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The Role and Position of Young Coffee Farmers: The Gap between Generations in the Coffee Business

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Abstract

The program designed for young coffee farmers is intended to increase the young coffee farmers' interest to become entrepreneurs. This is based on the increase of the number of female workers that keeps increasing. While middle productive-aged workers (35-54 years old) increase slowly, young productive-aged workers (15-34 years old) decrease. This research was aimed to study the gap between generations in the coffee business, focusing on the role and position of young coffee farmers. The research was carried out in Simalungun Regency in North Sumatera, one of the Arabica coffee producers. This research used a quantitative approach supported by qualitative data from interview and group discussion. The method of the research was survey. The samples were young farmers aged between 20 and 40 years old, and they had been involved in business coffee (as farmers, farming labor, labor in coffee processing, traders, and agricultural supply shops). Samples were collected randomly from 108 respondents. The results of the research showed that there was already equality in access and control carried out by young coffee farmers and their parents. The gap seems to happen as there are a number of female young coffee farmers as well as the females' mothers that do not have control or benefits over the resources.

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1. Introduction

In the context of Indonesian agricultural and rural development, the problem of creating employment in the rural areas is determined by various factors, namely a). a high rate of agricultural land conversion; b). a change of land ownership pattern and job relation; c). a change of consumption and rural people's income pattern; and d). competition and labor force productivity and job opportunity (Elizabeth, <http://pse.litbang.pertanian.go.id>). There has been a transition in the composition of agricultural workers, namely the increase of elderly agricultural workers, and there is an indication that young generations are no longer interested in agriculture. In spite of that, the number of female workers keeps increasing, while middle productive-aged workers (35-54 years old) increase slowly and young productive-aged workers (15-34 years old) decrease (Center for Agricultural Data and Information System, 2013). This indicates that the young generations are less interested in agricultural world.

Therefore, the relevant strategies for agricultural employment policy, among others, are changing the young generations' perspective about undeveloped agricultural stigma through the young generation character building and incentive policy and agribusiness and agro-industry development facilities based on superior commodities (Supriyati, <http://pse.litbang.pertanian.go.id>). The Indonesian government's policy on the employment of agricultural younger generation embedded in the Ministry of Agriculture Decree No 07/Permentan/OT.140/I/2013 concerning the Guidelines for Agricultural Younger Generation Development (workers of 15-34 age group) needs to get priorities in the establishment of program planning of agricultural development so that they can become the next generation, motivators, pioneers that are innovative, creative, professional, independent, competitive, and global in perspective. One of the agricultural young generation groups is Entrepreneur Young Farmers, workers aged between 20 and 35 years old, who are self-agribusiness and have considered agriculture as their livelihood, and they have entrepreneurship spirit.

In order to support the program for empowering the young coffee farmers, this research was aimed at identifying the gap between the young generation and the old generation that has long existed in the coffee plantation business in the program intended for coffee plantation. Identification of the gap is expected to be able to strengthen the young generation empowerment in order to become young entrepreneurs in coffee business.

The young generation aged between 12 and 25 years old in the Ozmette's research (2007) have already got a sense of accomplishment, happiness, freedom, honesty, family and education that will become instrumental values later on. It is this sense of self-accomplishment/ achievement that is also assumed to be retained by the young coffee farmers who live in the coffee plantation belonging to their parents or other community members in the villages of Pematang Sidamanik District, Simalungun Regency, one of potential areas for developing Arabica coffee (9,966 Ha) (BPS North Sumatera, 2013). The people's coffee area in North Sumatera is 79,181 Ha, with a production of 55,313 tons (BPS North Sumatera, 2013). Although this regency, producing approximately 650,000 tons from people's plantation of 1,243,429 hectares (96 percent) (Ditjenbun – Department of Agriculture, 2008), gives a great contribution to national coffee product, it still has problems of poverty and unemployment.

The good intention of leading the young entrepreneurs is, however, hindered by the gap in access and control over resources owned by the young coffee farmers and their previous generation. The gap in access and control have put the young coffee farmers in their present position in coffee business, in other words, from the access and control over resources and benefits owned by coffee businessmen, whether they are males or females, and whether they are young coffee farmers or old coffee farmers (the parents of the young coffee farmers).

