

Research Article

Gender Gaps in the Fisheries Groups in Southern Sumatra Indonesia

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ORCIDNurwanti: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-8628-3282>**Abstract.**

The southern part of Sumatra Island consists of the provinces of South Sumatra, Lampung, Jambi, Bengkulu, and Bangka Belitung. Generally, the growth of fisheries' main actor groups is based on physical matters or oriented toward homogeneity or physical similarities owned by each member, such as age, gender, ethnicity, color, religion, business, and other physical characteristics. From a gender perspective, these groups have a gap between men and women. Among them are women's representation in aquaculture and fishing groups. In addition, the male model in the processing/marketing group is also low. This role of women is caused by social and cultural constructions, role discrimination, stereotypes, marginalization of women in society, and women's dual roles in public and domestic aspects of daily life. The socio-cultural building in question is that women are unlikely to go out in the sea to catch fish. In certain ethnicities, women's access to productive assets and sources of capital is limited, and women's ability to improve knowledge and technology still needs to be improved. This paper aims to introduce the gender gaps in fisheries groups located in five provinces in Southern Sumatra in Indonesia. This study uses the gender analysis perspective approach. The roles of women and men in different fishery activities were described based on the gender analysis framework which is composed of an activity profile, access and control profile, and factors and trends. As a result, men dominate productive roles, while women dominate reproductive and household activities. Gender issues, interpreted as socially constructed differences between men and women, can affect key factors in sustainable livelihoods. Both men and women reported that their participation in socio-cultural activities is strongly linked to biology, with men taking on heavier labor associated with masculinity and women undertaking lighter activities. Understanding and including women's practical and strategic needs is critical to improving the effectiveness of development and the spread of its benefits.

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1. Introduction

Fisheries groups in Indonesia refer to the various organizations, communities, and individuals involved in the fishing industry in the country. A fisheries group is a group of main actors consisting of fishers, fish cultivators and fish processors who are bound informally on the basis of harmony and mutual needs and within the sphere of influence and leadership of a leader of the main fisheries actor group. Group Growth is the process of initiating and facilitating the growth of cooperation that originates from the awareness of the main actors by joining a group to improve their standard of living with the principles of common interests, natural resources, socio-economics, familiarity, mutual trust, and harmonious relationships between the main actors, so that it can be a binding factor for the sustainability of group life, where each member of the group can feel ownership and enjoy the maximum benefits from what is in the group.

There are 3 types of main actor groups/fisheries businesses, namely:

Joint Business Group (KUB), this group is specifically for fishing fishermen whose business is catching fish at sea, such as net fishermen, trawl fishermen, etc.

Processing and Marketing Group (Poklahsar) is a group that deals with fish processing businesses such as salted fish, shredded fish and other processed products.

The Aquaculture Group (Pokdakan) is a business group that specializes in aquaculture, including seawater, brackish water and freshwater cultivation.

The main fisheries group is a forum for the main actors in the fisheries sector to come together in an effort to achieve strong main actors, namely those who are able to make decisions and act independently in an effort to solve their own problems, face challenges and overcome existing obstacles. In this way, groups have a role, among others, as a medium for communication and social interaction that is reasonable, sustainable and dynamic, a basis for achieving equitable renewal and unifying pure and healthy aspirations. Apart from that, groups are an effective and efficient forum for learning and working together and can be role models for the surrounding environment.

The duties of Fisheries Extension Officers by the needs of the main actors and fisheries business actors include collecting data on the marine and fisheries sector, growing fisheries groups, increasing the class of fisheries groups, assisting for micro, small and medium enterprises, assisting cooperatives in the marine and fisheries sector, assisting access to capital, market access, access to technology, and access to other resources, preserving environmental resources, assisting government assistance, and reporting.

The activity of fisheries extension is an effort to improve the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the main actors and business actors to further the ability and independence in managing fisheries and fishing businesses. In order to develop the main actors and business actors in fisheries and fishers at the field level through a group approach to be efficient and effective, it is necessary to have one movement, one language, and one understanding in the implementation of fisheries extension.

