



Youth phenomenon leaves agricultural sector in max weber social action perspective

Ayyadana Akbar¹, Suparman Abdullah ², Rahmat Muhammad³

^{1,2,3}Departemen Sosiologi Fakultas Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Hasanuddin - Makassar

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ABSTRACT

The increasing population has an impact on the growing need for food. The decrease in young farmers indicates that farmer regeneration is not going well. This situation is not favourable for the government's plan to make Indonesia the world's food granary in 2045 because it can reduce the number of domestic agricultural production so that dependence on food imports will continue to occur. This study aims to see the motives and goals of youth leaving the farm sector as a social phenomenon from the perspective of Max Weber's social action theory so that it can be an input for accelerating current and future government policies. Using qualitative research methods with a literature review approach, it was found that based on motives and goals, the youth left the agricultural sector based on instrumental rational actions and valued reasonable measures. There are no motives and goals that lead to traditional and practical actions.

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Corresponding Author:

Ayyadana Akbar

Departemen Sosiologi Fakultas Sosial dan Ilmu Politik

Universitas Hasanuddin, Makassar

Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan, KM 10 Kampus Universitas Hasanuddin, Tamalanrea Makassar 90245

Email: ayd.akbar@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's population continues to grow. Based on the results of the 2020 population census conducted by the Central Statistics Agency, Indonesia's population has increased by 32.56 million from the results of the 2010 census. The growth rate is still at 1.25 percent per year.

This still positive population growth certainly impacts food needs as well. As Malthus explained, population growth follows a series of measures, while the increase in foodstuffs follows a series of counts. Food availability always lags far behind population growth, so concerns about the Indonesian people's unmet food needs become very reasonable.

Indonesia still relies on imports from other countries to meet its domestic food needs. Reporting from the box data, the Central Statistics Agency noted that Indonesia's rice imports throughout 2022 reached 429,207 tons, an increase of 5 percent from the previous year. The Global Food Security Index 2022, the world's food security measuring agency, also ranks Indonesia in food security at number 10 in Asia Pacific and 60th in the world (Maruf 2023). The condition of food security that is so fragile can undoubtedly cause problems, one of which is Indonesia's dependence on food imports (Hs Mudrieq, 2014)

Lately, the issue of food security has resurfaced due to the elnino phenomenon that hit. CNBC Indonesia, on September 2, 2023, reported that President Joko Widodo, at the 2023 Coordination Meeting on Inflation Control, said that food leftism is increasingly evident due to many countries starting to reduce their food exports to other countries. This phenomenon must be the government's concern, including ensuring the achievement of Indonesia's target as a world food granary in 2045.

The challenge facing the government today is to regenerate farmers. Based on the results of the 2013 agricultural census, it can be seen that the number of Indonesian farmers is dominated by farmers aged 40-54 years, which is 41 percent, followed by farmers aged 55 years and over, which is 27 percent, while young farmers under the age of 35 years are only 11 percent. When compared with the results of the agricultural census in 2003, farmers were dominated by those aged 25-44 years as much as 44.7 percent, followed by the age of 45-60 years, 23.2 percent, and the lowest was the age of fewer than 24 years which was 9.2 percent (Susilowati 2016). The results of the National Labor Force Survey (Sakernas) also show that from 2020 to 2022, the number of young farmers will continue to decline. In 2020, the number of young farmers reached 20.62 percent, decreasing to 19.18 percent in 2021 and 18.01 percent in 2022. This gives a clear picture that farmers in Indonesia are aging while the number of youth working in this sector is declining. (BPS 2020, 2021, 2022)

This issue of youth and agriculture has received much attention from researchers before. This research aims to see and analyse the motives and goals of youth leaving the agricultural sector as a social phenomenon from the Max Weber social action theory perspective.