One of the differential factors is the marital status and the place where the coffee farmers live. The characteristic of young farmers in this research is the one used in the local context, namely someone aged between 20 and 40 years old. Within this age range, we find married young men. This married status cannot distinguish someone whether he is young or not. The close relationship with their parents, even after they get married, becomes a typical characteristic of the young coffee farmers; in other words, they still live with their parents, while others live separately from their parents.

To support the sustainability of people's coffee business, human resources are needed, especially those who have positions in the community, including the young coffee farmers. The analysis begins with working division on the roles of reproduction, social, and household economy as well as agribusiness management. Ozmette (2007) shows that there is a difference between the young males and the young females in achieving important values, such as sense of accomplishment, happiness, family and education. The young males have a tendency to reach success more,

compared to the females. In terms of interpersonal relationship, Wood (2003) says that there were various scripts about relation affected by age, relation context, and gender. This shows that there is a value difference between the young male generation and the young female generation so that this can influence their position in the community.

Having passed their adolescence stage, the young generation continues to the next stage of life, that is marriage stage. Research by Shah and Sultan (2010) showed that in the married young people (19-35 years old) the level of depression was lower than those who were unmarried. The level of depression experienced by the males was lower than that of the females. This happened because of differences in social demand. After getting married, the males were only asked to meet their livelihood, while the females, besides working, they still had to carry out domestic responsibility. This finding shows more clearly how the social structure forms the position of males and females after they get married.

Therefore, by looking at the characteristic of the young generation, the gender analysis in this research is not only used to see the structure of males and females but is also adopted to understand the structure of age (the gap between old farmers and young farmers). The resources in the villages and in the agricultural areas can become very typical, and they can be seen as supporting aspects or constraints in the young generation, such as can be seen in various facilities, programs as well as available jobs, compared to the old generation that have already had social and economic position in the community. This shows a novelty in the approach where gender analysis is used to see not only the gap between males and females, but also the gap between old generation and young generation so that it is an important source of information to know the young farmers' position in the present people's coffee business.

This gender analysis refers to Harvard analysis (Overholt 1985). It includes access, control and participation on land resource, extension and training, technology, capital, farmer's group, working in coffee plantation, mobile phones, transportation means, and information on market prices, and benefits of income, wealth, education, saving accounts, and credit. These resources are very specific in the villages. Shamah's research (2009) found that there was a different sense of purpose in the young generation aged between 13 and 18 years old in rural areas, namely in their assurance when they entered an adult stage, and their future plan through achievement and participation in many activities at school and community. This was influenced by the youth's perception of their family's socio-economic condition and a good relationship with other community members that could give them a good job opportunity. There was also an aspiration of the youth to choose education and job that could make them stay there when they grew up.

2. Methodology

This research was carried out in Nagori Sait Buttus Saribu, Simalungun Regency, North Sumatera, as one of the Arabica coffee producers. This research used a quantitative approach supported by a qualitative approach. The research method was a survey. The samples were young people of 20-40 years old amounting to 393 persons, farmers, farmer labor, labor in coffee processing field, traders, and the owners of agricultural supply shop. Samples for survey were carried out randomly and simply from 108 respondents.

The measuring equipment used was gender analysis that included the followings: 1) Access, control and participation of land resources, extension and education, technology, capital, farmer's group, working in coffee plantation, mobile phones, transportation means, and information on market prices as well as benefits from income, wealth, education, saving accounts, and credit; and 2) Benefits from income, wealth, education, saving accounts, and credit. The choices of response from each measured item were owned by: (1) the young male coffee farmers and their parents; (2) the young female coffee farmers and the young female coffee farmers' parents; and (3) equality between the young coffee farmers and their parents.

Meanwhile the qualitative data to support the finding of quantitative data came from depth-interview and focused group discussion. FGD was carried out in five groups consisting of 20 persons each, namely: (1) the young farmers, consisting of males, and females, namely males and females; (2) the old farmers, consisting of males and females; (3) local elite group (males and females). Data analysis was carried out by descriptive method on the findings resulting from the measurement on the indicators of access, control and benefits from the resources as well as findings from the interview and FGD as qualitative data.

