

Interpretation of Ethno-economic on Work Participation of *Mbojo* Ethnic Married Women in West Nusa Tenggara (Indonesia)

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ABSTRACT This research aims to interpret ethno-economic factors on work activity conducted by *Mbojo* ethnic married women in West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The research was conducted by utilizing the ethnology qualitative method in which the researchers described the ethno-economic reality influencing *Mbojo* ethnic married women's work participation. The data were collected from married women as key informants. On the other hand, household members and other informants acted as supporting informants (utilized in validation test as well). This research managed to describe the following ethno-economic factors: education, local culture, household type, salary, husband income, and household asset. The research results exhibit that these women work for economic security and independence, and/or to increase their social economic status in the community. However, they work not for the sake of rights equality, but for improving household social and economic security. They consider work as a form of worship; thus, there is no role-exchange occurring. The research finds that the reason married women work is due to economic factors. The high needs of families and increasing prices do not always go in the same direction. The increase in prices causes the wife to work and help the husband in earning a living. In addition to economic problems, there are also women who work for non-economic reasons and want to devote the knowledge that they have gained. The findings of this study conclude that there are two major things that become main reasons women marry *Mbojo* ethnic. First is that they do double roles because it is *must*, and the second is that they work because of *choice*. Work is a source of income, and work is self-actualization. Although they work in the public sector, domestic work remains a priority.