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Commercialization of Work Relation Between Land Owner and Landless Peasant in Central Java

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Abstract. This research aims to explore the shifting of work relations between land owners and landless peasants in Central Java. Besides, it also proposes to find the trend of the impact of shifting work relations between them. The research is designed using the semi-grounded method and phenomenology based on qualitative approach. This research is intentionally conducted in Purbalingga and Banyumas Regency, Central Java Province. Based on the research results, farmers in rural areas that are relatively far from the city have working relationships that tend to be exploited and are asymmetrical. On the other hand, the relationship of farmers in rural areas near cities tends to be more rational and commercial and symmetrical. The suggestion that can be given is working relationship between the land owner and the cultivator who is beneficial to both parties needs to be maintained, but for the exploitative nature of work relationship there needs to be continuously empowered so that it does not bring damage to each of the party

1 Introduction

Globalization in every aspect of life has led to the uprooting of local wisdom values and the widening of social inequality and ecological degradation [1]. One variant of economic globalization is commercialization. Any goods or services tend to be profit oriented. This phenomenon is becoming increasingly prevalent not only in urban areas, but also in the hinterland area of the countryside. As a result, the patron client relationship has suffered a setback. Initially, a patron with all of his political power in economy able to received relatively cheap labor services, but he had an obligation to protect his clients when facing various life crises, such as: famine (crisis period), paying school fees for children, death of a husband / wife and or children and so on, but such values are now increasingly slackened by the rationality of the owners of farmers who are increasingly become rational. The logic

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that [2] said about farmers' subsistence is still relevant to explain that they will put safety first. This applies not only to farmers who own land, especially poor farmers (land tenants) and so on, but such values are now increasingly loosened because of the rationality of the farmers and the increasingly rational mindset.

In the sociological dimension, [3] at the beginning of the emergence of peasant social relations, the right theory of reciprocity is characterized by reciprocal symmetrical social exchange between interacting parties. According to [3] social exchanges between individuals or groups can be formed due to the motive of interdependence. In this context, exchange becomes balanced and equitable. Each party places itself in the exchange of goods and services. In ideal reciprocity a balanced and just social exchange emerges. [4] thinking about reciprocity is different from [3], because social exchange takes place unevenly when it enters power. The reciprocity of the farming community varies in giving rewards such as plant seeds, agricultural tools and farming advice [5]. The results of this study have not explained the balance of reciprocity. In certain farming communities, reciprocity is based on a mix of logical lead contexts from both culture and markets used in agricultural and environmental business governance [6]. Farmers' behavior in managing agricultural business is inseparable from a network of collaboration that utilizes reciprocity or reciprocity [7].

Vulnerable reciprocal relations used by various parties can put the damage on farmers. The issue of unbalanced reciprocity is vulnerable to farm laborers. These problems are currently can be found in farming communities in rural Indonesia. The existence of reciprocity proposed by [3] and [4] is irrelevant to the conditions of rural farmers due to the existence of polarization which is difficult to control. The burden of farm laborers is heavy with the maro and mertelu systems. All of the production activities burdened as a responsibility of farm laborers. Landowners only have to bear with the economic burden for some production facilities in the form of land. The economic burden of farm workers is getting heavier when crop failure happened to their farm. There is no guarantee of substitute insurance for a certain amount of income. The pattern of reciprocity relations which put more of the burden of the responsibility on the farm worker make them trapped in poverty that similar to a cycle that seems unbroken. These problems motivate the theme of this research. The purpose of this study is to explore changes in work relations between the farmer owners and farm workers. In addition, it also reflects the trends and changes in relations in the present era. The author suspects that the relationship between farmer groups will be increasingly rational and increasingly commercial. As a result, the roots of farmer community relations are grow uprooted.

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2 Research Method

The research location is purposively determined at in the rural-urban and in the hinterland area both Purbalingga and Banyumas Regency, Central Java Province. The research location is selected based on consideration that the marginal area with higher population density and in hinterland area are less population density. Both of them have located in the land and cultivation as the main earning for living patterns as farmers. Based on the research's results, [8] figure out that the majority (> 30 percent) of farmers are classified into landowner and landless peasant with the status as farming labors. The types of data collected consist of primary and secondary data. The data are collected through in-depth interview, observation, and secondary data analysis. The research population two group around the research location. The respondent data sources are taken with a purposive technique fulfilling the criteria as landowner and lessland farmers who first implement in agricultural world. The qualitative data are analyzed by utilizing simple classification, categorization and analysis for getting trend of work relation.

3 Result and Discussion

There have been many references [9], that the main drivers of social change include changes in population and technological change. Changes in population cause technological changes and conversely technological change causes changes in population. There is a reciprocal relationship between the two. For Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, there is a population change trend which stimulates an increasing number of people who have needs that must be fulfilled. The limited land area stimulates spatial experts to improve technology. In the case of farmers in the rural areas of Banyumas and Purbalingga, it seems likely that they face the problem of land scarcity [10]. Changes in population affect the use of increasingly intensive agricultural technology. One of them is shown by the change in land plowing tools that used rakes and plows, but now use hand tractors [11]. Another indication that also shows changes in production technology is the emergence of various types of fertilizers, both organic and non-organic fertilizers. Likewise, the emergence of various pest control drugs that are increasingly varied. Intensive technology requires expensive costs that burden farmers. Changes in farming techniques were also followed by changes in work relations.

