

# THE IMPACT OF COASTAL RECLAMATION ON GENDER INEQUALITY AND CHILD VULNERABILITY IN PESISIR PANJANG, BANDAR LAMPUNG

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## **Abstract**

Coastal reclamation carried out by PT Sinar Jaya Inti Mulya (SJIM) in 2023 along the Panjang Coast, Bandar Lampung, has generated a range of social problems, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as women and children. Fishing communities that had previously relied on the sea as their primary source of livelihood are now confronted with the loss of fishing grounds, declining fish catches, and the erosion of human resource capacity. This study aims to analyze the impacts of reclamation on gender inequality and child vulnerability using a qualitative case study approach. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with women fishers, male fishers, and representatives of the marine and fisheries office, as well as through direct observation at the reclamation site. The findings reveal that women have suffered from health problems due to air pollution (dust), psychological stress caused by the loss of income, and increased domestic burdens. Meanwhile, children have been significantly affected in terms of health, the loss of both terrestrial and marine play spaces, and psychological distress resulting from drastic changes in their social and ecological environment. Reclamation thus produces not only economic and environmental challenges but also exacerbates gender inequality and heightens children's social vulnerability. Therefore, it is crucial to integrate gender perspectives and child protection into coastal development policies to prevent future social disasters.

*Key word: Coastal reclamation, Gender inequality, Child vulnerability, Human capital*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia is a country with extensive coastal areas that hold enormous potential. This potential makes coastal zones highly attractive for communities as residential areas, recreational sites, and business locations (Rahayu, 2019; R. Rahmawati & Firman, 2018). Approximately 60% of Indonesia's population—equivalent to 132 million people—reside in coastal areas, which are classified as coastal villages or settlements. The most productive

zones of the coastal region are the nearshore areas, which constitute one of the world's key ecosystems, playing a critical role in climate regulation and fish production (Pakpahan, 2023; Pratama et al., 2021).

The ocean provides a habitat for numerous species that are essential for sustaining life on Earth (Chelsie & Kawonal, 2024; Husna & Alibasyah, 2012; Mahendra & Purwanti, 2023). Coastal zones represent one of the planet's richest ecosystems, offering diverse benefits for various human activities. This vast potential makes coastal resources an essential foundation for development; however, coastal development often leads to marine ecosystem degradation and resource depletion. One major cause is land reclamation, which converts coastal and marine areas into terrestrial land (Said, 2019; Tuntas, 2023).

Reclamation is recognized as a form of coastal zone management (Ayu et al., 2019; Mahendra & Purwanti, 2023). The legal framework is provided by Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 27/2007, later amended by Law No. 1/2014 on Coastal Zone and Small Island Management. The law defines reclamation as an activity undertaken to enhance the utility of land resources from environmental and socio-economic perspectives through land filling, drainage, or drying (Pratama et al., 2021; Rahayu, 2019; R. Rahmawati & Firman, 2018).

Reclamation projects must be planned within designated coastal and small-island zoning areas (Ayu et al., 2019; D. Rahmawati & Izzatusholekha, 2023). Legally, reclamation should be regulated at the provincial level through coastal zoning regulations and licensing schemes. In practice, reclamation requires approval from multiple stakeholders, including the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, as stipulated in Ministerial Regulation No. 40/PRT/M/2007 on Guidelines for Coastal Reclamation Spatial Planning. Since reclamation directly affects the lives of many people, it inevitably generates both positive and negative impacts, particularly on coastal communities (Chelsie & Kawonal, 2024).

Previous researches (Ainun & Nurwati, 2023; Pakpahan, 2023; Pratama et al., 2021; Rahayu, 2019; Said, 2019) have noted that reclamation can generate positive impacts, such as the creation of new land for urban expansion, coastal planning, tourism development, and other purposes. From an economic perspective, reclamation is argued to enhance the quality of life and economic value of coastal communities by generating employment opportunities and

providing additional productive land (Chelsie & Kawonal, 2024; Mahendra & Purwanti, 2023). From an environmental perspective, reclamation has been claimed to prevent erosion and improve aquatic habitats. For instance, in Barru, South Sulawesi, reclamation was perceived to have positive outcomes, particularly by stimulating local economic growth.

