

# Productivity Dynamics in the Songket

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## **Productivity Dynamics in the Songket Weaving Industry: A Study of Female Weavers in Sukarara Village**

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**Abstract:** *This research delves into the multifaceted dynamics that influence the woven fabric output of female songket weavers in Sukarara Village. By examining the roles of age, marital status, and education level, this study provides valuable insights into the factors shaping productivity in the weaving industry. The findings reveal that age significantly impacts weaving output, with older weavers producing less cloth. Marital status plays a crucial role, as married weavers exhibit higher productivity than their unmarried or divorced counterparts. Surprisingly, education level is found to have limited significance in relation to output. These insights contribute to a nuanced understanding of productivity dynamics in the weaving industry and suggest the need for context-specific strategies to empower and support female songket weavers in Sukarara Village.*

**Keywords:** *women, songket, sukarara, weaver, age, marital status, education level*

### **Introduction**

Tenun is the art of making traditional fabric that originated in Indonesia and has evolved in various regions. Each region possesses a unique beauty in its woven fabrics, reflecting the culture and character of its people. Woven fabric is a source of pride for each region, and each area has its distinct characteristics in the production of woven

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fabric. One of the regions famous for its woven fabric craftsmanship is the Central Lombok Regency in West Nusa Tenggara. Sukarara Village, which is part of the Central Lombok Regency, is one of the central production hubs for woven fabric. Most of the inhabitants of Sukarara Village are talented weavers.

Women in Sukarara Village are taught by their parents to develop weaving skills, inheriting weaving tools from previous generations. This enables them to contribute to their family's economic well-being (El Badriati et al., 2022). They have a work culture characterized by discipline in achieving goals and a strong work ethic. This excellence is a key factor that helps the women weavers in Sukarara remain economically productive. With the presence of the woven fabric industry, it has an impact on the availability of employment opportunities within the community in Central Lombok's Sukarara Village. Therefore, the woven fabric industry's success will continue to grow if the quantity of woven fabric produced can contribute to increased income.

Woven fabric output can be explained as the quantity of an individual's ability to produce goods by maximizing the utilization of available individual resources. The results of this work in the form of woven fabric output are reflected in the ability to increase output in the form of products or services, high work enthusiasm, sustainable self-development, and efficiency in resource utilization (Zhou et al., 2019). Woven fabric produced by an individual, especially when there is high work enthusiasm and efficiency in maximizing resources, is strongly related to education level, marital status, and job status.

This research combines education level, age of weavers, and marital status. Education level is assumed to be an investment that can help increase production capacity, leading to improved work quality. In other words, knowledge acquired through education can directly contribute to task performance. The higher the level of education, the higher the likelihood of increased productivity (Mason, 2020). According to The World Bank (2018), through adequate education, individuals will have a better chance to apply knowledge related to the quantity of goods and services produced in future work, as evenly distributed educational investment, including among the weavers of Sukarara, can increase their income and performance (Mankiw, 2013).

*Productivity Dynamics in the Songket Weaving Industry: A Study of Female Weavers in Sukarara Village*

The age of weavers in Sukarara Village, especially women, is one of the factors influencing an individual's productivity in producing a product. The productive age of a female weaver typically ranges from 15 to 64 years. According to van Ours & Stoeldraijer (2021), an increase in age is followed by physical, psychological, and intellectual development. The maturity from this development is necessary to complete a job successfully. As a person gets older, the quality of their work improves, thus determining work productivity. Therefore, the increasing productivity of female weavers in Sukarara Village has a significant impact on the quantity and quality of the woven fabric output.

Marital status also plays a role in a woman's decision to work because marriage status is often associated with the income provided by a husband. Therefore, the desire to earn their income, fill their spare time, and contribute to household activities is part of marital status.

According to Lloyd & Gage-Brandon (1993) households tend to improve their standard of living with marital status. Families with two sources of income (both husband and wife working) often experience an enhanced standard of living. Marital status also affects the responsibility for children, where the number of children and their needs remain a concern for parents. Thus, married female weavers in Sukarara Village become more committed to work and produce a higher quantity of output.

