

# Mentality of Java Basarang Original Transmigran Citizens in the Rationality of Employment

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**Abstract:** Many Javanese transmigrants from Basarang are looking for work, and some live in Palangkaraya City. Even though they already have enough work and land in their original area of Basarang. They work in various fields, even many of them get jobs as civil servants and some are involved in political parties. However, not all are successful, some whose lives are no better than life in their hometown. From this phenomenon, this study aims to understand the perspective of citizens towards the essence of Palangkaraya City. This research was conducted using a qualitative approach. Data collection uses observation, interviews, and documents. Data analysis was performed using the Analysis Model of Stevick, Colaizzi, and Keen's thinking in Creswell (2010),

**Keywords:** Social Conditions, Social Actions, and Rational Choices.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Residents of Javanese transmigrants from Basarang are transmigration programs in 1960-1963, these transmigrant areas are projected to support the needs of rice in the surrounding areas, especially Kuala Kapuas City and Palangkaraya City (Utomo, 1993). Because Basarang is a tidal area and the soil is very fertile. In its journey as a result of government policies that were wrongly predicted (dredging waterways), it had a negative impact with the declining level of soil fertility. This phenomenon gave rise to the negative "sigma" of some residents, especially among the next generation, which affected their choices to find work outside, both as seasonal and permanent workers. It turns out that those who are looking for work in Palangkaraya City generally choose to settle into local residents with a variety of professions. Based on this reality, the purpose of this study is to understand the perspective of the essence of the potential of Palangkaraya City.

## 2. STRATEGIC POTENTIALS OF PALANGKA RAYA CITY

### 2.1. Job Opportunities

According to Javanese transmigrants from Basarang, Palangkaraya City provides very promising job opportunities, Palangkaraya City as the Capital of Central Kalimantan Province was only formed in 1957, from the wilderness around Pahandut village (Emergency Law No. 10/1957). There are several factors as an explanation; (1) Palangkaraya City was built in the wilderness, and does not yet have permanent residents, (2) Local residents (Dayak) do not like laborers / coolies or other paid jobs. As the results of an interview with Offeny (2019) revealed that among the Dayak community there was no payment for wages (laborers / coolies), because the work was only done by "jipen" (captives / slaves).

In line with Offeny's proposition, Muhammad Saleh (2019) revealed that Palangka Raya as the Capital of the Province of Central Kalimantan was in dire need of human resources as a government apparatus. To meet these needs, the Central Kalimantan provincial government through the first Governor "Tjilik Riwut" carried out the policy, in addition to the transfer of employees from the

districts in Central Kalimantan, the government also brought people from Java to be appointed as civil servants, this policy was certainly not easy and requires high costs. This fact also provides an opportunity for Javanese transmigrants from Basarang who have a diploma and age to enable them to become state officials (government officials).

### 2.2. Educational Opportunities

Education is a basic human need, because without human education there is no difference with animals, therefore the educational process is a human effort to humanize humans (Pidarta, 2007). Through education according to "Bloom's taxonomy" at least three things are gained; knowledge (cognition), attitude change (affection), and skills (psychomotor), these three things are very important for human life. Therefore, humans always try to obtain education to ensure their survival.

As a new developing region, the City of Palangka Raya is in need of quite large Human Resources, both Human Resources for governance and for building infrastructure. Human Resources needs will only be met through the education process. Therefore, education that must be built is based on the potential and needs of the community in supporting sustainable development (Komar, 2006).

According to Muhammad Saleh (2019), the first educational institutions to be built in the city of Palangka Raya are SMA, SMEA, STM, SKKA, and SPG, while for the junior secondary level are SMP, ST, SMEP. Whereas for Higher Education, it was only opened in 1963, among others Palangka Raya University (UNPAR is now UPR), with three Faculties (FE, FIP, and FKg) all working together with universities in Java, especially Malang State University.

In its very modest implementation, as Salamun (2019) stated when he was educated at the PGA, each class had only 1 class, and each class had fewer than 20 students. The students are generally migrants / migrant children, their age is generally past the age they should, some in the morning work. Muhammad Saleh (2019) also revealed at the STM where he taught, each level was only 1 class, the number of students per class was not more than 20 people, and some had worked, there were civil servants and even students who also worked as construction workers.

### 2.3. Environmental Comfort

According to Abraham Maslow in the theory of human needs at the level after basic needs, is the need for security and environmental comfort. The environment is so important for humans, because the environment is a place for humans to depend on both physiological and psychological needs. An uncomfortable environment causes humans to feel threatened, anxious, alarmed, afraid, and human will try to avoid it. Because of that manusaia trying to find options for action. Meanwhile, according to Alfred Marshall with "marginal utilitinya" which says that human action is always directed at the part of "achieving pleasure and avoiding pain".