On the other hand, reclamation also produces significant negative consequences, particularly for fishing communities who lose their primary source of livelihood. Reclamation alters the natural, social, economic, and cultural structures of coastal communities (Pakpahan, 2023; Rahayu, 2019; R. Rahmawati & Firman, 2018). It contributes to seawater pollution, ecosystem degradation, and the loss of access to traditional fishing grounds, leading to a decline in fish catches and, consequently, shifts in the socio-economic conditions of fishers (Ainun & Nurwati, 2023; Chelsie & Kawonal, 2024; Husna & Alibasyah, 2012).

A further example can be found in Serangan Island, Bali, where reclamation has significantly altered the lives of local fishers (Pakpahan, 2023). Fishing grounds have become increasingly restricted due to land conversion, while boat parking spaces have diminished. As a result, many young people and elders have been forced to abandon fishing and shift to alternative occupations (Pakpahan, 2023; Tuntas, 2023). These negative impacts have reshaped local perceptions of the sea. Consequently, reclamation remains a contentious issue among civil society organizations, which argue that it generates substantial losses by eliminating fishers' access to their primary livelihood activities.

One of the regions with extensive coastal areas is Bandar Lampung. Panjang District serves as a crucial base for traditional fishing communities, where small-scale fishing activities contribute significantly to household and community food security. However, these activities have been disrupted by the coastal reclamation project implemented in 2023 (T. P. Jaya & Susanti, 2023; Roy, 2016b; Tuntas, 2023). The reclamation process has limited access to traditional fishing grounds for small-scale fishers, resulting in declining catches, reduced daily income, and weakened household food security (P. T. Jaya & Putri, 2023; KKP, 2023; Konsentris, 2024).

In response to these challenges, fishing households—whose livelihoods are highly dependent on the sea—have struggled to sustain their way of life amid development projects led by PT. Sinar Jaya Inti Mulya (SJIM). Since the start of the reclamation project, fishers have been

forced to venture farther offshore, as their customary fishing grounds have been directly affected. Consequently, the economic stability of coastal households has deteriorated, leading to broader impacts on basic needs such as food and clothing (Kupastuntas, 2025; Roy, 2016a; Saputra, 2023, 2025; Susanti & Jaya, 2023).

Reports in local media highlight public resistance to the reclamation project by PT. SJIM in Bandar Lampung, as communities—particularly fishers—perceive the project as detrimental. Importantly, the impacts of reclamation are not experienced uniformly; they vary significantly across gender lines (Rahayu, 2019; R. Rahmawati & Firman, 2018; Tuntas, 2023). Social constructions often assign men the role of household breadwinners, while domestic responsibilities, including childcare, are primarily relegated to women. Thus, when livelihood resources decline due to reclamation, men and women experience gender-differentiated impacts.

Gender relations within fishing households had already reflected inequality prior to reclamation (Chelsie & Kawonal, 2024; Rahayu, 2019). Women's roles in fisheries have often been overlooked, despite their crucial importance in sustaining household well-being and child-rearing. Women's income-generating contributions are frequently undervalued, leaving them in subordinate positions compared to men (Pakpahan, 2023; Rahayu, 2019; R. Rahmawati & Firman, 2018). This inequality is also visible within household divisions of labor: while both husbands and wives contribute financially, the burden of domestic work largely falls on women.

This situation aligns with Walby's (1990) theory of patriarchy, which conceptualizes patriarchy as a system that dominates, oppresses, and exploits women. Walby identifies six structures of patriarchy: gendered production, household labor, culture, violence against women, sexuality, and the state. Everyday practices that conform to socially constructed expectations of men and women reinforce these patriarchal structures (Walby, 1990).

Reclamation has reshaped existing gender roles, for instance by displacing women fishworkers from their livelihoods. Inequality emerges because development policies frequently fail to account for the needs and voices of women and children. Drawing on Butler's (1999) notion of *gender performativity*—that gender is not something we possess but something we enact—gendered practices shape who we are in social reality. Yet, this aspect

is often overlooked in development policies, including in the study area. To understand the social consequences of PT. SJIM's reclamation project, it is therefore crucial to adopt a gender perspective.

