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Gender in Local Economic Development: The Experience of Culinary MSME Actors in Cidu Market, Makassar City

Andi Sadriani[1], Resty Rahayu Damayanti[2], Najamuddin[3]
[1,2,3]Universitas Negeri Makassar

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This study examines the experiences of women engaged in culinary micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in local economic development, focusing on access to economic resources, gender relations, business management strategies, and their contributions to the local economy. The study employed a qualitative method with a case study approach, conducted at Cidu Market, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, involving 10 women culinary entrepreneurs selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation, and analyzed thematically. The findings indicate that women's participation in culinary businesses is driven by the need to support household income and sustain family livelihoods. Women employ various strategies to maintain their businesses, including managing working capital, adjusting the quantity of products to market demand, maintaining product quality, and building customer relationships. Gender relations shape women's access to economic resources, decision-making processes, and the distribution of domestic responsibilities, which influence their opportunities to develop their businesses. Furthermore, women contribute to local economic development by generating household income, providing culinary products, and maintaining economic networks with customers, suppliers, and other market participants. Through Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of Practice, these experiences can be understood through the interaction of habitus, capital, and field in shaping women's economic practices. The study concludes that women's participation in local economic development extends beyond income generation and is closely connected to social relations, access to resources, and gender dynamics. Therefore, strengthening women-led MSMEs requires improved access to business capital, enhanced entrepreneurial capacity, expanded marketing networks, and more equitable sharing of domestic responsibilities.

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Corresponding Author:
Andi Sadriani
Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia
Email Coresspondent: andi.sadriani@unm.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

Local economic development is a process that concerns not only the growth of economic activity and an increase in community income, but also the distribution of opportunities, access to resources, and the involvement of various social groups in economic activities (Kaseng, 2025). From the perspective of equitable development, women should be understood not merely as beneficiaries of development, but as active participants who help shape economic dynamics at the local level. (Hasyim et al., 2026). The involvement of women in micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) particularly within the culinary sector serves as a form of economic participation that contributes to household sustainability and broader commercial activity. Nevertheless, women's economic participation remains heavily influenced by social constructs regarding the division of roles

between men and women. Gender norms can shape women's opportunities to develop businesses, access capital, build economic networks, and determine how the income they earn is utilized (Setiadi et al., 2023). Therefore, local economic development needs to be examined by taking into account the gender relations that shape women's experiences in carrying out their economic activities.

Makassar City has a dynamic urban economy characterized by various trading activities, including micro-scale culinary businesses operating in markets and informal economic spaces. Cidu Market is a relevant site for examining the relationship between women's economic activities and local economic development, as the area is known for its culinary trade activities. In this context, women who manage culinary businesses may encounter a range of experiences, from developing business strategies and maintaining customer relationships to balancing productive work with family responsibilities. These experiences are important to understand because women's success in generating income does not necessarily indicate a direct transformation in gender relations. Women may gain broader economic opportunities while continuing to bear domestic responsibilities or facing limitations in accessing business resources. Therefore, the experiences of women engaged in micro, small, and medium-sized culinary enterprises (MSMEs) at Cidu Market provide an entry point for understanding how local economic development unfolds in everyday life and how gender relations shape the opportunities and challenges women encounter.

Studies on gender and women's economic empowerment have developed with various emphases. Kabeer (1999) in Sitorus et al., (2026), using the resources, agency, and achievements framework, empowerment is defined as a process encompassing access to resources, the capacity to make decisions, and the outcomes attained through those choices. This framework asserts that participation in economic activities alone is insufficient as a sole indicator of empowerment; one must also consider the extent to which women possess the ability to make choices and exert control over the resources that shape their lives. In line with this perspective, research on the economic contributions of female vegetable traders in Katangka, Gowa Regency, examines the roles these women play in supporting household well-being, their business management strategies, and the various challenges they encounter in their trading activities (Mayaswari & Yasa, 2015). Meanwhile, research on female traders in Indonesia's informal sector also highlights the interconnections between livelihood sustainability, access to economic resources, gender norms, and domestic responsibilities(Indiworo, 2016; Korlefura & Tupamahu, 2021). These various studies indicate that women's economic activity has dimensions that extend beyond mere income generation, as it relates to agency, working conditions, and the social relationships surrounding it (Arsyad, 2025; Mawardi & Mesra, 2024; Mutmainah, 2020). However, each context possesses social and economic characteristics that must be taken into account when understanding women's experiences.

