

# Working Hours for Women Labourers and the factors Affecting: A Study on Rice Farming in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency)

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**Abstract.** The involvement of women as rice farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District causes their working time to be divided into productive, domestic, social, and leisure activities, which are measured in hours per week. This study aims to analyse the working time of female rice farm labourers and the factors that influence it, including age, education, number of dependents, previous season's income, head of household income, and work experience of farm labourers. The study was conducted in December 2024 using a census technique on 102 respondents who worked on other people's rice fields. The analysis methods used include analysis of working time and multiple linear regression. The study's results showed that the average working time of female farm labourers in productive activities was 46.03 hours per week, for domestic activities 39.97 hours per week, for social activities 4.94 hours per week, and for leisure time 9.06 hours per week. Simultaneously, all independent variables have a significant effect. Partially, the variables of age, previous season's income, head of household income, and work experience have a significant effect, while education and number of dependents have no effect.

**Keywords:** Women Farm Workers, Time Devotion, Factors

## 1 Introduction

The agricultural sector plays a crucial role in development outcomes, particularly in supporting the broader economy for rural residents (Rempowatu, 2018). Growth in urban areas often occurs in rural areas, which are often predominantly agricultural land. Pondok Kubang District is one of the areas classified as a suburban area, located to the west of Karang Tinggi District and in Central Bengkulu Regency. The area of Pondok Kubang District spans approximately 9,098.241 hectares or 90.98 square kilometres, encompassing 12 villages (BPS, 2023).

The agricultural potential in Pondok Kubang District includes food crops, with 3,122 individual agricultural business units accounting for 15.04% of the total agricultural area. The most significant number of individual agricultural businesses is located in Pondok Kubang District, with a total of 4,021 business units, accounting for 19.37% of the total in Central Bengkulu Regency (BPS, 2023). In 2023, a total of 825 units were divided into two parts: rice plants (246 units) and secondary crops (153 units). The food security program is implemented by increasing food production, with rice being one of the primary commodities (BPS, 2023).

The rice farming business, based on the Agricultural Extension Agency's 2023 Rice production data in Pondok Kubang District, has enormous potential in paddy fields with a total land area of 161.18 hectares. This area is divided into two types of water: irrigation, covering 146.18 hectares (90.69%), and rainfed, covering 15 hectares (9.31%). Pondok Kubang District has the potential for rice fields located in Dusun Baru I Village and Tanjung Terdana Village, as well as in Linggar Galing, Harapan Makmur Village, and Margo Mulyo Village (BPP, 2024). The reasonably large area of rice fields and the conditions that support the development of various food crops can play an important role in absorbing labour, especially for people in the surrounding environment. For instance, women who do not yet have jobs can work as rice farm labourers.

Women's participation in work activities in the agricultural sector in rural areas is not a new phenomenon, considering that most rural communities depend on the agricultural sector or farming for their livelihoods. Women also play a significant role in increasing family income through their participation in agriculture, particularly as farm labourers. According to Harahap (2016), women farm labourers generally work because economic factors drive them.

The implementation of farming activities carried out by female farm labourers is highly dependent on the amount of working time they devote. According to Widiastuti (2014), working time refers to the total duration that individuals use to carry out productive work activities, both outside the home and in the domestic sector, which is calculated in hours per day or week. Therefore, women's involvement requires the ability to manage time effectively in every activity, especially in their role as rice farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District.

The division of women's time is crucial in describing the dual roles that women play as housewives, encompassing both productive, domestic, and social spheres (Pariyanti, 2017). The working time devoted by each woman is not the same because they engage in both productive and reproductive activities repeatedly throughout the day, from morning to night. According to Anggreni (2022), the amount of working time is influenced by various factors, including education, type of work, number of family members, and the husband's income. However, in this study, the factors analysed were age, education level, number of family dependents, family head's income, experience of rice farm labourers, and farm labourers' income in the previous season. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine "The Working Time of Women Rice Farm Laborers and the Factors that Influence It (Study in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency)".