The regional approach is often considered when planning or preparing specific work programs and policies. The role of a working area is a dynamic aspect of the position or status of the implementation of fisheries extension. **Figure 1** shows the region conducting gender analysis in the fisheries groups in the southern part of the island of Sumatra.

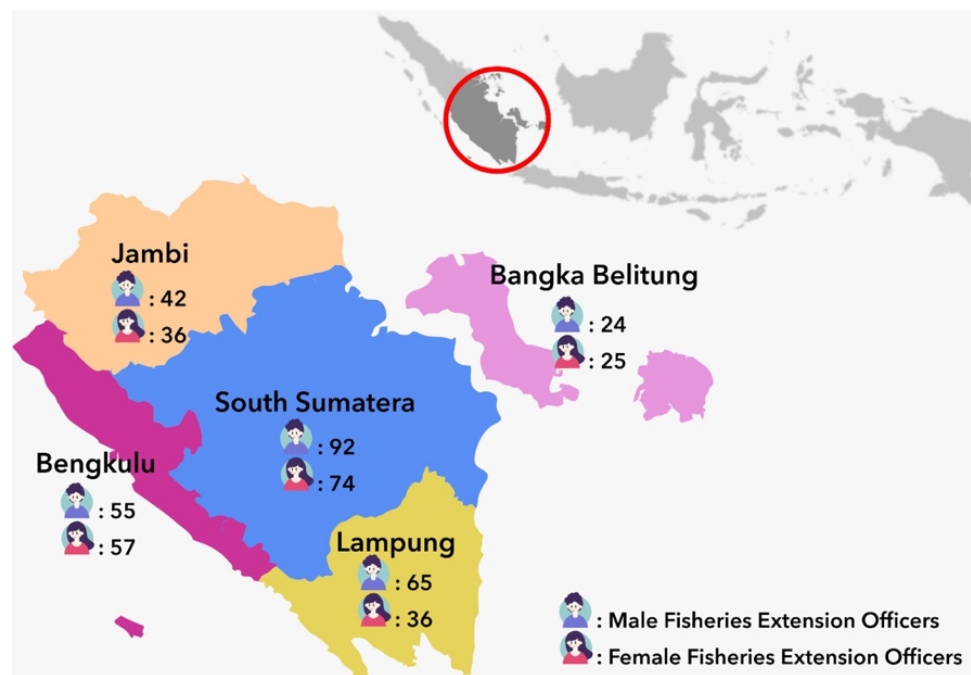


Figure 1: Study sites for gender analysis of fisheries group in southern Sumatra region of Indonesia.

2. Methods

The methods to analyze gender gaps in fisheries groups in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia identified by gender analysis. Gender analysis is a method of research that provides the necessary data and information to integrate a gender perspective into policies, programs, and projects. It identifies the differences between and among women and men in terms of their relative position in society and the distribution of resources, opportunities, constraints, and power in a given context. Gender analysis involves collecting available

data, identifying gender differences and the underlying causes of gender inequalities, and informing policy and program design. This method collecting and analyzing data to identify gender gaps and inequalities. This method can help identify gender gaps and inequalities in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia, and inform policy and program design to promote gender equity and empower women in the fisheries sector.

Gender analysis uses a range of indicators to measure gender gaps and inequalities in different contexts, including fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Here are some key indicators used in gender analysis identified:

Activity Profile: Activity profile indicators measure the extent to which women and men participate in different activities, such as fishing, aquaculture, and decision-making processes. These indicators can help identify gender gaps in participation and inform policy and program design. The activity profile examines the extent to which women are impeded from participating equitably in projects. For example, if women have limited access to income or land, they may be unable to join groups, which provide production inputs and commercial opportunities, or to become independent commercial producers.

Access: Access indicators measure the extent to which women and men have access to resources, such as credit, training, and technology, that are essential for their participation in different activities. These indicators can help identify gender gaps in access and inform policy and program design.

Control: Control indicators measure the extent to which women and men have control over resources, such as land, water, and income, that are essential for their participation in different activities. These indicators can help identify gender gaps in control and inform policy and program.