While previous research has provided insights into women's economic contributions, empowerment, and the challenges faced by traders in the informal sector, there remains scope for further study specifically by linking the experiences of women running small scale culinary enterprises (MSMEs) to the dynamics of local economic development within an urban context. For instance, research on women's economic contributions to household well-being could be expanded by examining how these women interpret their business activities, devise economic strategies, and negotiate gender roles in their daily lives. Similarly, discussions on economic empowerment could be deepened by exploring the relationship between access to business resources and women's decision making capacity both within their enterprises and their families. In the context of Cidu market, these issues should be examined through the lived experiences of women managing small scale culinary businesses, rather than assuming that all women encounter the same

obstacles. Based on a preliminary literature review, this study aims to address these research gaps by providing a contextual analysis of the interconnections between women's economic activities, their experiences in operating businesses, and gender relations within the framework of local economic development. This claim of novelty should be understood as a potential contribution of the research, which requires further strengthening through a more extensive and systematic literature review.

The scholarly contribution of this research lies in its approach to understanding local economic development through the experiences of women operating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the culinary sector, by positioning gender relations as a central element of the analysis. This study does not merely view these women as entrepreneurs contributing to the local economy; it also examines how they access and utilize resources, develop strategies to sustain their businesses, and exercise decision-making authority. This perspective enables a more comprehensive analysis of the relationship between women's economic participation and their social experiences, while avoiding the assumption that increased economic activity is synonymous with the achievement of empowerment. Kerangka Kabeer (1999) in (Rosyidi & Rofiq, 2025) concepts regarding resources, agency, and achievements can be used to understand the dimensions of empowerment, while a gender and development perspective helps situate individual experiences within the broader context of social relations. By focusing on women operating culinary MSMEs (micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises) at Cidu market in Makassar City, this research aims to provide a contextual understanding of how local economic development is experienced and enacted by women in their daily lives encompassing the opportunities, constraints, and strategies they develop.

Based on the foregoing discussion, the main research problem is how the experiences of women engaged in culinary micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) at Cidu Market, Makassar City, reveal the relationship between gender and local economic development. This problem is further elaborated into three research questions: how women running culinary MSMEs access and utilize resources to operate their businesses; how they develop strategies and negotiate gender roles in managing their economic activities and family responsibilities; and how they interpret their contributions and involvement in local economic dynamics. This study aims to analyze the experiences of women running culinary MSMEs in developing and sustaining their businesses, identify the forms of gender role negotiation that emerge in their economic activities and family lives, and understand the interconnections between access to resources, women's agency, and their experiences of local economic development. Through a qualitative approach, this study is expected to contribute to the development of Gender Sociology and Development Sociology, particularly by understanding local economic development as a social process shaped by people's experiences, actions, and gender relations in urban communities.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a qualitative research method with a case study approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the experiences of women operating micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the culinary sector within the context of local economic development. The case study approach was selected because it enables the researcher to explore social phenomena in their specific contexts by considering participants' experiences, social interactions, and the environmental conditions in which economic activities take place. The study focuses on women's experiences in managing and sustaining culinary businesses, accessing economic resources, developing business strategies, and fulfilling their social and economic roles in everyday life. The study was conducted at Cidu Market, located on Tinumbu Street, Makassar City, South Sulawesi,

Indonesia. This location was selected because it is an active trading area that provides a relevant setting for examining women's participation in the local economy, particularly in the culinary sector. Field data collection took place over approximately six months. This period was used to explore participants' experiences, observe their business activities, and understand the social interactions and economic dynamics within the market environment.

