

The Changes in Socio-Cultural Behaviour of the Society in Mining Quarry Area of PT. Newmont Nusa Tenggara in West Sumbawa Regency, Indonesia

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Abstract

The aims of this research are: 1) to investigate and find out forms of changes in socio-cultural behaviour of the community who live around the mining area; 2) to obtain how the existing social order works within the community of the mining area; and 3) to get the efforts to be done in order to keep balances of socio-cultural development amongst the community of the mining area. The research was carried out in West Sumbawa Regency and sample of the research was Jereweh district as the primary location including some villages, such as, Beru, Belo, Goa, Sekongkang Atas, Sekongkang Bawah while Taliwang and Seteluk districts as a comparative location of the sample. The research was a qualitative research method and data were obtained through observation, questionnaire, documentary, deep-interview and Participatory Rural Appraisal. Result of the research shows that the presence of mining industry of PT. Newmont Nusa Tenggara brought an impact to the community's behaviour both a positive impact and negative one toward social, cultural, economy, and political aspects.

Keywords: Behavioral Changes, Social-Cultural and Economic

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The presence of a modern industry supported by a technology and economic activities such as mining industry sometimes gives social effects too, for examples, the changes of life in socio-economic in rural community who live around the colliery. The changes could be related to conception, idea, thought, opinion, and even nonverbal aspects. Social concept of a society such as family system, mutual-cooperation, and mutual-dependence are amongst the characteristics of rural society. From a sociological and anthropological perspectives, these things are very susceptible against cultural system which is out of social context of the rural society.

Therefore, the presence of such high technology industry which is not supported with a true and strong attitude and values could potentially cause the cultural gap. Such a thing is potentially easy to occur in Indonesian society as a multi-ethnic nation. Also, the diverse ethnics and difference regional background could evolve into a serious conflict among the society. In that point, gaps or asymmetrical on social, economy, and culture could also appear. We are yet not ready to compensate by culture that demanded by progress of the modern technology. In line to such thing, the presence of modern technology which tends to be very explorative should be balanced by developing values and ethics (Koentjara Ningrat & Budhisantoso, 1997:1). Based on the above phenomenon, this research aimed at analysing the changes of behaviour in socio-cultural-economy that happened amongst the settlers in the PT. Newmont Nusa Tenggara's colliery.

Based on the abovementioned background, this paper endeavours to answer the following questions:

- a. What are social aspects that has changed?
- b. How and to what extend the social changes has happened?
- c. What are efforts to be done to reduce any social impacts of the changes?

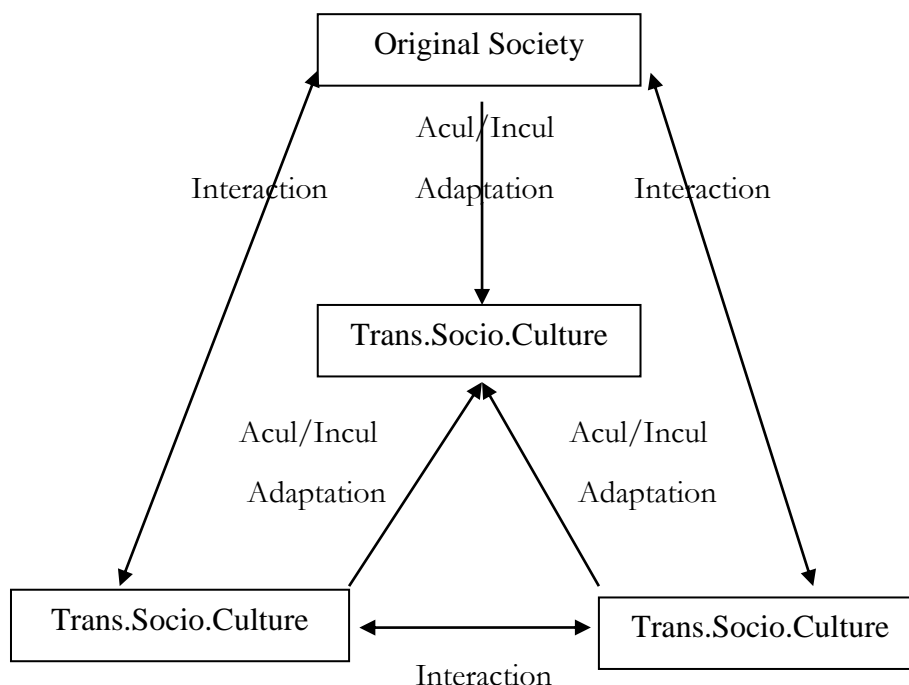
Therefore, this paper aims at analysing social and cultural behavioural changes among the society in the colliery area. It is also aimed at analysing social segment works amongst the society and finally it seeks to find out any possible efforts to keep the balances of socio-cultural development in the society. By having this research, it is hoped that, it could give solutions to the socio-cultural problems in the process of accommodative-reconciliation of any related parties such are mining society, origin inhabitant, as well as the outsider that are living around the research location.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

