

# The Existence of the Mino Saroyo Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) and its Influence on the Socio-Economic Life of the Fishermen's Community in South Cilacap District, Cilacap Regency, 1978-1996

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## Abstract

This article discusses the existence of KUD Mino Saroyo and its influence on the social life of the fishing community in South Cilacap District, Cilacap Regency from 1978 to 1996. This study uses a historical method to analyze the development of KUD Mino Saroyo since its establishment and its influence on the socio-economic life of the fishing community in South Cilacap District. KUD aims to improve the welfare of its members and their families through certain businesses, such as: savings and loans/credit businesses that aim to meet the credit needs of its members, shops that provide fishing equipment and supplies, and services such as fish auctions. However, the results of the study indicate that the development of KUD Mino Saroyo has not had a significant influence on the socio-economic life of the fishing community in South Cilacap District. This can be seen from the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community which are still considered difficult. So far, the cooperative has not been fully able to provide the needs of the fishing community, such as savings and loans/credit with low administration costs and goods needed for fishing at affordable prices.

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## Introduction

The Indonesian economic system is known for three sectors of the business world, namely: state-owned enterprises, private-owned enterprises and cooperatives. Cooperatives focus their attention on the joint efforts of members and the role of people in it and not capital. Human welfare is more important and valued, while capital, although important, is seen as nothing more than a means (Sustiyono 1996, 36).

Fishing communities have long been familiar with and involved in fishermen's cooperatives. Their involvement is generally more in the activity of selling fish through auctions. In some areas of the north coast of Central Java during the 1930s, marine fisheries cooperatives were established. In 1931, a fishermen's association called Misoyo Utomo was established in Pemalang and in 1938, a marine fisheries cooperative called Misoyo Sari was established in Jepara with the main activities of organizing joint fish sales and providing credit for fishermen. In 1939, the *Fonds voor Uitleenbedrijf der Vissers Vereenigingen* or Mutual Aid Fund between Fisheries Societies was established. The agency consisted of fisheries associations and aimed to help fisheries associations that were still not strong in terms of capital by lending capital to fisheries associations that were not yet strong (Hatta 1954, 41).

Indonesia has several types of cooperatives, one of which is a fishermen's cooperative. All members of this cooperative are fishermen. Almost all or even most of the fishermen depend on the catch they get from the sea. One example of the form of village unit cooperatives in Indonesia in the fisheries sector is KUD Mino Saroyo located in South Cilacap District, Cilacap Regency. The

development of KUD Mino Saroyo started from the conversion of Marine Fisheries Cooperative (KPL) into a Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) in 1978 until the amendment of the articles of association in 1996.

Then when viewed from the fishermen's side, the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen are very diverse. There are fishermen whose level of life is prosperous or prosperous because they own several boats, but there are quite a number of fishermen whose lives are still poor. The life of fishermen in South Cilacap Sub-district during the 1970s was still simple and traditional, as seen from their lifestyle and the equipment they used. Fishermen in the coastal areas of South Cilacap were also very weak in terms of capital. This made them dependent on the owners of capital, who were usually fish buyers. Small-scale fishermen often borrow funds from the juragan as the owner of capital for the cost of fishing operations because their income is not much. Fishermen often have to borrow money to buy fishing equipment such as boats and fishing gear. This article focuses on the development of KUD Mino Saroyo and its role for the fishing community in South Cilacap Sub-district, Cilacap Regency. It also discusses the activities of fishermen in South Cilacap Subdistrict from 1978-1996.

## Methods

The method used in the preparation of this article is the historical method. In a general sense, historical method is the process of examining and analyzing records and relics of the past (Gottschalk 1975, 32). There are four stages in the historical method, namely, heuristics or source collection, criticism or source testing, interpretation and historiography. The first stage in this research is to find and collect sources, which consist of primary and secondary sources. The author searches for related sources, namely: archives of the Articles of Association and Bylaws, Annual Reports KUD Mino Saroyo and minutes of board meetings. Secondary sources used in the form of reference books, used to complete the writing of this article. In addition, the authors also conducted interviews to complement the data that already exist in primary and secondary sources.