Factors and Trends: The influencing factors section identifies factors that cause the differences in the gender roles identified in the activity and access and control profiles. A comprehensive socio-economic analysis would take into account gender relations, as gender is a factor in all social and economic relations. An analysis of gender relations can tell us who has access, who has control, who is likely to benefit from a new initiative, and who is likely to lose. These factors and trends are essential to understanding gender gaps and inequalities in different contexts, including fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Gender analysis can provide information that recognizes that gender, and its relationship with race, ethnicity, culture, class, age, disability, and/or other status, is important in understanding the different patterns of involvement, behavior, and activities that women and men have in economic, social, and legal structures.

Overall, these indicators can help identify gender gaps and inequalities in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. The data that collect by fisheries extension in study sites will analysis and have the interpretation data.

3. Results and Discussion

The current condition in the community is that several institutions of leading actors and business actors in the marine and fisheries sector have grown. Generally, the growth of fisheries main actor groups is more based on physical matters or oriented towards homogeneity or physical similarities owned by each member. Such similarities include age, gender, ethnicity, color, religion, business, and other physical characteristics. Fisheries group in the marine and fisheries sector is one of the duties of Fisheries Extension Officers in assisting. The characteristics of the Fisheries Groups are:

- Have the same goals, interests, and interests, especially in the field of fisheries business;
- Have a fisheries business;
- Have similarities in traditions/customs, domicile, business location, economic status, language;
- Have interdependence between individuals;
- Independent and participatory; and
- Always get guidance from Fisheries Extension Officers.

The fisheries leading actor group is a forum for the togetherness of the main actors in the fishing field to achieve resilient main actors, namely those who can make decisions and actions independently to solve their problems, face challenges, and overcome existing obstacles. Thus, groups have a role, among others, as a medium of communication and social association that is reasonable, sustainable, and dynamic, a basis for achieving equitable renewal, and a unifier of pure and healthy aspirations. In addition, the group becomes an effective and efficient forum for learning and cooperation and can be a role model for the surrounding environment. The Fisheries Extension activities in the Southern Sumatra region for 2022, the targeted output of the number of fisheries groups assist by them is 5.177 groups. Group members here include men and women. Table 1 shows data on groups successfully assisted by Fisheries Extension in 2022.

Table 1 indicates that it can be seen that more group members are male for the aquaculture and catching groups. And for the processing/marketing group, more group

TABLE 1: The Fisheries Groups Assisted in 2022.

No	Province	Number of Fisheries Groups	Business Sector	Number of Groups / Business Sector	Member (person, percentage)	
					Male	Female
1	Bengkulu	1141	Aquaculture	749	6757	1762
			Capture	271	3019	16
			Product processing / marketing	121	245	979
2	Jambi	927	Aquaculture	757	7219	1595
			Capture	87	1034	27
			Product processing / marketing	83	125	689
3	Kep. Bangka Belitung	582	Aquaculture	155	1374	169
			Capture	377	4706	13
			Product processing / marketing	50	83	413
4	Lampung	1032	Aquaculture	721	8743	393
			Capture	195	2425	14
			Product processing / marketing	116	353	1047
5	Sumatera Selatan	1855	Aquaculture	1359	13612	1672
			Capture	202	2152	5
			Product processing / marketing	294	628	2161

members are women. **Figure 2** shows the comparison between men and women in four business sectors.

Marine Trends (2020) reported that in the fisheries sector of Indonesia, more than 42 % are women engaged in fisheries activities [2]. However, there is limited gender-specific data and information on fishing activities. Despite women’s significant labor and economic contribution, statistics focus on male-dominated activities. The roles of women and men in different fishery activities were described based on the gender analysis framework which is composed of an activity profile, access and control profile, and factors and trends. Table 2 shows the results of the Gender Analysis Framework.

