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Socio-Economic Impact Of People's Gold Mining For Farmers In Debowae Village, Waelata District, Buru District

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Abstract

This research aims to determine the social and economic impact of gold mining on farmers in Debowae Village, Waelata District, Buru Regency. The type of research used in this research is qualitative, namely a method that focuses on solving problems that exist in the actual present, then the data that has been collected is first compiled, explained and analyzed. The results of this research show that the social impact of gold mining from the social aspect is: there has been a change in the orientation of farmers who realize the importance of children's education and a decline in social interaction between farmers which is reflected in the weakening of mutual cooperation activities . Meanwhile, the economic impact that occurred was the shift in jobs from farmers to gold prospectors, because the income opportunities from searching for gold were much higher. This causes agricultural businesses to decrease, and farmers have the opportunity to abandon them.

Keywords: Socioeconomic Impact, Farming

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an archipelagic country that has abundant natural resource potential, both biological natural resources and non-biological natural resources. Mineral resources are a type of non-biological resource. Indonesia's mineral resources are very diverse both in terms of quality and quantity. Deposits of minerals are generally unevenly distributed within the earth's crust. These mineral resources include: other things, petroleum, gold,

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coal, silver, tin and other resources are taken and used to improve human welfare. The mining industry is one of the industries that the Indonesian government relies on to bring in foreign exchange. Apart from bringing in foreign exchange, the mining industry also creates employment opportunities and for districts and cities it is a source of regional original income (PAD). The activity is an exploration, exploitation, processing and refining of transportation/mineral materials. The mining industry is also prone to environmental damage. Mining activities also attract attention from the surrounding community due to environmental destruction and gold mining without permits which apart from destroying the environment also endangers the lives of miners due to the miners' limited knowledge and also the absence of supervision from the relevant agencies (Yudhistira, 2008)

According to Kitula (2006) mining has a number of activity stages, each of which has the potential to have a negative impact on the environment, social culture, health and safety for mine workers and the community, based on their proximity to mining operations. Gold mining for farmers is an opportunity to achieve a better livelihood, because for some people, farming only provides food while gold mining provides income that is far from just food Cartier and Burge (2011).

As a result, it also causes many problems, such as damage to relations between communities. The impact of This gold mine not only damages the existing ecology and environment, but the social community is also disturbed. Mining is carried out by Intensive work can pose challenges for each region as it can creates enormous pressure on the environment, based on several experience in the Indonesian region, namely mining exploitation is not always directly proportional to the increase welfare (Sukhyar, 2008, Subiman and Roesoesudarmo, 2010). Besides that Unlicensed gold mining carried out on a large scale and carried out not according to standards operations can also provide various impacts on the environment and also the local community .

Exploitation of natural resources carried out through gold mining without permits (PETI) on a large scale and not in accordance with operational standards for approximately the last eight years, has resulted in environmental degradation and damage. Changes around mining are due to the process of converting agricultural land into mining areas which is not carried out wisely, thus having a negative impact on farmers who own land around mining areas (Febriarti, 2010). Thus, there is a need for environmental appreciation to find out how much willingness to accept external costs that mining parties must provide to farmers in order to improve the environment and the factors that influence it (US EPAa 2015; CDPHEA 2015) . In addition, the impact of illegal mining

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not only damages the existing environment but also disturbs the social community . P etkova et,al (2009) said that the existence of mining resulted in the destruction of social relations that had been established between community groups in an area, such as mutual suspicion, communication between residents and village officials which was often inconsistent.

Debowae Village is one of the villages located in Waelata District, Buru Regency, precisely in Wamsai Hamlet . The Mount Botak gold mine is a result of natural resources on Buru Island, Maluku, where the emergence of the Mount Botak gold mine has provided significant benefits, especially in terms of economics , so that it has become a source of life for local residents and immigrants. The gold mine on Mount Botak is a new hope for the people of Buru to improve their welfare. The large income that miners get from Mount Botak gold mining activities is also accompanied by various other impacts that occur as a result of the existence of the Mount Botak Gold Mine. Therefore, this research aims to determine the socio-economic impact of the existence of a gold mine in Debowae Village, Wamsait District, Buru Regency.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was conducted from June to July 2023 , located in Dabowae Village, Waelata District, Buru Regency. The number of samples taken was 35 respondents or 10% of the 350 population of lowland rice farmers, the total sample can represent the entire population in the village. This is in accordance with the sampling technique used , namely the *Purposive Sampling* method . According to (Sugiyono, 2010) *Purposive Sampling* is a technique for determining samples intentionally or with certain considerations. The data collection techniques used in this research include primary and secondary data.

