



Research Paper

# Community Perception and Attitude to Social Economic Conditions with the Operation of Industrial Plants Company in Beno Harapan Village (Case study: PT. Mahakam Persada Sakti)

Nella Naomi Duakaju<sup>1</sup>, Syarifah Maryam<sup>2</sup>, Isma Watdani Qurrota A'yun<sup>3</sup>

*1 and 2) Lecturer of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mulawaman University*

*3) Students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mulawaman University*

## ABSTRACT

*The objectives of the study were: (1) to determine the public's perception of the socio-economic conditions with the operation of the Industrial Plant Company, (2) to determine the community's attitude towards the operation of the industrial forest plantation company in BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmpar District, EastKutai Regency.*

*This research was conducted from August to September 2021, located in BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmparsub District, East Kutai Regency.*

*The data used in this study consisted of: primary data obtained through observation and interviews with respondents, and secondary data obtained from institutions or agencies, literature studies, and other sources that can support this research.*

*This study uses a purposive sampling method, namely data collection with certain considerations. The total population in this study in 2020 amounted to 294 families, and the sample was 31 respondents who had represented the population that had been determined.*

*People's perceptions and attitudes towards socio-economic conditions were measured using the Likert scale method.*

*The results showed that: (1) the community in BenoHarapan Village had a positive perception of socio-economic conditions with an average value of 43.80. The results of the study indicate that there are socio-economic impacts, namely road repairs, income levels, business opportunities and job opportunities. This can be seen from four aspects that are included in the positive category, namely infrastructure, income, and employment while education is included in the negative category; (2) the community in BenoHarapan Village has a supportive attitude with the operation of the industrial forest plantation company with an average score of 38.06. The results of the study indicate that the attitude of the community to respond and accept the environmental conditions that exist around the company. This can be seen from three aspects that are included in the supportive category, namely affective, while cognitive and conative are included in the neutral category.*

**Keywords:** *Perceptions and Attitudes, Socio-Economic, Industrial Plantation Forest Companies*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that has abundant natural resources. One of the renewable resources is forests, forests have an important role in influencing environmental sustainability. One of the renewable natural resources is Industrial Plantation Forest (HTI). Industrial Plantation Forest is a plantation forest in a production forest built by a forestry industry group to increase the potential and quality of food production forests applying silviculture in order to meet the needs of industrial raw materials for forest products [1]. Industrial plantation forest companies are companies that are licensed by the ministry of environment and forestry to exploit timber forest products. According to government regulation no. 7 of 1990 what is meant by industrial plantation forests are forests that are built in order to increase the potential and quality of production forests by applying intensive silviculture to meet the needs of industrial raw materials for forest products [20]. The total land controlled by HTI companies reaches 7.07 million hectares spread across several islands in Indonesia. The largest land tenure

by HTI companies in 2019 was on the island of Sumatra, with an area of 3.7 Ha (53.12%) and the island of Kalimantan 3.12 million Ha (44.19%) [2].

Industrial Plantation Forest concessions have been regulated in government regulation no. 7 of 1990 concerning HTI Concession Rights. The development of Industrial Plantation Forests has 3 main targets that can be achieved, namely economic, ecological, and social targets. In realizing HTI development, many parties are involved, one of which is the community living in the forest area. With this development, the community around the area will be directly affected, both in terms of social and economic aspects [3].

In the early 1990s, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia planned a transmigration program for Industrial Plantation Forests, a transmigration pattern whose workers used transmigration outside the region, namely Java (Malang and Wonosobo). In the program, four transmigration sites were built, namely BenoHarapan Village, MugiRahayu, Mawai Indah, and Himba Lestari. In late 1990 the program failed which caused losses due to forest fires so the company went bankrupt and closed.

The community lost their livelihood which previously worked as employees of PT. Kiani Lestari turned as a farmer. In 2010 PT. Mahakam PersadaSakti continued that the forest area in BatuAmparsub District the company produces raw materials for making pulp (paper pulp), namely Acacia Mangium and Eucalyptus which are engaged in the HTI sector and have received a permit from the Minister of Forestry with a decision IUPHHK-HTI Decree of the Minister of Forestry Number SK.619 /Menhut-II/2010 on November 4, 2010 which has an area of 25,410 ha [4].

BenoHarapan Village is one of the villages in BatuAmpar District where most of the people work as farmers. A farmer is someone who works farming in the fields of horticultural food crops, plantations, and animal husbandry. The majority of farmers in BenoHarapan Village work in plantation crops such as pepper, coffee, oil palm, and rubber.