## 2 Research Method

### 2.1 Time and Location of Research

This research was conducted in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency, by selecting four villages with the highest number of farm labourers, namely, Murgo Mulyo, Harapan Makmur, Batu Raja, and Tanjung Terdana. The determination of the location of this research was intentionally chosen (purposive). The determination of the location was based on the consideration that Pondok Kubang District is a district with a relatively large area of rice fields and excellent potential, which women can utilise to work as farm labourers. In addition, the location of this research is strategically close to the city in Central Bengkulu Regency. This research was conducted in December 2024.

### 2.2 Method of Determination and Sampling

This study comprises a total of 146 female farm labourers distributed across 12 villages in the Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency. There are four villages with the most significant number of female farm labourers working in rice fields, namely Murgo Mulyo, Harapan Makmur, Batu Raja, and Tanjung Terdana. The method used in this study is a census (total sampling), where all individuals in the population are used as respondents or sources of information (Sugiyono, 2016). Respondent data were obtained based on survey results submitted by key informants, namely, village heads from each village in Pondok Kubang District. Based on this, the total sample of farm labourers in the study was 102 female farm labourers working in other people's rice fields.

### 2.3 Method of Collecting Data

This study utilises both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected directly from respondents through observation, interviews, completion of previously prepared questionnaires, and documentation techniques. Meanwhile, secondary data were obtained from relevant institutions, including the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), related agencies, and village governments. This data serves as supporting information in the research analysis process.

### 2.4 Data Analysis Methods

#### 2.4.1 Analysis of Women's Working Time

The amount of working time of women as rice farm labourers that will be analysed is the amount of working time for one week. The activities of women rice farm labourers can be grouped into four categories: productive activities, domestic activities, social activities, and leisure time. The data analysis used to answer the objectives of the study is a qualitative descriptive analysis in looking at the amount of working time of women as rice farm labourers, using the formula (Yanamisra, 2019):

$$Y_{tc} = P + D + S + L$$

Information:

- $Y_{tc}$  = Total time devoted by women (hours/week)
- P = time devoted to productive activities (hours/week)
- D = time devoted to domestic activity (hours/week)

S = time devoted to social activities (hours/week)  
L = time outpouring leisure *time* (hours/week)

## 2.4.2 Analysis of Factors Affecting Work Time Spending

Measurement of the influence of various factors using the multiple linear regression analysis methods on the working hours of female rice farm labourers. This technique is used to determine the extent of the relationship between two or more independent variables and the dependent variable (Ghozali, 2016). The data required are age, education, number of family members, farm labour wages, the income of other family members, and experience of female farm labourers, using the following equation:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 U_m + \beta_2 P_{end} + \beta_3 J_{tk} + \beta_4 P_{dbts} + \beta_5 P_{dkk} + \beta_6 P_{bt} + e$$

Information:

Y = Working hours of female rice farm labourers (hours/week)

$\beta_0$  = Regression constant

$\beta_1 - \beta_6$  = Regression Coefficient of each independent variable

$U_m$  = Female age (years)

$P_{end}$  = education of farm workers (years)

$J_{tk}$  = number of dependents of farm labourer families (people)

$P_{dbts}$  = income of female rice farm labourers in the previous season (Rp/month)

$P_{dkk}$  = head of family income (Rp/month)

$P_{bt}$  = experience of women as rice farm labourers (years)

e = Error

According to Ghozali (2018), the classical assumption tests in this study were carried out in three stages: the normality test, the multicollinearity test, and the heteroscedasticity test. These three tests are needed to ensure that the regression model used meets statistical feasibility. After that, statistical tests were conducted, which included the determination coefficient test ( $R^2$ ), the simultaneous F-test, and the partial t-test with a significance level of 5% ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

## 3 Result and Discussion

### 3.1 Respondent Characteristics

The characteristics of female farm labourers observed in this study are evident in their age, education, number of family dependents, and experience as farm labourers. The study was conducted in the village selected as the research location in Pondok Kubang District. Data on the characteristics of women as rice farm labourers can be seen in the following table:

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Farm Labor Respondents

No	Characteristics	Number of Respondents (People)	Percentage (%)	Average
1	Age (Years)			
	21-37	22	21,6	
	38-53	59	57,8	45
	54-69	21	20,6	
	Total	102	100	
2	Education (Year)			
	6	49	48,0	
	9	28	27,5	8,3
	12	25	24,5	
	Total	102	100	
3	Number of Family Dependents (Persons)			
	1-2	35	34,3	
	3-4	60	58,8	3,0
	5	7	6,9	
	Total	102	100	

4	Farm Laborer Experience (Years)			
	1-16	61	59,8	
	17-30	32	31,4	16,0
	31-45	9	8,8	
	Total	102	100	

Source: Processed primary data, 2025

This study reveals that the average age of female farm labourer respondents is 45 years old, which is categorised as the middle productive age. However, most of the female respondents fall within the 38-53 year old age range, accounting for 57.8% of the total, with a total of 59 respondents categorised as being in the middle productive age. This middle productive age is characterised by good physical ability, working as a farm labourer, and extensive work experience in the agricultural sector, particularly in rice farming activities. However, this age group is not classified as young workers. The majority of respondents in this study were educated at the elementary school level, with the highest percentage being 48% or 49 people.

Meanwhile, as many as 28 people (27.5%) completed their education up to the junior high school level, and 25 people (24.5%) reached the high school level. This condition indicates that most respondents only completed their education up to the elementary school level, suggesting a generally low level of education. This finding also implies that most respondents received only basic education before entering the agricultural sector.

The most significant number of family dependents is 3-4 people, with a percentage of 58.8% of respondents, totalling 60 people. This value indicates that most women are part of a nuclear family, where they must still finance the needs of school-age children and other household expenses, which has the potential to increase economic pressure. A good experience can enhance the ability of farm labourers to work effectively. The average experience of respondents is 16 years; some farm labourers have varying experiences, but half of the respondents have between 1 and 16 years of experience as farm labourers. This finding indicates that female respondents remain active and productive workers, both those who have recently started working as farm labourers and those who are already quite experienced.

### 3.2 The Outpouring of Working Time of Female Farm Workers

Working time can be defined as the amount of time an individual spends engaging in economic and non-economic activities, expressed in hours. According to Amir (2019), the working time devoted by women encompasses various roles, including productive roles such as earning an income, domestic roles in caring for the household, and involvement in social activities, as well as the utilisation of free time. This aligns with Christian's opinion (2018), which categorises women's roles into three main aspects: productive, domestic, and social, including rest time. In addition, Aswiyati (2016) argues that the primary motivation for women to work is not merely to fill their free time but rather as an effort to increase family income, especially when their husband's income is insufficient to meet their living needs. The time devoted by female farm labourers can be seen in the following table:

**Table 2.** Working Hours of Female Farm Workers

No	Activity	Average (Hour/Day)	Average (Hours/Week)	Percentage (%)
1	Productive 1	6,36	44,53	26,51
2	Productive 2	0,21	1,50	0,89
3	Domestic	5,71	39,97	23,79
4	Social	0,71	4,94	2,94
5	<i>Leisure Time</i>	11,01	77,06	45,87
	Total	24,00	168,00	100,00

Source: Primary Data processed, 2025

The amount of working time was obtained within a week, with an average of 168 hours and an average day of 24 hours. The average amount of time spent on productive activities is divided into two categories: productive 1 (44.53 hours per week) and productive 2 (1.50 hours per week), totalling 46.03 hours per week, or approximately 6.57 hours per day, with a percentage of 27.40%. This finding informs that female farm workers make a significant contribution to the agricultural and household economic sectors. In domestic activities, the amount of time spent is 39.97 hours per week, or approximately 5.71 hours per day, accounting for 23.79% of the total time. These findings suggest that women continue to play a significant role in domestic activities despite the involvement of

female farm workers in the economic sector. Other studies argue that female farm workers play a dual role, namely, working in the agricultural sector while managing household affairs, which is influenced by socio-economic conditions and the circumstances of their families (Ganda et al., 2023).