The research participants consisted of 10 women operating culinary MSMEs (micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises) who sell their products regularly at Cidu Market in Makassar City and have been running their businesses for more than one year. Participants were selected using purposive sampling a method of intentional selection based on criteria aligned with the research objectives. These criteria included being a woman actively operating or managing a culinary business with at least one year of experience. This ensures that participants can provide insights based on their actual, hands-on experience in managing a business, navigating market dynamics, building customer relationships, and sustaining their economic activities. Gathering information from these 10 participants provides an overview of women's experiences in accessing economic resources, developing business strategies, making decisions, and fulfilling social and economic roles. The data collected from each participant were then analyzed to identify commonalities, differences, and patterns of experience relevant to the research focus.

Data collection was conducted through in depth interviews, observation, and documentation. In-depth interviews were used to explore women's experiences in developing and sustaining their businesses, securing capital and other resources, navigating competition, managing income, and balancing economic activities with family responsibilities. The interviews also examined the informants' perspectives on their position and contributions within local economic activities, as well as their experiences with business-related decision-making. Observation focused on trading activities, interactions with customers, business management, and the environment in which the informants operated their businesses; this provided a contextual understanding of the information gathered through interviews. Meanwhile, documentation comprising field notes, photographs of business activities, and other relevant records was used to supplement the data obtained from interviews and observations. The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis. This process involved a thorough reading and familiarization with the entire dataset, coding relevant information, grouping codes into specific themes, reviewing the alignment of these themes with the data, and interpreting the findings in relation to the research focus. The analysis yielded themes concerning women's access to economic resources, business management strategies, experiences in navigating gender roles, decision-making, and women's perceptions of their own involvement in local economic development.

Data validity is examined through technique triangulation and source triangulation (Syukur & Sadriani, 2026). Methodological triangulation was employed by comparing information gathered through interviews, observations, and documentation, while source triangulation involved comparing data from 10 informants to identify both commonalities and differences in their experiences. Any unclear information was clarified with the informants whenever necessary. Throughout the research process, ethical principles were strictly upheld, the purpose of the study was explained to the informants, and their consent was obtained prior to data collection. Participation was entirely voluntary, and informants were free to decline answering specific questions or to withdraw from the study at any time. The identities and personal information of the informants were kept confidential through the use of pseudonyms or codes when presenting the research findings. Interviews were recorded, photographs were taken, and quotations were used only with the informants' consent. Furthermore, the research data were used exclusively for the stated research

purposes and were kept strictly confidential. The application of these principles strengthens the credibility of the findings while ensuring that the research process respects the rights and privacy of the female entrepreneurs (MSME owners) who participated as informants.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1.Research Results

3.1.1. Women's Experiences in Running and Growing a Culinary Business

The experiences of women running culinary businesses at Cidu market in Makassar City are rooted in their efforts to earn an income, sustain their operations, and meet the economic needs of their families. Operating such a business requires not only the ability to provide products that appeal to customers but also skills in managing capital, setting prices, and maintaining customer relationships. Each woman's experience in running her business may vary, depending on her background, the resources at her disposal, and the specific trading conditions she faces.

One of the fundamental reasons why women at the Cidu market enter the culinary business is the desire to earn an income to help meet their families' needs. This endeavor serves as a means for them to participate in economic activity while simultaneously utilizing the skills they possess. This is reflected in the experience of one vendor, who views her trading activities as a way to provide for her household's needs.

> "I started selling because I wanted to help provide for my family's needs. Relying on just one source of income is sometimes not enough to cover daily expenses, so I decided to sell food here. The earnings, at the very least, help with household necessities and the needs of my children." (Karmila, 35 years old).

The statement illustrates that a culinary business can serve as an additional source of income for a household. The involvement of women in economic activities reflects an effort to help meet family needs through productive pursuits. However, the extent to which income from such a business contributes to the household economy must be understood within the context of the specific situations and experiences of each individual informant.