The existence of the company PT. Mahakam PersadaSakti which entered the area caused a conflict between the company and the community, namely because the need for land to be managed by the company was already controlled by the community for plantation or agricultural activities after the company PT. Kiani Lestari went bankrupt and closed. Currently, the settlement of land problems between the community and the company is one of them by conducting a forest management program with the community.

The objectives of the study were: (1) to determine the public's perception of the socio-economic conditions with the operation of the HTI company, (2) to determine the attitude of the community towards the operation of the industrial forest plantation company in BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmparsub District, East Kutai Regency.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODS**

### **A. Time and Place**

This research was carried out from August to September 2021 located in BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmparsub District, East Kutai Regency.

### **B. Data Collection Method**

The types of data used in this study are primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through observation and conducting interviews with respondents using a questionnaire. Secondary data is obtained from institutions or agencies, literature studies, and other sources that can support this research.

### **C. Sampling Method**

The population in this study amounted to 294 people. The population is the head of the family. The sampling method was carried out by random sampling. The number of samples used in this study were 31 respondents.

### **D. Data Analysis Method**

#### **1. Public Perception of Socio-Economic Conditions**

Public perception of socio-economic conditions is measured using the Likert scale method, namely by describing several question items that have been prepared in the questionnaire and for each question item a score is given according to the respondent's choice, namely A (3), B (2), and C (1 ). The details of the score can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1.**Public Perception Assessment Score

No	Aspect	Minimum score	Maximum score
1	Infrastructure	6	18
2	Education	3	9
3	Income	4	12
4	Profession	5	15
Total		18	54

The number of questions is 18, the minimum score is 18 and the maximum score is 54. The results of the calculation to determine the category (as many as three classes) So according to [5] the class interval can be determined positive, neutral, and negative perceptions can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Category of Public Perception

No	Interval Class	Category
1	18,00 – 30,00	Negative
2	30,01 – 42,01	Neutral
3	42,02 – 54,00	Positive

## 2. The Attitude of the Community Towards the Operation of the Company

The attitude of the community towards the operation of the company is measured using the Likert scale method which describes several question items that have been prepared in the form of a questionnaire and for each question item is scored according to the respondent's choice, namely A (3), B (2), and C (1). The details of the score can be seen in Table 3.

Tabel 3. Skor Sikap Masyarakat

No	Aspect	Minimum score	Maximum score
1	Cognitive	9	27
2	Affective	3	9
3	Conative	4	12
Jumlah		16	48

The results of the calculations above can be used to make categories of attitude levels, which can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Community Attitude Category

No	Interval Class	Category
1	16,00 – 26,66	Does not support
2	26,67 – 37,33	Neutral
3	37,34 – 48,00	Support

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Socio-Economic Conditions of the Community

BenoHarapan Village is one of the villages located in BatuAmpar sub District with an area of 135 km and a distance of 12 km to the sub-district center and the district capital, respectively 12 and 160 km.

BenoHarapan village before the transmigration was a forest concession area of PT. Kiani Lestari in collaboration with the HTI project. Considering the development and reforestation of forests requires a large number of workers, so that in 1990 PT. Kiani Lestari in collaboration with the Department of Transmigration opened a transmigration settlement with an area of 375 ha consisting of 300 housing units and ha of business land for the community.

The majority of the people of BenoHarapan Village are Muslim and come from the Javanese tribe. Other tribes are the Kutai, Bugis, Dayak, Banjarese, Eastern, Batak, Madurese, Sundanese, Bima, and Balinese. People generally work as farmers and employees, as much as 61% and 21%, respectively. The remaining 18% work as temporary employees, entrepreneurs, civil servants and traders.

### 2. Company Overview

PT. Mahakam PersadaSakti is a company engaged in forestry in the HTI sector based on SK.619/Menhut/II/2020 dated November 10, 2010. It has an area of 25,410 hectares located in the BatuAmpar sub District, East Kutai Regency. In its operations, the company planted Acacia mangium and Eucalyptus as raw materials for making paper. For current activities PT. Mahakam PersadaSakti is seeding, planting, and has reached the harvesting stage at the end of 2021.

The company's vision is: (1) to be the best producer of wood fiber in the world, and (2) to provide high quality fiber to customers by taking into account the contribution to society at large and the implementation of environmental and occupational safety standards..

### 3. Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics of respondents include age level, education level, respondent's experience. Based on interviews conducted with 31 community respondents in BenoHarapan Village, the following is a description of

the characteristics of the respondents: (1) the respondents in the study were of productive age between 15 – 65 years. The education levels of respondents are as follows: SD 12 people (39%), SMP 3 people (9%), SMA 12 people (39%), and undergraduate 4 people (13%).

