

# Socialization on Agricultural Work from Farmer Parents to their Children: A Case Study

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**Abstract---** *The declining number of farmers as agricultural human resources is one of the issues and challenges of Indonesia agricultural sector. There is a declining trend of interest of young generation in working at agricultural sector. The interests and participation of youth in agricultural is encouraged by social and family factors. Their attitude is actually formed through socialization that comes from internal (parents, peers and teachers). This article is limited to identifying the socialization by parents on agricultural work. The research analysis unit is young-adult individuals which are farmer's children at one Vocational Colleges in Indonesia. The sample was done purposively. The selected respondents were 69 people. A descriptive statistical analysis was used with Microsoft Excel 2010. For better understanding, in-depth interviews were conducted on 3 cases using communication ethnography. Research result showed that most (75%) of the respondents' parents talked about agriculture. The duration of conversation was around 10-60 minutes/month on the topics of cultivation, marketing, farmer status and others. The responders were also involved in helping parents in agricultural activities although their involvement was low (44%), moderate (31%) and high (9%). There was even 16% of youth who had never helped their parents in their farm.*

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

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## I. INTRODUCTION

One of the issues and challenges of the agricultural sector in the future is that national food prices are increasing and more expensive than international prices. Food production capacity is declining because land is increasingly limited, and irrigation water has not been met so that there was a stagnant productivity. In addition, farmer human resources are increasingly limited (1). The number of agricultural business households in Indonesia according to the results in the 2013 Agriculture Census reached 26.1 million households, a decrease of 5.1 million households compared to those in 2003 Agriculture Census of 31.2 million households. The largest decline occurred in the horticulture, livestock, crops and plantations sub-sectors. Moreover, the number of elderly farmers was quite a lot as much as 21.1% or around 6.7 million people aged over 60 years (1). From the above data, it can be seen that there is a tendency for youth interest to work in the agricultural sector to decline. The low participation of youth in the agricultural sector is a very fundamental problem that can result in the successors (loss of generation) in agriculture in the future (2,3). Many young people who come from farming families actually prefer other sectors besides agriculture (non-agriculture) (Novanda, 2017; Rejekiingsih & Muryani, 2017) caused by not only a dirty image of working in agriculture sector (3,5) but also no economical profit (2,6).

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According to Rohmad (1998) youth participation in agricultural development is determined by the level of will, ability, opportunity, social and family encouragement. The family, the parents as one of the socialization agents, is the people around the individual transmitting certain values or norms either directly/indirectly (8). Certain values/norms (8) are socialized by agents in the daily communication process. Therefore, the influence of agents play an important role in determining the quality of youth personality formation (3).

Previous research by Rohmad (1998), Widodo (2015), Romdiati (2015) was about against youth in rural areas. Novanda (2017), Seun, Kalsom, Bilkis, & Raheem (2017) carried out against young entrepreneurs. Herlina (2002) carried out research against young farmers in the plantation area; Nugraha (2012) and Hamyana (2017) in the horticulture area. Sulistyowati, Gandasari, & Kusmiyati (2018) conducted research for young high school students who are in the area of agricultural centers. While this study was conducted on young-adult individuals, farmer's children. This study was limited to identifying the socialization by parents as one of the socialization agents in the microsystem. The low youth participation in agriculture is presumably due to the low transmission of agricultural values, whose one of the causes is parents who increasingly do not support youth to work in the agricultural sector. Research on socialization conducted by socialization agents (parents) is expected to give an idea of how important socialization and the younger generation's engagement in agriculture.

The purpose of this study is to identify socialization by parents in socializing work in agriculture.

## II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical approach used is the Ecological System Model which deals with parties that influence the individual development of Bronfenbrenner (1986). According to Bronfenbrenner (1986) individuals (youth) interact directly with subsystems that are in their immediate environment (including families). These interactions can affect an individual's development from an attitude aspect. Then Soe' oed (2004) said parents are socialization agents in the microsystem that play a role in shaping the child's personality into the general world so that youth will not be separated from the parents' influence as socialization agents (13).

The conceptual framework in this study is a derivative of the Ecological System Model in the socialization process of Bronfenbrenner (1986). This study refers to a previous study by Nugraha (2012) which focused more on the micro-level. In contrast to Nugraha (2012), in this study, the respondents were students whose parents worked as farmers and were limited to identifying socialization by parents.