Weber found that a person's decision in deciding their actions is based on the motives and goals of the perpetrator himself. Weber divided his theory of social action into four types: First, instrumental rational action, in which a person not only assesses the best way to achieve his goals but also determines the value of the goals to be achieved; Second, the rational act of weight by which one cannot judge whether or not the chosen means to achieve the goal is appropriate; Third, affective action, where this action is based on feelings or emotions; Fourth, traditional activities, where these actions are based on past experiences without realising the reasons or planning. From the construction of this theory, it is hoped that it will be able to identify the motives of youth leaving the agricultural sector so that it can strengthen the perspective of all parties in seeing the decision of youth in their actions to leave the farm sector as input in accelerating rural policies in the present and the future.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses qualitative methods with a literature study approach (literature review). Okoli & Schabram (Ulhaq and Rahmayanti 2020) explain that the study of literature is intended to First gather the theoretical basis for the following research, second, to find out how deep or broad the scope of existing research related to the research topic to be carried out. The third is to get answers to practical questions on what has been found from previous research. From the results of previous studies, several developments were taken that can provide an idea of the motives and goals of young people choosing to leave the agricultural sector as their choice of work. An in-depth analysis was carried out using Max Weber's theory of action from these various motives and goals. The number of research results that become references in this writing is as many as 24 articles, most of which are sourced from scientific journals indexed by Higher Education, plus other scientific references such as theses, reports, etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Youth

Based on Law Number 40 of 2009 concerning youth, youth means Indonesian citizens entering a substantial period of growth and development between the ages of 16 and 30. While the Indonesian Youth Employment Network (IYEN) defines youth as those in the age group of 15-29 years, the World Health Organization (WHO) defines youth as those in the age group of 10-24 years, while the United Nations defines youth as those in the age group of 15-24 years.

Suppose you look at the composition of the population based on the characteristics of the generation compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics. In that case, this young age is now dominated by Generation Z, the generation born from 1995 to 2010, and a small part of Generation X, born from 1981 to 1994.

Agricultural sector

Agriculture is managing biological natural resources with the help of technology, capital, labor, and management to produce Agricultural Commodities, including food crops, horticulture, plantations, and animal husbandry in an agroecosystem. (Law No. 19 THUN 2013) Agriculture is also defined as business activities that include cultivating food crops, horticulture, plantations, animal husbandry, fisheries, and forestry.

Motives and Goals of youth leaving the agricultural sector

Anthony Giddens (1991) explained that motives are impulses that become energy in human actions to fulfil their needs. For this reason, in looking at the motives of youth leaving the agricultural sector, it is necessary to look at the driving factors (*push factors*) in raising the farm sector as their job choice. *This push factor* also has a close relationship with interest. Interest is the cause of a person participating in activities (Suharyat 2009).

Susilowati (2016) outlines eight factors that encourage youth to leave the agricultural sector: First, the land is narrow. Second, the assessment of the farming sector lacks social prestige, is dirty, and risky. Third, there is no harmony between education and the availability of employment. Fourth, agriculture is considered at high risk regarding income certainty and sustainability – fifth, low wages/incomes. Sixth, there are low employment opportunities in the village. Seventh, regeneration of agricultural enterprises in low children. Eighth, particular incentive policies have not been given to young farmers.

Pujiriyani et al. (2016) concluded that several factors cause youth to work in the agricultural sector, namely land ownership, farming skills, and marital status, while the factors that encourage youth to leave the agrarian sector are education and non-agricultural skills.

Dwi Nugroho and Rahayu Waluyati (2018) explain the factors causing the disinterest of youth working in the agricultural sector, namely, Non-agricultural sector income is higher, and agricultural image is negative young people do agriculture with low education and narrowing agrarian land. Hamyana (2017) elaborates directly on the motives of youth in agriculture, namely structural and cultural bases or rational reasons and moral explanations. From some of the factors above, it can be summarised some of the motives and goals of youth leaving the agricultural sector as follows:

a. Narrowing land

The narrowing land and lack of land make young people no longer interested in working in the agricultural sector. The study found a significant influence of land area on young people's attitudes toward working in the farming sector. This means that the Septiya Dharmawan et al. (2020) narrower the agricultural land owned, the less interest young people have in working in the farming sector. White also explained that one of the reasons for the disinterest of young people

working in the agricultural sector is reduced land accessibility. This corroborates research that shows that young people usually only own land when they are married or when their parents have died. Nugraha and Supriatna (2020)(Nugraha and Herawati 2015)

The average area of farmland owned by young people is now significantly reduced. Land ownership is already at an average of below 0.5 Ha (Java island); outside the island of Jawa, it is an average of 0.5 -1 Ha. (Nugraha and Supriatna 2020)Dailabi (2017) said a land area of less than 0.5 hectares caused labor movement from the agricultural sector to the industrial sector.