3. Result

Participants of the survey consisted of 57.41% males and 42.59% females. Participants aged between 18 and 40 years old with the average age of 31 years old. Based on the marital status, most young coffee farmers were married (81.48% or 88 persons). In the meantime there were young coffee farmers who were not married yet (15.74% or 17 years), and widows 18.5% (3 persons). Of the married young coffee farmers that were married, 70.5% of them (62 persons) did not live with their parents anymore.

3.1. Position of young coffee farmers in coffee business

Data survey in Figure 1 showed that there were more than 80 percent of young coffee farmers that had contributed to four business coffee activities, namely planting, harvest, post-harvest, and sale. The sale stage showed that only 13 percent of the young male coffee farmers' parents had a big role. The parents' role in selling coffee could be seen when there was a decision to sell to middlemen, the price would be determined by the parents.

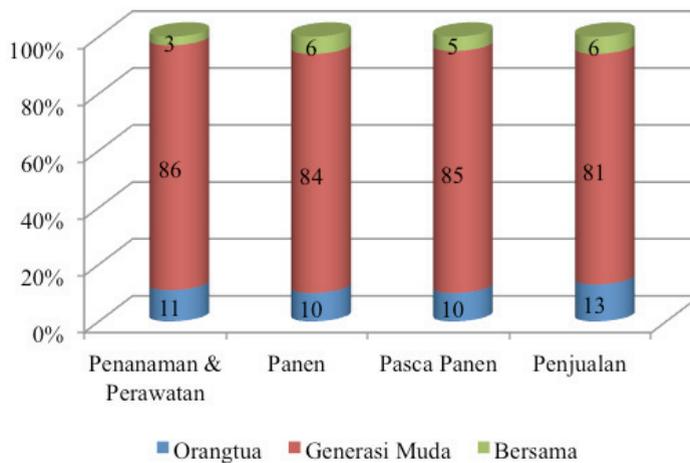


Figure 1. Total number of Young Coffee Farmers and Their Parents in Coffee Business Activities. Planting and Treatment (*Penanaman&Perawatan*), Harvesting (*Panen*), Post-Harvesting (*Pasca Panen*) and Sale (*Penjualan*).

Based on the marital status and the place they lived, it seemed that about 30-50 percent of young coffee farmers that were married and lived in the same house as their parents said that they were involved in the four stages of coffee business, while other young coffee farmers that were involved in the four coffee business activities were 80-90 percent participants. In each business coffee activity, about 30-40 percent said that only the parents did it to the unmarried young coffee farmers' household.

This showed that the unmarried young coffee farmers who still lived with their parents had not got access to coffee business activities. It was their parents that took care of the coffee business activities, especially the sale activities compared to the married young coffee farmers that still lived with their parents or already got married but lived separately from their parents. This is due to the many social relationships in coffee business that was mostly owned by the old generation. The young coffee farmers were involved in coffee business, but only in the production area.

3.2. Access and control over resources and benefits of coffee business

The position of young coffee farmers in the family can be seen based on the gap between access and its control over the resources and benefits that could be obtained from coffee business compared to their parents. Access analysis was used to show the extent to which resources gave a room to young coffee farmers and their parents to be

involved and to get benefits from the intervention while control could be seen from decision making between young coffee farmers and their parents on the resources and their benefits. Therefore, the position of young coffee farmers in the family could be seen based on the gap between access and control over the resources and benefits. It would be possible that the group could get access to the resources, but they could not get the control.