Social activities are activities that women devote to the community environment for 4.94 hours per week or 0.71 hours per day, which is equivalent to 2.94% of the total daily time. Meanwhile, the time spent on leisure activities reached 77.06 hours per week, or 11.01 hours per day, accounting for 45.87% of the total daily time. These findings suggest that women allocate more of their time to leisure activities than to social activities within the community. In line with the opinion of Bunsaman et al. (2018), the role of women in the family encompasses both motherhood and being a companion to her husband, while the second role is that of a breadwinner outside the family.

### 3.3 Time Devotions of Productive Activities of Female Farm Workers

The amount of time or number of working hours of women at the level of labour productivity in an activity is influenced by productive activities. Productive activities involve women as rice farm labourers who work in other people's fields or other forms of economic activities carried out by women farm labourers in the Pondok Kubang District area. The time devoted by women to productive activities is seen in the following table:

**Table 3.** Women's Time Devoted to Productive Activities

No	Productive Activities	Average (Hours/Day)	Average (Hours/Week)	Percentage (%)
1	Farm Worker Activities	6,36	44,53	96,74
2	Non-Farm Labor Activities	0,21	1,50	3,26
	Total	6,58	46,03	100,00

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2025

Productive activities can be observed among female rice farm labourers, including rice planting, which is the primary job, as well as secondary tasks outside of farming activities. The average weekly productive time is 46.03 hours, equivalent to approximately 6.58 hours per day. The primary productive activity carried out by rice farm labourers is rice planting, with an average of 44.53 hours per week. In addition to their primary job as farm labourers, some women are also involved in other productive activities outside of rice farming. However, the average time allocated is only 1.50 hours per week. These additional activities include working part-time as rubber tappers, oil palm harvesters, and cattle breeders, as well as working in the non-agricultural sector, such as brick printing, opening stalls, and some individuals working as Village BPD. Previous studies have shown that female farm labourers play a significant role in rice farming activities, especially in the planting and weeding processes. However, this role is often hindered by limited capital and skills; as a result, their opportunities to engage in productive activities outside of rice farming are limited (Fauzan et al., 2024).

### 3.4 Domestic Activities of Female Farm Workers

Time devoted to domestic activities reflects the total duration used by women in carrying out household tasks, according to their role as housewives in Pondok Kubang District. These activities include cooking, washing, caring for children and husbands, cleaning the house, and other household activities. The time devoted by women to domestic activities is seen in the following table:

**Table 3.** Time Outflow Women for Domestic Activities

No	Domestic Activities	Average (Hours/Day)	Average (Hours/Week)	Percentage (%)
1	Cooking	1,21	8,48	21,20
2	Washing Clothes	0,80	5,63	14,08
3	Ironing Clothes	0,81	5,64	14,11
4	Wash dishes	0,34	2,40	6,00
5	Cleaning the House	1,13	7,82	19,56
6	Taking Care of Children and Husband	1,43	10,02	25,05
	Total	5,71	39,97	100,00

Source: Primary Data processed, 2025

The time devoted by female rice farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District to domestic activities in the study consisted of cooking, washing clothes, ironing clothes, washing dishes, cleaning the house, taking care of children

and husbands, and worship, with an average total of 39.97 hours per week. Or around 5.71 hours per day. The most significant amount of time devoted by female farm labourers is spent on childcare and household chores, which account for 10.02 hours per week, or 1.43 hours per day, and cooking activities, which total 8.48 hours per week, with an average of 1.21 hours per day. These two activities take up the most time compared to other activities. This statement aligns with the opinion of Kusuma et al. (2021), who noted that the domestic role carried out by women in the household is reflected in their involvement in various activities, such as preparing food, maintaining the house, raising children, and caring for their husbands.