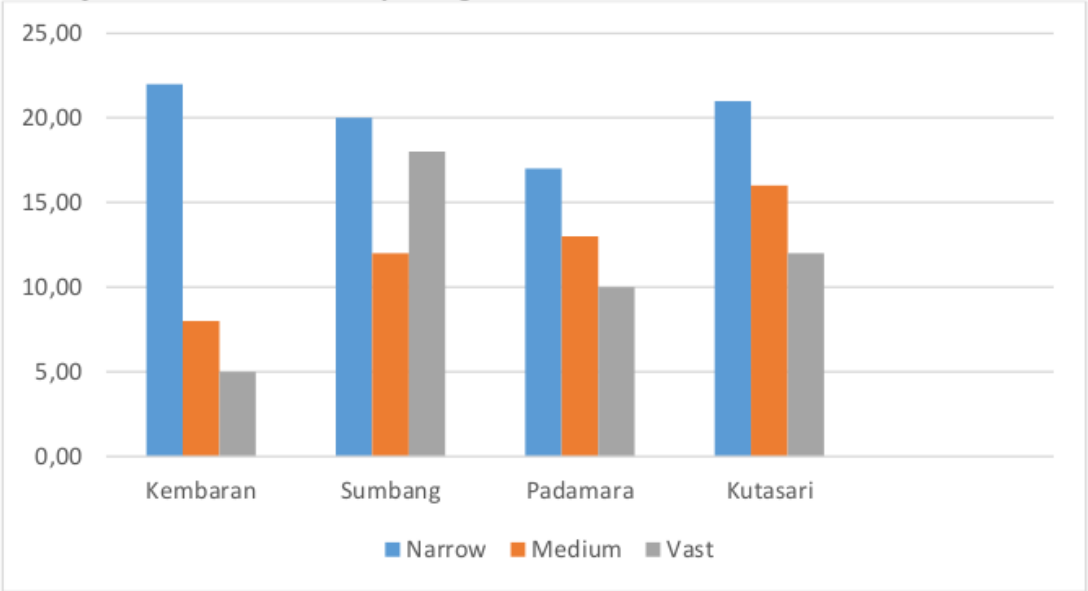


Fig 1. Average Land Ownership of Farmers in Four Sub-districts

The narrowing of agricultural land experienced by farmers in the villages of Kembaran District and Sumbang Subdistrict, both of which are in the Banyumas Regency area also occurred in the villages of Padamara Subdistrict and Kutasari District, Purbalingga Regency. Informants in four sub-districts had similar problems in the ownership status of agricultural land. The most severe pressure from land scarcity is faced by farmers who live in rural areas that are relatively close to the city area. There is a tendency for more and more cities in the area, the more farmers who have increasingly narrow land. The problem of land scarcity for farmers can cause serious conflicts [12]. This tendency can suppress the limit of the average land ownership of farmers in the four sub-districts can be seen in Figure 1.

The bar chart shown in figure 1 provides information about the percentages of the average of agricultural land owned by the peasant in Kembaran, Sumbang, Padamara, and Kutasari. Kembaran is the closest region to the city. Kembaran has the narrowest agricultural land compare to Sumbang, Padamara and Kutarasari. On the other hand, the extensive land owned by the peasant has the smallest percentage compared to the other

three region. Meanwhile, Sumbang is the third region which closest to the city, and the following chart shows that the peasants in Sumbang has the vastest agricultural land, amounts to 18 % and the narrow agricultural land has 20%. Padamara is the second closest region to the city rather than Sumbang and Kutasari. The rates indicates that the agricultural land owned by each of the peasant in Padamara have shorter gap of the breadth. Narrow land area is the last ranked compared to Kembaran, Sumbang, and Kutasari. Notwithstanding, Kutasari the most remote area to the city of Purbalingga. The chart shows that the rates of narrow agricultural land owned by the peasant in Kutasari reach almost similar with Kembaran percentage (around 21%). The medium agricultural land owned by peasant in Kutasari occupy the highest position compared to Kembaran, Sumbang, and Padamara which amount 16%. All in all, the distance between regions to cities does indeed indicate the influence of the location of the area on agricultural land owned by the farmers, but if it is seen that remote area have bigger percentage of vast agricultural compared to the one which close to the city, it can be denied because in fact, from the bar chart above, it shows that the vast agricultural land in Kutasari is lower than in Kembaran, the region which is closer to the city.

The unequal distribution of land in the four research locations is due to the effect of agricultural commercialization that is unable to keep up with the pace of industrial development, the price of agricultural products is volatile and does not favor the farmers. The market for agricultural products is not guaranteed, so as to avoid the risk of rot, farmers choose to sell their crops at a minimum price. This condition is certainly detrimental to farmers, making it difficult to get profits. This issue includes the source of the causes of farmers choosing to sell land to village elites and investors from outside the village. Amount of money received from agricultural crops can only be used by farmers for a certain period to fulfilled the needs of their family. Increasing transactions in agricultural land is indeed difficult to avoid. The effects caused tend to harm farmers because of uncertainty in prices and unclear contracts such as those that occur in Rural Bulgaria [13]. The seriousness of the problem of land ownership status also takes place in research informants, as shown in Figure 1.