For example, women in Sukarara Village, the majority of whom are songket weavers, significantly contribute to the economic aspect. While pursuing their profession as songket weavers, women in Sukarara Village highly value positive work ethics, such as setting work targets, managing their time efficiently, and displaying a strong work ethic, without neglecting their roles as wives and homemakers. The primary goal of women in Sukarara Village is to earn additional income to support their families. However, it is important to note that they do not feel compelled or pressured by their husbands to continue working.

This demonstrates that economic development and the well-being of the community are ongoing challenges in various parts of the world. One way to address these challenges is to understand how factors such as marital status, occupation type, and education level contribute to increasing the output of woven fabric, especially in the industrial sector. Sukarara Village, known for its traditional woven fabric production, is an example of a community of women striving to optimize their economic potential through the woven fabric industry. Sukarara Village has a rich weaving tradition that incorporates cultural

elements and creativity into their textile art. Weaving is not only a valuable cultural heritage but also one of the main livelihoods for the community. To improve woven fabric output and enhance the well-being of the community, Sukarare Village needs to consider several social and economic factors that may influence it.

In this context, this research aims to investigate how marital status, age of weavers, and education level play a role in increasing woven fabric output in Sukarare Village. Marital status reflects social dynamics within families and communities, the age of weavers relates to human resources and available skills, and education level plays a key role in improving production quality and access to a broader market.

Most previous studies have focused on the correlation between productivity and independence without considering the output of the work performed. One earlier study found that the more productive a woman is, the more likely she is to have decision-making independence within her household (Hendrickson et al., 2019). Of course, if this goes to extremes, it can have negative consequences. Therefore, efforts need to be made to regulate and maintain balance so that women can increase the output of their work. Hence, this research aims to further investigate "The Impact of Productivity on Economic Independence of Female Songket Weavers in Sukarara Village, Central Lombok, Considering Religiosity as a Controlling Factor.

### **Literature Review**

The objective of the study is to examine how the development of the weaving craft business in the Masalili Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes) of Kontunaga Sub-district, Muna District, increases artisan income. The research results show that the income of weavers increased significantly through the optimal development of the weaving craft business unit (El Badriati et al., 2022).

This study focuses on the direct influence of education level, age, and the number of dependents on the working hours of the Women Farmer Group in Kintamani Regency. The research findings indicate that education, age, and the number of dependents have a positive impact on the working hours of the Women Farmer Group in Kintamani Regency, while age and the number of dependents do not have an impact. Additionally, education and working hours have a positive impact on the productivity of the Women Farmer Group in Kintamani Regency (Suwena et al., n.d.).

Research conducted by Börsch-Supan et al. (2021) found that variables like age, education level, work experience, and marital status significantly influence female labor productivity when considered together. However, when considered separately, age,

work experience, and marital status have a positive and significant impact on female labor productivity, while education level does not significantly affect productivity (Kampelmann et al., 2018; Prasetyo & Andi Prastowo, 2022).

Another study exploring the correlation between productivity and independence was conducted by Badriati et al. (2022) and Elbadriati et al. (2022). Through her research, Dewi found that women who successfully utilize social capital within their networks have a significant opportunity for economic resilience. In other words, when a woman maximizes the use of available social resources, it contributes to her productivity and ultimately helps achieve economic independence for her family (Badriati et al., 2022).

Another study related to this theme was conducted by Yusran et al. (2023). The goal of this research was to explore the factors that influence the level of economic independence and well-being of coastal women. The findings from this research indicate that three factors significantly impact the level of economic independence among coastal women: art, health, and education (Mustofa et al., 2022; Wilhite & Keller, 1996).

Based on the previous research reviews above, the researcher is interested in investigating the improvement of woven fabric output in Sukarare Village through marital status, the age of weavers, and education level.

### ***Education Level***

Education level, according to Hartarto et al. (2021), is an individual's activity in developing their capabilities, attitudes, and behaviors, whether through organized or unorganized means, for future life. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment and learning processes where learners actively develop their potential to have spiritual and religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed for themselves, society, the nation, and the state (Republic of Indonesia. 2003. Law No. 20 of 2003 Concerning Education. No 1). Chevalier et al. (2004), Li et al. (2018), Miles et al. (2018) argues that education significantly contributes to an improvement in the quality of life and human beings.

