Survival Strategies and Formation of National Character from Farmer Families in Rejosari, Karangawen, Demak

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Abstract

The income of farmers in Indonesia is still relatively low even to support their families. In the current economic conditions, farmers play a role as parents who must meet the needs of the family and form a national character in their children. This study aims to identify the strategies used by farmers to maintain survival and the formation of national character in children. This study uses a qualitative method. Informants in this study are farmers who cultivate limited land. Informants were selected based on purposive sampling method. This research was conducted in Rejosari, Karangawen, Demak. The results showed that the survival strategy of farmers in meeting family needs was divided into two, the first was farmers who carried out agricultural activities, while the second activity was carried out in agriculture. Farmers' strategies in shaping the values of the nation's character to children are carried out by instilling religious, responsible, creative and disciplined characters. This research is useful for the Government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture to make policies in the form of capital assistance, seeds, fertilizers and medicines to farmers so that farmers can increase their income and can shape the character of the nation.

Keywords: Character, farm family, strategy

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INTRODUCTION

The agricultural sector is one of the livelihoods that most of the Indonesian people work in rural areas. The number of farmers in Indonesia currently amounts to 33.4 million (BPS 2020) consisting of field farmers and rice farmers. Farmers are part of the community who use land as land to run agricultural businesses. Agricultural land that is quite wide and fertile is one of the supporting factors for the sustainability of farmers’ lives (Yuana et al., 2020). The agricultural sector is an economic driver in rural areas, whether they have agricultural land or not. People who own agricultural land can get results from agricultural crops, while those who do not have land get results from working in the agricultural sector.

Farming as a livelihood is a very important sector of work in the economy in most developing countries. Until now, the Indonesian government still relies on the agricultural sector in the national development program in order to achieve food self-sufficiency (Lumintang, 2013). The majority of Indonesian farmers are in rural areas where there is still a large amount of arable land available.

In Indonesia, vast agricultural land is the foundation for producing rice and this is the staple food of the people. Agricultural land that can produce rice crops is rice fields. Based on Koenjaraningrat (1994:1772) in (Arsal et al., 2020) Field can be grouped into two, that are irrigated rice fields and rain fed rice fields. Rice fields that have good irrigation will produce more rice than rainfed rice fields. To be able to irrigate the rice fields of farmers in rural areas, the government makes reservoirs and water dams that can irrigate rice fields.

Rejosari is a village which located in the Karangawen, Demak, Central Java Province. It has a population of 13,567 people and a total of 4,352 families in 2020. The people of Rejosari have different livelihoods, namely farming, traders, factory workers, civil servants and some have migrated. From these livelihoods, the majority livelihoods are farmers which more than 60% of the residents from Rejosari have a farmer's livelihood. There are agricultural lands which are classified as paddy fields and fields.

The profession of farmers they have is something that was taught by their parents so that they have knowledge in the field of land management. Although the profession as a farmer has been passed down from generation to generation, farmers are now starting to use technology in agriculture. Technological advances in agriculture can make it easier for farmers to process agricultural land and harvest processes. The development of agricultural technology also provides opportunities for those who do not have arable land to have income. Farmers buy the agricultural tools they need and can then be used to work in the agricultural sector. This method is an effective way to increase the productivity of farming communities (Banowati, 2020).

Farmers get crops with uncertain amounts. This is because there are several factors that influence, including the area of cultivation, plant pests, weather, types of plants and the seriousness of caring for the plants. However, to cultivate agricultural land requires knowledge of systems that are in accordance with environmental conditions. This has the effect of maximizing good yields without compromising soil stability, soil fertility, erosion, and regional and global environmental damage (Dhiaswari et al., 2019). Increased agricultural yields need to be balanced with the skills mastered, because knowledge is not enough to get the desired results. It takes a maximum process through skills and land management (Setyaningrum & Banowati, 2020).

When farmers experience crop failure, farmers come up with the idea of doing business in the hope of generating income. The view of welfare of life gives impetus to farmers to step forward and carry out the transformation from traditional job design which only focuses on skill and efficiency to carry out tasks to be simpler (Syaiful, 2018). Farmers who have narrow lands get agricultural products that can only be used to meet part of the family's needs. They must have other actions and efforts so that the needs of the family are met. The dominant factor
influencing the production of the agricultural sector is based on land area ownership, because the influence of land area makes a high contribution. On the other hand, the narrow land area contributes less to the income of the farming family (Afiati et al., 2018).

Scott in (Sugihardjo et al., 2012). The use of large necessities of life spurred farmers to act as survival farmers in order to meet their needs. So roughly interpreted the problem faced by farmers is how to produce enough rice to feed the family and to buy other necessities. Authorities and policies are needed by the family in shaping the character of the child's politeness, (Amaruddin et al., 2020) In general, children will follow the teachings, appeals that have been given by parents as provisions to carry out provisions in society. Growth and development is a character possessed by a person that does not appear suddenly, but its existence arises from various processes that grow and develop in their respective environments. The process of forming a person's character in this case is influenced by the interactions that occur between internal factors that exist in a person and the environment in which he lives (Karyono et al., 2019).