Basarang is a low-lying area with a topography of 3 m above sea level. Ground water in Basarang is brackish, and not suitable for drinking water. Because of that the drinking water needs of Basarang residents depend on rain water. When the rain no longer falls and the reservoir has run out, residents use river water for drinking water needs. Likewise, the environment of the house so as not to be submerged in water and higher usually residents raise the land from around the house, consequently around each resident's houses many pools are always flooded.

Meanwhile, Palangka Raya City, relatively high environmental conditions around 60 m above sea level, with a flat topography slightly hilly, ground water overflowed and very clear. Water needs can be met from ground water. River water flows from upstream to downstream from the upstream springs, although the water looks colorful but clean, so residents who live around the river can use river water for their needs, bathing, washing, drinking without going through excessive processes.

## 3. RESEARCH METHOD

### 3.1. Research Paradigm

This research is a descriptive qualitative research using a social definition paradigm, the use of this paradigm is intended to understand human behavior in interacting (Ritzer, 2014). According to Sugiyono (2008), a qualitative research method is a study based on a philosophy of post-positivism, due to the natural object conditions where the researcher as the main instrument, snowball data source collection, collection techniques are carried out by in-depth interviews and observation, to ensure the validity of the data is triangulated from Denzin (1978) in Norman K. Denzin, Yvonna S. Lincoln (2009).

### 3.2. Research Subject

The subject of the study was the Javanese Transmigrant Citizens from Basarang who lived in Palangka Raya City as the main data source in this study, the rest were additions such as documents and others. Considering the importance of information from research subjects as the main data, it is necessary to be careful in choosing. For this reason, researchers refer to the requirements for selecting research subjects according to Spradly (1997), as follows: (1) Research subjects have been long enough and intensively integrated in activities and fields that are be a research study, (2) research subjects are fully involved, fully involved with the activity or field, (3) research subjects have sufficient time to be asked for information. Whereas informants were people who knew a lot about the problems that were the focus of the study.

### 3.3. Data Validity Test

So that the information (data) collected can be guaranteed its validity, it will use four data validity criteria disclosed by Lincoln and Guba (Moleong, 2012), among others; (1) credibility includes; sufficient time allocation, multiplying variations in information sources, using different methods / methods, discussions with peers, and member checking, (2) transferability which includes the use of adequate informants, comparing data / information continuously, 3) dependability (3) dependency) through data inspection / field data information, reduction, data tabulation and data interpretation; (4) confirmability (certainty) checking the data through interviews with informants (triangulation of sources).

### 3.4. Data Analysis

Analysis of the data in this study follows the phenomenological analysis procedure from Creswell (2010), as an adaptation of the thoughts of Stevick, Colaizzi, and Keen as follows: First; Stage "Discription", "Researchers fully describe the experience experienced by the research subjects. Second, the "Horizanalization" stage of the transcription results, the researcher makes an inventory of important and relevant statements with the research theme. Third, the "Cluster of Meaning" Stage, at this stage the researcher classifies into groups based on themes or units of meaning, as well as removing / overlapping statements or overlapping occurrences.

## 4. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Research Results

From the data collected through interviews and observations, after analysis and bridging with relevant theories, propositions (research findings) can be found as follows:

- The migration of Javanese transmigrants from Basarang (farmers) to Palangka Raya, was apparently not in line with the "Geertz proposition" who stated that their farming work was considered "despicable" work, apparently the action was caused by a negative "stigma" on the prospect of agricultural work becoming less promising.
- From the results of this study also found a new motive, from the migration of Javanese transmigrants from Basarang to Palangka Raya, namely the existence of a "self-actualization" motive. Previously, Collier stated the movement of farmers because they do not own land (rice fields), while according to Sumarjan, population movements, due to increasing population, factors of educational progress, contact with other cultures.

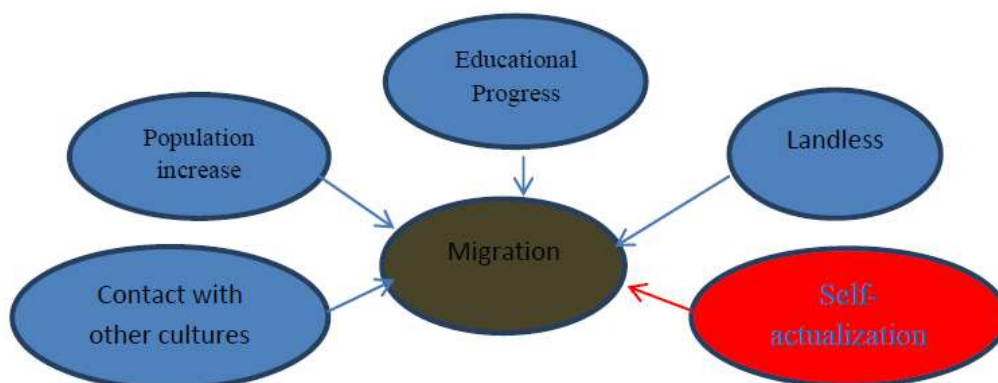


Figure Motif Research Subjects.