This raises key questions: What are the specific experiences of women and children? How do they differ from those of men? And in what ways does reclamation exacerbate gender inequality and child vulnerability in Panjang's coastal communities? In the study area, women are classified as laborers because they do not go to sea to catch fish. Instead, they are responsible for cleaning fish, selling flake ice, processing fish into food products, and carrying out other land-based activities at fish landing and storage sites, which are typically located near their homes.

Reclamation can become a social disaster when it intensifies gender inequality and child vulnerability, demonstrating that its impacts extend beyond economic and environmental issues. Accordingly, the objective of this study is to analyze how the 2023 reclamation project in Panjang, Bandar Lampung, has reinforced gender inequality and heightened child vulnerability.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study employed a qualitative research method with a case study approach (Creswell, 2016). The case study approach was chosen to enable an in-depth and comprehensive exploration of the phenomenon. The study participants included fishers, women, and policymakers, with a specific focus on women who were employed and directly affected by the reclamation project carried out by PT. SJIM. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with informants and direct observations at the reclamation site, aiming to develop a contextual, holistic, and reflective understanding of the impacts. The data were analyzed thematically to identify the effects of reclamation on women and children in the study area.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

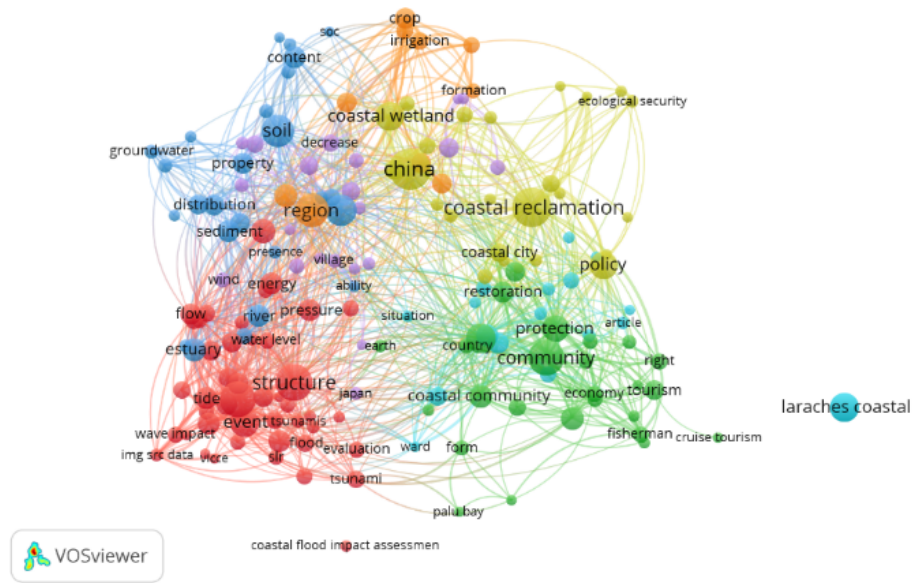
### **Research Location and Reclamation Context**

This study was conducted in Karang Panjang Beach, Karang Maritim Subdistrict, Panjang District, Bandar Lampung City. The local community in this area has been directly affected by the reclamation project undertaken by PT SJIM. According to data from the Karang

Maritim Subdistrict Office, the area is divided into three neighborhoods: Neighborhood I consists of 14 RTs (neighborhood units), Neighborhood II consists of 6 RTs, and Neighborhood III consists of 7 RTs. The total population of the area reaches 8,740 people, with a gender distribution indicating that the number of men exceeds that of women by more than 3,000. This demographic imbalance between men and women constitutes an important aspect in understanding the broader social, economic, and gender inequality dynamics within the coastal community.

The people of Karang Maritim engage in a variety of occupations that reflect the characteristics of a coastal area strongly dependent on marine natural resources. The most dominant professions are fishers and factory workers, with a total of 1,175 individuals. These professions illustrate not only the reliance on the marine ecosystem and surrounding industries but also the community's socio-economic vulnerability when coastal areas undergo ecological changes due to reclamation. In addition to fishers and factory workers, other significant occupations include traders (972 individuals) and farmers (62 individuals). These data highlight that most residents depend on the informal sector and local resources, which are highly vulnerable to environmental changes and development policies that lack inclusivity.