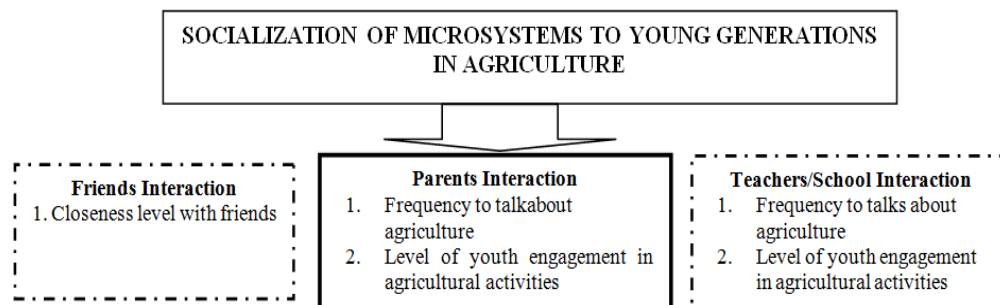


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Parents Socialization to Youth on Agriculture in Indonesia

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

The location of this study is one of the Vocational Colleges in Indonesia. The time for the research to take place starts from April 2017 - January 2018.

The research analysis unit is young-adult individuals, farmer's children at one Vocational College. The sample was done purposively. The selected respondents were 69 people. A descriptive statistical analysis was used with Microsoft Excel 2010. For better understanding, in-depth interviews were conducted on 3 cases using communication ethnography.

### **IV. RESULT AND FINDINGS**

#### ***4.1. Youth Individual Characteristics***

##### ***Age***

The age categories used in this study follow Rohmad (1998) and Nugraha (2012). They divide the age based on four categories: early teens (13-14 years), mid-teens (15-17 years), late teens (18-21 years) and early adults (22-24 year). The number and youth by age percentage of the 66 respondents studied were mostly in the late teen's category, as much as 90 percent (62 people), followed by the early adult category of 10 percent (7 people).

##### ***Education Level***

The level of education will affect the knowledge, abilities, and expertise of youth (3,14,15). The education level of respondents in this study had a low level of diversity because respondents were only drawn from young farmers in Grade 2 by 64 percent (44 people) and Grade 3 by 36 percent (25 people).

##### ***Gender***

The number and youth by gender percentage of the respondents surveyed were 69 people. The percentage of respondents in this study male was 49 percent (34 people) and female was 51 percent (35 people).

##### ***Land Ownership Status of Youth Parents***

The land ownership of youth parents in this study is the ownership status of agricultural land for plants cultivated by youth parents. The status of land ownership is divided into private land and rented land. From the results of the study, parental land ownership status is only 62 percent (43 people) owning their own land, while 38 percent (26 people) rent or work on rented land. This study shows that the land resources owned by the respondent's parents are limited. They have to work on rented land for being farmers.

##### ***Agricultural Land Area of Youth Parents***

The area of agricultural land managed by youth parents is very diverse or has a very large variant. After being categorized, it turned out that 42 percent of the agricultural land area managed by youth parents is less than 0.7 ha. Meanwhile, youth parents who own land more than 0.7 ha only 32 percent and 26 percent did not know how much land area is managed by their parents. From these results, it can be concluded that the land area managed by youth parents is still relatively narrow.

#### **4.2 Parents as Agricultural Value Socialization Agents**

Verbal communication is a way for parents to socialize work in agriculture with their children. Through frequency parents tell their children about agriculture and children's engagement in agricultural activities. The parent's frequency talks to their children about agriculture or the parenthood degree (father and mother) in telling stories about agriculture to their children (youth). Based on the results of the study of 69 respondents, there was by 75 percent (52 people) respondents whose parents talked about agriculture. The duration of telling about agriculture is 10 to 60 minutes per month. The socialization of agricultural values from parents to youth is done by telling stories. The farmer tells the story of agriculture (starting cultivation, yield marketing, yield processing, economy, capital, status (prestige) of the farmer to his child after coming back from the plantation.

Various ups and downs of working in the agricultural sector are told by parents to their children. On various occasions, parents talked about cultivation, yield marketing, yield processing, economy (capital), farmer status, the value of agricultural work and parental expectations. The opportunity to socialize is done by parents when they are relaxed, for example, while watching television, or while sitting and resting.

The attitudes of parents towards the value of agricultural sector work handed down to their children also differ. The informant's parents Gi (her parents only have a small land and work on rented land to live as farmers) stated that working on the farm was very difficult, tiring and unprofitable. Her parents hope that her child will become an officer and not work in agriculture. Ad Parents' informant stated that working in the agricultural sector was unpredictable. The agriculture results are full of risks and depend on various things beyond the farmers' capability. Even if the results are good, it is not necessarily profitable because farmers cannot control prices. His parents assume that agriculture will be profitable if the land owned is large. Therefore, his parents expect their children to become an officer, and even if the children want to work on farm, this sector is only for fun or side jobs.

