

# Snapshot: Economic empowerment of marginalised women in Aceh Besar

*Testimonies from marginalised women in Jruek Bale village, Aceh Besar district, about the economic benefits from their participation in PEKKA's Akademi Paradigta course. These testimonies were gathered on 4 November 2023 during an INKLUSI Secretariat monitoring visit.*



**Setyo Rini**

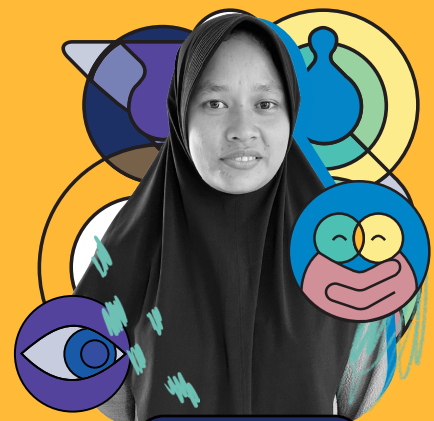
Setyo Rini previously worked in a group sewing Gayo embroidery (*sulam Gayo*) for an American company called Banda Bags to turn into bags, wallets and other products. After participating in PEKKA's Akademi Paradigta classes, she gained the confidence to establish and lead her own embroidery group, realising that she had high-quality sewing skills needed to meet international demand, and could

teach others these skills. Her group provides embroidery for around 100 bags per month for Banda Bags. Through this process, she has doubled her own income, and also created economic opportunities for the other women who have joined her group. This is what PEKKA calls 'women driving the economy' (*perempuan penggerak ekonomi*).

“ Now I employ people around me who can sew. Actually, I've gained a lot of benefits from taking part [in Akademi Paradigta], such as how to manage household finances, [understanding] the issue of female heads of families ... So I can help my husband and I can benefit too because I have my own business ... So, if you ask about the benefits of [Akademi Paradigta], there are so many – it's hard to talk about [all of them]. ”

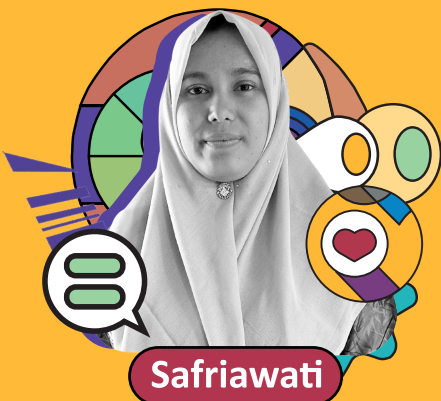
After taking part in Akademi Paradigta classes, Siti Rauzah learned a range of skills, including how to manage household finances, and how to open a business and sell products. Using these skills, she opened her own bakery business selling *roti sale* (bread filled with sarikaya jam) at coffee shops and in a small kiosk in front of her house. She makes around 100 to 150 packets of *roti sale*

each day, which she sells for Rp 5,000 each. This is the first time she has opened her own business. Previously her husband sold *roti sale*, but now she has taken over his business. This has enabled her husband to open a new business breeding livestock, which in turn has led to increased income for her family.



**Siti Rauzah**

“ This has been able to help my family financially ... So now we have 2 incomes, our income has increased. I'm selling *roti sale* at home and in my kiosk, while my husband works another job. This has increased our income a little. ”



**Safriawati**

“ I've been making and selling clothes since 2015. After taking part in [Akademi Paradigta], I'm more confident to take this forward. Now I've had the courage to open a "Serba 35" [a strategy of selling all items for Rp 35,000 to attract customers] ... I think this has had a big impact on my family because ... by selling clothes I'm earning an income [which can be] saved ... As women, having our own income can ... help us be more independent. ”

“ Previously I didn't have the self-confidence to talk in front of groups ... But now I've started to have the confidence to open meetings in the village ... for example, to discuss women's problems in the village with PKK [Pemberdayaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga – family welfare empowerment] members ... After taking part in the Akademi Paradigta class ... I was inspired to plant vegetables next to the house, like tomatoes, chillies, betel ... which we can harvest and sell. ”



**Junita**