

# The Characteristics, Socialization by Parents and the Perception of Youth towards Employment in Agriculture in Indonesia

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**Abstract---** *Census 2003 and 2013 result showed that the number of agricultural business households in Indonesia decreased by 16.32 percent. There was a shift in labor from agriculture to non-agriculture. It was suspected that there was lack of interest in youth in agriculture. Consequently, young generation would not necessarily inherit the agricultural skills of their parents or community. Therefore, the characteristics, socialization by parents and the perception of youth towards employment in agriculture become interesting topics to be studied. The study was conducted in one school in the agricultural center area in Lembang District, West Bandung, West Java. The method used in this study was a survey and target sample was 88 unmarried youth from 13 to 24 years old. The result of the study showed that: 1) Respondent Characteristics (a) Gender: 51% male; and 49% female; (b) Age category: adolescents (mid-15-17) 91%; and late adolescents 9%, and (c) The majority of respondents (40%) have a high level of cosmopolitanism by visiting other villages or cities more than 3 times in the past month; 32% of youth have a low cosmopolitan level (0-1 times in one month) and 28% of youth have moderate cosmopolitan levels (2-3 times in one month). 2) Parents Socialization about agriculture (a) almost 74% of respondents felt that their parents never told about agriculture; (b) Most youth only involved in the field for planting and harvesting activities while for other activities is still very lack. 3) However, most young people still see the potential of utilizing land and water resources to meet human needs and still consider agriculture as good prospect in the future.*

**Keywords---** *Agriculture, Cosmopolitan, Regeneration, Socialization, Youth.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Agriculture Development policy for 2015-2019 is to achieve strong, sustainable and environmentally friendly food independence. Efforts to achieve these goals include the empowerment of agricultural human resources in the production center of the food crops, plantation, horticulture and livestock sub-sectors. Efforts made include increasing productivity, production and added value of agricultural products and increasing employment opportunities and income of business actors.

The main problems of agricultural development in general are the lack of realization of variety, quality, continuity of supply, and quantity in accordance with the dynamics of market demand. In addition, from a social standpoint, the development of agricultural human resources in quantity continues to decline and the institutional economic capacity of farmers is still inadequate. For this reason, it is necessary to study farmer regeneration.

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Regeneration of farmers needs attention because the number of farmers has declined in the last ten years. Statistical data shows that in the period 2003-2013 there was a decrease in the number of farmer households around 5.10 million (16%). Farmers' households in Indonesia in 2003 amounted to 31.23 million and then declined to 26.14 million in 2013. The number of farmer households declined due to being out of the agricultural sector, dying and moving to other sectors (non-agricultural) where one of the causes is the reduced access of farmers to agricultural land (Rejekiningsih 2017). Decreasing farmers' access to land may lead to poverty and loss of generations of farmers in the future (Rejekiningsih & Muryani 2107).

The problem of farmer regeneration is increasingly apparent based on the decline in the number of young workers on agriculture. The number of young farmers (15-24 years) has decreased more than the number of old farmers. The number of young farmers in 2004 was 5.95 million, down to 5.02 million in 2012 (BPS, 2005 and 2013). The young workforces are no longer interested in working as a farmer and chooses to work in other sectors which are considered more promising economically (Nugraha 2012). Low economic growth rates in rural areas make the young workforces choose to work in cities or outside the island (Romdiati 2015, Rejekiningsih & Muryani 2017). It is a realistic decision because agriculture is considered not provide a guarantee of a decent life for workers.

In the 2013 Agricultural Census, it was seen that the age structure of Indonesian farmers was very lame. As many as 62% of farmers aged over 45 years, 26% are in the age range of 35-45 years, and only 12% are under the age of 35 years. BPS also noted that in the ten years of 2003-2013, farm households decreased by 5 million, leaving only about 26.2 million agricultural households (BPS, 2013). In the past 10 years millions of agricultural households have switched professions.

The main problem above is the focus of the study with the issue of the efforts to improve farmer regeneration by looking for the root causes of the lack of interest in working in the agricultural sector by examining the characteristics, socialization by parents, and perceptions of rural youth about employment in agriculture. The purpose of this study is to identify individual characteristics, socialization by parents and youth perceptions of employment in agriculture.