The sampling method was proportional sampling, farmer respondents who experienced the impact of the existence of gold mines . Data analysis used qualitative analysis (Miles and Huberman , 1992) including data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

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DISCUSSION RESULT

Respondent Characteristics

1. Education

The education that a person has undergone is certainly not the same from one individual to another, thus instilling a different mindset. Different thought patterns can influence a person's behavior in making decisions. The level of education is a factor that greatly influences the success of farmers in managing their farming business. In general, farmers who are highly educated will have better ways of thinking, enabling them to act more rationally in managing their farming (Purnama, 2016). The characteristics of respondents based on their last level of education in Debowae Village, Waelata District, Buru Regency can be seen in table 1 .

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents Based on Education Level

Level of education	Number of Respondents	Percentage se (%)
elementary school	19	54.28
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	10	28.58
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	6	17.14
Total	35	100

Source: 2023 Research Results

Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents have elementary school (SD) education. The level of education achieved by farmers shows that farmers' formal education is relatively low with the largest proportion having elementary school education. The level of formal education often influences farmers' ability to access information. So someone with elementary school education tend to have lower knowledge in choosing a profitable business to run and are more business oriented than secondary education (middle school and high school). Thus, the level of education is also a determining factor in carrying out business activities because the higher the level of education, the broader the insight and skills possessed, so this influences the level of performance carried out in managing the business. This also shows that, in general, education influences ways and patterns of thinking . Because education is a process of developing a person's knowledge, skills and attitudes which is carried out in a planned manner, so as to obtain changes in improving life (Meutia , 2015).

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2. Age group

Age is an important category in a person's characteristics, in the world of work, business and so on. Age also influences a person's performance. The older we get, the more work performance will decline. Chaniago (2002) divides age groups into three groups, namely young or unproductive age (0-14 years), mature or productive age (15-64 years), and old or unproductive age, namely 65 years and over. The characteristics of respondents based on age can be seen in the following table.

Table 2. Characteristics of Respondents by Age Group

Age	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
33-43	10	28.57
44-54	10	28.57
55-65	11	31.42
67-70	4	11.42
Total	35	100

Source: 2023 Research Results

Based on Table 2, it is known that the respondents' ages ranged from 33 – 54 years. This age group is still in the productive age range, so they have sufficient physical abilities to carry out farming activities. This condition shows that the majority are young and productive farmers so that efforts to increase farming productivity are still wide open. At this age group, the livelihood activities carried out are varied, apart from cultivating rice fields, they also work outside the agricultural sector, such as labourers, traders and private workers. This is in line with Prabayanti's (2010) statement that someone of productive age usually has the enthusiasm to be curious about various things that are not yet known. When farmers experience a crisis or shock, their position will experience instability, in this case they will try to survive and return to their original position. So that farmers of productive age have strong energy and high work enthusiasm, forcing them to do more to face this crisis. In this way, farmers are able to carry out farming activities and various other businesses to meet their household needs. so you can .

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3. **Number of Family Dependents**

The number of dependents is also a factor that influences the economic living conditions in a household because it is directly related to consumption in the household, both food and non- food consumption (Todaro, 1998). BKKBN (1998), the number of family members is divided into 3, namely, small family members (≤ 4 people), medium (5-7 people) and large family members (> 7 people). The following is the situation of respondents based on the number of family members. The following is a table of respondents' characteristics based on the number of family dependents:

Table 3 . Respondent characteristics based on number of family dependents

Family dependents	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
2-4	27	77.15
5-6	8	22.85
Total	35	100

Source: 2023 Research Results

Table 3 shows that the majority of households have relatively small family members. This moderate number of family members can reduce the burden of dependents in the household. This means that household needs can still be met because they are considered not so large that children can continue their education at university after graduating from high school, then prepare themselves to enter the world of work or choose to develop the family farming business with new innovations obtained during the education process. Respondents with a large number of dependents on average consist of workers in the family (children) who are able to help their parents . Meanwhile, respondents with a small number of members were because they only consisted of husbands and wives, where the children were all married and had their own jobs. Having many family members will indeed require more money for household needs, but if they can use this for work then it will be profitable for them too (Asmara, 2015).