From a gender perspective, these groups have a gap between men and women. Among them are women’s representation in aquaculture and fishing groups. In addition,

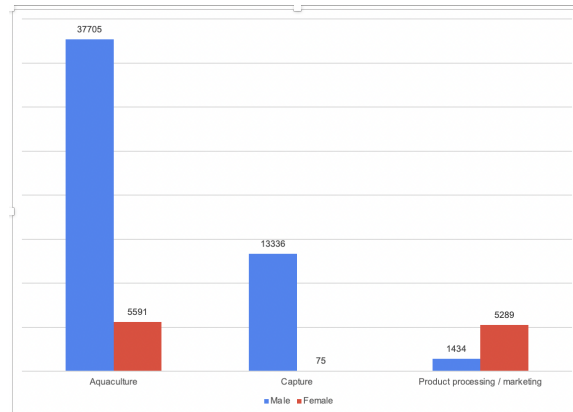


Figure 2: Comparison between men and women in three business sectors.

the male model in the processing/marketing group is also still low. Gender roles have a significant impact on the fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Here are some ways in which gender roles affect these communities:

Women are often excluded from fishing and aquaculture activities, and their contributions to the industry are often overlooked.

Women’s participation in the fishery sector is often limited due to cultural and social norms.

Efforts to enhance gender equity and empower women in the fisheries sector are needed to ensure sustainable livelihoods and improve the well-being of fishing communities.

Traditional gender roles in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia are influenced by cultural and social norms. Here are some examples of traditional gender roles in these communities:

Women’s roles in fisheries can be confined to gleaning, post-harvest processing, and selling activities.

Most fishing communities are traditional fishers with low-income levels, and this results in discrimination against men and women.

Women’s participation in the fishery sector is often limited due to cultural and social norms.

The gender division of labor in fisheries differs across communities, and awareness that gender norms affect the gender division of labor and women’s status in the family is needed.

In fishing communities, men traditionally own boats and go out fishing, while women wait at home and take care of household chores.

TABLE 2: Gender Analysis Framework.

Fisheries Group	Activity Profile	Access and Control Profile	Factors and Trends
<i>Group of Aquaculture</i>	Mostly men plan the aquaculture activities. Mostly men dominate in the decision-making of ponds and culture species. Mostly men are engaged in seed rearing, seed nursery, fingerling releasing, and harvesting. Mostly women are involved in feed preparation and keeping the water quality.	Men have more access to and control of resources. Women prefer to be involved more in aquaculture. Women have low participation in decision-making in the fisheries management process.	Men do aquaculture activities without women because it requires hard work and is often time-consuming. Women dominate in feeding fish and maintaining pond water quality.
<i>Group of processing product and marketing</i>	Women dominate processing and trading. Women know how to process fish into valuable products. Women see the value of fish better than men because they are more aware of the market situation. Both are involved in decision-making in processing, selling, and buying. - Women play a role in processing work, mainly small-scale or family fish processing - Women and children work together, but they have greater responsibility for preparing ingredients, cleaning and drying fish, and marketing.	Women have more responsibility on fish processing and marketing, including making decision on buying and selling fishery products. Women prefer to work in fish processing work; nonetheless, both women and men are working together.	Women dominate fish processing, marketing and trading activities rather than fishing.
<i>Group of Capture</i>	The role of women in capture fishing as a whole is less valued because it requires muscle work. Males dominate capture fishing. Fishing gears used are gillnet, trap, hook and line, etc. The average fishing period is 4-5 hours/day. The fishing ground are sea, lake, river, etc.	Women play important roles as fishing partners of their husband. However, because of women's physical characteristics, they play more on reproductive roles. Women do cleaning, trading, and processing unsold fish for household consumption. Women also sell the catch to the collector when husband is busy.	The number of women involved in the fishery value chain has slightly increased. Men go fishing without women because it requires physical work and oftentimes dangerous. The perspective for woman in terms of production is not expected to expand unless GAD interventions are available.

Women occupy diverse and essential roles in fisheries around the world, from mending nets and gear to keeping the books, from child care and job training to commercialization.

Gender roles have a significant impact on the distribution of labor in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Women's roles are often confined to certain activities, while men take a lead role in fishing. Gender roles in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia have a significant impact on household dynamics. Here are some ways in which gender roles affect household dynamics:

Women's roles in fisheries can be confined to gleaning, post-harvest processing, and selling activities, which can limit their income and economic power within the household. Such as gleaning is a seasonal activity and depends on the weather and the moon cycles that drive tidal flows. It can happen in the night-time and daytime. Gleaning fisheries are accessible and low-cost; they occur in a diversity of habitats including rocky reefs, coral reefs, intertidal flats and mangroves, and are often pursued by fisherwomen and children (Harper et al. 2013). [1]

In fishing families, women are often responsible for household chores and child-rearing, while men take a lead role in fishing and other income-generating activities.