In the case of land ownership, there are also different research results. No real relationship exists between land area and youth's perception of employment in the agricultural sector. Land ownership does not affect because there are still other factors, namely the use of new technologies and innovations to increase yields that will attract young people to build modern agriculture in the future. (Pinem, Nurmayasari, and Yanfika 2020) However, Pinem et al in their research, also saw that there had indeed been a decrease in the number of land ownership in youth. This is due to the influence of the inheritance distribution system from parents so that land ownership becomes distributed from one ownership, namely parents, to several children.

b. Dirty, decile, and high-risk farming.

The youth view the agricultural work environment negatively because it is considered a dirty and job. This can be seen from the study results, which said that 86.36% of respondents rated negatively against the agricultural work environment. (Pinem et al. 2020)

Agriculture is also seen as a high-risk occupation. It takes a muscular physique, resistant to weather and climate because the heat and rain are impossible to avoid. It is said that Werembinan et al. (2018)most women perceive that agriculture is more suitable for men. This is because women have a weak physique and are more likely to maintain their appearance. Natural factors such as climate and *unpredictable* crop pests make farming at high risk of crop failure. In addition, uncertainty and price instability are problems that farmers often experience. Said that two technical things faced by Indonesian agricultureIkhsani et al. (2020) are crop failure and uncertainty in market prices.

c. Relatively high Youth Education

Septiya Dharmawan et al. (2020) explained that formal education significantly affects the interest of you in working in the agricultural sector. Dharmawan further explained that the high level of youth education also makes their expectations for better jobs high. This supports research that says that the higher the education, the broader the horizons of youth, so youth will be more likely to work outside the agricultural sector. Similarly, Dailabi Werembinan et al. (2018)(2017) said that youth with high school education levels and above tend to work in the industrial sector. Sari et al. stated that education in Indonesia is too focused. Arvianti et al. (2019) emphasise the industrial sector. As a result, the skills possessed by youth are dominated by skills related to industry. This has also been explained by those who say that the reluctance of youth to work in agriculture is due to the Susilowati (2016) *mismatch* between youth education and employment in the village. This is evidenced by research conducted on agricultural vocational students in Central Java, where students' interest in working in the farming sector is in the category of interest. (Handayani, Hariadi, and Andarwati 2022).

Some studies do not explain that there is no significant influence between education and youth interest in working in the agricultural sector. Meanwhile, the study found that the education of onion farmers in Solok Regency was dominated by youth with high school education levels and above. This is in his explanation because in the two studies above, Pinem et al. (2020) and enefactor (2022), the average youth has completed education at the high school level and above. Likewise, Anwarudin (2017) explained that the higher the social status of farmers, the higher the level of participation in the UPSUS Padi program. If the red thread is drawn, this signals that education has

a positive effect on the agricultural sector because social status and the level of education also shapes a person he carries.

d. Low agricultural sector wages and income

Wage and income factors greatly influence the decision of young people to work in agriculture. In addition to Susilowati, it was found that income naturally affected the interest of young people working in the agricultural sector. The positive value shows that the greater the payment, the greater the youth's interest in working in the agricultural sector. In line with that, it was also found that income significantly affected children's interest in continuing their parents' agricultural business. Arvianti, Asnah, and Prasetyo (2015)- Arimbawa and Rustariyuni (2018)

The wage/income factor is the motive for the movement of youth to work in other sectors in the city. Similarly, by to Dailabi (2016)Pujiriyani et al. (2016), the level of agricultural wages causes the non-survival of youth in the world to tend to be static while wages in the industrial sector always experience an increase rate. In line with that, Bedronika et al. also said that the low wage level makes young graduates not interested in settling in the village. Avrianti says this causes young people to prefer urbanisation and become migrant workers. In the perception of youth, harvesting from agriculture brings less profit Arvianti et al. (2019)(Werembinan et al. 2018)

There is also a positive perception of farm income, but it still depends on other *push factors*. The research describes that the perception of youth on revenue in the agricultural sector is good because it can meet the Pinem et al. (2020)physiological needs of youth. This is more because the farming sector is still an additional job for most youth, so this study found no significant relationship between farming motivation and youth perceptions of employment in the agricultural sector. Similarly, research found the same thing: youth have a good perception of their income in the agricultural sector. This happens because most young farmers have land above 0.5 Qudrotulloh et al. (2022)Ha.