Beyond the reasons for starting a business, women's experiences also encompass the efforts required to sustain their enterprises. In the culinary sector, vendors must contend with fluctuations in customer numbers, competition, and the risk that their goods may go unsold. Such conditions demand the ability to adapt business operations to market circumstances, ensuring that commercial activities can continue.

> "Running a business isn't always busy. There are days when many customers come, but there are also quiet days. So, I have to be clever about managing my capital and preparing just the right amount of food. If I make too much, I worry that it won't all sell. The important thing is that the business keeps running and there's still some income to take home." (Suhaeda, 41 years old)

This experience demonstrates that sustaining a business requires careful consideration regarding capital management and the determination of inventory levels. Decisions concerning the quantity of food to prepare are linked to efforts to mitigate the risk of loss should the number of customers fluctuate. This underscores the fact that women's experience in trade extends beyond the mere act of selling products; it also encompasses economic decision-making amidst market uncertainty.

Beyond merely sustaining their businesses, these women have also taken various steps to expand their economic activities. Business growth can be achieved by improving product quality, diversifying the range of goods offered, and building customer trust. Such strategies are part of the experience these women have gained in adapting their businesses

to meet customer needs, while simultaneously ensuring long-term operational sustainability within the trading environment of Cidu Market.

> "When customers enjoy the food I sell, I strive to keep the taste consistent so that they'll want to come back. I also pay attention to the types of food that customers typically look for. If possible, and provided I have enough capital, I would like to expand my product variety to increase my earnings." (Diana, 31 years old).

This statement indicates that business development can begin with efforts to maintain product quality and understand customer needs. The desire to expand the range of goods offered also reflects an aspiration to increase economic activity, though its implementation depends on the availability of capital and the capacity to manage the business. Thus, business development does not always require major changes; it can start with simple adjustments deemed appropriate for the specific situation of the business.

Based on these three experiences, the involvement of women in culinary ventures at Cidu Market can be understood through their motivations: earning an income, sustaining their operations, and growing their businesses. These aspects demonstrate that women's economic activities entail decision-making processes and adaptation to market conditions. Such experiences provide a foundation for understanding the role of women in local economic life, a topic that warrants further exploration by examining their access to resources, management of earnings, and gender relations in daily life.

3.1.2. Gender Relations Influence Women's Access to Economic Resources, Decision Making, and the Management of Culinary Businesses

Gender relations within culinary business activities can be understood through the division of roles, access to economic resources, and the involvement of women in decision-making. Women who run businesses face not only commercial challenges but also social dynamics both within their families and in the business environment that can influence their opportunities to develop economic activities. Access to capital, control over income, and the authority to determine the direction of a business are crucial aspects for understanding the position of women as local economic actors. Therefore, the experiences of women at Cidu Market warrant examination to understand how they acquire and manage resources, as well as how they exercise authority within their business operations.

One significant aspect of gender relations is access to economic resources, particularly business capital. Capital can be obtained through personal savings, family assistance, loans, or earnings accumulated gradually via business activities. The sources of such capital as well as the individuals who decide how it is utilized can shed light on the position of women in developing culinary businesses. In this context, it is necessary to examine the experiences of women by looking closely at how they secure capital, determine their business needs, and navigate the limitations of the resources available to them.

> "When I first started selling, I used my own savings. I gathered money little by little to purchase materials and supplies. If I wanted to increase my stock, I had to calculate whether I had enough funds, as a portion of my capital also had to be set aside to buy materials for the next sales period." (Hasnawati, 36 years old).

This statement illustrates the importance of managing financial resources when running a culinary business. The use of personal savings as business capital highlights the role of women in providing economic resources for their productive activities. Furthermore, the careful deliberation involved before expanding product offerings indicates that business development decisions are closely linked to available financial capacity. However, to determine whether access to capital is influenced by gender relations, further research is needed to examine whether women have authority over

financial resources, face specific obstacles, or receive support from family members in developing their businesses.