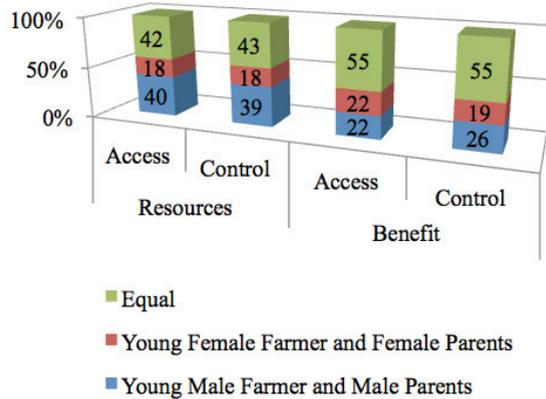


Figure 2. Young Coffee Farmers and Their Access and Control over Resources and Benefits in Coffee Business

Figure 2 shows that the young coffee farmers and their parents had access to resources such as land, extension and education, technology, capital, farmers’ group, working in coffee plantation, technology, mobile phones, transportation means, and market price information to expand their coffee business or benefits of the resources in the forms of income, wealth, education, saving accounts, and credit. The data in Figure 2 shows that the number of farmers from the category of young coffee farmers and their parents seemed to have greater access and control over resources and their benefits compared to the number of farmers from category (1) young male coffee farmers and their fathers, and (2) young female coffee farmers and their mothers. This shows that the position of young coffee farmers started to be equal because with their parents they could be involved in managing family coffee business although there was less access and benefits over the resources that the female young coffee farmers and their mothers got.

A different picture can be seen based on the category of the young farmers’ marital status and the place where they lived, namely the young coffee farmers that still lived with their parents. It was found that there were a number of young coffee farmers or their parents that had a bigger access to such resources as land, education, and extension, capital, working in coffee plantation, technology, farmer’s group, use of mobile phones, and market price information compared to the number of farmers in the category (1) young female coffee farmers and their mothers or (2) the category that was carried out together between young coffee farmers and their parents; (2) equality between the young coffee farmers and their parents.

In terms of education and extension, technology, and transportation, it was found that the number of young female coffee farmers and their mothers had enough control over the resources. In the meantime control over such resources as land, capital, and farmer’s group, in young female coffee farmers and their mothers was greater than young male coffee farmers and their fathers. On the resource of market price information, young female coffee farmers and their mothers had more control than access. This shows that there was still unequal relation between young male coffee farmers or their fathers and young female coffee farmers since there were still resources in which each decision making was in the control of young male coffee farmers or their fathers.

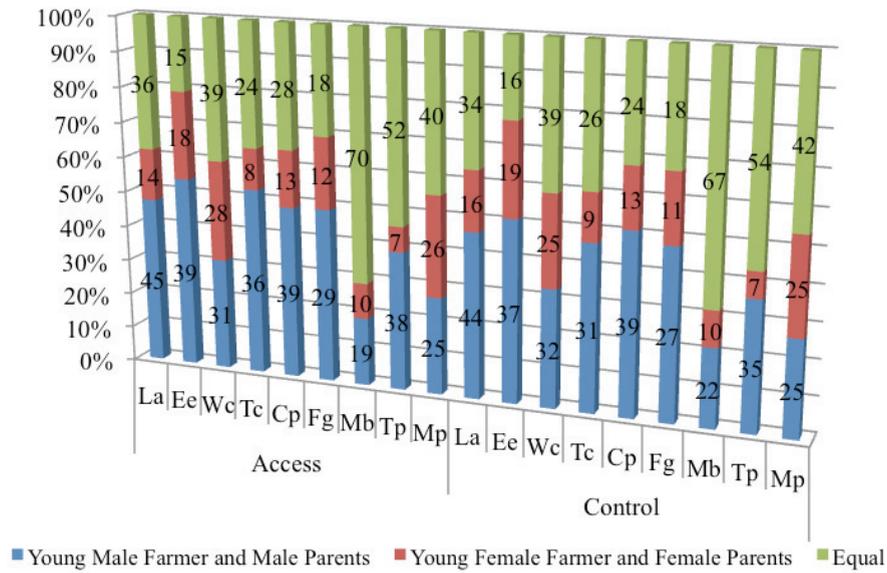


Figure 3. Number of Participants based on Access and Control of Resources between-Generation in Coffee Bussiness (La : Land; Tc Technology; Mb : Mobilephone; Ee : Extension/Education; Cp : Capital; Tp : Transportation; Wc : Work in coffee plantation; Fg :Farmer group; Mp : Market price information.