Other activities carried out by female farm labourers include washing clothes for 5.63 hours a week or around 0.80 hours per day, ironing for 5.64 hours a week or equivalent to 0.81 hours per day, washing cutlery for 2.40 hours a week or 0.34 hours per day, and tidying up the house for 7.82 hours per week or around 1.13 hours per day. The less time devoted to domestic activities, such as washing dishes and ironing clothes, is because washing dishes is usually done after eating for a short duration. In contrast, ironing clothes can be done several times a week, depending on needs. On the other hand, activities such as cleaning the house and washing clothes require more time and effort. This finding aligns with research by Paramata et al. (2020), who noted that domestic responsibilities also extend the duration of women's daily working hours, as they are involved in both household chores and agricultural work.

### 3.5 Outpouring of Time for Social Activities of Female Farm Workers

The duration of time devoted to social activities reflects the level of women's involvement in various community activities in the village. Various forms of social participation are observed among farm labourers in the Pondok Kubang District area, including social gatherings, religious activities, integrated health posts, wedding celebrations, and PKK activities. The amount of time spent on social activities is seen in the following table:

**Table 4.** Social Time Devoted to Social Activities

No	Social Activities	Average (Hour/Day)	Average (Hours/Week)	Percentage (%)
1	Arisan	0,14	0,97	19,67
2	Recitation	0,29	2,02	40,97
3	Posyandu	0,05	0,36	7,50
4	Wedding Celebration	0,13	0,92	18,25
5	PKK Activities	0,10	0,67	13,59
Total		0,71	4,94	100,00

Source: Primary Data processed, 2025

The time devoted to social activities by women, encompassing various social activities, averages 4.94 hours per week, or 0.71 hours per day. Social activities such as social gatherings have an average of 0.97 hours per week, equivalent to 0.14 hours per day. This activity is generally carried out by female farm workers once a month at different times. Recitation activities have an average of 2.02 hours per week or 0.29 hours per day. Female farm workers who participate in recitation activities spend varying amounts of time, specifically between 2 and 3 hours, and this activity generally takes place once a week.

Posyandu activities have an average of 0.36 hours per week, with an average of 0.05 hours per day. Posyandu activities are typically conducted once a month, particularly for mothers with toddlers. Wedding celebration activities consume an average of 0.92 hours per week or approximately 0.13 hours per day. Wedding celebrations are only held when there is an invitation from relatives or neighbours. The activity that takes the least time is PKK activities, with an average of 0.67 hours per week, or approximately 0.10 hours per day. PKK activities are carried out once a month. Various activities carried out in the social environment of society align with the opinion of Musindar (2018), who stated that elements such as cooperation, a sense of togetherness, trust between individuals, and cultural values are integral components of social activities.

### 3.6 Leisure Time Outpouring of Female Farm Workers

Leisure time is a personal activity utilised by female farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District outside of productive, domestic, and social activities. This time is used for rest or to restore energy after engaging in various activities, such as sleeping, bathing, eating, playing with cell phones, watching television, and worshipping. Time outpouring leisure time women are seen in the following table:

**Table 5.** Women's Outpouring for Leisure Time

No	Leisure Time	Average (Hour/Day)	Average (Hours/Week)	Percentage (%)
1	Sleep	6,90	48,31	62,68
2	Bathe	0,36	2,53	3,27
3	Eat	0,39	2,71	3,54
4	Watching television	0,97	6,79	8,81
5	Playing Mobile Phone	0,84	5,88	7,63
6	Worship	1,55	10,82	14,07
	Total	11,01	77,04	100,00

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2025

Leisure time has the highest total time compared to other activities, with an average of 77.04 hours per week and an average of 11.01 hours per day. The most significant leisure time activity devoted to women is sleep time, with an average of 48.31 hours per week or 6.90 hours per day. Female farm workers have varying sleep times, depending on the duration of their activities. Bathing activities have an average duration of 2.53 hours per week, or approximately 0.36 hours per day, while mealtime is recorded at 2.71 hours per week, or 0.39 hours per day, showing a relatively small time difference. Meanwhile, other free time is spent watching television for an average of 6.79 hours per week, or approximately 0.97 hours per day, and playing with mobile phones for 5.88 hours per week, or around 0.84 hours per day. Meanwhile, religious activities account for approximately 10.82 hours per week or around 1.55 hours per day. This finding highlights the importance of understanding how female farm workers effectively utilise their leisure time between various activities (Azizi & Hidayatullah, 2021).