Beyond access to capital, gender relations can also be examined through women's involvement in decision-making regarding income and business sustainability. Decisions concerning the allocation of profits, the procurement of raw materials, the diversification of product offerings, and business development may involve the women themselves or other family members. It is important to analyze such decision-making patterns, as a woman's participation in economic activities does not automatically grant her full authority in determining how income is utilized or the direction in which the business is developed.

> "Once I earn an income from sales, I set aside a portion as capital for the future and use the rest for household needs. If I want to purchase any relatively expensive equipment, I usually discuss it with my husband first so that our family's expenses remain under control." (Jumita, 31 years old).

This statement can be used to explain how the management of business revenue relates to household decision-making. Separating business funds from family expenses reflects a financial management effort aimed at ensuring the continued operation of the business. Meanwhile, the practice of discussing the purchase of business supplies with one's husband may reflect a process of joint decision-making. Such practices do not necessarily imply gender inequality; further investigation is required to determine whether decisions are truly made on the basis of equality, how input from the woman is considered, and who holds the final authority in the event of a disagreement.

Gender relations in business management can also encompass the division of responsibilities between economic activities and household tasks. Women who run businesses may need to manage their time to prepare goods, serve customers, handle earnings, and fulfill family obligations. How these responsibilities are shared with other family members is a crucial aspect in understanding the conditions that either support or hinder the development of businesses led by women.

> "In the morning, I have to prepare my merchandise before heading out to sell. Once I return, there are still household chores to take care of. Having family members who help out makes the workload feel much lighter. Because of this, I have to manage my time carefully so that my business keeps running, while ensuring that things at home are not neglected." (Fatimah, 38 years old)

This statement illustrates that the management of a business can be closely linked to the division of responsibilities within a household. If women are expected to handle the majority of domestic tasks while simultaneously running a business, this may limit the time and energy they have available to develop their economic activities. Conversely, the involvement of other family members in household chores can provide support for the sustainability of the business. Therefore, the division of household responsibilities should be understood as an aspect of gender relations that can influence a woman's opportunities to develop a culinary business.

Overall, gender relations in the culinary business can be examined through women's access to capital, their authority in economic decision-making, and the division of responsibilities both in business management and domestic life. These three aspects are interconnected in shaping the experiences of women as operators of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). An analysis of the informants' experiences reveals that women's engagement in economic activities is determined not only by their trading skills but also by their access to resources, their standing in the decision-making process, and the social support available to them. Conclusions regarding the nature of gender relations experienced by women at Cidu market must be drawn from the results of

interviews and field observations, rather than relying solely on assumptions about women's roles within the family.

3.1.3. The Contribution of Female MSME Operators in the Culinary Sector to Local Economic Development at Cidu Market, Makassar City

The involvement of women in culinary businesses at Cidu market, Makassar City, constitutes a segment of community economic activity that sustains the local economy. Through these commercial endeavors, women participate in food preparation, customer service, and daily economic transactions. Such efforts serve not only as a means to generate income for themselves and their families but also as an integral part of a broader commercial network linking traders, raw material suppliers, and buyers. Consequently, women's contributions to local economic development can be understood through the economic benefits generated, their active participation in trade, and the social relationships fostered through these business activities.

One way women contribute to the local economy is through the income generated from culinary businesses. This income can be used to meet household needs while also covering the repurchase of raw materials and supplies required to sustain the business. Allocating earnings toward both business and household requirements demonstrates a link between women's economic activities and the continuity of the family's economic endeavors.

> "I use the income from my sales to cover daily living expenses and to purchase supplies for my business. If there is anything left over, I set it aside for future needs. Essentially, the money earned from sales must be managed carefully so that household needs are met and the business can continue to operate." (Suryani, 39 years old).

This statement illustrates that business income serves a dual purpose; supporting the fulfillment of household needs while simultaneously ensuring the continuity of commercial operations. Reinvesting in raw materials allows a business to remain operational, while using income for daily necessities helps sustain the family's economy. In the context of local economic development, such activities demonstrate how small-scale enterprises contribute to the economic cycle within a community. Furthermore, the extent of women's economic contribution can be understood through data concerning their income, spending patterns, and the allocation of profits generated from their businesses.