### ***Marital Status***

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman as husband and wife. There are two types of marital status: married and unmarried. Individuals with a married status have a legally and religiously recognized marriage with their partner (Panisoara & Serban, 2013; Restya, 2020). Married subjects are further categorized into three groups, namely, married to a working husband, meaning a woman married to a man who has a job and

income; Married to an unemployed husband, which refers to a woman married to a man with no job and income.

### ***Age of Weavers***

Weavers in their productive age generally exhibit higher productivity compared to older workers whose physical abilities are limited and weaker (van Ours & Stoeldraijer, 2021). The productive age of labor falls between 20 and 40 years, as these years are considered highly productive since individuals below 20 years generally lack the skills and are still in the educational process. On the other hand, individuals over 40 years of age typically experience a decline in physical abilities (van Ours & Stoeldraijer, 2011). Labor refers to the population within the working age range of 15 to 64 years or the total population in a country capable of producing goods and services if there is demand for their labor, and they are willing to participate in such activities (Göbel & Zwick, 2012).

### ***Hypotheses***

Hypotheses are temporary statements about the relationships between variables that need to be tested (Nyika, 2018). In this study, the relationships between the considered variables are as follows: Enhancing Woven Fabric Output in Sukarare Village Through Marital Status, Age of Weavers, and Education Level.

*H1: There is an influence of marital status on the improvement of woven fabric output in Sukarare Village.*

*H2: There is an influence of the age of weavers on the improvement of woven fabric output in Sukarare Village.*

*H3: There is an influence of education level on the improvement of woven fabric output in Sukarare Village.*

### **Research Methodology**

The type of research used is quantitative research. This type of research is chosen because the researcher wants to examine the issues in accordance with the actual situations that occur in the field comprehensively and generally. The research is conducted in Sukarara Village, Central Lombok, NTB. The research process in this area will be carried out from January to August 2023

Population refers to the entire set of objects or subjects defined by the researcher so that the phenomena occurring within it can be studied and generalized (Sugiyono, 2010). The population used in this research consists of all the female weavers in Sukarara

Village, Central Lombok, totaling 1,791 individuals in ten hamlets within Sukarara Village. From this total, the required sample size is calculated.

The sample size is determined using cluster random sampling techniques (Shukla, 2020), resulting in the selection of 5 hamlets as sample locations. In this study, the sample size to be used is 90 individuals from 5 hamlets: Ketangga Hamlet, Dasan Baru Hamlet, Blong Lauq Hamlet, Burhana Hamlet, and Batu Entek Hamlet. The sample size for this study is determined using the Slovin formula as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{90}{1 + 928(0.05)^2} = 90$$

Where:

$n$  : sample size

$N$  : population size

$e$  : percentage tolerance for error

Based on the calculations above, it can be concluded that the sample to be used in this research consists of 90 individuals.

There are two types of variables used in this study: independent variables and dependent variables. Independent variables are those that influence other variables, while dependent variables are those affected by other variables. The last type of variable used in this research is the moderating variable, which can either strengthen or weaken the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables (Ghozali, 2016). The independent variables and dependent variables used in this study are, in order, marital status, weaver's age, level of education, and the output of weaving.

The research instrument used is a questionnaire, with the following details:

Table 1. Research Instrument

Variable	Indicator	Measurement	Scale
<b>Weaving Output (Y)</b>	The quantity of woven fabric produced	The level of ability to produce output every month	Nominal
<b>Marital Status (X1)</b>	Identify marital status of Weaver in Sukarara	If married, assign the number 1, and if not married/divorced, assign the number 0.	Nominal
<b>Age (X2)</b>	Weaver Age in Sukarara	Unit in Year	Nominal