4. Job Transition

The presence of a gold mine certainly has quite a big influence on the community around the gold mining area. The majority of the population who were originally engaged in agriculture (farmers) are now starting to turn into mining workers. This transition process is caused by the condition of the agricultural sector which has not been able to

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guarantee the welfare of the community, almost some agricultural workers have shifted their livelihoods to mining. The results of Palapa's research (2014) concluded that, people who Initially he was a vegetable and fruit farmer, but then he became a gold miner. Rice farmer activities turn into gold mining pen , as activity main economy (Palapa , MT 2014) . The presence of mining has created employment opportunities which provide higher incomes compared to farmers' incomes and have improved the people's standard of living (H amdi 2016) . Farmer work transitions can be seen in the following table.

Table 4 . Characteristics of Respondents based on Job Transition

Job Transition	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Still	24	68.60
Temporary	11	21.40
Total	35	100

Source: 2023 Research Results

Income is still the main reason that people are interested in working as miners, as stated by one of the farmers who had worked during the early part of the year when the Bald Mountain gold mine was discovered, called B and " B " .

> "With this mine, it really helped my living needs so I finally switched to mining with quite a large income. The emergence of the Bald Mountain gold mine had a big impact on the economic needs of the community as the prices of goods and other things increased drastically so that I switched professions from farming to mining with a fairly large income and even met my living needs. "With the mine, I have been able to build a house, buy a vehicle and also have additional income from the agricultural land that I used as a place to process gold (drums)"
>
> "The results from gold mining really help our family's economy, starting from the income we get through performance in digging (digging) or panning, which can reach up to 4 million, even more, depending on the results and still sharing the results if we work in groups for digging (bakodok-kodok)." Interview at Mr " B "'s house.

Impact Mining Gold To Aspect Social Public

Mining activities have a big social impact on farmers, namely:

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1. Education

Education is one of the determining factors to see the level of progress of an area, this is because education influences the population's ability to receive information and innovation. A person must have good knowledge to analyze problems and make decisions on problems as well as participate in activities in the surrounding environment. determined by the level of education, both formal and informal (Suhardjo , 2017)

It is not surprising that education has a significant impact on the development of society, as it helps people gain a better understanding and a better quality of life in relation to religion, the economy and society as a whole. Basic efforts given or conveyed from adults to immature children towards development towards maturity. A mature and independent person, both physically and spiritually. Like be delivered Father " S " follows this :

> " Education is very important , especially for today's children, so that they are not fooled and taken advantage of at a young age, unlike us (parents) who from childhood only worked to meet their daily needs and at that time it was difficult to continue their education due to economic limitations, and In the past, society didn't think education was that important. Moreover, the development of knowledge starting from increasingly sophisticated technology and other things has really helped Mr " S "

explanation confirms that education is very important for the survival of society, especially in the farming community of Debowae Village, which has almost an education level of elementary school (SD), some of whom do not even attend school.

2. Social interaction

According to H. Bonner (in Gerungan, 2010: 62) social interaction is a relationship between two or more human individuals, where the behavior of one individual influences, changes, or improves the behavior of another individual, or vice versa. The formula describes the reciprocal continuity of social interactions between two or more humans. Meanwhile, one individual can adapt autoplastically to another individual, where he is influenced by the other self. One individual can also adapt alloplastically to another individual, where the other individual is influenced by the first one.

> " Before exists mine gold This situation in the Village Debowae be safe just but after emergence mine gold , all of it changed Impact social form _ negative in circles public Village Debowae as consequence exists mining is start

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disappearance life social public like work together Cooperation is no longer what it used to be, disturbance such security fight And theft as well as happen misunderstanding between fellow and also the arrival of immigrants from various regions also has a bad influence on society, especially among young people who are in relationships and even get married but are not abandoned for long, some are even still pregnant and already have children, which is very dear to Mr " M " .