The second stage is source criticism or verification, namely testing the sources that have been obtained by conducting source criticism. Source criticism is a process of testing the credibility and authenticity of sources. Source criticism is an activity of a researcher to obtain the truth. A researcher tries to conjecture and prove the truth about what happened in the past. This criticism aims to test the authenticity, integrity and truthfulness of the source or commonly referred to as proving the authenticity of the source (Kartodirdjo 1992, 9). The author selects informants who really understand the history of KUD Mino Saroyo and related to the research compiled by the author, namely employees of KUD Mino Saroyo, KUD Mino Saroyo Management, and KUD Mino Saroyo figures at that time. The next stage is the interpretation of the facts obtained from the source criticism process. Interpretation is done by connecting the facts that have been obtained between one another, so that the presentation of history is intact, scientific and also chronological. In this case the author connects information from the administrators and employees of KUD Mino Saroyo, the fishermen, and the internet. The final stage is historiography, which is the last step of historical writing limited by the spatial and temporal scope. Spatial scope in this study is the scope of the region and for the temporal scope is in 1978-1996 related to the development of KUD Mino Saroyo.

## Fishermen Activities in South Cilacap Subdistrict, 1978-1996

Fishing communities are communities that live in coastal areas and carry out socio-economic activities related to coastal and marine resources. Thus, fishing communities have a high dependency on the potential and condition of coastal and marine resources. A fishing community is a group of people (fishermen, fish farmers, fish traders, etc.) who live together in coastal areas forming and having a distinctive culture related to their dependence on the utilization of coastal resources (Fatmasari 2014, 145). According to Prof. Selo Soemardjan's opinion, fishermen are inseparable from structural poverty, which means that traditional fishing communities are poor due to the social system and economic system in a culture (Rasdani 1992, 94).

South Cilacap Sub-district is an urban residential area with fisheries as the dominant activity in the area located along the East Coast. The natural potential in this area is then utilized by the residents of South Cilacap Sub-district as a livelihood in the fisheries sector. For the residents of South Cilacap Sub-district, they have been working as fishermen for generations. Social life in the fishing village takes place in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and family. If one of the fishermen is hit by a disaster or has a job to do, they will immediately come to help according to their respective abilities. Another form of cooperation is seen during the sea alms ceremony. Fishermen on the coast of South Cilacap are still very weak in terms of capital. Because of the lack of capital, small fishermen often borrow funds from the juragan as the owner of the capital for the cost of fishing operations. Many fishermen also have to borrow money to buy fishing equipment such as boats and fishing gear. This debt continues or accumulates so that it cannot be paid, and makes small fishermen often get into bigger debts. Small-scale fishermen must sell their catches to the capital owners who lend them capital as compensation for debt repayment. The bargaining position of small fishermen is very weak, they can only accept prices below the market price set by the capital owner.

One of the reasons that causes this condition is the use of fishing gear or fishing methods used by fishermen in the South Cilacap Subdistrict is still traditional or very simple. The type of traditional boat used by fishermen in the South Subdistrict is the *jukung* boat. *Jukung* boats have a simple shape, the technology used is very simple, both technology in fishing gear and boat propulsion. The simplicity of technology in fishing gear used on *jukung* boats can be seen from the use of fishing rods made of strings or *kopet* nets used to catch shrimp (Tobing 1980, 1). *Jukung* boats do not use engines but use sails or oars as a boat propulsion device.

The use of fishing technology both in fishing gear and boat propulsion in South Cilacap Subdistrict entering 1971 has gradually changed. Changes in fishing gear can occur due to the development of various infrastructures that support fisheries activities (boat *landing* sites, TPI, boat repair shops, shops and fish markets). Credit assistance from the government to fishermen in South Cilacap Subdistrict who are members of the Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) is expected to improve the economic results of fishermen. The process of fisheries modernization in South Cilacap Sub-district began with the provision of credit from the government through banks aimed at small fishermen or traditional fishermen. This credit assistance has certainly had a positive impact on traditional fishermen in South Cilacap Sub-district, especially for fishermen who successfully received the assistance. One of the positive impacts resulting from this credit assistance program is the increasing number of fishermen in South Cilacap Subdistrict who change their boat technology from using only sails to motorized boats using outboard engines and sitting engines. However, the increase in the number of motorized boats owned by fishermen is not too much because the credit assistance provided by the government cannot reach all levels of the fishing community in South Cilacap Subdistrict. This is because fishermen are generally reluctant to take care of the administration, which is considered difficult for fishermen (Tobing 1981, 1).