e. Image Agriculture that is old-fashioned (not modern) and lacks social prestige

Current capitalisation and globalisation also piggyback on westernisation, changing the lifestyle of youth. Modern has finally become a slogan and lifestyle, and agriculture is increasingly considered *old-fashioned*, so many young people leave the agricultural sector. The struggle between modern and traditional values drives the younger generation's disinterest in working in the agricultural sector. But behind this phenomenon, Hamyana also found an interesting thing (Hamyana 2017), namely that there are young people who think that being a farmer is a moral responsibility to provide basic human needs for the sustainability of life in the world.

Development policies that emphasise other industrial and manufacturing sectors increasingly marginalise the social role of farmers. Individuals outside the farm still dominate social rewards. This is seen, for example, in the placement of seats at social events, community events, and traditional rituals such as weddings. Susilowati (2016) said that the agricultural sector has no social prestige. This is the cause of the disinterest of young people working in the agricultural sector.

Nevertheless, there is another interesting fact that has happened to research lately. Young people have a good perception of agricultural entrepreneurship. This research explains that youth feel elevated in social status (Qudrotulloh et al. 2022) have a place, and are valued by the community around them, including by those who work outside the market. Youth as *energetic* individuals tend to get the trust to attend meetings organised by farmer groups or the government so that young farmers have a lot of scientific efficiency and are socially known to many people. Junaedi, Anwarudin, and Makhmudi (2020) explained that group dynamics and social environment play an essential role in fostering youth interest in working in the agricultural sector.

f. Government policies that have not been maximised

To protect agricultural land, the government issued law No. 41 of 2009 concerning

protecting sustainable food agrarian land. However, the market mechanism cannot be defeated because the industry's need for land can control the land conversion process in Indonesia (Nurrokhman 2019). Law No. 19 of 2013 concerning the protection and empowerment of farmers has also not been realised optimally. Yang suggested that agricultural policy in Indonesia must be based on innovation and technology so that it is necessary to develop the capacity and resources of young farmers. If examined Arvianti et al. (2019) correctly, it also means that agricultural mechanisation, as stated in the strategy for improving the economy in agriculture - the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan has not run well. (Ministry of Agriculture 2021).

Empowering and increasing the capacity of farmers should be done through improving education in line with the needs of the agricultural sector. Mahudin & Shabahati emphasise that fostering youth interest can be done by accelerating policies in the education sector, such as increasing vocational education institutions or agricultural vocational high schools. As Susilowati explained the absence of special incentives for young farmers is one of the factors driving the reluctance of young people to work in the agricultural sector. In the results of his research, he explained that incentives such as training would have a positive impact on increasing the interest of youth to work in the agricultural sector Arvianti et al. (2019) Dwi Nugroho and Rahayu Waluyati (2018)

Discussion

a. Youth decision leaves agriculture in Max Weber's Social action perspective.

Max Weber suggests that individuals act based on experience, perception, and understanding of objects that can stimulate or work in specific situations. This theory is oriented towards the motives and goals of the perpetrator. This theory understands that the behaviour of individuals and groups each has an explanation when performing specific actions for certain reasons.

From various descriptions of the motives and goals of youth leaving the agricultural sector as a choice of employment, the perspective of Max Weber's theory of action can be explained as follows.

b. Traditional actions.

From the various research results above, no motive leads to traditional actions. The choice of youth based on actions rooted for generations is no longer visible. This is due to modernisation in various fields. The era that has been so open has helped open youth thinking. The development of capitalist ideology has helped change the perception of youth, including in choosing a job to affect the orientation or purpose of working youth, which is oriented towards material results.

c. Affective actions.

This action is an action determined by emotional conditions and orientation. In many of the motives and objectives of the perpetrators in the literature studied above, no motives and objectives that lead to effective action are found. For youth with various motives and goals in working in the agricultural and rural sectors, no action relies on emotional considerations such as caring, anger, ambition, envy, and so on. Youth choose to leave the agricultural sector not due to coercive factors or inevitable conflicts of interest that can trigger effectual reactions but on the awareness awakened from the critical thinking process of youth in facing increasingly complex life challenges in the present and even in the future.

