

Social Resilience of Farmers After the Construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru Toll Road (Study of Sungai Buluah Barat Village, Padang Pariaman District)

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Abstract

This study stems from shared concerns regarding the issues arising from the construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road in Nagari Sungai Buluah Barat. The construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road has left problems for tenant farmers in the study area. The loss of livelihoods and the conversion of agricultural land have forced tenant farmers to develop social resilience in order to overcome the shocks they faced following the toll road development. The aim of this study is to examine the social resilience efforts of tenant farmers after the construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road, as well as the challenges they face in developing social resilience. This is a qualitative study using a phenomenological approach, conducted in Nagari Sungai Buluah Barat, Padang Pariaman Regency. The informants in this study include the village head (wali nagari), the village secretary, the head of community welfare affairs, the hamlet head (wali korong), community leaders, and tenant farmers. Data collection techniques used in this study include observation, interviews, and document studies. Data processing was carried out using source triangulation techniques, which enabled the researcher to obtain more accurate information.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, the study of resilience has received great attention from various parties. It is undeniable that due to the fourth industrial revolution which is characterized by significant changes in various aspects of life known as the era of disruption. Resilience is basically the ability of a person or group to face and minimize and even eliminate various disturbances and pressures faced (Qamar, 2023).

The era of disruption is developing rapidly; social scientists then discuss resilience in the perspective and social dimensions (hereinafter referred to as Social Resilience). Keck and Sakdapolrak explain that social resilience is a social entity related to individuals, organizations, or groups that have the ability to neutralize and overcome and even adjust to disturbances that come from their social environment (Kinseng, 2019). On the other hand, to answer the needs of the era of disruption and to complete various backlogs in both physical and non-physical development, the government is increasingly aggressively carrying out development in several aspects of social life. In the aspect of physical development such as toll roads, bridges, ports and airports are increasingly active today. Development that previously only relied on the island of Java has now been carried out evenly in several regions so that economic growth and community mobility are increasingly flexible (Utami et al., 2024).

At the surface level, the toll road problem is only considered as a land compensation problem. However, when viewed at a deeper level, the problem of toll road construction is not merely a matter of compensation. However, the construction of toll roads leaves another problem, namely the loss of tenant farmers' livelihoods, which forces them to have social resilience skills in order to maintain their lives. Those who used to depend on cultivating other people's agricultural land are now increasingly marginalized and crushed by development. After the construction of the toll road, sharecroppers must have the ability of social resilience to be able to maintain their lives (Widodo & Winarti, 2021).

Social resilience is a way for individuals and groups to be able to survive and defend their lives from various disturbances that come from their social environment. The ability of social resilience determines the success of individuals in facing challenges and pressures (Osei-Kyei et al., 2024). This is then in line with McDowell and Hans, where small farmers must face several social and environmental pressures which then require changes in livelihood strategies to carry out resilience and take advantage of opportunities or adaptation (McDowell, 2023). The above situation shows the conditions and problems that are urgently resolved related to the construction of toll roads leaving its own problems for the agricultural sector and tenant farmers. The problem is more complicated because tenant farmers who live below the poverty line, not only think about how to get out of the poverty line but also have to try to be able to carry out social resilience as an effort to maintain their lives (Kuang et al., 2020).

2. Research Method

This type of research is qualitative with a phenomenological approach. Qualitative research is research that understands the phenomenon of what is seen from the research subject. Qualitative research is able to produce a study in

the form of an in-depth description of behavior both speech, writing that can be observed and seen from a comprehensive point of view (Harahap, 2020). Clark Moustakas explained that the phenomenological approach is a way that can describe what a person or group of people experience so that it triggers their awareness and what arises from awareness is what is meant by phenomenology (Abdussamad, 2021). The location of this research was conducted in Nagari Sungai Buluah Barat, Padang Pariaman Regency, the informants of this research were selected based on purposive sampling. Data collection techniques use three ways, namely observation, interviews and documentation studies. The data validity technique uses source triangulation techniques to obtain accurate data, while the data analysis technique uses three main steps, namely data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing (Semiawan, 2021).

3. Results and Discussion

Social resilience is the ability possessed by individuals, groups or communities to survive and get out of the difficult situations they face. This is in line with (Quinn et al., 2021) which explains that social resilience is the ability possessed by groups or communities that have a structure of vulnerability because the life of the group or community depends on the existence of natural resources in the face of disturbances and obstacles from several aspects such as politics, social or their environment.