Women's participation in the fishery sector is often limited due to cultural and social norms, which can limit their decision-making power and status within the household.

Gender gaps refer to the differences in opportunities, resources, and outcomes between men and women. In the context of fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia, gender gaps can manifest in various ways, such as:

Women's roles in fisheries are often limited to certain activities, such as gleaning, post-harvest processing, and selling, while men take a lead role in fishing and other income-generating activities.

Women's participation in the fishery sector is often limited due to cultural and social norms, which can limit their decision-making power and status within the household.

Gender-based violence is an issue in some fishing communities, which can affect women's safety and well-being.

Efforts to enhance gender equity and empower women in the fisheries sector are needed to ensure sustainable livelihoods and improve the well-being of fishing communities and their households.

There are several policies and initiatives aimed at reducing gender gaps in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Here are some examples:

Good practice policies to eliminate gender inequalities in fish value chains: This policy aims to promote gender equality in the fish value chain by addressing gender-based constraints and promoting women's participation in the sector.

Reducing barriers to women's engagement in small-scale aquaculture: This initiative aims to promote gender equality in aquaculture by reducing barriers to women's participation and increasing their productivity and income.

Gender mainstreaming in fisheries and aquaculture: This policy aims to achieve gender equality in fisheries and aquaculture by promoting women's participation in decision-making and leadership positions, increasing their access to information, extension, and financial services, and reducing gender-based violence.

Understanding and addressing gender inequality in small-scale fisheries: This initiative aims to address gender inequality in small-scale fisheries by promoting women's participation in decision-making, increasing their access to resources and services, and reducing gender-based violence.

The importance of gender in fisheries: This initiative aims to promote gender equality in fisheries by promoting women's participation in decision-making, increasing their access to resources and services, and reducing gender-based violence.

Exploring gender inclusion in small-scale fisheries management and development: This initiative aims to promote gender inclusion in small-scale fisheries management and development by identifying and addressing gender-based constraints and promoting women's participation in decision-making and leadership positions.

Overall, these policies and initiatives aim to promote gender equality and reduce gender gaps in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. They focus on increasing women's participation in decision-making and leadership positions, reducing gender-based violence, and increasing their access to resources and services. Implementing policies aimed at reducing gender gaps in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia can face several challenges. Here are some of the challenges identified:

Limited State capacities and resources: The magnitude of gender inequalities in the region and the limited State capacities and resources available to address and reduce them can be a significant challenge.

Adverse context: The adverse context, such as health and climate disasters, social unrest, and war, can worsen gender inequality by directly affecting women's lives and livelihoods or keeping them out of school and work.

Biases in policies and programs: Policies and programs can have biases that affect women and men differently, often unintentionally. Identifying and remedying these biases by applying a gender lens to policies and programs can be a challenge.

Lack of comprehensive and coordinated approach: Gender inequalities manifest themselves on an international, regional, national, and subnational level, and a renewed vision of public policy is needed to address them in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

Limited participation of women in decision-making: Women's participation in decision-making is often limited due to cultural and social norms, which can limit their decision-making power and status within the household.

Implementing policies aimed at reducing gender gaps in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia can face several challenges, such as limited State capacities and resources, adverse context, biases in policies and programs, lack of comprehensive and coordinated approach, and limited participation of women in decision-making. Here are some ways in which cultural and societal norms affect the implementation of these policies:

Gender norms and gender roles describe how people of a particular gender and age are expected to behave in a given social context. Harmful gender roles can result in many types of inequalities between girls and boys, and they are proven to disproportionately affect girls.

Gender norms are social principles that govern the behavior of girls, boys, women, and men in society and restrict their gender identity into what is considered to be appropriate. Gender norms are neither static nor universal and change over time. Some norms are positive, while others lead to inequality.

Limiting gender bias and cultural barriers can help close gender gaps through reducing gender inequality.