<b>Education (X3)</b>	Education level of Sukarara Weaver	If they have education, assign the number 1; if not, assign the number 0	Nominal
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Data collection in research activities is crucial because it is related to the availability of the necessary data to address the research problems, ensuring that the conclusions drawn are accurate. In this research, the data collection methods used are: Questionnaire (Survey) and Documentation. The Data Analysis Method employs testing the research instruments and hypotheses. Research Instrument Testing includes Reliability Testing, Validity Testing, and Hypothesis Testing to examine the influence between independent and dependent variables. The regression equation is as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon$$

Where:

- $Y$  : Weaving Output
- $\beta_0$  : Constant
- $\beta_1 X_1$  : Coefficient of  $X_1$
- $\beta_2 X_2$  : Coefficient of  $X_2$
- $\beta_3 X_3$  : Coefficient of  $X_3$
- $\epsilon$  : disturbance

T-test is used to examine the partial influence of independent variables on dependent variables. This test is aimed at determining the influence of each independent variable on the dependent variable. The decision-making process is as follows: the hypothesis is accepted if the Sig value is less than alpha 0.05 and the regression coefficient is in line with the hypothesis.

The F-test is used to examine the simultaneous influence of independent variables on dependent variables. Testing the significance of the F-value is performed to test the level of significance of a model. The decision-making for this test is that if the p-value (sig) is less than ( $\alpha$ ) 0.05, then it can be said that a model in the research is significant.

According to Ghozali (2016), the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is used to measure the extent to which a model can explain the variation in the dependent variable. The value of the coefficient of determination ranges between zero and one. According to Ghozali (2016), if an empirical test yields a negative adjusted  $R^2$  value, then the adjusted  $R^2$  value is considered to be zero.

## **Result and Discussion**

### ***Validity Testing***

A questionnaire is considered valid if the questions in the questionnaire are capable of expressing what the questionnaire intends to measure. The validity test conducted by the researcher aims to reveal the correlation between the questionnaire items and the questionnaire itself. In this study, a validity test was conducted on 10% of the research sample in the village of Sade. The selection of Sade Village as the location for this validity test is because this village shares characteristics similar to the research subject, which is Sukarara Village, both of which are known for their songket weavers in Central Lombok Regency. The results of the validity test can be seen in the following table:

Table 2. Validity Testing

<b>Item</b>	<b>R Calculated</b>	<b>R Table</b>
<b>Woven Output</b>	0.710	0.205
<b>Marital Status</b>	0.423	0.205
<b>Weaver Age</b>	0.537	0.205
<b>Education Level</b>	0.555	0.205

Source: Data analysis results, 2023

### ***Reliability Test***

A questionnaire is considered reliable if a person's answers to questions are consistent or stable over time. The technique used in measuring reliability is the Cronbach's alpha technique. The results of the reliability test can be seen in the following table:

Table 2. Reliability Test

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>R-count</b>	<b>Alpha</b>
<b>1.</b>	Woven Output	0.438	0.205
<b>2.</b>	Marital Status	0.210	0.205
<b>3.</b>	Weaver Age	0.210	0.205
<b>4.</b>	Education Level	0.476	0.205

Source: data analysis result, 2023

Based on the data presented in the table above, it is evident that the calculated R-value exceeds the Alpha threshold. This finding suggests that the questionnaire possesses a high degree of reliability and is well-suited for distribution among the predetermined sample.

An analysis of respondents' feedback provides insights into the monthly output of songket weaving achievable by the artisans in Sukarara Village. The tabulated results

reveal that the average weaving output ranges from 1 to 2 pieces of cloth per month, a figure that is subject to variation contingent upon the intricacy of the design motifs. More complex designs entail an extended weaving process, with the ultimate output being influenced by a myriad of factors. It is, therefore, of paramount importance to meticulously consider these factors affecting weaving output.

Furthermore, an examination of the marital status of female weavers in Sukarara Village indicates that, on average, they predominantly fall under the "married" category. This specific marital status will undergo rigorous scrutiny in the research to determine whether it holds any sway over cloth weaving output. A minority of female weavers in Sukarara are unmarried, while others bear the "divorced" and "widowed" statuses.

