

FAMILY SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AND CHILD EXPENDITURES IN RELATION TO SUBJECTIVE FAMILY WELL-BEING FOR MATERIAL NEEDS AMONG HIGHLAND FARMER FAMILIES IN WEST JAVA INDONESIA¹

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Abstract

The study focused on the issues of well-being of the farmer families that become foundation of the agricultural-based livelihood in Indonesia. The analysis of the child was carried out in order to explore the regeneration of the farmer families in the future as the next generation of the Indonesian. The objectives of the study were to: (1) Identify social economic and demographic characteristics of farmer family, (2) Describe the specific expenditures for the elementary school child, and (3) Analyze the influence of economic characteristics to family subjective well-being for material needs. The study design was a survey and a descriptive cross-sectional study. The study was conducted at highland areas that were selected purposively at Cianjur and Bogor Districts -West Java Province. The survey method of 203 samples was using a census method among farmer families who had at least one child at 3rd to 5th grade of elementary school in early 2014. The samples were wives of farmer families. The characteristics of social of farmer families were represented by the level education of husband with the average of 5.6 years. In addition, the characteristics of economic of farmer families were represented by the average of monthly family income, property of assets, the monthly expenditure for the child, and the subjective of well-being for material needs. It was found that the average of monthly family income was IDR 3.009.600 with the range of IDR 600.000 and IDR 62.911.428. In terms of the level of economic well being, three-fourth of farmer family was above the minimum wage rate of the regional areas. In terms of property of assets, mostly the farmers owned a house, almost half of them owned lands/fields/yards, and around one-third of them owned livestock. It was found out that the special expenditures for the elementary school child was 11.35 percent of the total monthly of family income. Based on the rank of the expenditures for the elementary school child, it showed from the first to the last ranks as follows: (1) School allowance, transports, phone cards (53.35 %), (2) Daily snacks at home (13.79 %), (3) Casual clothes (8.67 %), (4) Books and school's supplies (8.32 %), (5) Health expenses (6.96 %), (6) School uniforms (national, local, sports, religion) (6.56 %), and (7) School fees (2.35 %). Based on the regression analysis, it showed there were two variables significantly affected the subjective family well-being for material needs, namely total expenditure for the elementary school child and the average of monthly family income. It means that the higher level of family economic status affected the satisfactions of the family toward their material needs such as family financial needs, food, house, savings, clothes, occupations, assets, transportation and communication medias.

Keywords: family and child expenditure, farmer families, subjective family well-being.