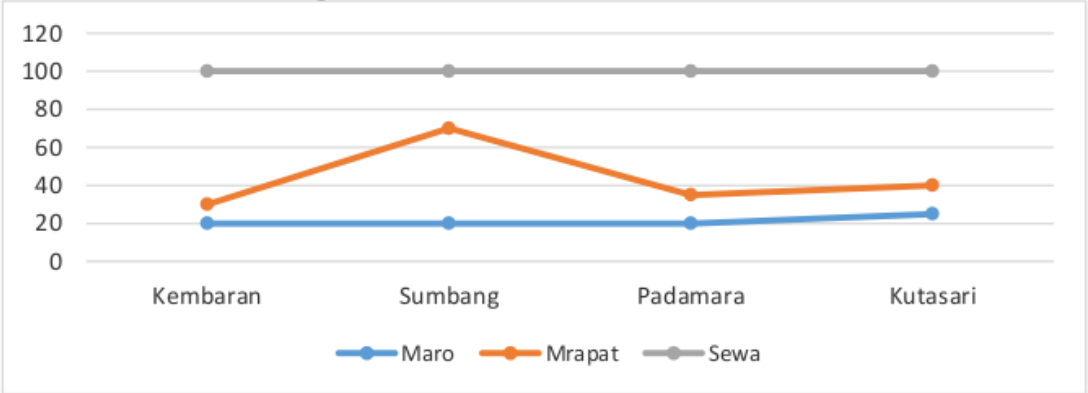


Fig 2. The Pattern of Work Relations Between Land Owner and Laborer

The shifting of technology and agricultural land ownership lead to changes in employment relations. The relationship between the owner of the farm (land owner) and the cultivator (landless) initially is often called a patron client relationship. In this context, historically, a patron initially protected its clients. Patron does expect rewards in the form of work given to his client. Of course, with the inclusion of technology and increasing necessities of life there have been many changes in agricultural employment relations in the four regions studied. This is reflected in the area that is not densely populated and its urban touch is still not strong. We can see it in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 give the information about the pattern of work relationship between landlords and cultivators of the field. The system of rice fields cultivation divided into three types, maro, mrapat and sewa. Pic 2. above illustrates that in all relations trend in each regions, the relation of landlords and cultivators have to do with leasing land. As for the second choice, which means that the harvest result is divided into four with a notes that $\frac{1}{4}$ portion for cultivators and $\frac{3}{4}$ portion is for the owners, but all production costs are borne by the landowner. This pattern is most favored by the cultivators in Sumbang sub-district Banyumas Regency.

The maro pattern or the rice field system with the results are divided in two with the notes that the production costs borne by the cultivators are still found in Sumbang sub-district (Banyumas) and Kutasari sub-district (Purbalingga), but the numbers are very rare to be found. There is a tendency of the more a region leads into a city, the work relation will become more rational. Each of the party did not want to get loss. The peasants who does not have the land also become more rational. The group of clients are increasingly become more autonomous and independent. When there is more patron that can give more benefit, they do not get hesitate to move to another landowners. Some social relations between farmer owners and tenants have long been underway and are considered conventional networks [14]. Some work relationships found in the four research locations are the result of the effects of commercialization in the countryside [15]. The research team also explained the condition of the commercialization of working relations of farmers in West Java characterized by the use of land in rational ways. Characteristic of the rational way in the process of managing agricultural businesses, such as: the spread of social capital, land considered as the basis of the management of farmers, but the size of land is not the only requirement for the success of agricultural management. Limited land actually encourages progressive farmers to consolidate land through family relations and close neighbors. An increasingly commercial and rational relationship pattern is shown by the change in the bawon system to the daily and bulk wage systems [16]. For each region the level of commercialization is different [15]. Of the four villages per sub-district studied the commercialization system has been evenly distributed and almost the same, but specifically for Sumbang Subdistrict they have found the most suitable form and not detrimental to the cultivator, namely the mrapat system (the results are divided into four) where the production input are burdened to the land owner. It shows that the bargaining position of cultivator in rural areas of Sumbang District is better, because it has autonomy in management with smaller risk. The motives underlying social relations in four locations are different [16]. It appears that commercial motives are more prominent. In addition, there are motives that foster social harmony. There are other motives related to the role as a sharecropper because of compulsion and because they have not found alternative employment.

4 Conclusion

Work relations between farmer groups in suburban villages tend to be more rational, commercial and symmetrical (mutual benefit), while social relations in rural hinterland areas tend to be more asymmetrical and more profitable for large-scale farmers. Suggestions can be given, among others, that the working relationship between the owner farmer and the cultivating farmer that is beneficial to both parties still needs to be maintained, but for the exploitative nature of the work relationship there needs to be continuous assistance and empowerment.

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