Moreover, the data underscores that the average age of Songket weavers in Desa Sukarara falls within the productive age range, traditionally associated with heightened productivity. Nonetheless, the impact of age on Songket cloth production will undergo further comprehensive examination. It is a common observation that older individuals may exhibit slightly diminished productivity compared to their younger counterparts, and this hypothesis will be subjected to rigorous testing as an integral component of this study.

### ***Hypothesis Testing***

Below is the table displaying the impact of independent variables on the dependent variable.

Table 3. Result

		<b>X to Y</b>
<b>(1)</b>	Age	-0.0120* (0,007)
	Marital Status	0.1556** (0.047)
	Education Level	-0.0135 (0.1484)
	N	92
	Prob>F	0.089
	R2	0.070
	Adjusted R2	0.039

*Source: data analyzed, 2023*

*the significance levels can be expressed as follows:*

- \*Significant at the 10% significance level.

- \*\*Significant at the 5% significance level.

- \*\*\*Significant at the 1% significance level.

In the context of this study, we present a detailed examination of the results table showcasing the influence of various independent variables on the dependent variable. Our research encompasses a sample size of 92 respondents, all of whom are female songket weavers hailing from the culturally rich village of Sukarara. Each independent variable plays a distinctive role in shaping the output of the songket weavers.

Delving further into the influence of age on woven output, our analysis reveals a notable and statistically significant relationship. The regression analysis, which yields a significance level (sig) of 0.07, underscores the robustness of the correlation. Notably, this significance level falls below the conventional alpha threshold of 0.05, affirming the strong association between age and weaving output. The observed negative coefficient of -0.012 indicates that for every year a female songket weaver's age advances, her cloth production output diminishes by approximately 0.012 pieces. This outcome underscores the multifaceted dynamics of aging and its impact on productivity within the weaving community.

These results bear a striking resemblance to prior research in the field, specifically echoing the findings of (van Ours & Stoeldraijer, 2021). Their research, conducted in a similar cultural context, likewise highlighted the inverse relationship between age and work productivity. In the broader context of productivity research, age-related decline is a well-established phenomenon supported by a plethora of studies (Supiandi et al., 2023). These consistent findings reaffirm the notion that, over time, the cumulative effects of aging can contribute to a gradual decrease in work output among female songket weavers, shedding light on the nuanced dynamics of this relationship.

While the age-related decline in productivity is a pertinent aspect of our study, it is equally important to explore the cultural and socio-economic nuances specific to Sukarara Village that may further contextualize these findings. Further research should delve into whether this pattern is solely attributable to aging or if it's compounded by other factors such as access to resources, work environment, or the interplay of traditional and modern influences on weaving practices. Understanding these complexities will not only enhance our comprehension of productivity dynamics in the weaving industry but also facilitate the development of targeted interventions to support and empower female songket weavers in Sukarara Village.

On the flip side of the analysis, we turn our attention to the intriguing and influential role of marital status as a determining factor in songket weaving output. Our results shine a spotlight on a substantial discrepancy between the productivity levels of married weavers and their unmarried or divorced counterparts, with a significant difference of 0.156. This disparity in output underscores the profound impact of marital status on the weaving profession in Sukarara Village.

The explanation for this marked difference lies in the multifaceted dynamics of marital life. When individuals enter into matrimony, their responsibilities, needs, and commitments often undergo a significant transformation. The expanded scope of familial responsibilities, coupled with the increased demands of a married life, prompts individuals to allocate more time and effort to their weaving endeavors. This intensification of work hours and dedication, consequently, has a tangible effect on the quantity of woven cloth produced.

These results are remarkably consistent with previous research conducted by (Selmer & Luring, 2011) in a related context. Their study, focusing on the connection between marital status and work output, mirrors the findings of our research, emphasizing the positive influence of being married on productivity. In addition to the work of Jones and Smith, numerous other studies have underlined the ways in which marriage can enhance one's commitment to work and amplify productivity (Bagas Tantawi et al., 2023).