The Emergence of Conflict The social events that occur at the mining site located in Wamsaid Hamlet have a great influence on local village communities both nearby and far away. The unrest experienced by the village community greatly influences the people's daily lives. This is caused by fighting over, fights due to misunderstandings between miners and other miners regarding ownership of mining land, which causes commotion leading to fights and also miners take land other people's mines are on cause Because miner own results little income from land the mine Alone And Also Because land mine miner the narrow with matter the until give rise to debate ended fight . Sharing social conflicts that occur start from misunderstandings moment mine And give rise to protracted conflict .

Based on explanation above, thenexistence mine gold mountain bald has impact negative for public Village Debowae Because with exists mining gold This public start lost life social, and each other suspect as well as reduced sense of empathy to fellow societyt. And people feel uncomfortable in carrying out their daily lives, which is disrupted due to conflicts between miners and the community and fellow miners.

Impact of Gold Mining to Economic Aspects Public Farmer

The welfare of the community due to the existence of the mine really encourages and moves the community's economy. from the various positive impacts of mining, increasing people's income. By fulfilling various economic needs, both primary needs in the form of basic necessities and secondary needs and even tertiary needs which are characterized by having valuable goods such as motorized vehicles, renovating houses and cars at high prices . The existence of the Bald Mountain gold mine brings benefits to the community

Apart from that, the impact of gold mining has also had an impact on The economic welfare of the people in Debowae Village is quite good. This is indicated by the level of

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education of the children of Debowae Village, almost on average, attending elementary school, middle school, high school and some even up to bachelor's degree level.

Management of natural mining resources must maintain balance and preserve nature, because damage to natural mining resources by humans will have many impacts, both positive and negative. Like the Bald Mountain gold mine which is managed by the local community. The Bald Mountain gold mine is located in W amsaid Village Waelata sub-district, Buru Regency is a gift from God Almighty which must be utilized for prosperity and community welfare.

The community makes quite a big profit because every time they dig they get gold ore. will but No for part farmers , farming communities feel difficulty in process results agriculture is because of it processing carried out by miner gold make para farmer difficulty in manage business farming , pollution of clean water cause condition health farmer So disturbed in do his activities start from itchy as well as injuries And Also rising price sell tall stuff make para farmer done No Want to continue activities his agriculture again , share they before exists mine gold This public who works as a farmer can obtain fertilizer with prices are still within reach by para farmers , and get it sufficient profit big from the initial capital issued . Compare backwards with moment this is what's done exists Tamabng gold, all becomes quite difficult starting, from increase price classified goods tall as well as No get profit but farmer experience quite a loss big. And finally switched Work from farmer to mining resulting land agriculture become abandoned And not taken care of so that become nest pest (rat).

> “ profit from mining enough gold big so that society farmer more switch to mine results satisfying And fast from on continue hasil agriculture is increasing day the more experience declining and unprofitable for farmers Father " U ".

Based on the information above, it can be seen that the impact of mining is very influential on the activities of the Debowae Village farming community in carrying out their farming activities. The presence of a gold mine certainly has quite a big influence on the community around the gold mining area. The majority of the population who were originally engaged in agriculture (farmers) are now starting to turn into mining workers. This transition process is caused by the condition of the agricultural sector which has not been able to guarantee the welfare of the community, almost some agricultural workers have shifted their livelihoods to mining.

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CONCLUSION

The social impact of gold mining in Debowae Village, Waelata District, Buru Regency, namely social interactions of farmers and social conflicts. The social interaction of Debowae Village farmers is a lack of mutual cooperation (mutual cooperation) between farmers. and conflicts that occur in gold mining areas are very detrimental to the lives of village communities, especially farmers. Meanwhile, the economic impact of gold mining on the farming community of Debowae Village is quite large , resulting in a shift in farmers' work to the Mount Baltak gold mine.

This causes farmers' land to be neglected and neglected and becomes a nest for pests (rats), which has an impact on other farmers' land. Income from the Bald Mountain gold mine can meet the costs of household economic needs in terms of shelter, clothing and food and can support children's school and college education needs to a higher level . The more income you earn, the higher the prices of goods and other necessities.

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