

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE BATIK INDUSTRY IN MALANG

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Abstract: Women have become increasingly involved in the production of batik art, a rapidly growing cultural practice in Indonesia. In Malang Regency, for example, batik designs are predominantly inspired by natural elements, temple reliefs, and local folklore. This study explores whether women's participation in the batik industry contributes to enhancing their roles within the household, examines their involvement in economic and development activities, and assesses whether the industry itself fosters women's empowerment. Data were collected through a questionnaire distributed to batik artisans in Malang, Indonesia. The findings suggest that the batik sector supports development initiatives and boosts women's economic participation. Furthermore, the industry plays a crucial role in empowering women by facilitating financial independence and contributing positively to household economies.

Keywords: batik, women, empowerment

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to physical constraints, work environments, and employment requirements, women are often excluded from economic activities within their households (Vartia & Hyyti, 2002; Padavic & Reskin, 2002; Craig & Churchill, 2021). This exclusion impedes their ability to engage in financial activities, negatively impacting their economic well-being and limiting the household's potential to earn additional income, which could otherwise improve their standard of living.

Enhancing women's economic participation can lead to increased income, improved mental and emotional well-being, and greater satisfaction (Yu & Cui, 2019; Arizpe & Botey, 2019; Awuni et al., 2022). Research indicates that women's involvement in economic activities has beneficial effects, including the ability to support their families financially (Ge et al., 2022; Enete & Amusa, 2010; Tambunan, 2011). Higher labor force participation among women can reduce poverty risks. Additionally, increased participation in economic activities often leads to greater involvement of women in family decision-making. Families led by women are more likely to experience multidimensional poverty compared to those led by men (Soseco et al.,

2022). Enhanced female participation aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality).

One effective method for increasing women's economic involvement is through the Indonesian cultural heritage of batik painting. Originally reserved for royal use in the 19th century, batik—derived from the words "amba" (wide) and "titik" (dots)—has since become accessible to the general populace. The expansion of batik businesses across various regions reflects the growing popularity of this art form. Local government efforts to promote the batik industry and stimulate regional economies have further contributed to its rise. Batik designs are now commonly worn as uniforms by civil servants and students and sold to tourists. Women are predominantly employed as batik painters due to their dedication, precision, and attention to detail (Anggadwita et al., 2023; Mujahiddin et al., 2023). This trend indicates a significant opportunity for women in the batik industry, potentially enhancing household incomes.

The East Javanese city of Malang is renowned for its distinctive batik designs. Various regions in Indonesia are celebrated for their unique batik traditions, each reflecting creative, historical, and cultural significance. The primary centers of traditional Javanese batik are Yogyakarta and Solo (Surakarta) in Central Java, both of which possess a long-standing heritage of batik craftsmanship, royal patronage, and historical depth. Pekalongan, also situated in Central Java, is recognized as Indonesia's batik capital, hosting the annual Pekalongan Batik Festival and showcasing a diverse array of batik styles. Additionally, the coastal city of Lasem in Central Java is noted for its Chinese-influenced batik, often referred to as Peranakan or Chinese-Indonesian batik. The island of Madura, located near East Java, is famous for its vibrant and geometric Madurese batik. In contrast, Cirebon in West Java is distinguished for its colorful and unique batik patterns.

The Malang Regency in East Java is approximately 100 kilometers from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city. As of 2020, the population of Malang Regency was 2.65 million (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2021). Together with Malang city and Batu city, it forms the broader region known as Malang Raya, sharing a common historical and cultural heritage. Economically, Malang Regency is primarily driven by trade, industry, and agriculture (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023), with significant cultivation of tea, coffee, sugar cane, tobacco, and paddy. The majority of these agricultural products are processed domestically. Malang Regency also hosts numerous cigarette manufacturers, including Bentoel, the fourth-largest tobacco company in Indonesia, employing over 4,000 individuals.