From a sociological perspective, these conditions indicate that reclamation brings not only ecological impacts but also transforms the socio-economic structure of coastal communities. The community's high dependence on marine resources and informal sector employment makes the people of Karang Maritim particularly vulnerable to reclamation impacts—both directly, such as the loss of access to fishing grounds, and indirectly, such as declining quality of life due to land-use shifts and environmental degradation. Therefore, understanding this research location is crucial for situating the structural dynamics in which physical development intersects with social and gender inequalities that accumulate within coastal areas.



**Figure 1. Bibliometric Map of the Coastal Reclamation Topic**  
*Source: Literature Review Results, 2025*

Based on the results of the bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer, it can be observed that global scholarly discussions on coastal reclamation are divided into several main clusters, namely ecological impacts, policy, coastal physical structures, and the socio-economic aspects of coastal communities. The cluster most relevant to the focus of this study is the green cluster, which highlights the interconnection between coastal reclamation, community, social protection, and specific issues in developing countries such as Indonesia. Keywords such as *community*, *coastal community*, *protection*, *fisherman*, *tourism*, and *Indonesia* indicate that in coastal nations like Indonesia, reclamation is not only an ecological and spatial planning issue but also a source of social pressure affecting community life structures, particularly vulnerable groups such as women and children.

The dominance of community and protection issues in this visualization supports field findings that coastal communities in Panjang—particularly women and children—are among the most affected by the reclamation carried out by PT SJIM. The community’s economic dependence on fisheries and the informal sector makes reclamation a direct threat to their primary livelihoods, thereby exacerbating gender inequality. Women in fishing households not only face economic hardship but also bear a double burden as household managers amid economic uncertainty.

At the same time, children are becoming increasingly vulnerable to exploitation, school dropout, and the loss of play spaces due to the disappearance of coastal areas that once formed part of their social lives. Unfortunately, issues related to gender inequality and child vulnerability have not received explicit attention in the global reclamation literature, as evidenced by the absence of keywords such as *gender*, *women*, or *child* in the mapping. This indicates that perspectives on gender equality and child protection remain a gap in the global discourse on coastal reclamation, further underscoring the urgency and relevance of this study in filling that void.

### **The Impact of Reclamation on Women in Panjang Coastal Area**

The coastal reclamation carried out by PT SJIM has generated adverse consequences for women's welfare, health, exposure to pollution, and psychological well-being. Beyond these direct effects, women face an increased workload, a loss of control over resources, and diminished access to employment opportunities. The project also reinforces gendered divisions of labor, where men are constructed as the most productive economic actors, while women are relegated to the reproductive sphere, confined to domestic responsibilities. Butler (1999) highlights the importance of interrogating gender within development, as women frequently become victims of patriarchal and capitalist frameworks that reproduce asymmetrical power relations.

Within this context, women are disproportionately burdened by the economic pressures induced by reclamation. Field evidence from Panjang demonstrates that women are not confined to domestic roles but also sustain household economies through seafood processing, small-scale trade, and other informal activities. The disruption of these economic spaces due to reclamation has therefore deepened gender inequalities, forcing women to shoulder a double burden as both economic providers and primary caretakers in conditions of heightened uncertainty.

The environmental transformation triggered by PT SJIM's reclamation has further reshaped community life, disrupting livelihoods that once ensured household survival. As narrated by Mrs. Neneng, a citizen of Karang Maritim living within the reclamation zone, the drastic environmental changes have directly affected community health—particularly that of women, who spend extended periods within domestic spaces exposed to pollution and degraded living conditions. Her testimony underscores how reclamation not only alters ecological



systems but also intensifies the everyday vulnerabilities of women in coastal households. Bu Neneng stated:

*"It's all mud and dust now. Before, there was no mud here, but now everything has turned into mud. And now, it's just dust. Because over there, they dredged the land. The dust is everywhere—even inside the house, it feels like living next to a busy road. Every two or three days, we have to wipe it clean. Before, near the sea, there was no dust, but now it's everywhere. The coughing never stops—it just won't go away." (Bu Neneng, 27/06/2025).*

The statement delivered by Bu Neneng demonstrates that the reclamation project carried out by PT SJIM has generated impacts extending beyond the coastal ecosystem, directly influencing the everyday living environment of local residents. As revealed in her testimony, the dredging activities have produced excessive dust and mud, transforming what was once a clean and livable area into an unhealthy and polluted settlement. The decline in air quality caused by these activities has created respiratory risks, particularly for women who spend most of their time in and around the household. This shows how environmental degradation resulting from reclamation manifests in gendered health consequences, where women are disproportionately exposed due to their domestic roles and daily routines.

