

Akit Tribe Career Aspirations

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Abstract

Research on career aspirations is often done to university and school students in which they have sufficient career information, but those are rarely done to inland tribe adolescents. Therefore, this research was focused on investigating the underlying career aspirations of the Akit tribe adolescents. It used a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. For the data, this research involved 13 informants with inclusion criteria. Their data were collected using interviews, observation, and documentation. The collected data were validated using source and method triangulations. Following the triangulation, the analysis was carried out using a Miles and Huberman model which comes up with four stages, namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing and verification. Findings have proved that the fundamental assumptions of career aspirations by the sukut adolescents were finding a stable and secured job, becoming an expert at a particular field, and getting better education. It shows that the sukut adolescents have career aspirations, so there is a need for providing information to help them achieve the desired career.

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INTRODUCTION

Career aspirations are individuals' desires and choices in careers. Aspirations also predict future choices for career achievement following a developmental process to match individual self-concepts with suitable jobs (Rojewski & Yang, 1997). Career aspirations contain a certain set of tasks that must be completed according to a predetermined sequence.

Sofyan, et al. (2013) state that urban students' career aspiration level is significantly higher than rural. It happens because of the ease of information students can get.

Different geographical locations also shape different career aspirations for adolescents, including the ones from the Akit tribe which resides at Berancah village on the south coast of Bengkalis. Berancah village has more than one ethnicity, such as Java, China, and its original people called the Akit tribe. This diversity makes Berancah village more colorful.

The Akit people are free to choose any job (Baiduri, et al., 2018). Most of their daily lives are spent with nature, including nature-oriented jobs as fisherman, and woodworkers. Those all done by adult and adolescents to meet daily life needs. Not only nature-oriented jobs, Akit people house parts are also from nature, such as rumbia leaves for the roof, and processed wood for the walls.

Indigenous people face a serious problem in deciding future careers due to some limitations, such as limited kinds of jobs and information access. Lack of information makes the Akit tribe lack knowledge about the dream jobs. It truly disrupts and lowers the development of the career aspirations of the Akit tribe adolescents.

Lack of sufficient information regarding career aspirations is clearly seen in the Akit tribe. It is because not all individuals have the same access of information, but this limitation does not make the adolescents losing their hopes for getting their careers. Fitriyah, et al., (2018) state the career is a need to achieve in order to make a better condition for an individual.

Another problem is the Akit people not yet have skills to achieve their desired careers, so they seem uncompetitive in obtaining careers in today's disruptive era. Das et al., (2019) mention that ethnicity is very important in shaping career aspirations.

In their research, Mayra, et al., (2020) conclude gender has nothing to do with university students career aspirations development. For more Sulistianingsih, et al. (2019) infer adolescents' career aspirations level is shaped not only by education and parents, but also interventions or treatments.

Khatiri and Ashutosh (2021) argue gender, environment, and types of school play an important role in shaping one's career aspirations. Then, according to Khasanah, et al., (2017) today's adolescents' career aspirations are motivated by support and ideal information access, but not all adolescents have similar privilege, such as the ones from the Akit tribe. Therefore, an in-depth research is needed to determine the underlying assumptions of the Akit adolescents' career aspirations in the disruptive era.

The Akit adolescents need professionals to provide understandings about various jobs in the disruptive era, such as a counselor to help them notice personal, social, learning and career development. A study by Ari, et al. (2019) concludes that group counseling with a self-talk technique is effective to improve career aspirations and efficacy. These two need to be a counselor's concern in considering the Akit students' development.

Career aspirations can be obtained by all adolescents, including ones from Akit who have ambitions for good. Thus, the present research attempted to see the fundamental idea of the Akit adolescents' career aspirations development as a way to realize a counseling role as an integral part of education which functions to help adolescents achieve their optimal development by completing all developmental tasks to achieve the desired goals.

METHODS

The subjects of this research were the Akit tribe adolescents who met the inclusion criteria, namely aged 15-22 years, dropped out, graduates of elementary school, graduates of junior high school, and graduates of senior high school. In addition to the supporting respondent, the akit tribal chief was involved.

A qualitative method with a phenomenological design was employed in this research. In collecting the data, a semi structured interview guidelines and non-participant observation guides were used. It took one month to collect the data of the career aspirations comprehensively.

Some procedures were taken in analyzing the data, namely data selection, data presentation to elaborate the results of condensation briefly, and conclusion drawing.

Source and methods triangulations were used to validate the data. The source triangulation used information obtained from the hamlet heads and counseling teachers. In addition, the method triangulation was done by comparing the results of findings by testing the degree of accuracy and the results of interviews that have been conducted with the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After the interviews, some underlying ideas of career aspirations were shared by the Akit tribe adolescents as follows.

“We dreamed of becoming a police officer, but it is meaningless since we do not meet the criterion of graduating from senior high school.” (R1DNO) Meanwhile, R2KYSA and R3SRW who were senior high school students planned to advance their education to become a teacher or a doctor.

Another statement is “I wish to be a football player and get some knowledge from a coach.” (I4AND) Here, it is known that these adolescents have started to express the basic meaning of career aspirations. The following is a table describing the analysis of the basic meaning of career aspirations by the Akit tribe adolescents.