Fishermen often experience rejection by banks when applying for credit assistance. This is because the bank is doubtful of the ability of fishermen in paying off the credit installments they apply for or the absence of collateral owned by fishermen as a condition in applying for credit assistance to the bank (Hamdani 2013, 5). The problem should be resolved if KUD willing to provide collateral to the bank so that small fishermen can get credit. However, in reality, the cooperatives are only willing to provide collateral to boat owners (Tobing 1981, 1).

### **KUD Mino Saroyo Capital Turnover, 1978-1996**

The Indonesian economic system is known for three sectors of the business world, namely: State-owned enterprises, private-owned enterprises and cooperatives. Cooperatives focus their attention on the joint efforts of members and the role of people in it and not capital. Human welfare is more important and valued, while capital, although important, is seen as nothing more than a means (Sustiyono 1996, 36). The definition is clarified and emphasized in a law, concerning the Principles of Cooperation No. 12 of 1967 as follows: "Indonesian Cooperatives is a people's economic

organization with a social character and consists of people or legal entities. Cooperatives are an economic arrangement as a joint effort based on the principle of kinship”.

The existence of fisheries cooperatives in South Cilacap Subdistrict was pioneered during the Japanese occupation government under the name Gyo-gyo Kumiai in 1942. Subsequently, in accordance with the Law on the Principles of Cooperation and the Decree of the Minister of Home Affairs No.1 of 1958 on the Adjustment of Cooperative Societies, the fisheries Kumiai was transformed into the Mino Saroyo Sea Fisheries Cooperative (KPL). With the issuance of Presidential Instruction No. 2 of 1978, the marine fisheries cooperative was transformed into a KUD (Village Unit Cooperative). The name Mino Saroyo was used as the official name of the Marine Fisheries Cooperative, Mino meaning fish and Saroyo meaning together. So Mino Saroyo means a cooperative engaged in the fisheries sector together (“Profile of KUD Mino Saroyo” 1990, 4).

The establishment of KPL was a joint effort and agreement between community leaders and fishermen in South Cilacap District. The cooperative was established with the intention of improving the welfare of members in particular and fishermen in general as well as the progress of the working area, so that it is hoped that the lives of fishermen can be better when compared to the previous situation. The vision of the establishment of KPL Mino Saroyo is to make the cooperative independent and resilient, while the mission of KPL Mino Saroyo is to increase the active role of members, improve the quality of Human Resources, increase business development in both the real and service sectors and increase cooperation with other parties in order to increase business.

In the first years of KPL Mino Saroyo's establishment in South Cilacap District, it can be said that the socio-economic condition of the local community was very low. This was due to weak capital and limited fishing equipment. KPL Mino Saroyo has not been able to attract people to become its members because some fishermen feel that KPL Mino Saroyo is not profitable. The cooperative's inability to develop itself is caused by two factors, namely internal and external factors. Internal factors that are felt include limitations regarding the amount of rotating capital, human resources, namely managers who are capable and skilled in managing management and services to the community which are considered less able to attract the interest of the fishing community to join as members. The external factor relies on the attitudes of the fishing community, which are generally influenced by the low level of education and social culture. This situation lasted especially in the years leading up to the 1970s. KPL Mino Saroyo experienced positive development after receiving guidance from the local government, and slowly KPL Mino Saroyo experienced positive development.

The Marine Fisheries Cooperative (KPL) and the Fishermen Village Unit Enterprise (BUUDN) Mino Saroyo with the issuance of Presidential Instruction No. 2 of 1978 were merged into KUD (Village Unit Cooperative) with Legal Entity 2479/12-67 6174/a/BH/VI. Management KUD Mino Saroyo at that time, elected by the members themselves. Starting with the election of candidates for the board that has been elected was submitted for re-election in the Annual Members Meeting.

Furthermore, the development of capital, capital KUD Mino Saroyo initially derived from member savings. KUD Mino Saroyo member deposits consist of principal savings, mandatory savings and voluntary savings. Principal Deposits are deposits that must be made by someone to become a member of the cooperative. Principal deposits are paid in full at the time of entry into membership, the amount of principal savings for each member of the same amount and as long as a member of the principal savings can not be requested again. Mandatory savings include a certain amount of savings to be paid by members to the cooperative at certain times and occasions, such as every month with the same amount of savings for each month. The amount of principal savings KUD Mino Saroyo members of the results of mutual agreement. At the beginning of the establishment of the amount of dues members of Rp. 25, - for one year and can be paid in installments for 6 months. Provisions regarding the principal savings dues members are set jointly in the articles of association KUD Mino Saroyo. In the further development of principal savings KUD Mino Saroyo members experienced an increase.