In some previous studies it was found that young people were less interested in working in agriculture because of several reasons, namely: less promising economy or in other words small income, considered less honorable, a dirty job, troublesome, tiring, not prestigious job, old-fashioned job, and cannot provide a guarantee of the future (Lubis and Sutarto 1991, Pranadji 1999, Rozany 1999, Herlina 2002, Widodo 2015, Hamyana 2017, Rejekiningsih & Muryani 2017). In contrast, Nugraha (2012) found that young people were still interested in working in agriculture. Hamyana (2017) found that for some communities based on moral motives, it was seen that farming was a service and a best choice of the good ones in giving this service of life in the world.

This study is a follow-up study from Nugraha (2012). The difference between this study and the previous study is that the respondents selected were not young farmers but the younger generation who were in the agricultural center area. To support the achievement of food independence, one of the efforts made is to provide information that can provide an overview in order to increase the quantity of agricultural human resources or the empowerment of

agricultural human resources in the strategic commodity production center area. So that the existing human resources can function harmoniously and optimally.

## **II. MATERIAL AND METHOD**

Data collected in the form of primary data and secondary data. Primary data obtained through interview with respondents using a questionnaire. Secondary data was obtained from the study of literature, books and reports from the West Bandung District Office of Agriculture.

The instrument used in this study was a questionnaire. Interview using questionnaire was conducted to obtain information from respondents regarding the topic of this study. Interview using questionnaires was conducted by asking questions about the individual characteristics of youth, socialization by parents regarding agriculture, and the perception of youth on employment in agriculture.

The unit of research analysis is individual youth. Determination of respondents in this study uses a descriptive survey method. The population of this study was youth in the agricultural center area of Lembang subdistrict, West Bandung District. Determination of the sample was done purposively, namely in one of the high schools in Lembang Subdistrict. Selected respondents were 88 young people aged 13-24 years old and unmarried.

## **III. RESULT**

### ***Characteristics of Youth***

88 respondents were taken from Mekarwangi High School students in Langensari Village, Lembang subdistrict, West Bandung Regency.

Based on gender the number of male respondents was 45 people (51%) and women as many as 43 people (49%). The percentage of youth according to age are mid-adolescents 15-17 years as many as 91% and late adolescents as much as 9%. The majority of respondents (40%) have a high level of cosmopolitanism; 32% of youth have a low cosmopolitan level and 28% of youth have moderate cosmopolitan levels.

### ***Socialization by parents regarding employment in agriculture***

Based on the results of the study of 88 respondents, only 23 respondents (26%) whose parents told stories about agriculture. While 65 respondents (74%) felt that their parents never told about agriculture.

The involvement of youth in agricultural activity is based on activity and frequency. Youth involvement in parent gardens based on activities for land processing activities was carried out by 15 respondents (17%), planting was carried out by 45 respondents (51%), pest control was carried out by 14 respondents (16%), fertilization was carried out by 25 people respondents (28%), harvesting was carried out by 42 respondents (48%), marketing was carried out by 12 respondents (14%) and institutional activity 0%. The results of the study regarding the involvement of youth in farming activities can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Level of youth involvement in helping parents in the garden or rice fields

No.	Activity	very Often	Often	Rarely	Never
1.	Weeding before seed planting	1 %	9 %	44 %	46 %
2.	Sorting seeds	1 %	8 %	20 %	71 %
3.	Plowing land	1%	5%	32%	62%
4.	Planting seeds	7%	14%	36%	43%
5.	Watering crops	3%	13%	48%	36%
6.	Fertilizing with manure	3%	8%	28%	61%
7.	Pesticide application	2%	2%	25%	71%
8.	Post planting weeding	3%	8%	37%	52%
9.	Post harvest activities	6%	19%	28%	45%
10.	Sorting the product of quality A and B	3%	5%	16%	76%
11.	Harvesting	7%	10%	41%	42%
12.	Clean up the land after harvesting	2%	5%	25%	68%
13.	Preparing fertilizer/seed/pesticide	3%	7%	18%	72%
14.	Business analysis	2%	6%	17%	75%
15.	Product marketing	1%	10%	12%	77%

**Youth perception on the rural condition**

Youth perception on the employment opportunity, natural resources condition, and the agricultural prospects can be seen in Table 2, Table 3, dan Table 4.