The emerging batik painting sector in Malang has gained considerable attention, with districts such as Karangploso, Tajinan, and Pakisaji actively involved in batik production. However, it remains unclear whether female batik artists in Malang are financially benefiting their households through increased earnings. Furthermore, there is limited knowledge regarding their primary motivations for engaging in batik activities and the challenges they face.

This study investigates whether batik painting by women in Malang can enhance their economic participation and benefit their households. The organization of the study is as follows: Section 2 provides a review of the literature on the importance of women's economic involvement. Section 3 outlines the methodology and data collection process. Section 4 presents the estimation results, discussions, and policy implications. Finally, Section 5 concludes with recommendations for further research.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Women Empowerment

Empowerment is a crucial process aimed at providing equal opportunities for all individuals, particularly women, to take control of their lives. This complex social mechanism instills confidence in individuals to address significant challenges within their personal lives, communities, and society at large. The conceptualization of empowerment varies depending on political, social, and cultural contexts, reflecting regional values and perspectives. Its significance to societal development has made it a focal point for numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations. Although perspectives on empowerment may differ among experts, it fundamentally involves enhancing the capacities of individuals and communities while reducing power imbalances among various groups.

Scholars continue to debate the definition of empowerment, which is often influenced by local norms and values. Traditional interpretations of empowerment encompass various aspects, including the ability to advocate for one's rights, independence, self-determination, self-reliance, and autonomy in decision-making. The benefits of empowerment are widely acknowledged, with many defining it as the process of elevating the power of marginalized groups to a level comparable to that of more privileged groups (Bhadra, 2001).

According to Sahay (1998), empowerment is a multifaceted and dynamic process that enables women to fully realize their identities and potential across all areas of life. The essence of this process lies in decentralizing power and authority to those who have been marginalized or oppressed, thereby allowing them a greater role in policy implementation and decision-making both within governmental institutions and society. The comprehensive development of a nation hinges on the empowerment of women. Chattopadhyaya (2005) describes empowerment as a complex concept involving the expansion of autonomy in decision-making and action across various domains—political, social, and economic—ultimately shaping an individual's life. Control over resources and decision-making processes is also a critical component.

Another interpretation of empowerment involves gaining control over one's own life while supporting others in assuming responsibility for their lives. Goodrich defines empowerment as a mutually beneficial process in which one individual provides another with the confidence and capability to act, thereby enhancing their power (Patricia et al., 2003). According to the World Bank, empowerment is the process of enhancing an individual's or a group's ability to make decisions and translate those decisions into effective behaviors and outcomes. This process includes actions that improve the efficiency and fairness of the institutional and organizational frameworks governing resource allocation, both individually and collectively (Chattopadhyay, 2005).

2.2 Types of Empowerments

The following are the five categories of women's empowerment as described via Mehra (1997): Social empowerment comes first. The using pressure behind ladies's stepped forward social status and roles in social establishments is social empowerment. Inequality in society due to someone's gender, race, ethnicity, or handicap is adverse through social empowerment. second, empowerment via schooling. Empowerment via training is taken into consideration the maximum tremendous device for sociopolitical and economic exchange because it will increase someone's highbrow horizons, properly-being, and ability for empowerment. a person gains self-sufficiency, and self belief through education. It gets rid of all kinds of bigotry, narrowness, and superstition; it broadens the thoughts; it raises social,

political, intellectual, cultural, and spiritual consciousness; and it encourages compassion, tolerance, and other virtues.

Economic empowerment comes in third. because it enables womens and ladies to become wage earners and contributing contributors of households with a sturdy experience of economic freedom, financial empowerment is an important weapon towards poverty. The idea that ladies's empowerment isn't always simply same attention but additionally a prerequisite for lengthy-term social and financial progress is contested with the aid of the 1994 Djakarta announcement. people do no longer cherish other rights and scopes until they acquire economic independence. monetary empowerment is described as a technique that permits the impoverished, landless, oppressed, and disadvantaged human beings of all societies to be free of all forms of oppression and deprivation, to at once advantage from markets and homes, and to in reality control a square, nutritious food regimen and meet basic needs like a place to live, garments, meals, and smooth water.