### 3.7 Analysis of Factors Affecting the Time Devotion of Female Rice Farm Workers

Various social and economic aspects, namely age, education, number of dependents in the family, previous season's farm labourer income, head of family income, and work experience, affect the work time of female farm labourers. This factor explains the extent to which women devote their time to various activities in the agricultural sector. The factors that affect the work time in this study are seen in the following table:

**Table 6.** Factors Affecting the Working Time of Female Farm Workers Paddy

Variables	Coefficient Regression	Standard Error	Sig
Constant ( $\alpha$ )	22,247	6,191	0.001
Age of farm labourers (Um)	-0,362	0,084	0.000*
Education (Education)	-0,208	0,280	0.458
Total family dependents (Jtk)	-0,273	0,598	0.649
Previous season's farm labourer income (Pdbts)	0,00004262	0,000	0.000*
Head of family income (Pdkk)	-0,000002933	0,000	0.030*
Farm labourer experience (Pbt)	0,243	0,090	0.008*
R-squared ( $R^2$ )			0.641
Adjusted R-squared			0.619
Sig (F-statistic)			.000 <sup>a</sup>

Note: \*Significant level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )

Source: Processed SPSS output, 2025

The statistical tests applied in this study include the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) test, the F test to test the simultaneous influence, and the t-test to see the influence of each variable partially, explained as follows:

### 3.8 Test of the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ )

The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is used to assess whether the model can explain the variations in the dependent variable. The  $R^2$  value ranges from 0 to 1; the closer it is to 1, the better the model's ability to describe the variation (Meiryani, 2021). The test results show that the R-Square value is 0.641, which explains that 64.1% of the variation in the working hours of female rice farm labourers can be explained by variables such as age, education, number of dependents in the household, income from the previous season, income of the head of the family, and work experience as a farm labourer. The remaining 35.9% is influenced by other factors not included in this analysis model.

### **3.9 F Test (Simultaneous)**

The F-test was conducted to assess whether all independent variables together have a significant effect on the dependent variable at a 5% significance level. The results of the analysis obtained a significance value of 0.000, which is below the threshold of 0.05, which indicates that these variables have a simultaneous effect on the dependent variable, influential variables such as age of farm workers, education, number of family dependents, income in the previous season, income of the head of the family, and length of work experience of farm workers significantly affect the time devoted by female farm workers.

### **3.10 t2-test (partial)**

The t-test in linear regression aims to determine the influence of each independent variable on the dependent variable, controlling for the effects of the other independent variables. Based on the analysis results, the age variable (UM), farm labourer income in the previous season (PDBTS), head of family income (PDKK), and experience working as a farm labourer (PBT) have a significant effect on the dependent variable. On the other hand, the education variable (PEND) and the number of family dependents (JTK) did not have a significant partial effect on the working hours of female farm labourers.

#### **3.10.1 Age of Farm Laborers (UM)**

The effect of age on the working time of female farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency, was analysed using a t-test at a significance level of 5%. The test results showed a significance value of 0.000, which is less than 0.05, indicating that age has a negative and significant effect on the allocation of working time. This result indicates that the older the farm labourers, the less time they devote to work. This result aligns with the findings of Pratama et al. (2022), which indicate that increasing age tends to reduce physical abilities, thereby impacting the productivity of women in the agricultural sector.

#### **3.10.2 Farm Worker Education (PEND)**

The effect of education level on the allocation of working time among female farm labourers was analysed using the t-test, which yielded a significance value of 0.458, higher than the threshold of 0.05. These results indicate that the education variable does not have a significant impact on the allocation of working time among female farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency. The insignificance of education level is likely due to the similarity in education level among respondents. In addition, working as a farm labourer requires more physical strength and experience than a formal educational background.