Based on the development of KUD Mino Saroyo and the expected future reach in the field of capital, then through the Members Meeting on September 18, 1978 determined the amount of

principal savings of Rp. 2,500, -. In the articles of association of the results of the Members' Meeting on September 18, 1978, the more explicit limitation of sources of operating capital, including: principal savings, mandatory savings, voluntary savings, reserves, loans from members or non-members, capital services from funds used by cooperatives and set with the approval of officials and other legitimate income. Capital sources in the form of reserves are the result of developments in previous times. The reserve is a supporting capital and driving cooperative business. Development of capital KUD Mino Saroyo can be seen in the Table 1 and Table 2.

The amount of principal savings members of KUD Mino Saroyo in the period of the 1990s underwent changes, changes also exist in member dues increased to Rp. 50,000, - for one year. The dues can be paid in installments within a maximum period of 6 months. Provisions regarding the principal savings dues members are set jointly in the articles of association KUD Mino Saroyo. In subsequent developments up to several years of principal savings dues KUD Mino Saroyo members did not experience an increase.

Table 1: The development of the amount of principal savings, mandatory savings and reserves KUD Mino Saroyo in 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996.

No	Year	Principal Deposits (Rp,-)	Mandatory Deposits (Rp,-)	Reserve (Rp,-)	Total (Rp,-)
1.	1990	10.000	375.000	35.000	420.000
2.	1993	15.000	438.000	48.000	501.000
3.	1994	20.000	573.000	57.000	650.000
4.	1995	28.500	640.000	85.000	753.500
5.	1996	50.000	743.000	364.000	1.157.000

Source: KUD Mino Saroyo 1996.

Table 2: Capital Development of KUD Mino saroyo in 1978, 1981, 1989, 1990 and 1993.

No	Year	Amount of Capital (Rp,-)
1.	1978	8.580.000
2.	1981	10.970.000
3.	1989	15.353.000
4.	1990	19.781.000
5.	1993	23.160.000

Source: KUD Mino Saroyo 1993.

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the capital KUD Mino Saroyo every year has increased. Capital KUD Mino Saroyo since 1978 in addition to obtained from the remaining results of operations (SHU) and members, also obtained from outside capital assistance. Capital obtained by KUD Mino Saroyo from outside comes from the loan Center Cooperative Unit Village (Puskud) Fisheries Central Java and assistance from 3rd parties. Capital assistance from the 3rd party is from shops that sell fishing gear.

### **Mino Saroyo KUD Business Entity and the Socio-Economic Life of Fishermen's Communities in South Cilacap District, 1978-1996**

KUD Mino Saroyo based on the principle of cooperatives have a business entity to manage existing natural resources. In accordance with the achievements and work together many achievements have been achieved by KUD Mino Saroyo in moving the economy that prioritizes the interests of its members (KUD Mino Saroyo 1996, 23). KUD Mino Saroyo has business units that are managed to

create new jobs for its members. It is as a driver of the community economy as well as a driver of local revenue. KUD Mino Saroyo manages business units, among others, TPI (fish auction place), savings and loans/credit, waserda/shop, etc.

KUD Mino Saroyo has several self-managed TPIs (fish auction sites) including TPI Sentolokawat, TPI Pandanarang, TPI Sidakaya and TPI Lengkong. The TPI aims to help the fishing community in distributing the fish caught by the fishermen. Fish from the auction is marketed to various places, both Cilacap itself and other regions such as Banyumas, Purbalingga, Semarang and others. However, according to some fishermen, the TPI business unit managed by KUD Mino Saroyo is less effective. The most influential factor causing fishermen to choose to sell their catches outside TPI is that the selling price of fish outside TPI is higher than the auction price at TPI. Based on an interview with one fisherman, the price of fish at middlemen or collectors is higher than the TPI price. The next factor is that fishermen prefer to sell their fish outside TPI because the time is more flexible. The landing time of some fishermen occurs at 23.00-24.00 WIB while the TPI is only open in the morning at 08.00 WIB for reasons of time effectiveness and cost efficiency related to additional costs for handling fish to keep it fresh, fishermen prefer to directly sell the catch to collectors or middlemen. Thus, the role of KUD is still limited as TPI manager. At the end of 1990, TPI was not optimally utilized as it should have been, allowing monopolistic fish trading to occur. This condition resulted in low selling price for fishermen. The small catch of fish resulted in most fishermen not utilizing the existing facility, TPI, to market their catch. In the end, most fishermen in the coastal area of South Cilacap are bound to capital owners or collective traders, thus enabling low participation of other fishermen in selling their fish at TPI. This is due to limited capital and some fishermen landing their fish at night, which causes fishermen to be reluctant to sell their fish directly to TPI. Fish auction at TPI is conducted during the day, so during that time, fishermen have to add handling costs to keep the fish fresh. The low amount of fish catch production and boat owners who double as traders also influence the lack of implementation of fish auction at TPI (Sudiyono 2021).

