

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.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Indonesia is an archipelago country located in South East Asia and lies on the ring of fire--between Asia and Australia, and between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The agricultural sector sustains the lives of more than 63 percent of the Indonesian people (Poerwanto & Chozin 2010).

Socio-economic problems of family and child psychosocial problems become a major issue for government policy and is considered as a major threat in the process of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly goal 1st to 4th namely, to eradicate poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education for all, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and reducing child mortality. MDG targets include the reduction of the poverty level, completion of basic education programs, child mortality and tercapainya gender equality in 2015 (Bappenas, 2007)

It is strongly believed that for the success of the Indonesian nation faces two challenges above, the key to success is to prepare human resources (HR) Indonesia are complete, reliable and cultured as well as possible. The process of formation of human resources who are starting from the level of the family as the basic unit of society through the process of investment activities through functions child care and socialization of children, care and protection of children, as well as maintaining the cultural norms noble nation. The purpose of forming a family is for the welfare of his family members. Based on legal marriage, able to meet the physical and mental needs of a decent, devoted to God Almighty and has relationships are harmonious, and balanced between family members, and among families with the community and the environment (Landis 1989; BKKBN 1992).

Penelitian ini diharapkan menjadi masukan bagi pengembangan instrumen investasi dan kualitas anak sebagai bahan pertimbangan untuk mencari solusi permasalahan sumberdaya manusia di Indonesia. Secara universal telah diakui bahwa peran keluarga adalah sangat penting dan vital dalam melakukan investasi anak untuk mewujudkan kualitas SDM anak yang tinggi, yaitu SDM yang memiliki fisik yang tangguh, mental yang kuat dan kesehatan yang prima disamping penguasaan terhadap ilmu pengetahuan dan teknologi. Diasumsikan bahwa seandainya masing-masing keluarga dapat menjalankan peran dan fungsinya secara maksimal dalam melindungi dan membina anak-anaknya, maka akan dapat dipastikan terbentuklah suatu masyarakat yang teratur (in-order society), berbudaya dan bermartabat (civilized society) serta sejahtera (prosperous society) (Klein & White, 1996).

This study is expected to be input for the development of investment instruments and the quality of the child as a material consideration to seek solutions to problems of human resources in Indonesia. It is universally recognized that the role of the family is very important and vital to invest in children to realize the high quality of human resources that children, namely human resources have physically tough, mentally strong and vibrant health in addition to the mastery of science and technology. It is assumed that if each family can carry out the role and function optimally to protect and nurture their children, then it would also be forming an orderly society (in-order society), cultured and dignified (civilized society) and off (prosperous society) (Klein & White, 1996).

The study focused on the issues of well-being of the farmer families that become foundation of the agricultural-based livelihood in Indonesia. The title of the paper is family social-economic characteristics and child expenditures in relation to subjective family well-being for material needs among highland farmer families in West Java 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.

1.2. Need for the Study

There is a little attention to study household economic in Indonesia particularly on the topic of family social-

economic characteristics and child expenditures in relation to subjective family well-being for material needs among highland farmer families. Therefore, this study is expected to be the input for assisting farm families in overcoming everyday life and as consideration to seek solutions to problems of human resources in Indonesia

1.3. Objectives

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.

1.4. The Conceptual Thought

Wellbeing is generally understood as the quality of people's lives. It is a dynamic state that is enhanced when people can fulfil their personal and social goals. It is understood both in relation to objective measures, such as household income, educational resources and health status; and subjective indicators such as happiness, perceptions of quality of life and life satisfaction (Statham and Chase 2010).

'Doing well-feeling good' is a fairly common formulation for wellbeing which captures the dual aspect of wellbeing noted above. 'Doing well' conveys the material dimension of welfare or standard of living, suggesting a foundation in economic prosperity, though it need not be limited to this. 'Feeling good' expresses the 'subjective' dimension of personal perceptions and level of satisfaction (White 2008). Subjective well-being is a broad concept that includes experiencing pleasant emotions, low levels of negative moods, and high life satisfaction. The positive experiences embodied in high subjective well-being are a core concept of positive psychology because they make life rewarding (Diener et al 2002).

Family wellbeing refers to positive and negative evaluations such as life and work satisfaction, interest and engagement, quality of interpersonal and intergenerational relations, family access to economic and other resources and circumstances in which individuals live their lives (however one defines the family). The family is conceptualised as a system organised around a hierarchy of subsystems of individuals and family members (Bonomi et al., 2005), providing welfare, adjustment to circumstances and developmental outcomes from childhood to adulthood (Placa et al 2013).

2. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

2.1. Design, Locations and Samples

This study is a part of National Priority Research Grants funded by the Ministry of National Education- Republic of Indonesia Number: 263/E5/2014. The title of the research was "Gender analysis of family coping strategies, investment and quality of child in Achieving *Targets of Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)* among upland farmer families" under coordinator of Dr Herien Puspitawati, with team members of Dr. Ma'mun Sarma and Dr. Lilik Noor Yuliaty.