Beyond generating income, women operating culinary MSMEs (micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises) also help meet consumer needs by providing a diverse range of food options. These commercial activities foster relationships between vendors and buyers, creating recurring economic interactions. The presence of culinary vendors offers consumers choices, allowing them to obtain food that aligns with their specific needs and financial means. The experience these women gain in serving customers and sustaining their businesses is crucial to understanding their role within the economic dynamics of the Cidu market.

> "The people who buy food here are quite diverse; some are regulars, while others are first-time customers. I strive to maintain the quality of the food and the level of service so that customers are satisfied. If they like it, they usually come back." (Dahlia, 50 years old).

The excerpt illustrates the significance of the relationship between traders and consumers in sustaining commercial activity. Efforts to maintain the quality of products and services help build customer trust and support the long-term viability of a business. This relationship demonstrates that local economic activity is shaped not merely by buying and selling transactions, but also by the social interactions that occur among economic participants. Nevertheless, the extent to which the activities of women influence overall

economic development at Cidu market warrants further investigation one that takes into account the circumstances of other traders, transaction patterns, and the broader dynamics of trade in the area.

The contribution of women to local economic development can be observed through their involvement in economic networks that support business activities. To operate a culinary business, entrepreneurs require raw materials and supplies, which are obtained from various suppliers or other traders. The recurring procurement of these items fosters economic relationships characterized by interdependence among the business actors involved. Consequently, the experiences of women in sourcing raw materials, interacting with suppliers, and sustaining their business operations provide insight into the linkages between culinary enterprises and the broader local economic landscape.

> "If I want to sell my goods, I have to purchase the necessary ingredients. I typically restock based on what is required for my sales. As long as the business is running, I must keep preparing ingredients for the following day. So, this selling activity is inherently connected to the people who supply the materials I need." (Fatmawati, 29 years old).

This statement indicates that culinary business activities are linked to the economic operations of other business actors through the procurement of raw materials. Recurring purchases of these materials form part of an economic relationship that sustains ongoing trade. In the context of local economic development, such relationships can be understood as a form of interconnectedness among economic agents. However, to determine the extent to which women led businesses impact supplier income, employment opportunities, or economic growth in the Cidu market area, additional data specifically illustrating these relationships would be required.

3.2.Discussion

The involvement of women in running culinary MSMEs at Cidu market demonstrates that economic activity is driven not merely by the need to earn an income, but is also shaped by life experiences, habits, and social responsibilities within the family. From the perspective of Pierre Bourdieu's Practice Theory, this situation can be understood through the concept of habitus a disposition toward thinking and acting that is formed through social experience (Fatmawati & Sholikin, 2020). Kebiasaan perempuan dalam mengelola usaha, melayani pelanggan, dan mempertahankan keberlangsungan penjualan merupakan praktik yang berkembang melalui pengalaman sehari-hari. This finding is in line with research conducted by Wandani & Fahrunnisa, (2026), which indicates that the strategies employed by female street food vendors are closely linked to their social relations and their experiences in navigating the urban environment. Thus, the experiences of these women become a crucial element in understanding the sustainability of small-scale culinary businesses.

In addition to habitus, Bourdieu's concept of capital helps explain the resources that women utilize in running their businesses. Economic capital—in the form of money and business profits—serves as a crucial element for meeting household needs while simultaneously sustaining production activities (Said & Said, 2026). However, the sustainability of a business does not depend solely on economic capital; it also relies on social capital manifested in relationships with customers, suppliers, and fellow merchants. Furthermore, experience in managing a business, as well as knowledge regarding products and consumer preferences, can be understood as forms of cultural capital. Musahwi et al., (2018) and Triawati et al., (2023), using the concepts of habitus and capital to examine the financial behavior of women running MSMEs. This demonstrates that women's ability to manage a business needs to be understood through the interplay between the resources they possess, their experience, and their habits in making economic decisions.