Political empowerment is the fourth. A key tool for women's empowerment is their participation in politics and different choice-making bodies. due to the fact they may be underrepresented in public coverage discussions and political settings, ladies are disadvantaged in their essential right to obligation, that's specially vital for people in positions of power. psychological empowerment is the 5th. women feel psychologically empowered and acquire self-self belief, and manipulate over their money and frame when they work in white-collar occupations, journey, personal land, and participate in political parties, educational establishments, or decision-making corporations. those who enter any kind of group or career are able to view and recognize a greater portion of the sector than those who continue to be at domestic. they have grown in maturity, resilience, and satisfaction as a result of their personal boom and discovery, and they have also grow to be more impartial far from home..

2.3 The Impact of Economic Development

Financial development and womens's empowerment are carefully connected: on the only hand, improvement via itself can substantially make contributions to the reduction of gender inequality; on the other hand, women's empowerment may further improvement (Duflo, 2012).

Economic development and ladies's empowerment described as increasing womens's get entry to to development factors like health, training, employment opportunities, rights, and political participation have a reciprocal relationship. increase on its own can be a powerful tool for getting rid of gender inequality, however it can additionally paintings towards improvement if prejudice in opposition to womens persists, as Amartya Sen has argued. placed in another way, empowerment can expedite development.

Social scientists and policymakers have focused on one of the two relationships. folks that give attention to the primary assert that gender equality increases as poverty decreases. They contend that as opposed to enacting unique legal guidelines to enhance the reputation of women, governments need to deal with creating the situations necessary for financial growth and prosperity even as concurrently running to hold equity for each sexes. then again, lots of human beings focus on the second one relationship, which links development to empowerment.

Gender equality is a "prerequisite" for achieving other improvement desires, which include doing away with poverty, reducing infant mortality, implementing well-known schooling, and ultimate the gender hole with the aid of 2015. This announcement has been made by way of the UN considering that 2005. further, the sector financial institution (2001) calls for the implementation of measures like quotas for ladies in parliament and scholarships for womens with a view to sell equality, as well as the redesign of institutional structures to

deal with the gender imbalance in "rights, assets, and voice." The paper argues that those policies are justified because they boost justice and are important to the united states's speedy improvement. The message from the sector bank (2011) is significantly extra complex. although the commercial case for ladies's empowerment is emphasised, it's miles basically taken with no consideration.

3. METHOD AND DATA

So one can acquire facts for this have a look at's case study development model for the Batik network in Malang Regency, we performed in-intensity interviews. individuals, executives, and the control board made up the respondents. Village officers have been additionally considered one of our respondents. The statistics amassed pertains to the trends and perspectives of empowerment held with the aid of the respondents. facts turned into accrued about the respondents' socioeconomic and demographic attributes. Age, gender, schooling level, the variety of family individuals, and the range of dependents are some demographic elements which are stated. The socio-economic element, however, considers someone's occupation, employment, and monthly income or fees.

To apprehend the community's and stakeholders' perspectives at the efficacy of the Batik industry in enhancing household economic situations through womens's empowerment, information on empowerment perceptions is important. We sent the respondents a questionnaire, and we collected their responses approximately how the batik business can be used as a medium to in addition womens's empowerment. We requested if their multiplied lady economic participation resulted from empowerment. two most important subjects are blanketed in the questionnaire. initially, the analysis will consciousness on how the batik commercial enterprise influences ladies's circle of relatives fame in phrases of their economic participation and improvement impact. 2d, determine whether or not the batik industry helps the empowerment of ladies.