Another critical impact highlighted in the field findings concerns the community's main source of food—fish. Reclamation has led to significant scarcity, disrupting the fishing-based food system that coastal families rely upon. For women, who are primarily responsible for securing and preparing daily meals, the decline in fish availability represents more than an economic disruption; it is also a direct threat to household food security and nutritional stability. Bu Neneng further elaborated that families in Panjang, whose sustenance is deeply tied to the sea, are now forced to face daily uncertainty in meeting their food needs. This underscores how reclamation undermines both ecological sustainability and social reproduction, positioning women as the most vulnerable group in sustaining family life under deteriorating conditions. Bu Neneng stated:

*"That is why, even though we live by the sea, we rarely eat fish anymore. In the past, we never missed eating fish every day, but now it has become difficult to have fish at our meals." (Bu Neneng, 27/06/2025).*

This testimony highlights a paradox of coastal reclamation: communities living directly by the sea are increasingly deprived of access to their staple food source. The scarcity of fish caused by reclamation not only undermines food security but also disrupts the social and

cultural fabric of coastal households where fish consumption is both a daily necessity and a marker of local identity. In this context, women bear a disproportionate burden, as they are primarily responsible for household food provisioning. The decline in fish availability forces women to adapt by seeking alternative, often more expensive, food sources, thereby increasing their economic stress. Moreover, this situation illustrates how reclamation projects such as those undertaken by PT SJIM generate a chain of vulnerabilities that go beyond ecological degradation, directly translating into nutritional insecurity and exacerbating gender inequalities within coastal communities.

This condition demonstrates a decline in fishing capacity and access to nutritious food, which simultaneously increases the domestic burden placed on women. Women's economic activities, previously dependent on post-harvest processes such as sorting, selling, and small-scale trading of fish, have also been severely disrupted. The loss of fishers' access to the sea has not only diminished the supply of fresh fish for household consumption but has also undermined the livelihoods of small traders who depend on this local distribution system. Bu Neneng shared her testimony regarding the impacts generated by PT SJIM's reclamation project as following sentences:

“Even those who own boats now find it difficult to buy fish for trading. It used to be easy, ma'am; the small traders here could simply trade in small quantities. Fish caught by the locals were sometimes sold at the market or just shared around. Women here who wanted to trade could easily take some. Now, even the ice sellers have had their refrigerators taken away. Ice was essential for going out to sea—two refrigerators would normally be emptied in one trip. Now, it's hard to get even that,” said Bu Neneng (27/06/2025).

This testimony highlights not only the collapse of the micro-distribution system of marine products but also the broader socio-economic disintegration of a coastal livelihood system that was once community-based and highly gendered. The sea, which previously functioned as the backbone of household economies, has been transformed from a site of subsistence and informal trade into a restricted and commodified space. Even the seemingly simple supply chain—such as access to ice to preserve fish freshness—has now been disrupted, creating a domino effect on both household survival strategies and local market dynamics.

The reclamation policy, implemented without adequate social analysis, has exacerbated the marginalization of vulnerable groups. In particular, women are doubly burdened: first, as household providers who must ensure food security under increasingly difficult

circumstances; and second, as economic actors whose informal contributions remain invisible in formal fisheries statistics but are vital to sustaining household incomes. By reclaiming the sea without considering these social dimensions, PT SJIM's project has effectively dispossessed women of their livelihood base, reinforcing structural inequalities and exposing the gendered nature of environmental injustice in coastal communities.

Women are the first group to lose their social and economic functions. Women's work as traders and flake ice (block ice) providers—activities that have long been part of their livelihood strategies and enabled them to meet the daily needs of their families—has now been completely shut down as a consequence of reclamation. Although the income was modest, these activities were sufficient to cover basic necessities such as rice, side dishes, children's school allowances, and other household expenses. Coastal residents in Panjang acknowledge that before reclamation, this income was enough to sustain their daily needs.

The increasingly precarious economic conditions caused by reclamation have forced women in Panjang's coastal areas to search for alternative means of earning income. However, their lack of skills outside the fisheries sector leaves them with limited options, as their livelihoods have always been deeply tied to the sea. Structurally, reclamation has marginalized coastal women from decision-making processes and from access to vital resources, despite their position as active users of coastal spaces in sustaining household economies.