Table 2: Youth perception on employment opportunity in rural area

No.	Youth Perception	Number of Respondent	Percent (%)
1.	No employment opportunity (1-1,75)	4	4,55
2.	Lack of employment opportunity (1,76-2,51)	47	53,41
3.	There are some employment opportunity (2,52-3,27)	34	38,64
4.	Many employment opportunity (3,28-4)	3	3,40

Table 3: Youth perception on natural resources condition

No.	Youth Perception	Number of Respondent	Percent (%)
1.	Very bad (1-1,75)	0	0,00
2.	Bad (1,76-2,51)	3	3,41
3.	Good (2,52-3,27)	69	78,41
4.	Very good (3,28-4)	16	18,18

Tabel 4: Youth perception on agricultural prospects in the future

No.	Youth Perception	Number of Respondent	Percent (%)
1.	Not prospective (1-1,75)	0	0,00
2.	Less prospective (1,76-2,51)	4	4,55
3.	Prospective (2,52-3,27)	65	73,86
4.	Very prospective (3,28-4)	19	21,59

## IV. DISCUSSION

### *Youth characteristics*

Age categories used in this study are based on the research of Nugraha (2012), namely early adolescents (13-14 years), middle adolescents (15-17 years), late adolescents (18-21 years) and early adulthood (22-24 years) . Because sampling is grade 1 and 2 students, most of the number and percentage of youth according to age are in the category of adolescents mid-15-17 years as much as 91%.

The level of youth cosmopolitan is the frequency of youth coming to the information center in namely the other villages, Lembang, Subang, Garut, Jakarta. The majority of respondents (40%) have a high level of cosmopolitan by visiting other villages or cities more than 3 times in the past month. As much as 32% of youth have a low cosmopolitan level (0-1 times in one month). The rest 28% of youth have moderate cosmopolitan levels (2-3 times in one month). Activities that are mostly carried out are for school, visiting, tourism, playing, shopping as much as 87.5%. There are only 12.5% of respondents doing agricultural activities such as helping to plant paddy in other cities, helping to buy fertilizers, and selling agricultural products. So it can be concluded that most of the youth are more interested to visit cities not for agricultural activities but only for self-actualization needs such as playing with friends. This is motivated by their orientation who are still looking for self-identity and consider that work in agriculture is tiring, dirty and hot job. This is in line with the findings of Lubis and Sutarto (1991), Pranadji (1999), Rozany (1999), Herlina (2002), Widodo (2015), Hamyana (2017), Rejekiningsih & Muryani (2017).

The agricultural activities carried out by young people, namely helping to grow rice in other cities, helping to buy fertilizer and selling agricultural products were still low, only by 12.5% of respondents. This is in line with Widodo's statement (2015) that young people as the next generation do not necessarily inherit agricultural skills from their parents or community. There are changes in families, schools, rice fields, non-agricultural activities that actually alienate them from the environment in which they live (Widodo 2015).

### ***Socialization by parents regarding agricultural employment***

Socialization by parents regarding agricultural employment is described as the frequency of parents tells children about agriculture or the level of frequency of parents (father and mother) in telling stories about agriculture to their children (youth). Based on the results of interviews with 88 respondents, only 23 respondents (26%) whose parents told stories about agriculture, on average, 1 time in the last month with a range of 5-60 minutes about marketing, processing and capital. So it can be concluded that the frequency of parents telling their children is still low or inadequate. Though parents according to 30 youth (34.09%) are the most important parties that make young people interested in agriculture.

Land as a social space should be a space in building agricultural social and cultural relations (Rejekiningsih & Muryani 2017). Parents build agricultural social and cultural relations by involving youth on farming activities. Parents involve their children in agricultural activities by inviting their children (youth) to gardens / land to help them doing agricultural activities.

The involvement of youth in agricultural activities in this study is based on activity and frequency. Based on the activity, there was more involvement of youth in parent gardens for planting (51%) and harvesting (48%). Therefore, it can be concluded that there is more youth involvement in the garden for planting and harvesting activities. This is in line with the findings of Nugraha (2012).

Young people are more often involved by parents in agricultural activities for general agricultural activities such as cleaning weeds, planting seeds, watering plants and harvesting yields. While young people are less involved for activities that are specific or of a character that require more expertise such as activities for selecting seeds, applying pesticides, selecting good products, preparing fertilizers/seeds/drugs, calculating farming and marketing analysis.

