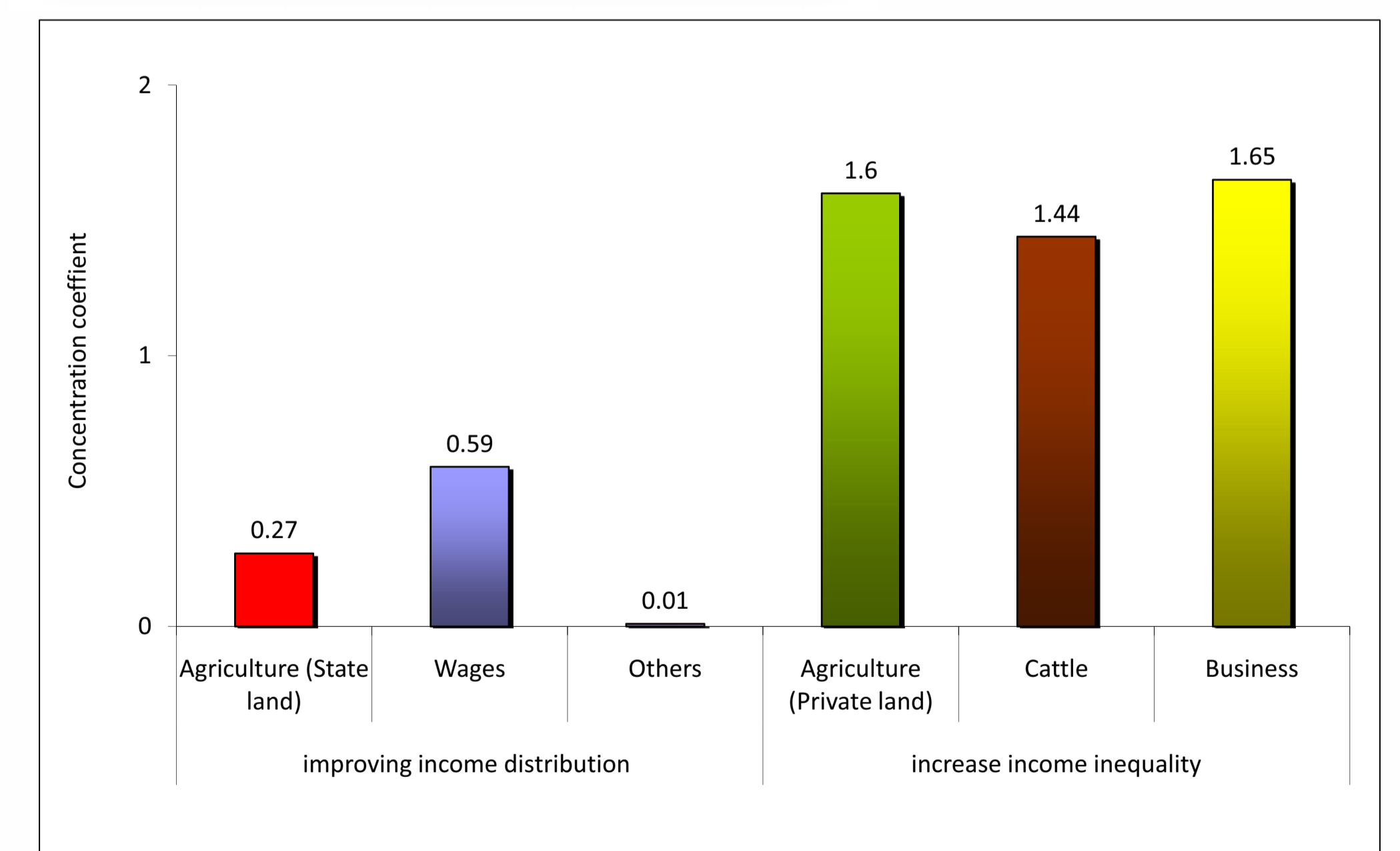
Women's knowledge of social forestry programs is higher in the success area.



Social Forestry

Perum Perhutani (*Perhutani*) is a state-owned business unit (*BUMN = Badan Usaha Milik Negara*) that has a mandate to manage state forest land. Therefore, the livelihood of the communities surrounding the state forest land is a matter of concern for *Perhutani* because interaction between the community and the forest is inevitable.

As a consequence of the ongoing reform of forest management in Indonesia, *Perhutani* is improving its forest resource management systems by developing *Pengelolaan Hutan Bersama Masyarakat/Social Forestry Program* (PHBM). The PHBM program is based on three main principles: *Bersama* (Together), *Berdaya* (Empowering) and *Berbagi* (Sharing) in using land, time and forest for mutual benefits that can strengthen and support social responsibilities.



The income derived from agricultural activities on *Perhutani* land is relatively equally distributed. Allowing farmers to cultivate in *Perhutani* land has helped improve farmers' incomes and helped in ensuring the income is equally distributed among farmers.

A source of income is influential in improving income equity if it has a concentration coefficient of less than 1. On the contrary, if the concentration coefficient is higher than 1, the source of income is influential in causing income inequality.