Social and economic situations and conditions may force youth to go to extremes in choosing jobs outside of agriculture. Compulsion due to difficult situations such as having to leave the village, children, and wives to work in the industrial sector in the city cannot be seen as an emotional reaction because, in addition, the action has been based on clear motives and goals, namely to seek income other rational factors support the choice, for example income in other sectors (industry) is more outstanding, The continuity of income in other sectors is more

promising because they do not have to wait for the harvest season as in the agricultural sector.

There is a possibility that youth can act effectively through ambition to succeed by presenting role models in their midst. But until now, it has still been rare to find farmers who become role models because no matter how successful agricultural business actors are, they have not been able to surpass the success of non-agricultural business actors. Pujiriyani (2016) explained that the role models owned by youth do not come from the agricultural sector.

d. Instrumental rational action

Almost all existing research on young people's decisions to leave agriculture is instrumental rational. The youth's act of leaving agriculture aims to rationalise the achievement of goals. In their actions, youth have considered the capabilities of the tools or means they have, their effectiveness and efficiency, the possibilities of obstacles that will be obtained, and predicted the possible consequences of several alternative choices.

The youth have realised that using land to achieve goals is no longer effective because it is getting narrower, so completing the goal of a better income is no longer possible. For youth with upper secondary education levels, it is considered that the agricultural sector is no longer promising to meet physiological and social needs. Youth also consider the industrial sector and other non-agricultural sectors more promising, have no significant obstacles because they are relatively lighter physically, and have the possibility of a better career future so that there are opportunities to continue to increase income. By assessing the potential and consequences that will be faced, it is rational for youth to choose the non-agricultural sector as a choice of employment. Similarly, agriculture, synonymous with dirty and heavy, has been assessed as an obstacle young women face, so considering effectiveness and efficiency economically, men become the solution to overcoming these obstacles. Similarly, agricultural policies are less pro-youth. The absence of incentives is considered by youth as an obstacle to becoming farmers, given their limited skills and capital.

e. Value Rationality

This action is a rational action based on values. These actions are goal-oriented and related to personally believed values without considering the probability of success and failure. In the results of the literature review above, it can be seen that modernisation and westernisation factors have changed the lifestyle of youth. Youth leave agriculture not because of income or social prestige that is expected to be better or because of skills that are not in line with the agricultural sector but based on the view of youth who see agriculture as an old-fashioned (not modern) and *ndeso* (village) job. The presence of *modernisation* and *westernisation* has become a new value in the social life of youth and has a reasonably high place, thus influencing the choice of youth in their work. Few village youths born from the womb of farmers sell their agricultural land to work as factory workers or waitpersons in a café or nightclub or become motorcycle taxi drivers even though the actual income does not exceed the gain of being a farmer in the village. This proves that young people choose their actions based on the rationality of values. However, this view has also begun to fade, often with the increasing complexity of challenges faced by modernisation, such as the growing needs of life, forcing youth to reorient their perspective in choosing jobs.

CONCLUSION

In this study, it was found that the actions of youth choosing or leaving the agricultural sector are dominated by instrumental rational actions. Only a small percentage choose agriculture based on reasonable values, while those who choose based on traditional and effective actions are not visible. This indicates that increasing the role of youth in the agricultural sector is not so difficult; the morph and purpose of youth leaving agriculture can be anticipated by presenting supporting

instruments rationally so that youth can return to work in the agricultural sector. From year to year, the agricultural sector has a positive management trend. The future of agriculture in Indonesia has opportunities to develop and advance. From the existing research data, it was found that in the future, agriculture will be managed in a modern way by young people with a high level of education and an understanding of technology. This research can then be used as a reference for future research that needs to be done a holistic study in what fields have more opportunities for youth. It is worth researching more about students' awareness of their preferences for working in agriculture and photographing how much interest they will have in agriculture in the future. This research will be very useful to be used as an academic text as a basis for decision making.

LIMITATION AND FUTURE WORKS

This study limits to discover the motives and goals of youth leaving the farm sector. This research uses perspective of Max Weber's social action. The future research can be researching the same topic with different perspective as a method of processing data. With the use of different methods of data analysis, the result could make or even reject what has been discovered from this research findings.

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