The existence of tenant farmers in Sungai Buluah Barat nagari has long depended on their lives from cultivating other people's land. However, the existence of this land can no longer be utilized by tenant farmers due to the construction of public facilities, namely the Padang- Pekanbaru toll road which divides community agricultural land in Sungai Buluah Barat village. The construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road in Sungai Buluah Barat nagari has serious implications for the lives of tenant farmers. This is not without reason because the tenant farmers are the ones who get into difficult situations as stated by Adgar in (Putiamini et al., 2022). Tenant farmers who face these difficult situations certainly make maximum efforts to get out of the difficulties they face. Basically, tenant farmers in Sungai Buluh Barat village have made efforts to get out of the challenges and difficulties they face from the changes they experience. Based on these conditions, it will be discussed below the social reconciliation efforts made by tenant farmers after the construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road in Sungai Buluah Barat village as follows:

Building Farmer Groups

After the construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road in Nagari Sungai Buluah Barat, farmers have made efforts to be resilient or survive in facing the challenges they face. *The Bangkit Bersama* farmer group that they formed was not

only an effort to get up but together to mobilize strength to escape the difficulties of their lives after losing their cultivated land (Makbul et al., 2024). This is in line with the opinion of Moberg and Simonsen in (López Carlassare & Palma García, 2024) who explain social resilience as an effort that emphasizes the capacity or ability of a system to solve problems, regardless of any system. Furthermore, (Viñals et al., 2023) explains that social residency is the ability to be able to adapt and function well in the midst of stressful and challenging situations. The bangkit bersama farmer group established by tenant farmers after the construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road is a response given by tenant farmers to get out of the pressure they face. Building a joint rise farmer group is the most possible way for sharecroppers to pursue, by forming an association they will certainly be able to solve their problems together.

Referring to Benar's opinion in (Almutairi et al., 2020) explains that there are at least four elements that must be possessed by the system to be able to carry out social resilience, namely social competence (social competence), problem solving (problem solving), autonomy (independence) and sance of purpose and future (meaning of purpose). When looking at the movement of sharecroppers in Sungai Buluah Barat nagari after the construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road, their movement was initiated by their social competence. This social competence can be seen from their ability to see opportunities to build farmer groups in the midst of the difficulties and pressures they are experiencing.

Apart from social competence, another element that has been owned by the farmer group is an effort to solve problems. The movement of tenant farmers to build farmer groups is an effort to solve the problems faced by farmers after the construction of the Padang- Pekanbaru toll road. The movement of sharecroppers will be more organized with the existence of an organization that houses them so that the sharecroppers do not struggle individually. The existence of a joint rise farmer group is not only a social competence and problem-solving effort but also a form of independence for tenant farmers to fight for their lives. Their movement in building the farmer group is the initiative of the tenant farmers who share a similar fate. In addition, the movement of sharecroppers in building the farmer group has the same meaning and purpose, namely to get out of pressure and maintain their existence (Yasir, 2020).

Based on the above, the social resilience efforts made by tenant farmers by forming farmer groups have gone well. The farmer groups that were established independently became a forum for sharecroppers to strengthen each other and build collaboration to jointly get out of the pressure and bounce higher after the construction of the Padang- Pekanbaru toll road in Sungai Buluah Barat nagari which made their lives unstable.

Moving Farmland

The construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road that cuts through agricultural land in Sungai Buluah Barat nagari has now been completed. But on the other hand, tenant farmers in the area have to move their farms as part of their social resilitation efforts. This is due to the closure of their access to agricultural land across the toll road. In addition to the above problems when the rain intensity is high, they are overshadowed by the fear of crop failure because some agricultural irrigation has been covered and buried by sand.

For tenant farmers, rice fields are inseparable from their lives. The way they live and cultivate agricultural land has been inherited from generation to generation. So that their actions to choose to switch farms as an effort of social resilience are standard actions that are difficult to change. The above is in line with Max Weber's opinion, which divides social action into four types of action.

When viewed from the social actions taken by tenant farmers in Sungai Buluah Barat village who choose to change agricultural land, this action falls into the fourth type of social action, namely traditional action or action because of habit. According to Max Weber, this kind of action is an action that is carried out from generation to generation because it follows the customs that exist in the tradition of the community.

Rice fields are a source of life for tenant farmers, so for them maintaining their lives is far more important than having to deal with the government. So for them, choosing to switch farms is to avoid conflict with the government. This is then reinforced by Max Weber's view of traditional actions or actions because of these habits. Max Weber explains further that if a group of people is dominated by this action then they will do something they are used to doing without asking questions about the action (Alexopoulos et al., 2023).

Max Weber's explanation above shows that basically the traditional actions taken by tenant farmers in Sungai Buluah Barat nagari are actions that have actually existed since ancient times. Every individual or community group whose source of life is disturbed will tend to defend their rights. However, in the West Buluah River nagari area, tenant farmers do not physically fight against the government (Choquette-Levy et al., 2024). They prefer to fight the pressure of life that they get from the construction of the Padang-Pekanbaru toll road on their cultivated land by shifting agricultural land.