#### 4. Public Perceptions and Attitudes towards Socio-Economic Conditions with the Operation of HTI Companies

##### a. Public Perception of Socio-Economic Conditions

Public perception of socio-economic conditions with the operation of an Industrial Plantation Forest company in BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmparsub District, East Kutai Regency is seen from four aspects, namely infrastructure, education, income, and employment. For more details can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5. BenoHarapan Village Community Perception

INFRASTRUCTURE ASPECT			
No	Public Perception	Number of Respondents (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Negative	0	0
2	Neutral	7	23
3	Positive	24	77
<b>Amount</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Score</b>		479	Positive Category
<b>Average</b>		15,45	
ASPECT OF EDUCATION			
No	Public Perception	Number of Respondents (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Negative	31	100
2	Neutral	0	0
3	Positive	0	0
<b>Jumlah</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Skor</b>		145	Negative Category
<b>Rata-rata</b>		4,68	
INCOME ASPECT			
No	Public Perception	Number of Respondents (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Negative	0	0
2	Neutral	9	29
3	Positive	22	71
<b>Jumlah</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Skor</b>		<b>311</b>	Positive Category
<b>Rata-rata</b>		<b>10,03</b>	
ASPECT OF WORK			
No	Public Perception	Number of Respondents (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Negative	0	0
2	Neutral	2	6
3	Positive	29	94
<b>Jumlah</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Skor</b>		<b>423</b>	Positive Category
<b>Rata-rata</b>		<b>13,65</b>	

Source: Primary data processed 2021

Public perception of socio-economic conditions with the operation of an Industrial Plantation Forest company in BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmpar District, EastKutai Regency is seen from four aspects, namely infrastructure, education, income, and employment. For more details can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Recapitulation of Public Perceptions of HTI Companies

No	Public Perception	Total score	Average Score	Percentage	Category
1	Infrastructure	479	15,45	35	Positive
2	Education	145	4,68	11	Negative
3	Income	311	10,03	23	Positive
4	Profession	424	13,65	31	Positive
<b>Total Score</b>		1358		100	
<b>Average Score</b>			43,80		
<b>Category</b>					Positive

Source: Primary data processed 2021

Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the people of BenoHarapan Village have a "positive" perception of infrastructure. The impact of the use of the road used by the company on local villages is not good so that some roads are damaged or have potholes. However, the company is trying to help repair roads around community settlements and help improve road access between villages.

Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the people of BenoHarapan Village have a

"negative" perception of education. There is a negative public perception of education because the company does not provide scholarships to students who are economically disadvantaged and does not provide assistance to local schools because the company has not provided any programs related to education. The company focuses on infrastructure and coaching in social areas such as celebrations for holidays. However, the company provides opportunities for students who have completed their education to work in the company and have expertise in accordance with the criteria required by the company. The results of this study are the same as in [6] the company does not provide educational infrastructure assistance at local schools and does not provide scholarships to outstanding students, but the company provides opportunities for students who have completed their education.

Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the people of BenoHarapan Village have a "positive" perception of income. With the company can increase the income of people who work in the company. The income earned can be a mainstay sector, because people can take their daily needs at shops or stalls that work with the company so that some people who do not work in the company also feel the impact of increasing income.

Farmers do not feel the impact of increasing their income, because the majority of farmers cultivate plantation land such as pepper, rubber, oil palm, coffee, candlenut and most of their vegetable needs come from outside the region. The results of this study are the same as in [6] the existence of a company can increase people's income, trigger the development of economic infrastructure and can become a mainstay sector for households.

Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the people of BenoHarapan Village have a "positive" perception of work. The existence of a company can help create job opportunities for people in the BatuAmpar sub-district who want to work for the company. The company also prioritizes or prioritizes the community around the company as daily workers. However, for certain jobs that require special skills in several fields if they are not already owned by the local community, workers from outside the region will be delegated. The majority of people who work in companies still work as farmers side by side by cultivating plantation or agricultural land such as vegetables, rubber plantations, pepper, coffee, and others. With the operation of the company, it can also develop or trigger the establishment of other businesses due to the increasing needs of the community.

#### **b. Public Attitude towards Company Operation HTI**

The attitude of the community towards the operation of the HTI company in BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmpar District, East Kutai Regency is seen from three aspects, namely cognitive, affective, and conative. For more details can be seen in Table 7.