As women's capacity to perform productive roles declines, gender inequality within society deepens. From the perspective of sustainable and gender-just development, this case illustrates the failure of both the state and corporations to recognize and protect women's roles in the coastal economy. The impacts are not only economic but also psychological, as women are traditionally responsible for preparing fishing-related supplies, including the provision of flake ice. The reduction in women's income directly affects household economic stability, often forcing families to adopt coping strategies that compromise well-being.

The systematic exclusion of women from policy design and coastal development programs is a critical factor exacerbating the burdens women face during times of crisis. Women are frequently absent from planning processes and, as a result, receive little to no information about policies or projects that directly affect their communities. When reclamation generates negative impacts, women and men experience them differently, with women bearing the

brunt of social and economic displacement. Reclamation policies that are not community-based, therefore, strip women of their social and economic functions, while simultaneously reinforcing their invisibility in the governance of coastal development.

### The Impact of Reclamation on Children in Pesisir Panjang

Children are a vital asset in the life of a nation. The extent of investment that the state can currently allocate to improve children's quality of life in Indonesia—whether in health, education, or protection—will determine not only the nation's success in the coming “golden era” but also its long-term future. Every child has the right to survival, growth, development, and protection. These rights are guaranteed by the Law No. 4 of 1979 on Child Welfare, Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Indonesian government, through the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020–2024, has emphasized the importance of building a child-friendly state and strengthening a fiscal system that is responsive to children's rights, taking into account cultural diversity and geographical conditions. However, ensuring the fulfillment of children's rights remains a major challenge. The success of this endeavor is closely tied to family welfare and economic factors, which are especially fragile in coastal communities.

The impacts of coastal reclamation are not only experienced by adults but also place immense pressure on children's lives and future. Children living in Pesisir Panjang, Bandar Lampung, face multidimensional consequences of reclamation, ranging from the disruption of safe play environments, increased economic strain on families, to deteriorating health conditions caused by pollution and environmental degradation. Although children are not direct actors in the reclamation process, they have become its silent victims, bearing the costs of an ecologically and socially unjust development policy.

One resident, Bu Fatonah (BF), whose husband works as a fisherman, shared her experience of how reclamation has affected her children. She described behavioral changes in her son after the reclamation project began, stating:

*“Ever since the landfilling started—before that, there were still plenty of fish. But now, my son often comes home from fishing trips upset and fighting with his friends. It's exhausting for me. To find fish, they now have to go much farther away from the village.” (Bu Fatonah, 27/06/2025)*

This testimony illustrates how reclamation does not merely disrupt livelihoods, but also reshapes family dynamics and children's psychological well-being. The increasing difficulty in accessing fish not only reduces household income but also exposes children to stress, frustration, and behavioral changes. In this way, the policy of reclamation--undertaken without careful ecological and social justice considerations--ultimately exacerbates intergenerational vulnerability in coastal communities.

This statement also illustrates that the loss of access to the sea and coastal areas—which previously served as natural play spaces—has had a direct impact on children's behavior and psychological well-being. Children have lost safe open spaces where they can engage in creativity, social interaction, and physical activity. The absence of such spaces generates social tension among children, heightens the potential for conflict, and leaves parents struggling to manage children who no longer have adequate environments to grow and play in healthy ways. This suggests that coastal reclamation indirectly erodes vital social and ecological spaces that are crucial for children's development.

Ecological transformations resulting from reclamation—such as dredging, landfilling, and the mobilization of heavy materials—have also created air and environmental pollution that aggravate children's health conditions. As noted by BN, dust generated by reclamation activities often causes persistent coughing, posing risks to children's respiratory health. Airborne pollutants from reclamation dust are particularly harmful to children, who are biologically more vulnerable to fine particles and more dependent on healthy environments for their development.

The deterioration of air quality in coastal communities has led to prolonged respiratory problems and heightened risks of other illnesses. Children who once played freely around their homes and along the beach are now confined to residential compounds or mosque courtyards, as parents fear the effects of dust and debris. These consequences extend beyond physical health, affecting children's emotional and psychological balance. For optimal growth, children require sufficient space to move, exposure to sunlight, and opportunities for social stimulation—necessities that are increasingly constrained by the loss of green and healthy environments in reclamation-affected areas.