At least, there are two approaches in analysing the changes of socio-culture of a society. They are; functional approach and structural approach. The functional approach means that the social change happens when traditional society or pre-modern society is on progress (or on the move) to reach modern society. Such a theory was used by Geertz (1986) in analysing a stagnancy of social aspect in Java due to changes of interaction amongst demography, ecology, and technical condition. However, the structural or also known as historical approach placed the social changes as the consequences of the changes in the production process. In this study, it analysed the relations between society and environment as well as society and production process. These variables, belonging, control, and resources were the control analysis. This

approach was carried out by Harrold and Cox (1987) and suggested that there were 12 types of social relation production. In a certain location it may appear some types as together. Besides that, Hilmy (1995) also implemented this approach against the changes of socio-economy of the people who live around some industries in Pasuruan. He concluded that, among the social changes in the area were marginalizing of farmers, lacking of job opportunities as well as job termination due to the selling of farmers' lands to the firms in order to establish a new industry.

Hilmy also mentioned that there was a change in relationship between parents and children. For instance, in the past, parents had a high autonomy to their children, but now it has changed a lot. Parent is no longer to decide their children's partners in life (spouse) as previously practised. Therefore, along with such interaction there would be a so-called acculturation, enculturation, and mutually adapting. The following chart explains about the process of socio-cultural interaction.



Scheme1: Process of Socio-Cultural Interaction

Furthermore, it could be said that the involved parties or stakeholders during the interaction either individual interaction or groups interaction each would carry their own cultural system, so that the social interaction is fundamentally the interaction of cultures which actually reflect in ones' behavioural design. In that way, one's behaviour could be observed through various domains of one's life, either as an individual or as member of society, such as in economy, social, politic, and expressive domains.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODS

Method used in this research was a qualitative method. The research was done in two phases, namely, data collection and data analysis.

The research was carried out in West Sumbawa Regency and people in Jereweh district was chosen as the primary location. There are few villages in the district that include Beru, Belo, Goa, Sekongkang Atas, Sekongkang Bawah. Meanwhile, Taliwang and Seteluk districts are used as a comparison for this study.

To obtain the data, this research used observation, questionnaire survey, document analysis, in-depth interview and Participatory Rural Appraisal. The questionnaires were distributed to primary and secondary locations of the research and 20 respondents were randomly selected from each location to participate in the survey. The respondents were then divided based on their own social classes (segment of social classes). In this research there were four social segments, namely; public figures among the elders (tua-tokoh-masyarakat) (TTM), the elderlies (tua-nontokoh-masyarakat) (TNTM), public figures among the youth (muda-tokoh-masyarakat) (MTM), and the youth themselves (muda-nontokoh-masyarakat) (MNTM).

Data obtained from the research were then analysed both in a qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative data analysis involved concepts, ideas, forms of social behaviours, and expressive symbols. Meanwhile, the quantitative data was analysed in percentage form. It describes segments of socio-cultural behaviour on society and to predict the tendency of appearance of the changes in socio-cultural behaviour in the future.

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following discussion explains the changes of socio-cultural behaviours in the area. The discussion is divided into four domains, namely; economy, social, politic, and expression.