Table 7. Attitudes of the BenoHarapan Village Community

<b>COGNITIVE ASPECT</b>			
No	People's Attitude	Number of Respondents (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Does not support	0	0
2	Neutral	22	71
3	Support	9	29
<b>Amount</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Score</b>		631	Category Neutral
<b>Average</b>		20,35	
<b>AFFECTIVE ASPECT</b>			
No	People's Attitude	Number of Respondents (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Does not support	0	0
2	Neutral	13	42
3	Support	18	58
<b>Amount</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Score</b>		257	Category Support
<b>Average</b>		8,29	
<b>CONATIVE ASPECT</b>			
No	People's Attitude	Number of Respondents (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Does not support	0	0
2	Neutral	17	55
3	Support	14	45
<b>Amount</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Score</b>		292	Category Support
<b>Average</b>		9,41	

Source: Primary data processed 2021

The attitude of the community towards the operation of the Industrial Plantation Forest company in

BenoHarapan Village, BatuAmpar sub District, East Kutai Regency is seen from three aspects, namely cognitive, affective, and conative. For more details can be seen in Table 8.

Table 8. Recapitulation of Public Attitudes towards HTI Companies

No	People's Attitude	Total score	Average Score	Percentage	Category
1	Cognitive	631	20,35	53	
2	Affective	257	8,29	22	
3	Conative	292	9,41	35	
Total score		1180		100	
Average Score			43,80		
Category					Support

Source: Primary data processed 2021

Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the people of BenoHarapan Village have a "neutral" attitude towards cognitive aspects. Most of the people's cognitive attitude responds to or responds to the activities carried out by the company even though some people do not know about it. The community also assumes that: (1) the existence of the company does not cause drought in the watershed because the dryness of the river depends on weather conditions, (2) the presence of company waste causes changes in the smell and color of the water in the watershed because the company has not received any socialization related to environmental impacts if the company operates in particular related to waste disposal. However, some people think that the presence of this waste occurs due to weathering of leaves and garbage which causes changes in the color and smell of the water around the river, (3) the presence of the company causes less air pollution because the company's bio-diesel engine is far from residential areas. Even though there is a lot of dust during hot weather conditions when operating, the company tries to water the road so it doesn't get dusty, and (4) the company is less helpful for agricultural or plantation activities such as giving fertilizer, medicine, and others. This is because the company focuses more on coaching in the social and infrastructure fields.

Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the attitude of the people of BenoHarapan Village has a "supportive" attitude towards the affective aspect. The community supports the existence of the company because it can absorb rural community job opportunities, increase community income, and assistance in the social sector.

HTI companies are feasible and prospective to be developed because the company helps move the economy of the community around the company. After PT. Kiani Lestari is not operating, people change professions that previously worked as employees to farmers. Some community development programs (CD) are not running well, such as forest management with the community managed by the company there has been no follow-up from the company in the form of letters or documents given to the community as evidence of cooperation between the two parties, training for micro, small and medium enterprises is not appropriate. the target and the slowness of the aid funds provided such as assistance for holiday celebrations due to obstacles in the process of disbursing funds.

Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the attitude of the people of BenoHarapan Village has a "neutral" attitude towards the conative aspect. This is because some people are not interested in participating in outreach or socialization activities carried out by companies and micro, small and medium business activities and not all people know about these activities. The community participates if needed to help repair roads around community settlements. However, for now the company is coordinating with village officials so that the community only waits for directions from the village government if needed. The community also follows the existing rules if they are in the Industrial Plantation Forest area for the common interest to protect the surrounding environment.

This is in line with [7] that the conative attitude shows that the community tends to act or react to an object such as helping the company to repair damaged roads if needed, following existing rules when in the company area, participating in MSME training activities and socialization. made for the local community. Conative is a tendency to act or react to the object or person. Based on the results of research in the field, it shows that the attitude of the people of BenoHarapan Village has a "neutral" attitude towards the conative aspect. Because some people are not interested in participating in outreach or socialization activities carried out by companies and micro, small and medium business activities and not all people know about these activities.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

### A. Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion, it can be concluded, as follows:

1. The community in BenoHarapan Village has a positive perception of socio-economic conditions with an average value of 43.80. The results of the study indicate that there are socio-economic impacts, namely road repairs, income levels, business opportunities and job opportunities. This can be seen from four aspects that are included in the positive category, namely infrastructure, income, and employment, while education is

included in the negative category.

2. The community in BenoHarapan Village has a supportive attitude with the operation of the company with an average value of 38.06. The results showed that the attitude of the community to respond to and accept the environmental conditions around the company. This can be seen from three aspects that are included in the supportive category, namely affective, while cognitive and conative are included in the neutral category.

#### **B. Suggestion**

1. It is necessary to held discussions with village officials and several communities in implementing community development programs so that the program is more targeted and in accordance with existing conditions in the field.
2. It is necessary to conduct socialization to the community regarding the environment, for example related to company waste so that people do not think badly of the company so as not to cause offense to any party.
3. The existence of the company is expected to help provide programs or assistance in the field of education and plantations for the local community.
4. The forest development program with the community needs to be discussed with village officials and several communities to discuss how the continuation of the program will not harm any party.

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