Table 1. The Results of the analysis of the basic meaning of career aspirations

Theme	Explanation
Stable and secured jobs	The adolescents wished for a jobs with a competitive salary
Being an expert at a particular field	The adolescents wished to become a doctor, a police officer, a female police officer, a teacher, and a football player
Self-education	The adolescents got some trainings at a village hall and church

basic meaning of career aspirations in the Akis tribe was known from the adolescents' desire to find a stable and secured job, be an expert in a particular field, and educate. In the first, aspiration they preferred a job which gave stability and security. In the second aspiration, they wanted to be an expert, such as a police officer. Third, the informants wanted to get better education by the help of the government, guidance and counseling teachers, and church.

In relation to finding the stable and secured job, the subjects defined career as a state where they get a job which guarantees stable income. Even though some were elementary school graduates, they wished to please their parents. Career definition by individual is a part of a Super's vocational theory which results the individuals to choose a stable and secured job.

The Akit tribe adolescents defined careers as a dream indicated by their answers who wanted to be a police officer, doctor, and teacher. However, these dreams were not in line with the fact that they did not have sufficient education requirement. Super (1955) states that career has its own causality of adaptation. Even so, the Akit tribe adolescents remained having hopes for achieving their dreams. Dreams are things to achieve and realize in the future.

The Akit tribe adolescents wanted a professional career, but their parents did not direct them, and even stated that the children dreams were based on their own will. It proved

that parents slightly had no significant role in understanding the world of education and work. They tended to focus on their jobs and neglected their children education and career development, resulting in the career aspiration development disruption.

The previous conditions are different from the ones in a research by Sainz and Muller (2018) which asserts the importance of parents' education level in shaping the quality of the ideals of teenage boys and girls. Adolescent boys have aspirations for architecture and science, technology and mathematics (STEM). Their aspirations are influenced by their parents' expectations of them that when adolescents consider their parents to have high career expectations they tend to have higher career aspirations.

The condition of the parents' role in the career aspirations of the Akit tribe was very different from the role of parents revealed in the research by Sainz and Muller (2018) that the educational role of parents shapes the aspirations of teenagers because parents guide and teach teenagers to have quality aspirations in the future. Parents in the Akit tribe never had career expectations for their children so that the career aspirations of the adolescents in the Akit tribe were not directed at getting a better job in the future.

Parents in the Akit tribe have not looked at work for the future of their children so that the children career aspirations were only limited to desires. Hence, it is necessary to explore more deeply how the Akit tribe environment builds careers in adolescents since the environment and culture also have an important influence in building ideal career aspirations.

A research conducted by Schoon and Polek (2011) states that adolescents born in relatively disadvantaged backgrounds and who perform poorly at school express lower career aspirations. Career aspirations are more strongly influenced by socio-economic factors in the community environment. In line with (Gore et al., 2015) low socioeconomic backgrounds results in lower career aspirations in relatively underdeveloped adolescents.

The above economic condition is similar to that of the Akit tribe. The career aspirations in there has not yet been the whole aspirations, but limited to the desired dream jobs. This happened because the adolescents in the Akit tribe faced many obstacles to develop their careers, including the low economic condition.

Insufficient social situation also contributed to the difficulties of career development by the Aki tribe adolescents because they mostly did not meet one of job requirements, namely educational level. Many of the adolescents only graduated from high school, not higher education.

Wu (2012) explains that the particular ethnic environment where people live has an influence on building career aspirations. A socially cohesive community can function as a role model and assist in supervising youth in the community. The development of career aspirations also involves contextual factors, including the overall socio-historical context that determines opportunities and possibilities.

Environment gave both direct and indirect influences. Adults in the Akit tribe have not become role models in developing career aspirations because they have not showed what to do for future careers so that adolescents in the Akit tribe only had career knowledge but did not develop career knowledge. As a result, the adolescents of the Akit tribe tended to carry out regular work activities existed there.

Regarding Al-Bahrani et al. (2021) isolated tribal communities tend to live in isolated and remote areas which are far from other community environments so that they tend to be closed. The Akit tribe has a view of life that is very much dominated by the static thoughts of their ancestors which greatly influences the value system and social system of their society.

The Akit tribe people still do jobs done by their ancestors, such as wildcrafting, hunting, fishing, shifting cultivation using a slash and burn system. It has proved that they were slow and hard to accept renewal from outside. Their life orientation is still too strong in the past rather than in the future.

The current fast changes somehow do not really matter for the Akit tribe which still preserves its tradition culture and customs although not all do so. However, it still made the adolescents lacked of career knowledge.

Culture changes over time, and it sure affects people lifestyle and values in society. Suppose society also does the same changes, namely from having no career aspirations to having the aspirations.

Unfortunately, today's development was not followed by the career maturity of the adolescents in the Akit tribe. They still assumed that work was only a matter of doing something to earn money, but they got dreams to pursue. However, those dreams could not be achieved because they were facilitated by a proper education. There is only one school at each educational level, and the facilities are far from good.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the Akit tribe adolescents have their own career definitions, namely getting a stable and secured job, becoming an expert at a particular field, and getting better education.

The elementary school graduates give up on their dreams because they were not able to advance to the next educational level, while the senior high school graduates find it hard to get a job due to the limited access to go out of town. In addition, they define career as a dream to work and get more stable life.

Further researchers can use a mixed method on tribal adolescents to see the career aspirations of ethnic youth in Indonesia.

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