Unlike the case with Sy informants (his parents have large land, and had worked as a plantation employee). His parents told him a lot about agriculture starting from cultivation, pest, disease, price, marketing and told him that farming was fun as long as they knew how to manage it and gave their children support to work in agriculture.

The data above shows that the frequency and duration of parents telling their children about agricultural work is very adequate. Parents build social relationships by telling their children about agriculture.

The second way to socialize the value of agricultural work from parents to youth is to involve youth in agricultural activities. This activity can be in the form of parents inviting their children (youth) to the farm to help work on agricultural activities. The results of research for youth engagement by parents in the farm-based on frequency can be seen in the following Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of respondents according to their engagement in helping their parent's farm

Level of Engagement	Number of Respondents (People)	Percentage (%)
Never (0)	11	15.0
Low (1-2.0)	30	43,5
Moderate (2.01-3.0)	22	31.9
High (3.01-4.0)	6	8.7
Total (n)	69	100.0

The level of youth engagement in assisting parents in agricultural activities was 44 percent (30 people) with low engagement rates, 31 percent (22 people) with moderate engagement rates and 9 percent (6 people) with high engagement rates. In addition, there are also 16 percent (11 people) who have never helped the activities of parents in the farms. The level of youth engagement is not high because they are still in the status of school students. This is in line with the findings of Nugraha (2012).

Youth engagement in agricultural activities in parents' farms based on activities to clear land before planting, selecting & planting seedlings, watering plants, giving manure to plants, cleaning weeds, helping post-harvest activities, helping grading, harvesting yields, clearing the land after harvest, helping to prepare fertilizer/seeds/medicine, helping to calculate farming analysis, helping to market the product.

The results of in-depth interviews, informant Gi was always invited by her parents since she was child to a vegetable plantation and sometimes she helped in harvesting chilies. From this process, Gi came to understand the ins and outs of farming and all the bitter bitterness. Through this bitterness, Gi's parents strongly didn't encourage her to work in the agricultural sector. Ad's informants were also invited by his parents to the plantation, especially the nutmeg. His father was in charge of picking nutmeg, mother peeled nutmeg and Ad gathered the fallen nutmeg. Sy informant didn't help the plantation because his parents only farmed after retiring from plantation company employees. After retirement, it's time for informants to continue his studies at Vocational school.

This quantitative and qualitative data shows that parents do not involve their children in agricultural activities. There is a tendency for smallholder farmers to involve their children more in agricultural activities, due to labor needs. Large land farmers can seek additional labor through wage mechanisms, not family labor. This is not in line with the findings of Widodo(2015) which states that families don't inherit agricultural skills from their parents.

However, this research is in line with the statement of Rejekiningsih & Muryani (2017) land as social space becomes a space in building social relations and cultural agriculture. Parents build social and cultural relations of agriculture through engaging youth on agricultural land. Parents as socialization agents in the microsystem have influence(4,10,13)and have the power to encourage youth to participate in investment and business activities in their environment(10). Socialization by parents is important in building awareness and shaping youth behavior to develop agriculture and preserve a sustainable environment(2).

## **V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

In families whose parents work in agriculture, the socialization of agricultural values from parents to youth is done by telling stories. Most (75 percent) of farmers talk about agriculture (starting cultivation, marketing, processing, economy, capital, status/prestige of farmers) to their children. There is a tendency, parents socialize good value of agricultural work in according to parents' agricultural conditions. Parents with large land socialize good agriculture and hope their children become farmers, while poor farmers share the bitterness of farming, and unwilling their children to become farmers. Parents tend not to involve youth in agricultural activities. This engagement is also influenced by parental farming conditions. Parents with few assets involve their children (including those from school) to farm, while rich farmers do not involve their children in farming.

The family is the parent as an agent of socialization that introduces youth to be members of the community. The next process that introduces youth into new sectors of the objective world that leads to the realization of professionalism is the educational institution. Educational institutions are one of the agents of socialization whose role is to build awareness and shape the knowledge, attitudes, and skills of youth to develop their knowledge.

The limitation of this study is that socialization is only limited by parents as one of the variables in the microsystem. While the attitude of youth is the result of socialization from parents, teachers, and peers. So that further research is needed to enrich on farmers' regeneration research.

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