This is survey and a descriptive cross-sectional study design that examined the conditions of family concerning social, economic and demographic characteristics, the specific expenditures for the elementary school child and family subjective well-being for material needs. The study was conducted at highland areas that were selected purposively at: (1) Ciputri Village, Pacet Sub District, and Sindangjaya Village, Cipanas Sub District, Cianjur District, West Java Province, and (2) Village of Petir- Darmaga Sub District, Bogor district, 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.

2.2. Instrumentations

A survey instrument was developed to collect the needed data. Once the survey instrument was constructed for this study, the instrument was reviewed for content validity by a national committee/jury for grants competition from the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education- Republic of Indonesia. The committee consisted of national experts in social sciences and faculty members from respected universities in Indonesia. The idea of this paper was also presented at the National Reviewer

Committee from the Directorate General of Higher Education, the Ministry of National Education- Republic of Indonesia at Jakarta, at December 8, 2013 at Bogor.

2.3. Data Collection

The study was conducted from early January to end of March 2014. Several steps were applied to the process of data collections. The first step was the request for permission to begin the procedures from the provincial, district, sub-district, and to village administrative governments. The permission included the proof of ethical clearance that was signed by the Office of Research and Community Services from Bogor Agricultural University. The second step was visiting to the village that was accompanied by the sub-district official with the purpose of socialization of the research purpose and procedures.

2.4. Data Analysis

The quantitative data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS, version 15.0). The Multiple regression with step-wise method was used to analyze the influence of economic characteristics to family subjective well-being for material needs.

3. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1. The social, economic and demographic characteristics of farmer families

The characteristics of social of farmer families were represented by the level education of husband (household head) with the average of 5.6 years (Table 1).

Table 1. Level of Education of the Household Head

No	Education (years)	n	%
1	≤ 6	183	90.1
2	7 – 9	15	7.4
3	10 – 12	14	2.0
4	13 – 16	1	0.5
Total		203	100.0
Average ± std		5.6 ± 2.2	
Min – max		0 – 16	

The characteristics of demographic of farmer families were represented by the average of age of the head of the family with the average of 44 years old (Table 2) and the numbers of children with the average of 3 children (Appendix 1).

Table 2. Age of the Household Head

No	Age (years)	n	%
1	20 – 30	10	5.2
2	31 – 40	74	38.7
3	41 – 50	68	35.6
4	51 – 60	36	18.8
5	61 – 70	3	1.6
Total		191	100.0
Average ± std		43.9 ± 8.7	
Min – max		25 – 72	

Note: There are 12 fathers who were passed away.

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 (Table 3).

Table 3. Monthly Family Income

No	Monthly Family Income*	n	%
1	≤ 1.500.000*	49	24.1
2	1.500.001 – 3.000.000	115	56.7
3	3.000.001 – 4.500.000	24	11.8
4	4.500.001 – 6.000.000	5	2.5
5	6.000.001 – 7.500.000	6	2.0
6	7.500.001 – 9.000.000	0	0.0
7	≥ 9.000.001	6	3.0
Total		203	100.0
Average ± std		3.009.600 ± 6.205.860	
Min – max		600.000 – 62.911.428	

*Based on minimum regional wage at Cianjur District year of 2014 (BPS 2014)

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 (Appendix 2). In addition, based on the category of family's asset, most of the family's asset is in the category at least medium and followed by high (Appendix 3).

3.2. The specific expenditures for child

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 %) (Table 4). Detailed family expenditure for child was presented in Appendix 4.

Table 4. Allocation of Child's Expenditure

No	Expenditure	Average± std (Rp/Month)	Min – max (Rp/Month)	Rank	%
1	School fees	8.041 ± 84.247	0 – 1.200.000	7	2.35
2	School uniforms	22.390 ± 10.295	0 – 81.250	6	6.56
3	Books and school's supplies	28.425 ± 31.328	0 – 205.900	4	8.32
4	School allowance, transport, etc	182.180 ± 147.605	0 – 840.000	1	53.35
5	Health expenses	23782 ± 62142	0 – 700000	5	6.96
6	Casual clothes	29600 ± 54510	1500 – 58400	3	8.67
7	Snacks	145010 ± 102620	20000 – 450000	2	13.79
8	Total Child's expenditure	341467 ± 290632	7000 – 2533701		

3.3. Family subjective well-being for material needs

This research, the family subjective well-being consists of 13 indicators as followed: (1) family financial situation, (2) level of family income, (3) food Availability, (4) house condition, (5) level of family savings, (6) family cloths condition, (7) cloths condition for wife, (8) job condition for wife, (9) job condition for husband, (10) material needs/family asset, (11) job facilities, (12) mean of transportation for work, and (13) supporting facilities for work such as mobile phone and Internet. The family responded to the family subjective well-being indicators by four level satisfaction: 1 = Not satisfied; 2= Almost Satisfied; 3 = Satisfied and 4 = Very Satisfied. The Indicators of family subjective well-being for material needs was shown in Table 5.