This condition causes not all fishermen in the coastal area of South Cilacap to feel the function of TPI, resulting in fishermen's reluctance to auction fish at TPI. TPI provides *cool storage/freezer* facilities for fish storage for fishermen who will auction their fish at TPI on condition that they pay a fee of Rp100-200 rupiah per kilogram and calculated per day. Some fishermen feel that TPI is not profitable as well as lack of facilities provided for fishermen such as clean water. The objection of fishermen to sell their catch at TPI is also caused by the retribution fee that is considered burdensome and the unloading service fee when the boat lands (Hartowo 1991).

Then the business unit in another field, namely savings and loans/ credit. Unit savings and loans/ credit is a form of business units KUD Mino Saroyo that aims to meet the business needs of its members or the community through the distribution of loan funds. This savings and loan unit was established in 1967. Cooperatives can provide loans to members with the following conditions, namely, the loan is given for production and consumptive purposes. Production needs are for the purposes of increasing the production of fisheries, agriculture, livestock, crafts and so on. Consumptive purposes, namely for the purposes of daily living needs, including for the health and education needs of members. But the savings and loan business unit run by KUD Mino Saroyo less run well. Funding or loans available to fishermen is still lacking, especially capture fishermen who need immediate funds to cover the cost of fishing operations, the purchase of boats and machinery and fishing gear. The main reason is that fishers have lost credibility and trust from credit source institutions such as local banks. Therefore, fishers prefer to borrow capital from the juragan and bakul.

Waserda or also known as a one-stop shop is one form of KUD Mino Saroyo business unit that aims to meet the daily needs of fishermen such as rice, sugar, oil and coffee. Waserda also provides fishing equipment such as nets, lights, firewood and provides fish preservatives such as ice and salt. Waserda owned by KUD Mino Saroyo already has a fairly good management. However, not all fishermen want to buy their needs in the waserda. This is due to the selling price in the waserda KUD Mino Saroyo fairly more expensive than ordinary shops. Fishermen prefer to buy outside the store managed by KUD. Overall, the business units run by KUD Mino Saroyo have not played an effective

role in the socio-economic life of the community in South Cilacap District. The standard of living of fishermen is still relatively low and capital for fishermen to go to sea also remains difficult to obtain.

## Conclusion

KUD Mino Saroyo is a cooperative located in Cilacap Village, South Cilacap District. The cooperative was first established in 1942 under the name *Gyoi-Gyoi Kumiai* (Japanese language), then in accordance with the Cooperative Law No. 79 of 1958 was changed to Primary Marine Fisheries Cooperative (KPL). Then with the issuance of Presidential Instruction No. 2 of 1978 concerning Village Unit Business Entities / Village Unit Cooperatives, KPL and BUUD were merged into KUD (Village Unit Cooperative) which was then named KUD Mino Saroyo.

The establishment of KPL was a joint effort and agreement between community leaders and fishermen in South Cilacap District. The cooperative was established with the intention of improving the welfare of members in particular and fishermen in general as well as the progress of the working area, so that it is hoped that the lives of fishermen can be better when compared to the previous situation. The vision of the establishment of KPL Mino Saroyo is to make the cooperative independent and resilient, while the mission of KPL Mino Saroyo is to increase the active role of members, improve the quality of Human Resources, increase business development in both the real and service sectors and increase cooperation with other parties in order to increase business.

KUD Mino Saroyo also as an alternative institution for the fishing community is expected to provide access to capital, guidance on fishing technology, price guarantors in favor of the interests of fishermen, especially the interests of its members. But in reality, the existence of KUD Mino Saroyo as an economic institution of fishing communities is still exploratory and tends to be monopolistic. KUD Mino Saroyo is nothing more than a levy-pulling institution so that its existence has not been able to solve the problems that exist in fishing communities. KUD has not had an adequate role for the fishing community.

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