4.1 The Changes of Socio-Cultural Behavior in Economic Domain

Discussion about the changes of socio-cultural behaviour basically can be divided into two dimension of time, namely, past dimension and present dimension. Thus, an issue of the changes of socio-cultural behaviour in an economic domain is effort to expose the society's socio-cultural behaviour, especially those things related to economic values of the two mentioned dimensions. However, considering the information about socio-cultural behaviour of the past dimension is rather difficult to obtained, the prediction of forms of socio-cultural behaviour can be investigated via domain of expression. On the other hand, there are few terminologies which are rather difficult to understand. The terminologies are important as they explained about the socio-cultural behaviour of the target society in the past. Therefore, the researchers will explain a few about opinions of the West Sumbawa society including people who live in the target village), about the works they have done.

Referring to such phenomenon, a research by Mahsun (1997) indicate that special terminologies used by Sumbawan ethnic in showing their existence through dimension of time applied three types of time dimension, they are past tense (past time), present tense (time), and future tense (time). These are represented by their language form ka, mentu and ya. The

importance of using the three markers in the life of Sumbawan society is indicated by illustrated cases as follow:

In Sumbawa language, things to indicate process, event, or action must have time markers. Consider the following example.

Aku (ka) kupinang bale pang keban

(I (already) made a house at garden)

Aku (mentu) kupinang bale pang keban

(I (am making) (on progress) a house at garden)

Aku (ya) kupinang bale pang keban

(I (will) made a house at garden)

However, when those markers are omitted then your language will be grammatical unconsidered (unacceptable form of Sumbawa language).

Apart from that, during the research it is difficult to find farmers in Jereweh district that directly empowered by PT. Newmont Nusa Tenggara through its empowerment program, such as, planting organic vegetables, and so on. It is due to the lack of their interest and their hesitance in joining the program. Though, some farmers were highly interested to join the program but they tend to be more selective in choosing the plants to be cultivated considering the economic values of the plant. As example, there were (30%) of the society who tend to select an easy to sell crop, (13%) of high price, (11%) of the short time planting, (25%) of an easy way in processing and taking care, and (21%) of less cost in price and personal. Another indicator shows that an economic value of Sumbawa society is the number of land (for agriculture) they leased from.

4.2 The Changes of Socio-Cultural Behavior in Social Domain

In this domain, there were numbers of phenomenon revealed. Some of them can be observed via pattern of relationship between parent-children, husband-wife, pattern of decision making in family or society, individual-society, youth relations, as well as the society's view about moral values, ethics, and beliefs/religion.

Among the obvious changes discovered is the relationship between parent and children in all targeted villages. For example, in the past generation, parent played very important role for their children, such as in decision making of their children's job and spouse. While, in this day, their roles is no longer important by their children. They tend to be more independent in making such decision. Such phenomenon is due to the fact that children are now more independent, they can earn their own money to live a life. Based on some information obtained from the respondents whose children are working in PT.NNT or in its subcontract industries said that their children can buy their own need, such as household furnishings, utensils, and so forth. Even they also can feed up and support other family members' needs. In short, as the children is already very independent in their financial, then it automatically changes and/or reduces the parents' role or authority on their family members. On top of that there has no more land available to share as it has already been used for the industry.

4.3 The Changes of Socio-Cultural Behavior in Politic Domain

Based on the data from the research, it can be said that political domain plays an important role to change a socio-cultural behaviour of the targeted society. Among the findings from the research is that the society in the area depends on two organisations; government organisations and local community organisations.

Several organisations owned by government are LMD, LKMD, Karang Taruna, Remaja Masjid, TPA, KUD, P3A. Meanwhile, the organisations belong to the society include Muhammadiyah, NU, Perkumpulan Ratep, and Arisan Kematian. Some organizations as mentioned previously had been there before the establishment of PT.NNT, however, some are newly established such as P3A, Arisan Kematian, and Arisan Kampung which was formed in 1990. The establishment of P3A organization has changed the roles of the Sumbawan people who in charge the water distribution for watering plants. This group of people is called malar in Sumbawan language. Prior to this, malar used to get commission from the people rice field owner as they usually watered the field during the pade malar (harvesting time). The malar will get some guts (a bunch of rice) as commission to his work. Now, the term itself is no longer used due to the fact that the job is taken over by P3A. The same thing happens to Arisan Kematian (people gathering when one dies). The interesting thing found in this ritual is berenok (one brings goods, such as money, rice, etc for the death family) arisan (saving club or a kind of social gathering) is conducted altogether at the same time.

