

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1. Conclusion

Comparing past to present, the gender labor division goes through some changes in the *Ikat* textile production in Sumba. From the data analyzed, both men and women share the roles. However, unlike the past, men show more contribution to the production of the textiles, so do the women who have access to travel outside to market the textiles in the present days. The changes allow men to perform the steps which traditionally can only be done by women. The influence of rapid globalization supports the reasons for the changes. Rapid globalization has impacted gender labor division in the production of Sumbanese *Ikat* textiles culturally, socially, and economically. Although traditions may somewhat limit their passion, engaging specific roles with their beliefs and myths living in society, the existence of education has helped to educate the people about equality, especially gender equality. The globalized era has put the textile production in demand that benefits them. The work of producing textiles is no longer limited to home production, yet it gets shifted to an industrial one. Both men and women share roles to speed up production. On one side, women still see textile production as a side work though they are fully aware that textile production is now becoming so economically beneficial. On the other side, men have seen this as an opportunity to seize as their primary source of income. Though both men and women share the same roles to speed up the production, there is still an invisible line that somehow separates the roles of both

women and men based on their gender. It is still clear how gender traits, feminine and masculine, segregate the labor division, as in the case of producing indigo dye and the act of weaving. Although producing textiles is still considered women's work, it is potential for men to dominate or even take over the work, considering how producing textiles now become commercialized.

## **5.2. Suggestions**

Firstly, the researcher suggests to find more people to compare. Due to the limited time of observation, the researcher did not manage to experience what the interviewees were working on and also there are some untouched regions the researcher did not manage to reach.

Secondly, the researcher's data is rich, and it needs in-depth reading. The next researcher who might be interested in digging further into the gender labor division can compare their data to the existing ones.

Lastly, Sumbanese researchers are encouraged to do more research on this study, to study the phenomenon for as far as the researcher can observe, previous related studies were ironically conducted by people outside of Sumba. They seem to understand their culture better than those who are outside of Sumba and should have better knowledge. There must be specific approaches that only Sumbanese can use and understand to dig more information, including the language used.