The people of Rejosari who have a narrow sized arable land have a responsibility in the family environment, which must be able to meet the family's needs from the very minimal harvest. Character education policies are realized to increase the social awareness of farming families towards children. This is expected to be able to improve religious practices and the synergy of character education that is naturally habituated (Amirrudin et al., 2021). Nation building and character building are fundamental discussions of the existence of a nation (Rachman et al., 2017). The foundation or basis in forming character education is an internalization process with the aim of achieving good values. The internalization process is a wise effort for the children of farmer families towards their parents (Perdana, 2018).

The process of strengthening the character of independence and responsibility is a role for the children of farmers. This is very important because farming families face challenges in educating their children. The aim is to deal with the world of work and daily needs, it is necessary to develop quality human resources, this problem is the responsibility of farmers in addition to providing a living. However, habituation of the character values of independence and responsibility needs to be given (Lestari et al., 2018).

Aspects of micro character development are carried out through teaching and learning activities, school culture in daily life, extracurricular activities, and daily activities at home or in the community. The importance of integrating character development is not only at school but also at the family. This is done as a form of strengthening character education. Through a process that is realized, character values are developed based on the mindset, feelings, body and feelings/intentions (Nur et al., 2021).

The strategy of farmers who have narrow land, land tenants and farmers with a profit sharing system can be done by minimizing family expenses, working diligently, looking for work in order to increase family income. Meanwhile, farmers' strategies to shape the nation's character for their children can be done by familiarizing and instilling religious values in life, getting used to carrying out tasks, getting used to the rules, providing opportunities to develop children's potential (Yatmiko et al., 2015). With this strategy, farming families can carry out strategies to meet family needs and shape the nation's character for their children.

By looking at the results of previous studies, there are several studies that examine farmers' survival strategies in meeting family needs and also research that examines farmers' strategies in shaping the nation's character towards children and community members. So far there has been no research that examines farmers' survival strategies in meeting family needs and at the same time examines farmers' strategies in shaping the nation's character for the children of farmers. Based on this, it is the impetus for researchers to conduct research that not only examines farmers' survival strategies
but also examines farmer family strategies in shaping the nation's character for their children.

The purpose of this study is to analyze farmers' strategies in meeting family needs and analyze farmers' strategies in shaping the nation's character of their children. In addition, this research is a form of renewing the problem of farmers' survival strategies to meet the needs of family life and as a farmer's strategy in instilling national character in their children. The benefits of this research can provide input to the ministry of agriculture in taking actions that can help farmers' strategies in meeting family needs.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method. Qualitative methods were used to obtain information on the farmers of Rejosari, Karangawen, Demak. The research location is in accordance with the problems of farmers cultivating narrow land and having strategies in the agricultural sector and outside the agricultural sector. The number of informants is five, namely Rejosari farmers who cultivate limited agricultural land but have strategies by buying tractors, buying tobacco chopping machines, buying hoe machines, raising cattle and working as construction workers. In taking the sample using purposive sampling technique. The data collected was analyzed qualitatively, namely the data collection in this study using observation techniques, interviews, documentation studies, field notes, data analysis techniques used, namely data reduction (data reduction), data presentation (data display), and conclusion drawing (conclusion drawing). verification) by describing the research results in the form of words or phrases that allow the researcher to detail the results of his research according to the actual conditions encountered in the field.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Farmers' strategies in meeting basic family needs

Based on the results of the study, the strategies adopted by farmers to meet the basic needs of the family can be grouped into two, those are the group of farmers with activities in agriculture carried out by buying agricultural-related equipment such as tractors, rice thresher machines, tobacco chopping machines and vacuum. Farmers who do not have agricultural tools can ask for help from farmers who have tools by giving certain rewards. The second group is a group of farmers who have activities outside the agricultural sector by raising livestock and working as construction workers. From these activities, farmers can increase family income. To meet the family's needs from agricultural products, farmers also carry out a strategy to minimize spending and consume food from agricultural products and their yards. The strategy carried out by farmers is by applying religious, responsible, creative and disciplined characters.

Most of the farmers in Rejosari cultivate agricultural land which is classified as narrow in cultivating land with a rental system and processing land with a profit-sharing system. In general, farmers can be divided into several groups: farmers who own land, farmers who rent land, sharecroppers and farm laborers. The grouping of farmers has differences in the level of welfare for each family. Groups of farmers who have large areas of land have a lot of yields and are able to meet the needs of their families, but farmers who have narrow lands, farmers who are tenants of land and farm laborers are unable to meet the needs of their families (Firmansyah, 2014).