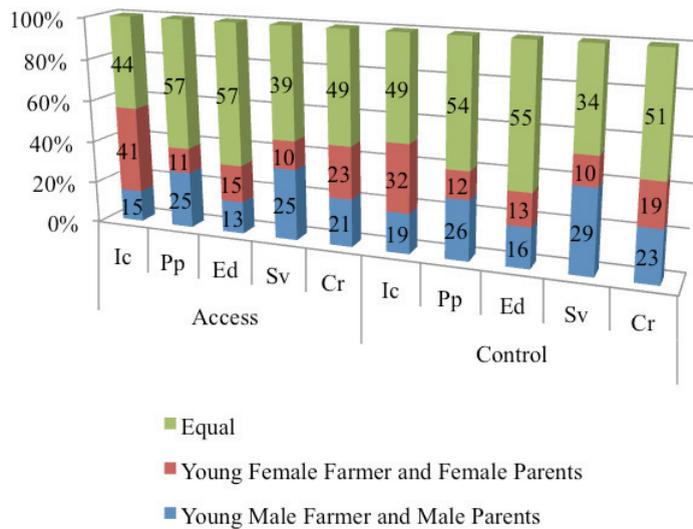


Figure 4. Number of Participants based on Benefits of Resources between Generations in Coffee Business (Ic : Income; Pp : Property; Cd: Credit; E : Education; Sv : Saving)

The category of married young coffee farmers who still lived with their parents showed that the number of young male coffee farmers who had bigger access and control than the number of farmers in the category of young female coffee farmers could be seen in almost all resources such as in the category of married farmers that still lived with their parents. However, in the category of resources that could be accessed or controlled there were many that had been owned together, by both young male and young female coffee farmers (equal).

Besides access and control over coffee business resources, the gap analysis also showed who got more benefits of the resources that could be obtained such as income, wealth, education, saving accounts, and credit. The survey data showed that the category 'equal' between young coffee farmers and their parents was the highest showing access and control. The number of young coffee farmers and their parents that could get access and control over benefits of resources was the highest compared to other farmer categories: (1) young male coffee farmers and their fathers and (2) young female coffee farmers and their mothers. This is in line with the category of the farmers that also got the highest access and control over coffee business resources.

Number of young coffee farmers that could get access and control over resource benefits equally with their parents could be seen in income, wealth, credit, and education. In the meantime, there were a number of farmers in this category who got the smallest benefits from saving accounts because saving accounts could only be accessed and controlled by young male coffee farmers or their fathers.

3.3. The gap analysis of access and control over resources and their benefits in coffee business

Data presented above shows that there was a gap between young coffee farmers and their parents, which in this research was defined as the parents. The gap is a form of deficiency in equal relation between males and females, or between generations (old and young). The objective is not only to increase access and control in the males and the females or young and old generation, but also to make equality between both parties. Therefore, the gap was measured in order to get ten levels where equality was carried out by female coffee farmers and male coffee farmers, both young and old. The gap levels are described in Table 1.

Table 1. The Gap Levels in accessing and controlling the resources and benefits in coffee business

NO	FORM OF GAPS OF ACCESS AND CONTROL	LEVELS OF GAPS
1	Number of females and males that had control decreased, but number that had it together increased	10
2	Number of females that control increased, but number of males that had control decreased, and number that had it together increased	9
3	Number of females that had control increased, but number of males that had control remained stable, and number that had it together increased	8
4	Number of females that had control increased, but number of males that had control decreased, and number that had it together remained stable	7
5	Number of females and males that had control increased, but number that had it together remained stable	6
6	Number of females and males that had control increased, but number that had it together decreased	5
7	Number of females that had control increased, but number of males that had control remained stable, and number that had it together increased	4
8	Number of females that had control increased, but number of males that had control remained stable, and number that had it together decreased	3
9	Number of females that had control decreased, but number of males that had control increased, and number that had it together increased	2
10	Number of females that had control decreased, but number of males that had control increased, and number that had it together remained stable	1

Those levels show the increase of control in females as a form of patriarchy culture that signals decreasing control from males over some resources. Therefore, what will happen is that the relation between them will become equal. To show the gap, Figure 5 presents the gap levels of access and control over resources in coffee business that can be different based on the category of young coffee farmers, namely marital status and the place where they live.