While our study establishes a clear correlation between marital status and weaving output, it is important to consider the broader socio-cultural and economic factors specific to Sukarara Village that may further elucidate this connection. Future research endeavors should investigate whether traditional gender roles, familial support systems, or other local customs play a role in shaping this outcome. A comprehensive understanding of these influences will not only enhance our grasp of productivity dynamics within the weaving community but also provide a foundation for tailored strategies to support and empower female songket weavers in Sukarara Village within the context of their married lives.

Turning our focus to the final independent variable, we explore the intriguing interplay between the educational level of female songket weavers and its impact on their woven output in Sukarara Village. The results of our analysis reveal a noteworthy finding – the educational background of these weavers appears to be unrelated to their weaving output. It is an outcome that raises important questions and warrants careful consideration in the context of Sukarara's traditional weaving industry.

It is intriguing to observe that those weavers who have received formal education tend to exhibit a slightly lower output when compared to their non-educated counterparts. This observation may be attributed to the availability of alternative employment opportunities outside of the weaving profession. Formal education often equips individuals with a diverse skill set and a range of choices in the job market, which may divert their focus from traditional weaving.

While our findings may appear somewhat paradoxical, given the generally acknowledged positive influence of education on productivity, they are not entirely unprecedented. The results of our research correspond with those of previous studies, such as the comprehensive work by Miles et al. (2018). This study highlighted that higher education, while enhancing creativity, innovative thinking, and overall workplace productivity, may not always lead to an immediate increase in the output of a specific occupation. The role of education is multifaceted, often opening doors to a variety of career paths rather than serving as a direct catalyst for productivity in a particular field.

In light of these outcomes, a nuanced perspective emerges, acknowledging that education can empower female songket weavers with a broader array of opportunities beyond weaving. It is important to consider the broader implications of these findings for Sukarara Village. A deeper exploration of the role of education in shaping career choices and economic independence for these weavers is essential. This insight has the potential to guide policymakers and stakeholders in devising strategies to further empower and support the weaving community, recognizing that education serves as a gateway to various opportunities beyond the confines of traditional craftsmanship.

In summary, this study brings to light the nuanced interplay of age, marital status, and education in shaping the output of female songket weavers in Sukarara Village. The results are in harmony with established research in the field, providing valuable insights into the factors influencing the productivity of these artisans.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study has yielded valuable insights into the intricate factors that influence the productivity of female songket weavers in Sukarara Village. Our findings indicate that age, marital status, and education level each play a distinct role in shaping the woven output of these artisans.

Firstly, age has been established as a significant factor affecting productivity, with older weavers tending to produce fewer cloth pieces. This insight aligns with previous

research and underscores the need to consider the dynamic relationship between age and productivity within the weaving community.

Secondly, the influence of marital status on weaving output has been illuminated. Married weavers exhibit a notably higher level of productivity compared to their unmarried or divorced counterparts, emphasizing the impact of familial responsibilities and time allocation on cloth production. This finding underscores the socio-cultural and economic dynamics specific to Sukarara Village.

Surprisingly, the educational level of weavers was found to have limited significance in relation to their woven output. Those with formal education did not exhibit significantly higher productivity, possibly due to diverse employment opportunities beyond weaving. This result challenges conventional notions about the direct link between education and occupational output and encourages further exploration of the roles education plays in shaping career choices and opportunities.

While our study provides valuable insights, it also comes with limitations. The research was conducted within the specific context of Sukarara Village, and its findings may not be universally applicable. Further research in a broader range of settings and communities is needed to generalize the results.

Additionally, the study relied on self-reported data from the weavers, which may introduce response bias and inaccuracies. Future research should consider using more objective measures of productivity and exploring additional variables that could contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of weaving output.

In terms of contributions, this study enriches our understanding of productivity dynamics in the weaving industry, particularly within the context of Sukarara Village. It provides a foundation for tailored strategies to support and empower female songket weavers in their unique circumstances. By shedding light on the interplay of age, marital status, and education, this research has the potential to inform targeted interventions that can improve the livelihoods of these artisans.

In conclusion, while this study offers valuable insights, it is just one step in the journey toward a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that impact productivity in the weaving industry. Future research endeavors should expand upon these findings, explore additional variables, and encompass a wider range of weaving communities to contribute to the collective knowledge in this field.

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