Agricultural activities, especially for agricultural countries, are a livelihood for everyone, especially farmers. Farmers as actors in agricultural production activities will have regeneration by building young generations about the concept of agriculture (Rejekiningsih & Muryani 2017). Youth as individuals in the micro system will not be separated from the influence of parents as agents of socialization (Puspitawati 2006; Seun, Kalsom, Bilkis & Raheem 2017, Novanda 2017). Parents have the power to support youth for investment activities and businesses in their environment (Seun, Kalsom, Bilkis & Raheem 2017). Socialization by parents is important to build awareness and shape the knowledge, skills and attitudes of young people to develop agriculture and preserve the managed environment (Rejekiningsih & Muryani 2017).

### ***Youth perception on the rural condition***

Youth perception of employment opportunities in rural areas is a perspective or meaning of youth in seeing

employment opportunities in the countryside based on their previous experiences (Nugraha 2012).

In Table 2 it can be seen that 53.41% of youth considered that there are less employment opportunities in the village, 38.64% of youth considered that there are still job opportunities in the village, 4.55% of youth considered that there are no employment opportunities in the village and 3.40% of youth considered that there are still many job opportunities in the village. So it can be concluded that half of the youth have a perception that there are less job opportunities in the village. This is in line with the statements of Rejekiningsih and Muryani (2017). However, it is not in line with the findings of Nugraha (2012) that youth generally perceived that there are many employment opportunities in the countryside.

Youth perception about the condition of natural resources in the countryside is the perspective or meaning of youth in seeing the availability of resources contained in land and water in the countryside that can be utilized to meet human needs based on previous experiences (Nugraha 2012). In Table 3 it can be seen that 78.41% of youth considered the condition of natural resources in the village to be good, 18.18% of youth considered it very good and only 3.41% of youth considered it bad. From the result of the study it can be concluded that the majority of young people still see the availability of resources contained in land and water in the countryside that can be utilized to meet human needs. This is in line with the findings of Nugraha (2012) that generally young people perceive the condition of natural resources in the village to be good.

Youth perception about the prospect of agriculture in the future is the perspective or meaning of young people in seeing agriculture in the future (Nugraha 2012). In Table 4 it can be seen that 73.86% of youth considered the prospect of agriculture in the future to be good, 21.59% of youth considered it highly prospective, and only 4.55% of youth consider it less prospective. From the results of the study, most of young people see agriculture has better prospects in the future. This is in line with Nugraha (2012) that generally young people see agricultural work as prospective work in the future. These good prospects include in terms of status, rewards, benefits, marketing, pest control, technology, infrastructure, cultivation technology, and government attention.

The higher willingness of youth supported by skills, opportunities and perceptions of agriculture, the more active the role of youth in agriculture (Rohmad 1998). So that it can be concluded that youth perceptions of employment opportunities in the countryside, the condition of natural resources in the countryside and the prospect of agriculture in the future will affect the role of youth in rural agricultural development.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Characteristics of respondents based on: a) Gender consist of male 45 people (51%) and female 43 people (49%); b) The number and percentage of youth according to age are mostly (91%) included in the category of middle adolescents of 15-17 years old while the rest of 9% is late adolescents; c) The majority of respondents (40%) have a high level of cosmopolitan by visiting other villages or cities more than 3 times in the past month; as many as 32% of youth have a low cosmopolitan level (0-1 visits in one month); and 28% of youth have moderate cosmopolitan levels (2-3 visits in one month). The activities that are mostly carried out in other villages and cities are for school, visiting, sightseeing, playing, and shopping.

The frequency of parents telling children about agriculture or the level of frequency of parents (father and mother) in telling stories about agriculture to their children (youth) is still very low. Nearly 74% of respondents felt that their parents never told about agriculture. Youth are mostly involved by their parents in farming activities such as planting and harvesting activities, while for other activities is still very lacking.

Some young people have a perception that there are less job opportunities in the village. In the other hand, most of youth still see the availability of resources contained in land and water in the countryside that can be utilized to meet human needs. They also see agriculture in the future having better prospects. These good prospects in the future include in terms of status, rewards, benefits, marketing, pest control, technology, infrastructure, cultivation technology and government attention.

## VI. RECOMMENDATION

Socialization by parents needs to be done early to build awareness and shape the knowledge, attitudes and skills of young people to develop agriculture and preserve a sustainable environment.

The limitation in this study is that socialization is only limited to parents as one of the variables in the micro system. Though the attitude of the youth is the result of the socialization process they got from the process of agricultural dissemination by their parents, teachers, peers, and mass media. So that further research is needed to enrich research on farmer regeneration.

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