The table showed that from 13 indicators, there were only two indicators responded by the family as not satisfied; they are level of family savings and supporting facilities for work. This means that the family almost

spent their family income. However, there are three indicators that are more than half of family very satisfied. The indicators are listed from the first to the third ranks, they are house condition, food availability and cloth conditions. This means that the three basic needs, food, clothing and housing have been completely fulfilled the families. In addition, Table 6 showed that the category of family subjective well-being is in a good achievement whereas the majority of the family (77.8%) is at high category.

Table 5. Indicators of Family subjective well-being for material needs

No	Indicators	1	2	3	4
1	Family financial situation	9.9	15.8	39.9	34.5
2	Level of family income	9.4	16.3	41.4	33.0
3	Food availability	13.0	5.9	36.5	54.7
4	House condition	6.9	4.9	33.0	55.2
5	Level of family savings	60.6	11.8	11.3	16.3
6	Family cloths condition	6.4	5.9	37.9	49.8
7	Cloths condition (Wife)	3.4	5.4	37.9	53.2
8	Job condition (Wife)	6.4	3.4	41.9	48.3
9	Job condition (Husband)	5.9	5.9	41.4	46.8
10	Material needs/Family asset	6.4	15.3	34.5	43.8
11	Job facilities	5.9	14.3	37.4	42.4
12	Mean of transportation for work	9.4	14.3	35.0	41.4
13	Supporting facilities for work such as mobile phone and Internet	28.6	14.8	22.7	34.0

Note: 1 = Not satisfied 2= Almost Satisfied 3 = Satisfied 4 = Very Satisfied

Table 6. Category of Family subjective well-being for material needs

No	Category	n	%
1	Low (0 - 33.3)	3	1.5
2	Medium (33.4 - 66.6)	42	20.7
3	High (66.7 – 100.0)	158	77.8
Total		203	100.0
Average ± std		76.8 ± 15.6	
Min – max		25 – 100	

Factors affecting family subjective well-being for material needs:

A Regression Analysis

The regression analysis have been employed to analyze factors affecting the family subjective well-being for material needs. Table 7 showed the regression analysis by stepwise methods. The F statistics showed significant, but the Adj R² is very low (13.7 %). 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.

Table 7. Regression Analysis By Stepwise Methods.

No.	Variable	Beta	T	Sig
1	Total Child's expenditure	0.338	4.991	0.000
2	Family Income	0.142	2.102	0.037
	Df	191		
	F(p)	16.200 (0.000)		
	R ²	0.146		
	Adj R ²	0.137		

4. CONCLUSIONS

1. 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.

2. The rank of the expenditures for the elementary school child 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 %).
3. The regression analysis 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.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Number of Child

No	Number of Child	n	%
1	1-3	119	58.6
2	4-6	76	37.4
3	7-9	7	3.4
4	≥ 10	1	0.5
Total		203	100.0
Average ± std		3.4 ± 1.5	
Min – max		1 – 11	

Appendix 2. Family's Asset

No	Statement	No (%)	Yes (%)
1	Having a house	8.9	91.1
2	Having dry/wet land	54.2	45.8
3	Having small livestock (chicken, goat)	62.6	37.4
4	Having big livestock (cow)	99.0	1.0
5	Having motorcycle	57.6	42.4
6	Having paddy land/garden	57.6	42.4

Appendix 3. Category of Family's asset

No	Category	n	%
1	Low (0 - 33.3)	57	28.1
2	Medium(33.4 - 66.6)	81	39.9
3	High (66.7 – 100.0)	65	32.0
	Total	203	100.0
	Average ± std		43.3 ± 22.8
	Min – max		0 – 83.3

Appendix 4. Detailed Family Expenditure for Child

No	Expenditure	Average± std (Rp/Month)	Min – max (Rp/Month)
1	Education	8.041 ± 84.247	0 – 1.200.000
2			School Uniform
	- Red-White	6653 ± 3536	2083 – 29400
	- Batik/school symbol	4231 ± 2743	1700 – 34000
	- Religious	5467 ± 2713	1700 – 25000
	- Bopyscout	6572 ± 2480	2900 – 17500
	- Sport	4901 ± 2319	1700 – 25000
3	Books and School's supplies		
	- Stationery	9913 ± 13367	1250 – 100000
	- Other stationery	5104 ± 5169	850 – 25000
	- Shoes	7081 ± 6114	0 – 60000
	- Photo copy	31923 ± 41649	1400 – 168000
	- School bag	6384 ± 6940	1667 – 71000
4	Other Expenses		
	- Allowance (in school)	101790 ± 61075	3000 – 450000
	- Transportation to school	40333 ± 32280	15000 – 120000
	- Mobile Phone Voucher	58053 ± 52078	5900 – 195000
	- Other allowance	135820 ± 108220	2000 – 720000
5	Health Expenses		
	- Vitamins	27478 ± 34870	6000 – 200000
	- Medicine	16965 ± 23934	100 – 100000
	- Hospital visit/Medical Doctor	21205 ± 73293	1000 – 640000
6	Casual Cloth	29600 ± 54510	1500 – 58400
7	snacks	145010 ± 102620	20000 – 450000
8	Total Child's expenditure	341467 ± 290632	7000 – 2533701