Introduction

There are several species of plants producing natural dyes in East Sumba District growth on the land, such as morinda (*Morinda citrifolia* L.), indigo (*Indigofera tinctoria* L.), loba (*Symplocos* sp.), candle nut (*Aleurites moluccana* L. Willd.), and dadap (*Erythrina* sp.). The natural dyes were taken from the roots, rhizomes, wood, bark, leaves, fruits, and seeds of the plant species.

The natural dye were used in woven cloth production, which produce some product such as scarves, sheath, and cloth.

The weaving cloth activities covering preparation of raw materials, processing, utilizing and marketing of the product. Allocation of role between male and female in the weaving cloth activities were not equal yet. Generally weaving activities carried out by female who worked in their homes, in between their housewife busyness.

Participation and involvement of male in the weaving cloth activities is very important.

For that reason, it necessary to know the information that describe the role allocation between male and female in the weaving cloth production activities. Under these conditions it is important to investigate the gender issue and to improve it equality in the weaving cloth business in East Sumba.

Research of Methods

The study was conducted at three villages of manufacture center (Lambanapu, Mauliru, and Watu Hadang Village), East Sumba, East Nusa Tenggara Province. Interviews were conducted from February to June 2014.

The study aimed to identify gender issue in weaving production activity and encourage efforts in order to improve gender equality. The allocation of role consisted of male only (M), male more than female’s role (M/f), male and female equally instrumental (M/F), female are more instrumental than male (F/m), and female who play a role (F).

Discussions Results

Female play greater role than male (F/m) in activities of roll (30.8%), stretch (43.6%), and tying (20.5%) while the dyeing process (51.3%), making the motif (33.3%), dyeing yarn (76.9%) and weaving (84.6%) is the main task of female (F). Male play bigger role than female (M/f) only in the activities of providing dye (23.1%) and product marketing (30.8%). The role of female and male (F/M) were relatively equal in the use of the product (79.5%).

Cultivation of plant producing dye is urgent to carry out in order to conserve the species, as well as to bring the natural dye material close to the handcrafter settlement (Fig. 5).

This effort, at the same time, will increase male role in providing natural dye material through their involved in the cultivation activity.

The effort has been initiated by means of coordination with local government to encourage them to facilitate the cultivation movement.

Conclusions

In the whole process of production of woven cloth, the role of female remains much larger than males. Female play a greater role in activities rolled, stretched, tying and dyeing yarn, dye and weave process. The role of the larger males only in marketing activities of products, and provide dye, while making motive and utilize the results, the role of female and male are relatively balanced.