Farmers who have narrow arable land and farmers who work their fields on a rental system are usually called poor farmers. The yields they get are also relatively small as a result of the area of land they work on (Febrianti et al., 2021). Agricultural land owned by farmers is not able to provide family welfare because they are still facing poverty, thus affecting the lives and livelihoods of farmers. The ability to meet the needs of life through planning in the hope of avoiding various
problems that become a burden on life (Handayani et al., 2018).

To increase the income of farmers who do not meet the needs of their families, farmers carry out strategies that can overcome family economic problems. The farmers try in various ways to accommodate the size of the farmers' businesses, both in the area where they live and outside the village. Businesses carried out by farmers are businesses that are still related to the agricultural sector or other businesses in the non-agricultural sector (Sabara et al., 2016).

Most Rejosari farmers harvest agricultural products such as rice, as an expression of gratitude for the good results. Farmers carry out safety activities. When farmers experience crop failure, farmers have an attitude of surrendering to God because they are given a life trial in the form of crop failure. They assume that crop failure is not experienced by themselves but also experienced by other farmers. Religious attitudes are indeed used by the Rejosari farmers as a religious basis in responding to life and as a form of survival strategy in meeting family needs.

In addition to religious attitudes in responding to daily life, the Rejosari farming community has a character in meeting the needs of life. Farmers have an attitude of responsibility as a form of meeting family needs. The responsibility of the farmer is to carry out his obligations as the head of the family by working according to his abilities, both in economic and non-economic terms. Farmers need to have an attitude of responsibility so that they can do work seriously and with full accuracy which in turn can increase family income.

Creativity as a farmer is a way for Rejosari farmers to use land for work, both in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. Farmers see agricultural land that is very large, so that they think about buying agricultural equipment that can be used by themselves or by other farmers with a rental system. Agricultural equipment purchased by farmers such as tractors, water suction machines, hoeing machines, rice and corn threshing machines. These tools are used by Rejosari farmers for the benefit of farmers and for the benefit of other farmers by giving some money to those who have the tools. With these tools, farmers can more easily process and harvest their crops, farmers who have tools get money from equipment rental as additional income. The development of science and technology is also a factor driving the creativity of farmers to combine various types of work that can increase family income, the creativity of Rejosari farmers is shown in online buying and selling. This is done by farmers when agricultural commodities experience a decline in prices so they need to have different marketing strategies.

Responsibility and creativity are not enough to support the income of the Rejosari farmers. Farmers who try to meet the needs of their families must have a high attitude of discipline. During the rainy season, water is easily obtained in the fields, so many farmers choose to plant rice. On the other hand, in the dry season, because water is difficult to obtain and tends to slightly irrigate the rice fields, farmers plant tobacco plants. Rejosari farmers carry out agricultural activities according to the concepts that apply in the world of agriculture in order to earn a good income. Processing agricultural land, caring for plants and harvesting crop products requires perseverance, thoroughness and discipline so that the results obtained can be maximized. The Rejosari farming community carries out fertilization, treatment and plant care using recommendations from farmer groups and agricultural extension workers so that farmers' actions do not have a negative impact on plants.

**Farmer's strategy in shaping the character of the nation's children.**

Based on the findings in the field of research, farmers' strategies in shaping the nation's character for their children are carried out by parenting and habituation to their children with religious, responsible, creative and disciplined attitudes. The term character is often the same as the term temperament, personality or morals. Character refers to the psychological, moral or personality traits that distinguish one person from another. Literally, character has a
psychological meaning or psychological nature because it is related to aspects of personality. Morals, character or quality traits that distinguish one person from another (Rachman, 2013).

Character is the universal values of human behavior, covering all life activities, whether related to God, oneself, fellow humans and the environment, and are thoughts, attitudes, based on religious norms or laws, which are manifested in emotions, speech, actions, code of conduct, culture, and customs (Suyadi, 2013). Farmers try to instill good values according to the prevailing norms in family and community life. This can be socialized through good values: honesty, religiosity, discipline, courtesy, love for the homeland, defending the nation and state. These eight goodness values are part of the nation's character values that need to be owned by all Indonesian people.

Along with the development of the era, which is marked by globalization, industrialization and the development of science and technology, the Indonesian nation must have the attitudes of national character in order to take advantage of these conditions for the progress of the nation and state. Globalization provides containers and facilities that are human needs that have positive and negative impacts (Rifa'i et al., 2017).