To find out how the network and stakeholders sense about the success of the batik enterprise in improving domestic economic situations thru womens's empowerment, facts about perceptions of empowerment is necessary. We utilized a questionnaire to invite the respondents questions about the batik industry's role as a media to empower women similarly, and we recorded their solutions. We inquired as to whether or not they noticed an upward push in womens's financial participation because of the empowerment. There are important subjects included within the questionnaire. step one in this investigation is to inspect how the batik enterprise affects ladies's roles inside the home as seen via their involvement inside the economy and improvement procedure. 2d, to determine if the batik region promotes the empowerment of ladies. The effects of the interviews finished with the help of the above-mentioned information-gathering method will be written down and documented. After then, the transcript is tested to generate studies findings.

Table 1. Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Percentage
Elementary school	5
Junior high school	15
Senior high school	50
Diploma	5
Undergraduate	25
Total	100

The a while of the 20 batik responders variety from 18 to fifty one, with a mean age of 36. the academic attainment of half of of the respondents is excessive school. Others keep junior high faculty diplomas (15%) and undergraduate ranges (25%). In phrases of occupation, 60% of respondents are housewives, at the same time as the final respondents work as college students, tailors, or marketers (Table 2).

Table 2. Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Percentage
Housewife	60
Inclusion companion	5
University student	5
Tailor	5
Entrepreneur	5
Factory worker	5
Teacher	5
Not working	5
Other	5
Total	100

Table 3. Respondents' Monthly Expenditure

Expenditure (Rp.)	Percentage
0-1,000,000	15
1,000,000-2,000,000	5
2,000,000-3,000,000	55
3,000,000-4,000,000	20
4,000,000-5,000,000	0
>5,000,000	5
Total	100

The general public of respondents, taking into account their financial state of affairs, spend among Rp. 2,000,000 and Rp. three,000,000 per month. The respondents spend Rp. 2,200,000 in keeping with month on average (Table 3).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Batik in Malang

The boom of Kabupaten Malang's (Malang Regency) batik enterprise is in keeping with the local authorities's goal of attracting extra vacationers. with the intention to draw vacationers, the government rebranded Malang Regency because the coronary heart of East Java in 2017. One tactic used to do this was to apply batik paintings to enhance the region's enchantment. The government additionally helps the slogan "one village, one product," which states that the primary advertising and marketing commodities for every metropolis must be one or greater locally obtained or initiated products, on the way to improve tourism and the nearby financial system. that is why Malang's local batik painters regularly draw notion from their environment, including local records, folklore, temple reliefs, and heroes. Batik Gandring from Singosari makes use of a neighborhood tale from the ancient Singosari country; Batik Selorejo explains tourism in Ngantang and durian because the number one fruit commodity; and Batik Kusuma tells approximately tourism in Ngadas are some examples. Batik Lintang from

Karangploso attracts thought from carvings on Kidal Temple. moreover, Batik Ron Tuwuh is famend for developing a variety of batik designs primarily based on nearby inspirations in Pakisaji (radarmalang.jawapos.com) (Figures 1-3).



Figure 1: Mask Pattern of Batik Ron Tuwuh. Source: @rontuwuhbatik



Figure 2: Monstera and Parang Bena of Batik Ron Tuwuh. Source: @rontuwuhbatik



Figure 3: Sambung Manah of Batik Ron Tuwuh. Source: @rontuwuhbatik

The aforementioned batik motifs' strong point serves as a promoting advantage for manufacturers who want to assist export Indonesian batik. The export trend of Indonesian batik is depicted in Figure 4.

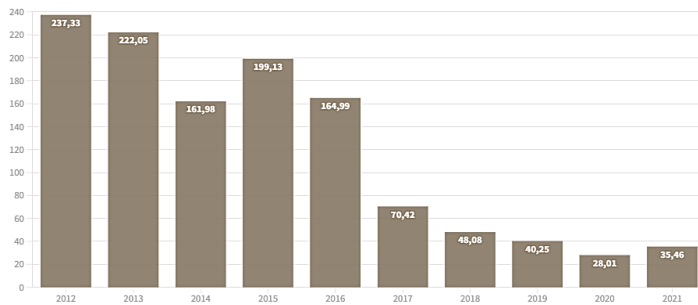


Figure 4: Indonesian Batik Export, 2012-2021 (US\$ million). Source: dataindonesia.id