According to max Weber in (Izzah & Jazilah, 2022) explains that this traditional action is an action without conscious planning either the way or the goal they want to achieve. This is because farming habits and farming procedures are habits that they have been doing for a long time. The traditional actions taken by tenant farmers by moving farms as an effort of social residency that they do

are in line with Max Weber's views above. For tenant farmers, traditional actions in the form of moving farmland are not a problem as long as their ability to farm still exists. In addition, the act of moving farmland also does not have special skills even though it moves land, but the way of farming will still remain the same. Therefore, moving farmland to another area is the most possible thing for them to maintain their habits and lives.

Switching Professions

Tenant farmers who choose to change professions are those who do not have sufficient capital to start a farming life after being affected by the construction of the Padang- Pekanbaru toll road. Some of the tenant farmers chose other professions such as washing, trading, raising livestock and becoming farm laborers to maintain their lives and as a resilitation effort.

In an ever-changing social life, individuals and community groups continue to be faced with various problems and challenges that come unpredictably. Problems such as economic crises, rapid technological disruption, crises due to natural disasters, all of these problems can trigger disruptions in the stability of community life. In dealing with this, there is one main keyword, namely social resilience as the ability to survive, adapt and attempt to recover from various social and economic pressures. One of the social resilience efforts made by tenant farmers is switching professions. Social resilience efforts by switching professions are not just a simple and short way to survive. This effort provides a picture of psychological strength and social support to provide encouragement to sharecroppers to successfully maintain their lives (Astuti et al., 2020). In addition, social resilience efforts by switching professions also illustrate the tenant farmers' courage in facing uncertainty and the ability to recognize and take advantage of new opportunities. Toll road infrastructure development is often described as a form of progress in infrastructure. The construction of toll roads is expected to contribute to population mobility from one region to another. Furthermore, the construction of toll roads is expected to open new access to opportunities and national economic growth (Mariyani et al., 2019).

But behind the beautiful sounding benefits of toll road construction, it cannot be denied that the construction has a huge social impact on the lives of local people, especially for those who are in direct contact with the impact of toll road construction., loss of livelihoods, conversion of agricultural land, to loss of livelihoods and decay of cultural values. In such complicated situations, switching professions becomes an important strategy in maintaining the social resilience of communities affected by development. When agricultural land or small businesses are used for toll road construction, many residents lose their income. Informal jobs such as farm laborers, roadside vendors must face the

harsh reality that their old lives are no longer promising and cannot be continued to sustain their lives. Under these conditions, switching professions is not just an option but a necessity that they must strive for. The process of switching professions provides an illustration of social resilience to adapt to changes that come from outside their control.

The same thing is also similar to the research findings in Sungai Buluah Barat. Tenant farmers whose land has been turned into a toll road are forced to resilience by switching professions. In line with research findings by (Saputra et al., 2020) who found that some farmers who lost agricultural land in Pisang village, Nganjuk, East Java, chose to switch professions to become traders and open small businesses to maintain their economy and family life. It cannot be denied that the problems did not stop after the tenant farmers made resilience efforts. Their economic life is the most affected by the shock of social change. Tenant farmers who change professions need time to find new opportunities and jobs, and they also need time to adapt because this new job was unimaginable for them before. (Suseno et al., 2017) in their research findings showed that the construction of the Pejagaan-Pemalang road in Brebes caused significant changes to the social and economic life of the community, including changes in profession and a drastic decrease in income.

Social resilience efforts are not limited to efforts that can be done without support. The role of the government as a form of social support will be indispensable. This is to ensure that the change of profession as an effort of social residency is truly a resilient force for sharecroppers. The role of the government or social institutions to support the process of switching professions as part of social resilience is very vital to do. Support from the government can be in the form of providing skills training, access to business capital, psychosocial support can greatly help sharecroppers through these crucial times. In addition to support from the government, another determining factor is government policy. Accommodating and paying attention to the social and economic needs of communities affected by infrastructure development greatly affects the success of social resilience.

However, a different reality was found in the research location. Tenant farmers who choose to change professions do not get serious attention from the village government. The village government only helps with the administration of the disbursement of compensation for tenant farmers' cultivated land. Without considering the change of profession made by the tenant farmers. The Sungai Buluah Barat village government has never intervened in the form of policies that provide assistance or training to tenant farmers. This is contrary to the opinion of Chambers and Conway (1992), which explains that the sustainability of livelihoods depends on the community's ability to access and improve its adaptive capacity (Bunside et al., 2022).

Based on Chambers and Conway above and the reality in Sungai Buluah Barat village, social resilience efforts by switching professions have not received ideal attention from the village government. Switching professions as a social resilience effort in the context of toll road construction is an adaptation pattern that must be carried out by tenant farmers in Sungai Buluah Barat nagari. Through proper support from the village government, the process and efforts of social residency will certainly run faster, so that sharecroppers can sustain and enhance their quality of life, despite facing major changes in their social and economic structure.

4. Conclusion

Social resilience efforts made by tenant farmers consist of three forms, namely forming farmer groups, moving farmland and switching professions. Social resilience efforts by forming farmer groups and moving agricultural land have been running well. However, efforts to switch professions have not received serious attention from the village government

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