Presumably, such a kind of social gathering/saving club (arisan) was imitated or brought in from other region as it is no longer currently practised. To emphasise that an Arisan Kematian has its structure as applied in a modern organization. It has head organier, secretary, and treasurer and of course the members.

4.4 The Changes of Socio-Cultural Behavior in Expressive Domain

In relation to the changes of socio-cultural behaviour in expressive domain, there are some special phrases or new terminologies introduced by Sumbawan people. Instead of using the old or the traditional one, they introduced new phrases such maen pipis which was previously known as basule isi. This is as special term used to indicate a barter system among the society. Other terms are basiru, ngeramo, basanata, lau lokaq tu salokaq tau ode tusangode, saman sia len ka saman kami. These phrases can be categorized into forms of behavioural changes of the expressive domain.

Other forms of behavioural changes that happened in the society are the ceremonial events which are no longer practised. Among them are wedding and khitnan (circumcision) ceremonies. In wedding ceremony for example, a practice of barodak and rapancar and turun berang or turing berang that were practiced in circumcision ceremony were left behind. The turun berang is no longer practised in circumcision ceremony is believed due to the use modern technology in circumcision. Last but not least, the concept of rabuyaq is no longer exist in the modern society due to the fact that, the society itself does not believe in something abstract or something invisible. The abovementioned examples that were discovered during the survey indicated that there are changes happen in the behavioural expression in the Sumbawan community.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Previous discussion shows that phenomenon about the changes of socio-cultural behaviour of the people who live around mining industries of PT.NNT. The people in the area

was hoping that the establishment of PT.NNT would bring benefit to the area and society, apparently it has brought, in one way or another, negative impacts to the life of the people. Among others are in social, cultural, economic, and politic aspects.

Nevertheless, there are some positive implication that would be expected from the industry and the existence of the PT.NNT. Among the benefits to the society in the area are the support in education and the betterment of the livelihoods. As a result, if PT.NNT could keep its supports and aids for the people then it would definitely gaining more trust from the society in the area.

6.0 SUGGESTION & RECOMMENDATION

Referring to the method of this research as has been mentioned earlier, that was used to data collecting. Based on the data obtained, this writing tries to present some solutions for the gaps occurred among PT.NNT and the people as would be given are as follows.

Based on the data gathered in this research which used PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal), this paper endeavours to provide some solutions and gaps that were found in the research, This would be useful to the PT.NNT itself and specifically the people in the area. The suggestions are as follow:

1. PT.NNT as well as its subcontractors should keep transparency especially when they are hiring workers in the area. The transparency includes types of job, positions needed, number of workers needed, recruitments system, skills required, and then publish the result as soon as possible. This to avoid any misunderstanding that may lead to the conflicts either of the two parties or between the people.
2. PT.NNT should use some local potentials/resources such as vegetable, goods, and any needs required by the industries to support them. Local industries also should be involved in conducting and arranging any needs of the mining industries. As a result, the people would develop their income to survive their life.
3. PT.NNT should consider the moral education of the people in the area which include the locals or immigrants or even outsiders. It is discovered that some evil practices that actually forbidden such as prostitutions, drugs, and gambling were widely practised and it is even difficult to be banned. Supporting the moral education is one of the ways to reduce the immoralities. It can be done through providing enough praying time for the employees or workers, supporting donation for religious education, providing mosque for Muslim workers, and establish Islamic schools.
4. Water resource is one of the important issues to be considered by PT.NNT since some of the water resources were damaged because of the mining activities.
5. Some information related to PT.NNT should be published to the people so that they can support some program that maybe done by the industry in the future.
6. Participation in empowering the capabilities among the people should be done continuously. This can be done by providing scholarship especially for those who live around the mining industry. Such strategy is considered to be effective in avoiding and/or decreasing conflicts that may appear in the society.

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