4.2. The Economic Benefits of Women's Empowerment

Our research demonstrates that women's economic contribution to the household can upward thrust with their level of empowerment. desk four lists some benefits that ladies who participate inside the women's empowerment program can anticipate. concerning involvement, the respondents gave favorable comments in the shape of probabilities to participate in conferences, attend and make decisions, and offer thoughts, know-how, and abilities. moreover, the program offers the player the capability to supervise, evaluate, and keep growth consequences. additionally, the initiative encourages ladies to actively provide suggestions and opinions.

Table 4. Women Empowerment

Description	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)
Women are involved in meetings	45	55
Women are involved in decision-making	40	60
Women take part in Local Batik Home Industry Business Incubation Research	45	55
Willingness to contribute thoughts, expertise, and skills	35	65
Women's concern for maintaining development results	30	70
Women's activeness in carrying out supervision	25	75
Women are involved in assessing the results of the development of the Local Batik Home Industry Business Incubation program	30	60
Women are active in providing suggestions	40	55
Women are active in providing criticism	45	55

Elevating living standards and increasing knowledge can bring about greater monetary profits from ladies's empowerment in the batik sector. additionally, they assume that women's empowerment improves socioeconomic situations, enables them come to be financially impartial, and elevates their status within the circle of relatives (Table 5).

Table 5. Perception of Women's Empowerment

Description	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)
There is an increase in the quality of life in the community	45	55
There is an increase in knowledge of life	40	60
There is progress in the economic sector for society	40	60
There is progress in the economic sector for social	35	60
This program helps women to be able to live independently	60	40
This program makes people's quality of life better	50	50
This program can raise the status of women	55	45
The economic conditions of women and families are getting better	50	50
Women feel more helpful to other communities	55	45

Expanded monetary benefits may additionally result from the empowerment of women. specifically, it has a prime impact on each standard financial prosperity and private nicely-being. a few parts may be accomplished by means of growing women's empowerment, as might be mentioned underneath. The emancipation of womens can boom economic opportunity and hard work force participation through training. a larger personnel is implied via this situation, which may additionally improve economic growth and productiveness.

Profits technology: ladies who are empowered have the capability to work and aid their own family, which increases living requirements and gives them get right of entry to to necessities like meals, healthcare, and training. lowering Poverty: ladies who're economically empowered can make a contribution to lowering poverty of their families and communities. With their cash, they are able to enhance their preferred of residing and meet their essential needs. Entrepreneurship and process generation: The generation of jobs and economic boom are extensively impacted via women entrepreneurs. Their organizations promote innovation and useful resource in monetary diversification.

Monetary offerings: womens who're economically empowered have extra get admission to to banking, savings debts, credit, insurance, and different financial offerings. This enables them to manipulate their price range, spend money on groups, and store money for the destiny. ladies who are empowered tend to possess extra property, such land and belongings, which offers them monetary stability and the possibility to acquire cash through the years. economic Resilience: women who have greater clout are greater geared up to resist monetary shocks and disasters. they may be able to alter to transferring circumstances, make wise financial choices, and help their family via attempting instances. Gender Equality in the place of business: with the aid of decreasing the gender pay gap and growing more welcoming paintings situations, empowering women can result in extra gender equality within the place of business.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Through financial endeavors wherein womens actively take part within the production manner, womens's empowerment can be performed. In Malang, the batik industry has the ability to boom women's decision-making authority and raise their status within the domestic. by way of permitting human beings to achieve financial independence and make precious contributions to their households, the enterprise also empowers women. There are positive barriers to this look at. Macroeconomic factors that have been now not covered in this have a look at have an effect on women's monetary popularity within the medium batik enterprise. consequently, macroeconomic variables and the economic structure that could affect family

choices in addition to the effects of actual monetary pastime should be taken into consideration in destiny look at.

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