Gender relations in the management of MSMEs (micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises) can be understood through the concept of a field. The Cidu market serves as a social and economic space where women interact with customers, suppliers, fellow traders, and family members involved in business activities. Within this field, women employ various strategies to retain customers, manage capital, and adapt their businesses to market conditions. However, their position is closely linked to the division of domestic responsibilities and gender relations within the family. Consequently, a woman's capacity to develop her business is determined not only by her personal skills but also by her access to resources and social support. A Bourdieu-inspired perspective helps to view the market as a field a space defined by specific rules, relationships, and social positions that shape women's economic practices.

Gender relations in the management of MSMEs (micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises) can be understood through the concept of a field. The Cidu market serves as a social and economic space where women interact with customers, suppliers, fellow traders, and family members involved in business activities. Within this field, women employ various strategies to retain customers, manage capital, and adapt their businesses to market conditions. However, their position is closely linked to the division of domestic responsibilities and gender relations within the family. Consequently, a woman's capacity to develop her business is determined not only by her personal skills but also by her access to resources and social support. A Bourdieu-inspired perspective helps to view the market as a field a space defined by specific rules, relationships, and social positions that shape women's economic practices. Wulandari, (2025) it is explained that MSMEs in Indonesia face various challenges, including limited access to financing and marketing. When viewed from the perspective of women's experiences, these challenges must be analyzed in relation to the social conditions and gender relations that shape their opportunities for developing their businesses.

The contribution of women running micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the culinary sector to local economic development can be observed through the interconnections between their business activities, household needs, and the broader economic life surrounding the marketplace. The income generated helps meet family needs, while the procurement of raw materials and interactions with other traders foster local economic exchange. Within the framework of Bourdieu's theory, social capital plays a crucial role; relationships built through repeated interactions help retain customers and support the sustainability of these businesses. Further findings underscore the significance of social relations within the strategies employed by these female food vendors. (Huwaidah et al., 2024; Khikmawati et al., 2024). Thus, the contribution of women cannot be measured solely by the size of their business earnings; it must also be viewed in terms of their role in maintaining economic networks and social relationships within the market environment.

Overall, Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of Practice provides an understanding that women's economic practices are shaped by the interplay between habitus, capital, and field. Habitus explains how past experiences mold the way women conduct their business; capital refers to the resources they utilize; and the field denotes the social space within which economic strategies and relationships unfold (Siregar & Achiyani, 2026). These three concepts demonstrate that the sustainability of culinary MSMEs (micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises) run by women is not determined solely by individual ability, but also by social support, access to resources, and the division of roles within the family. This research contributes to the field of economic sociology by situating the experiences of women MSME owners as an integral part of the local economic development process. Consequently, efforts to empower women-led MSMEs must focus on strengthening

business capital, social networks, and the social conditions that influence their participation in economic activities.

4. CONCLUSION

This research demonstrates that the experiences of women running micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the culinary sector at Cidu market, Makassar City, are shaped by the interplay between economic needs, life experiences, and family responsibilities. The sustainability of these businesses depends not only on the women's ability to generate income but also on their capacity to adapt to market conditions, retain customers, and manage available resources. This reveals that the economic practices carried out by these women are part of a social process forged through their daily experiences and interactions.

Gender relations influence women's access to economic resources, decision-making processes, and business management. Women must balance economic activities with domestic responsibilities, making support from family and social networks a crucial factor for the sustainability of their enterprises. Through Pierre Bourdieu's theory of practice, this situation can be understood by examining the interplay between habitus, capital, and field elements that collectively shape the strategies women employ in running their businesses. Consequently, women's economic practices cannot be separated from the social structures and gender relations within which they are situated. The involvement of women in running culinary MSMEs (micro, small, and medium enterprises) contributes to local economic development by meeting household needs, providing culinary products, and participating in economic transaction networks at the Cidu Market. These findings underscore that women are not merely participants in household-level economic activities, but are also vital components of the broader local economic dynamic. Consequently, efforts to strengthen women-led MSMEs should focus on improving access to capital, developing business capacity, expanding marketing networks, and promoting a more equitable distribution of family responsibilities.

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