



Survival Strategies For Farmer Workers In Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency

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Abstract

There are various ways that individuals or groups do to be able to meet their needs. These methods are known as survival strategies. Farm workers in Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency are a group of people who have a low economy. Efforts made by farmers to meet basic needs by strengthening their business by taking advantage of existing opportunities, despite their weaknesses or limitations. Basic needs in the form of food, clothing, housing, health, and education needs. This study aims to find out about the strategies used by farm workers so that they can survive. Data collection techniques were carried out by literature study, observation, interviews, and documentation. The data obtained in the field are then analyzed qualitatively to obtain conclusions. The results of this study also show how the family of farm workers in the strategy carried out to meet basic needs by using an active strategy, namely by looking for additional income by doing side jobs, and employing family members who are of working age. The passive strategy is to save on the food menu they consume daily, stop giving their children formula milk, not buy new clothes, and even send their children to public schools.

Keywords: *Survival Strategy, Farmer Workers*

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INTRODUCTION

There are various ways that individuals or groups can meet the needs of their lives. These methods are known as survival strategies. Snell and Staring (Irwan, 2015) state that survival strategies are a series of actions chosen by individuals and households who are middle to lower socio-economically chosen. According to a survival strategy a person's ability to apply a set of ways to overcome various problems that surround his life, this problem-solving strategy is basically the ability of all family members to manage their assets (Sinaga, 2022).

A farm laborer is someone who works on other people's land to get results or wages from the landowner (Purwanto, 2022). According to (Matias, 2011) the so-called farm laborers are people who depend on agricultural land as their main livelihood. The work carried out by farm laborers is cleaning, processing, and harvesting the land or gardens where the farm laborers work. Farm workers are different from farmers, a farmer is engaged in agriculture, by managing the land either by managing it yourself or using the services of farm laborers, with the aim of growing and maintaining plants (such as rice, flowers, fruit, etc.), by hopes to obtain the results of these plants for their own use or sell them to others (Anshari, 2022).

Farm laborers are paid in terms of wages (Harahap, 2022). According to the term, wages are

money, which is paid as remuneration or payment for the labor that has been devoted to doing something. Bandar Tongging Village is one of the villages in Merek District, Karo Regency. The reason for choosing the research location in Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency is because most of the population in this village make a living as fruit and vegetable farmers. The natural potential that can be developed in this village is citrus plants. Farm workers in this village work from planting seeds, pumping oranges, harvesting oranges, and even sorting quality oranges which will then be sold to agents who usually collect the harvest (Fahrudin, 2012).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted in Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency. The type of research used in this research is descriptive with a qualitative approach (Afrizal, 2014). The data collection technique used is primary data collection, namely interviews and observations (Sidiq, 2019). Furthermore, secondary data collection was carried out by library research and documentary studies. The data analysis technique used in this research is the qualitative method (Potter, 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Survival Strategy for Farmers in Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency

Limited education and capabilities possessed by the community in Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency delivered them to become farm laborers. The difficult economic situation requires farm workers to live simply in everyday life. To make ends meet, farm laborers do many things or even a strategy so that their needs are fulfilled and can survive. As for the things that farm laborers in Bandari Village can do Tongging, Merek District, Karo Regency, specifically:

1. Active Strategy

An active strategy is a survival strategy that is carried out by utilizing all the potential that is owned. According to Suharto (Juanda et al, 2019) an active strategy is a strategy carried out by poor families by optimizing all the potential of the family (for example doing their own activities, extending working hours, and doing anything to increase their income). The active strategy usually carried out by farm workers is to diversify their income or seek additional income by doing side jobs.

Based on observations in the research conducted, farm laborers in meeting their daily needs are looking for side jobs. It is the husband's role that stands out in terms of looking for this side job, but it is possible that the wife also plays a role in finding additional money.

The method or active strategy used by the main informants in this study is to diversify work and employ family members who are of working age. These efforts are a strategy that they do to survive and be able to meet the needs of their daily lives.

2. Passive Strategy

The passive strategy is a survival strategy that is carried out by minimizing family expenses as Suharto's opinion in (Juanda et al, 2019) which states that the passive strategy is a survival strategy by reducing family expenses (eg costs for clothing, food, education, etc). The passive strategy that is usually carried out by small farmers is to get used to living frugally.

Based on the observations made in the research conducted, there is a passive strategy carried out by farm workers in Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency, namely they save on the food menu they eat, stop giving formula milk to their children, don't buy new clothes.

3. Network Strategy

Network strategy is a strategy that is carried out by utilizing social networks. According to Suharto (Juanda et al, 2019) network strategy is a survival strategy that is carried out by establishing relationships, both formally and with the social environment and institutional environment (eg borrowing money from neighbors, borrowing at a shop or shop, utilizing disability programs)., borrow money from moneylenders or banks, and so on).

The network strategy carried out by farm workers who became the main informants in this study was by becoming a member of STM, becoming a member of a cooperative, becoming a member of the women's social gathering, or even borrowing from their neighbors or relatives when one of their family members was sick and brought to the hospital. Because ironically, the health insurance provided by the government has not been able to enjoy them. So, if the public health center can't handle it, they take it to the hospital and pay for it at their own expense.

The network strategy used for the poor in Bandar Tongging Village is to utilize their village government assistance program, although the free health access program has not been felt by them, but the free elementary to junior high school program is utilized by the two-family informants of daily farm workers which they feel are quite helpful there in life.

CONCLUSION

In this study, it can be concluded that the families of farm workers who became informants in this study experienced economic difficulties due to their low level of education, and the limited expertise they had which required them to work as farm laborers. Low incomes spur them to carry out strategies to survive and meet the needs of the family of farm laborers in Bandar Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency, namely by carrying out active strategies, passive strategies, and network strategies. side jobs, employing family members who are of working age. The passive strategy is to save on the food menu they consume daily, stop giving formula milk to their children, not buy new clothes, and even send their children to public schools so they don't have to pay big school fees. And the informants in this study maximize their expenses in the range of 300 thousand Rupiah-400 thousand Rupiah a week. Network strategy by becoming a member of STM, becoming a member of a cooperative, becoming a member of the women's social gathering or even borrowing from neighbors or relatives.

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