Women's occupational choices and their pay are affected by discrimination, societal norms, and other forces beyond their control.

Concerns about culture are frequently raised in relation to initiatives for gender equality in development cooperation.

The discrimination embedded in social institutions, laws, social norms, and practices is a key driver of gender inequality, perpetuating gender gaps in various sectors, including fisheries.

Cultural norms regarding gender can affect gender inequality and economic development in fishing communities.

Cultural and societal norms can have a significant impact on the implementation of policies aimed at reducing gender gaps in fishing communities in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Efforts to address harmful gender roles and biases, and promote positive gender norms are needed to ensure sustainable livelihoods and improve the well-being of fishing communities.

4. Discussion

Access: Women homemakers' access to science and technology, facilities, grants, and training/capability building in the context of community assistance and empowerment is shallow compared to men.

Control: Men have more access to control over resources (land, infrastructure, capital) and fisheries business activities than women.

Factors and Trends: Although group members (based on residence) are generally male, in the implementation of activities, the participation of women and wives of group members is equal, depending on the type of business. Among the community, the strong gender perception is that men are the head of the household. It causes men to be more dominant in all affairs, while women play the role of internal household affairs.

This role of women is caused by social and cultural constructions, role discrimination, stereotypes, marginalization of women in society, and women's dual roles in public and domestic aspects of daily life. The socio-cultural building in question is that women are unlikely to go out to sea to catch fish; in certain ethnicities, women's access to productive assets and sources of capital is limited, and women's ability to improve knowledge and technology still needs to be improved.

Men dominate productive roles, while women dominate reproductive and household activities. Gender issues, interpreted as socially constructed differences between men and women, can affect key factors in sustainable livelihoods. Both men and women reported that their participation in socio-cultural activities is strongly linked to biology, with men taking on heavier labor associated with masculinity and women undertaking lighter activities. Understanding and including women's practical and strategic needs is critical to improving the effectiveness of development and the spread of its benefits.

Muthmainnah *et al.* (2022) reported that the participation of women in anguillid eel fisheries in Indonesia is significant, especially in marketing skills [3]. Nevertheless, it should be strengthened by enhancing the ability (e.g., selling skills) of women to access markets, promoting equal access and rights in the utilization of eel fish resources, and adapting to local wisdom that recognizes men (leading actors) as a partner and not

as competitors with women. Women are not considered supplementary actors in the management and utilization of eel.

Therefore, as Buckingham-Hatfield (2000) describes, “women are disproportionately affected by negative environmental impacts because of their social and domestic roles and a greater likelihood of poverty” [4]. Environmental degradation is a form of discrimination, part of an oppressive system, institutionalized by policies that advance large-scale infrastructure development while invisibilising the rights and needs of women.

Social and cultural norms are fundamental determinants of how much women can be involved in decision-making, have control over productive assets, and enjoy balanced power relations. They are at the root of inequalities that disadvantage women in the household and society. Promoting better power relations, increased involvement of women in decision-making, and equal control over assets can enable women to contribute to food, nutrition, and income security for their households and broader communities.

Overall, the studies suggest that gender gaps exist in the fisheries groups in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Women are often excluded from fishing and aquaculture activities, and their contributions to the industry are often overlooked. Efforts to enhance gender equity and empower women in the fisheries sector are needed to ensure sustainable livelihoods and improve the well-being of fishing communities.

5. Conclusion

It is necessary to increase the role of fisheries extension workers to disseminate information on knowledge, skills, and insights to women living in remote areas in Southern Sumatra who have difficulty accessing information. It is to improve the knowledge, skills, and understanding of women who have difficulty accessing information on knowledge, skills, and insights. In addition, the role of wives is increasing in helping husbands stabilize running marine and fisheries business activities. It achieves quality human resources for both men and women in utilizing marine and fisheries natural resources through counseling and empowerment in increasing family income and welfare. Increasing the number of women with knowledge and skills in fisheries is necessary because it can increase women's participation in extension and empowerment activities. It provides an understanding of gender-responsive materials emphasizing the contribution of a balanced role between men and women in marine and fisheries development.

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