#### **3.10.3 Total Family Dependents (JTK)**

The effect of the number of family dependents on the amount of work time was analysed using the t-test, with a significance result of 0.649, greater than the threshold of 0.05. This test indicates that the number of dependents does not have a significant impact on the work time of female farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency. This finding suggests that the more dependents a household has, the more women tend to reduce the time they spend working outside the home. This condition is usually caused by the increasing need to care for family members such as children or the elderly, thus reducing the time available to work in the agricultural sector.

#### **3.10.4 Previous Season's Farm Laborers' Income (PDBTS)**

The effect of farm labourers' income in the previous season on the amount of working time shows a significance value of 0.000, which is below the threshold of 0.05. These results indicate that income from the previous season has a positive and significant relationship to the amount of working time devoted by female rice farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency. This means that the higher the income obtained in the previous season, the greater the tendency for women to increase their working hours to increase income and meet the family's economic needs. This result aligns with Wanda's research (2016), which indicates that the income of female farm labourers has a positive and significant effect on the amount of working time. If wages are high, individuals tend to increase their working hours.



### **3.10.5 Head of Family Income (PDKK)**

The effect of the head of the household income variable on the amount of working time, as determined by the t-test, yields a significance value of 0.030, which is lower than the significance limit of 0.05. This test result indicates that the husband's income has a negative and significant impact on the amount of working time devoted by female rice farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency. Thus, an increase in the head of household income tends to be followed by a decrease in the amount of working time devoted by farm labourers, as the economic needs of the household have been met, allowing women to focus more on domestic work and other non-productive activities. According to Handayani's research (2017), the head of household income affects the wife's amount of working time. The higher the head of household's or husband's income, the lower the wife's participation in work outside the home.

### **3.10.6 Farm Worker Experience (PBT)**

The effect of work experience as a farm labourer on the amount of working time was analysed using a statistical t-test, which showed a significance value of 0.008, which is smaller than the significance level of 0.05. Based on these results, work experience has a positive and significant effect on the amount of working time of female rice farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District, Central Bengkulu Regency. This finding suggests that the longer the experience, the greater the ability and work efficiency of female farm labourers, leading them to devote more time to their work. Additionally, longer experience can also increase self-confidence and open up more opportunities for involvement in additional work within the agricultural sector.

## **4 Conclusion and Suggestion**

### **4.1 Conclusion**

The conclusions of this study are as follows:

- a. The total working hours of female farm labourers in Pondok Kubang District are 168 hours/week with four activities, namely productive activities, which are divided into two, namely farm labour activities, with an average of 44.53 hours per week with a percentage of 26.51% and non-farm labour activities with an average of 1.50 hours per week with a percentage of 0.89%. Domestic activities with an average of 39.97 hours per week, or 23.79%. Social activities account for an average of 4.94 hours per week, or approximately 2.94%, while leisure time takes the largest share, averaging 77.06 hours per week, equivalent to 45.87%.
- b. Based on the results of the multiple linear regression analysis, it is evident that the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) value is 0.641, indicating that 64.1% of the variation in the amount of working time in the productive activities of rice farm labourers during planting can be explained by the independent variables analysed. Meanwhile, the remaining 35.9% is influenced by other factors outside the model used. Partially, four independent variables have been proven to have a significant effect on the amount of working time at a 5% significance level, namely age, previous season's income, head of family income, and work experience as a farm labourer. Meanwhile, the variables of education level and the number of family dependents do not show a significant effect on the amount of working time of female farm labourers.

### **4.2 Suggestion**

Based on the research results, job opportunities for heads of households or husbands can be expanded to enable them to secure employment and a steady income. Thus, women do not need to spend much time working as farm labourers; they can allocate more time to take care of their families than to work. The contribution of women who also work as farm labourers is because the income of the head of the family is not sufficient to meet household needs. Therefore, with the existence of permanent jobs for heads of households, women are expected to be able to carry out their dual roles more optimally, both as workers and homemakers, especially in managing work time for productive, domestic, social, and leisure activities.

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