## **4.2. Discussion**

### *4.2.1. Reasons for Leaving Basarang*

Farmers' movement from one area to another according to Collier (1978), because they do not own land (rice fields), while according to Sumarjan (1981) population movements, due to population growth, educational advancement factors, contact with other cultures. Or also as referred to by McClelland in (Harrell, & Stahl, M. 1984), one of which is to fulfill the need for achievement (The Need for Achievement) (n-ach) - namely the need for someone to have the highest attainment, master various skills, or have a higher standard of living.

In this context some of the reasons revealed by the research subjects leaving Basarang are; (1). The existence of a negative stigma against the prospects of farming work, especially rice farming in Basarang, they argue that facing such a situation should not surrender to the situation, must be brave to look for alternative jobs even though they have to leave their hometown, from the information they get to the destination city that is the city Palangka Raya. (2) Environmental factors, according to some Basarang residents, are one of the causes of discomfort in life, although this is only a case, when confirmed to other residents they also confirm that swampy areas are indeed very dangerous for children. children, besides that the Basarang area does not have the potential for clean ground water, (3) Obstacles to getting the desired education are one of the reasons why they leave Basarang. Indeed, at that time in Basarang, formal education institutions were only elementary schools (SD) and junior high schools (SMP), so Basarang people who wanted to get a higher education they had to go to a city that was quite far away, for that it needed sufficient costs big and hard to reach by the Basarang people.

### *4.2.2. Choice of Palangka Raya as the Destination*

According to Mead (1982), human action as a "primitive unit" in which a person acts, is almost the same as the behavior approach, due to the stimulus (stimulus) and therefore will cause a response (response). These stimuli can be in the form of opportunities that can guarantee desired subjective conditions including; job opportunities, child education, safety, health, and so on. That opportunity is in the city of Palangka Raya as the capital of Central Kalimantan Province.

The choice of Javanese transmigrants from Basarang towards the city of Palangka Raya as a rationality choice option is based on information obtained, among others; (1) The need for labor to fill the labor market is still very open, (2) The reluctance of local people to pursue coolie / laborers' work, opens up great opportunities for migrants to work in the field, (3) Opportunities for continuing education are very open. (4) Palangka Raya's topography which is flat and high is also a special attraction for some Javanese residents from Basarang who are unfamiliar with the swamp environment and the absence of clean ground water, while the needs are all in the city of Palangka Raya.

### *4.2.3. Job Options*

According to Redfield, (1971) Javanese people in the structure of social life are divided into two social groups (1) the wong cilik (small people), consisting of farm laborers, as well as other low-income people, and (2) the priyayi, consisting of people rich people (employers / landowners), including employees, intellectuals, and nobles / nobles (royal family). Geertz in (Hidayat, 2015) said that the impact of all this gave rise to a "stigma" that as peasants were seen as second class people, and they considered farming work "abusive".

Job choices Javanese transmigrants from Basarang explicitly did not express their dislike of farming work. In general, they reveal why they do not choose farm work, even though the opportunity for farm work is very large and very promising, they do not choose farm work, because there are other jobs that are faster earners (wages). One of these jobs is carpentry, carpenter work can be paid every day/every week /every month, and it can also be a wholesale system (based on the volume of work). Likewise the work of laborers/coolies associated with government institutions such as; clinning service, gardener, night watch, etc., are also paid at the end of every month.

The above work is open and there is no competition for migrants especially Javanese people, because the local people (Dayak people) do not like the job because for them the work of laborers/coolies is considered to be low (hina) work, while Banjar people prefer to be traders, even if there are who work

in carpentry, generally they work as carpenters. Even so, that does not mean that at all Javanese transmigrants from Basarang do not work in agriculture, as Siswoyo and Yusman say, they at their leisure continue to farm "horti cultura" as a side job.

### 5. CONCLUSION

From the description above it can be concluded that the Javanese transmigrants from Basarang who are generally farmers, looking for work and partly settled in the city of Palangka Raya, are more caused by dissatisfaction with the environment (rice fields) which are increasingly unable to provide sufficient income to support their lives, as well as an environment that is less comfortable. The choice of Palangka Raya as a rational choice, because according to them, Palangka Raya provides employment potential, especially wage employment (labor / coolies), where this type of work is avoided by the local community. In addition, Palangka Raya also provides opportunities to obtain education for the entire community, including adults.

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