From Figure 5 it can be seen that in the category of unmarried farmers that lived with their parents, access and control of the young farmers over land resources belonged to the biggest gap level in which the number of females that had control decreased, while the number of males that had control increased, and the number that controlled together remained stable. A different condition showed how farmers in this category controlled educational and extension resources; capital, farmer’s group, working in coffee plantation, technology, and transportation. In this case there was an increase in the number of females that had control, while the number of males that had control decreased, although the number that had controlled together remained the same (in the gap level 4).

The opposite condition happened to young farmers with category married but still lived with their parents. In this context there was a decrease in the number of female coffee farmers or their mothers, who controlled resources such as land, working in a coffee shop, capital, farmer’s group, and information on price (belonging to the gap level 9 and 10). The decline of the number of females that controlled resources was in line with the increase of control in young male coffee farmers or their fathers, and the number that was equal to that carried out by young coffee farmers and their parents did not increase a lot.

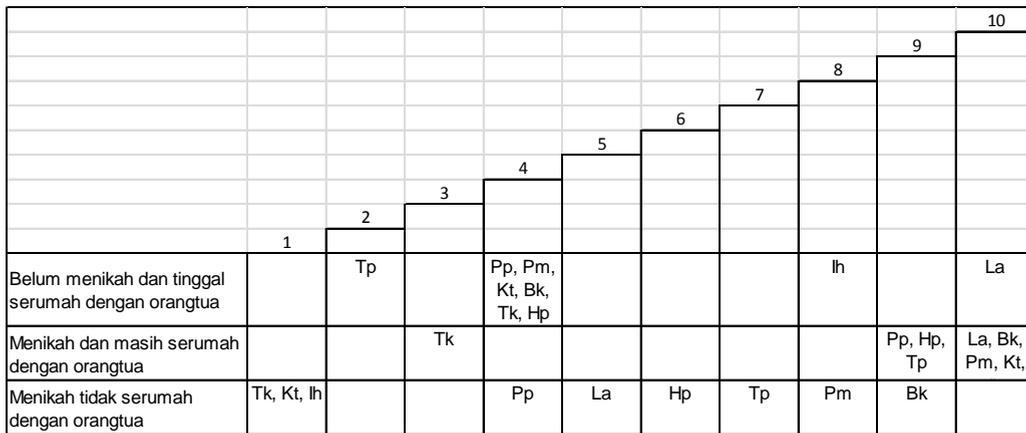


Figure 5. The Gap Levels of Access and Control over Coffee Business Resources (La : Land; Tc: Technology; Mb : Mobilephone; Ee : Extension/Education; Cp : Capital; Tp :Transportation; Wc : Work in coffee plantation; Fg : Farmer group; Mp : Market price information.

Another condition showed an increase in the number of females that had more control over resources and was mostly found in the category of young married farmers that no longer lived with their parents. The number of young coffee farmers that carried out coffee business together with their parents was mostly found in the access and control over the resources of technology, farmer’s group, and information on price (belonging to the gap level 1). Because of that, in the gap analysis of access and control over resources it was found that the relation between males and females and between generations was still dominated by young male coffee farmers or the fathers of young coffee farmers that were married and still lived or no longer lived with their parents. In the married farmers that still lived with their parents, it was found that a control over access was still dominated by young female coffee farmers or their mothers. There was a tendency that the gap happened because of the low number of young female farmers or their mothers in controlling the resources.

Figure 6 above shows that benefits of coffee business resources had a different pattern between category young farmers based on marital status and the place where they lived. A high decline of the number of young female coffee farmers or the mothers of the coffee farmers that had control over price information in the category of unmarried young farmers that still lived with their parents put them in the gap level 8. A great number of young female coffee farmers or their mothers that had much control over benefits of wealth, education, credit, and saving accounts put them in the gap level 5. This pattern was almost similar to the category of married young coffee farmers that did not live with their parents in which there was a decline in control from males but it was in line with the number of young female coffee farmers had control over resources’ benefit.

Wood, D.L., 2003. In Search of The Generation Gap: Age and Gender Differences in Casual versus Serious Relationship Scripts. Thesis: Acadia University