Referring to the statement from the Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, it was noted that:

“They are constructing the GTO, whether it is a factory or other facilities, through reclamation. The impact is clear—one of the consequences is the depletion of fish resources. Moreover, when reclamation covers residential areas, the community’s access to the sea is disrupted. This is one of the detrimental effects for both fishers and the wider community. Beyond that, in terms of marine spatial use, such technological and industrial developments carry extremely high risks for natural resources.” (Bu Pia, 30/06/2025).

This statement underscores that restricted access to the sea is not merely a matter of fishers’ livelihoods or household economies. It directly relates to the broader process of social reproduction—the capacity of a community to nurture, raise, and guide its younger generations toward a sustainable future. When children’s rightful spaces are curtailed, the next generation loses the foundations necessary for growth and meaningful contribution to society.

The reclamation carried out in Panjang, Bandar Lampung by PT SJIM therefore extends far beyond environmental degradation and economic disruption. It generates a profound crisis of child protection. By eliminating or limiting open spaces, polluting healthy environments, and undermining social cohesion, reclamation jeopardizes the physical, psychological, and social well-being of children.

This situation calls for serious attention from the government, which is directly involved in the reclamation process. Policymakers must take into account the vulnerability of children, including their need for access to open spaces, healthy environments, quality education, and protection from indirect consequences of development projects. Without such considerations, reclamation risks becoming a model of unbalanced development that perpetuates intergenerational injustice, leaving future generations with diminished opportunities and heightened vulnerabilities.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study set out to examine the impacts of coastal reclamation carried out by PT SJIM in the Panjang coastal area of Bandar Lampung, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups—women and children. Based on field observations and in-depth interviews with affected

residents, relevant government officials, and local leaders such as fishing community heads, it was found that reclamation generates significant and uneven socio-ecological consequences.

In particular, women experience a double burden as a result of reclamation. The impact is not limited to economic losses from reduced access to marine resources that had long served as a source of household income, but also extends to physical and psychological well-being. Dust exposure from reclamation activities disrupts health, causes persistent coughing, and worsens household air quality. Furthermore, the destabilization of household economies and the loss of women's productive activities—such as trading fish or selling ice—exacerbate psychological stress. In this sense, reclamation marginalizes women not only structurally, but also ecologically and existentially.

The repercussions of these conditions are also felt by children. Children lose safe and clean play spaces, both on land and in water, which had previously been integral to their social lives and development. Air pollution and dust compromise their physical health, while household economic pressures and the erosion of healthy social interactions create substantial psychological strain. Children become more prone to conflict, spend more time confined indoors, and begin to lose the ecological ties that once bound them closely to the sea and coastal environment.

Coastal reclamation, by neglecting social, gender, and child-centered dimensions, produces new inequalities and expands the spectrum of community vulnerability. The impacts on women include health risks, environmental pollution, and psychological stress, while the impacts on children include compromised health, polluted air, and the loss of freedom to play and grow in a safe environment. Pollution from dust and heavy machinery traffic associated with dredging further exacerbates these conditions around residential areas.

This study underscores that coastal reclamation should not be assessed solely in terms of technical feasibility or economic growth. Rather, it must also be understood from the standpoint of social and ecological justice, particularly in protecting those most affected yet least heard: women and children.

Based on the findings, this study recommends that coastal reclamation policies in Bandar Lampung should be reoriented toward an inclusive and justice-based framework. The

government needs to ensure that reclamation projects are preceded by comprehensive social and environmental impact assessments that explicitly incorporate gender and child-sensitive dimensions, accompanied by strict enforcement of environmental regulations. In parallel, companies such as PT SJIM must take greater responsibility by adopting corporate social responsibility programs that address the needs of women and children, minimize pollution through environmentally sound technologies, and create participatory grievance mechanisms for affected residents. Civil society organizations and local communities also play an essential role in strengthening monitoring, advocating for accountability, and ensuring that women's leadership and children's rights are central in reclamation debates. Ultimately, reclamation should not be reduced to a technical or economic project, but must be integrated with policies that protect livelihoods, safeguard ecological sustainability, and uphold social justice for the most vulnerable groups.

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