The attitude of the nation's character is very important to be owned by the Indonesian people so that they can face negative things from a worrisome situation as formulated by the Ministry of Education and Culture Curriculum Center there are 18 character values which include: religious values, honesty values, tolerance values, discipline values, hard work values, creative values, independent values, democratic values, sympathy, national spirit, love for the homeland, grateful for achievements, friendly/communicative, love peace, diligent in reading, care for the environment, social care, and responsibility (Maharromiyati & Suyahmo, 2016). Indonesian people must be able to take the positive side in order to avoid various problems that arise as a result of the era of globalization, industrialization and the development of science and technology.

Character is formed from three types of interrelated parts, namely: moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral behavior. These three elements are interrelated in shaping the character values that exist in a child. Thomas Lickona's character theory is used to explain the character of survival farmers with their attitudes and actions to meet the needs of their families and instill noble character values in their children in accordance with the values of the nation's character (Lickona, 2018). Farmers' strategies in instilling national character in their children can be done by habituating religious attitudes, responsibility, creativity and discipline.

Religious

It is very important to inculcate a religious attitude for the children of Rejosari farmers in the formation and improvement of the nation's character because with this attitude children are introduced to religious values, tolerance, society, democracy and have broad insights. As parents of the Rejosari farming community, they teach their children the basic values of religion. The process carried out by parents starts from the age of toddlers, after which the children are introduced to the world of school, precisely at the age of 6 years and over. This is done and intended by farming families with the hope that children can learn more deeply about religious knowledge. Farmer's children even go to school and stay in Islamic boarding schools. Learning activities at Pondok Pesantren carried out by farmers' children are learning the Koran, studying books and some are memorizing the Koran. Children's lives begin to be accustomed to situations and conditions in the cottage that are different from life in the family. With this provision, it is hoped that the child will already have a strong foundation in the field of religion and in the future his life will not deviate from religious norms.

Responsibility

Having responsible behavior is needed as a process of developing the character of the
children of farmers. With this attitude, children are accustomed by parents to carry out their obligations in accordance with the tasks that must be carried out properly. The process of socializing parents to their children through the responsibilities given to Rejosari's farmer parents by helping with work in the fields during holidays, helping clean the house and yard, completing school assignments and helping dry the harvest. When the school activities took place, Rejosari's farmer parents gave a small amount of pocket money, but according to the children of Rejosari farmers, Rejosari's farmers gave a small amount of pocket money, not without reason, because the goal was to train children to live a simple life. The children of the Rejosari farmers are also instilled the value of responsibility in doing the assignments from school. Parents carry out socialization to children in the form of responsibility to children with the aim that children can do the work that is done in accordance with applicable regulations. However, with the attitude of parental responsibility, it provides the skills that farmers' children need to have.

Creative

The value of the nation's character towards the children of Rejosari farmers through a creative attitude can be implemented in various fields, namely science and technology, society and the field of sports. There are also children who are involved in organizations at the village level such as youth organizations, NU, youth mosques. Parents give freedom to their children as long as the actions taken do not violate the rules that apply in society. Each farmer's child can develop his creativity according to the field he masters. Along with the development of science and technology, globalization and modernization, the children of Rejosari farmers can develop their abilities and skills to use smartphones as a means of online transactions. Rejosari's farmer parents give their children the opportunity to sell credit, or buy and sell online with a variety of certain products. As farmers in Rejosari Village, parents feel proud because their children can take advantage of technology and not only use it for things that are entertainment. Thus the children of Rejosari farmers have the freedom to optimize their potential and do not have to be the same as other children.

Discipline

To form a disciplined attitude, Rejosari's children always instill an attitude of obeying every rule wherever they are. In the family environment, farmers have rules that must be obeyed by all family members, including children. On the school day, the children already have routine activities from getting up in the morning, praying and preparing to go to school. In the afternoon, children are given the opportunity to play in their surroundings and before sunset, they must go home. For children who violate the rules, parents will provide understanding and advice that what is being done is the wrong action. When children have good achievements such as reciting the Qur'an until they finish juz 30, get good grades and win in a competition, parents who work as farmers give special attention in the form of prizes according to the child's age level. To enforce these rules, sanctions are given to those who violate and are given prizes if they have good achievements.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research in Rejosari regarding farmers' survival strategies to meet the needs of family life and wanting to know farmers' strategies in instilling national character in their children, it can be concluded that: the strategy of farmers who have narrow land to meet family needs and also analyze farmers' strategies in forming values of the nation's character towards the children of Rejosari farmers. The results in the research are Rejosari farmers' strategies to meet family needs are carried out by improving the performance of farmers in agriculture and acting in the place of others both in agriculture and non-agriculture. Habitation of good values implemented in family, school and community life. The farmers'
strategy equations are carried out both to meet family needs and to instill the values of the nation's character in their children, namely religious, responsible, creative and disciplined. These attitudes through the cultivation of good character and continuous habituation eventually become the cause of the success of the farmer's strategy both in meeting the needs of his family and inculcating the national character of his children.

REFERENCES


