

Role of Stakeholders' Collaboration in Eliminating Child Labor: A Case of Indonesia's Agriculture Sector

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Abstract

The goal of international labor Organization is to eliminate all forms of child labor since at the year of 2016 and it still needs to be supported until today. The aim of this program is to show how stakeholders' collaboration and coordination have been focusing on the contribution and their roles to the reduction of child labor. The combination between field observation and interview to 20 NGO's directors and field operating managers is the method used in this program. Although the collaboration's efforts and the intervention of the stakeholders have been discussed in previous papers, however, its connection with socio- political view from NGO's network perspectives and NGO's network salience have not been sufficiently revealed, particularly in agriculture sector in Indonesia. The finding shows that the collaboration effects the capacity of network members through strengthening partnership for action against child labor, increasing the awareness and understanding of parents and farmers regarding child labor and its regulation, and developing a model of child-friendly village. This program has an implication to advocate for more supportive policies on child labor elimination and technical support for stakeholders both at national as well as regional level.

Keywords – Child labor, stakeholder, agriculture, elimination

Abstrak

Tujuan dari organisasi perburuhan internasional adalah mulai tahun 2016 dan masih perlu didukung hingga saat ini. Tujuan dari program ini adalah untuk menunjukkan bagaimana kolaborasi dan koordinasi para pemangku kepentingan fokus pada kontribusi dan peran mereka terhadap pengurangan jumlah pekerja anak. Kombinasi antara observasi lapangan dan wawancara terhadap 20 orang direktur LSM dan manajer operasional lapangan merupakan metode yang digunakan dalam program ini. Meskipun tema kolaborasi dan intervensi para pemangku kepentingan telah dibahas di beberapa tulisan sebelumnya, namun cara pandang sosial politik dari perspektif jaringan LSM belum cukup terungkap, khususnya di sektor pertanian yang ada di Indonesia. Hasil temuan menunjukkan bahwa hasil kolaborasi ini berdampak pada penguatan kapasitas anggota jaringan melalui penguatan kemitraan untuk aksi-aksi melawan pekerja anak, peningkatan kesadaran orang tua dan petani mengenai pekerja anak dan peraturannya serta pengembangan model desa ramah anak. Program ini memiliki implikasi untuk mengadvokasi kebijakan yang lebih mendukung penghapusan pekerja anak, dan dukungan teknis bagi pemangku kepentingan baik di tingkat nasional atau di daerah.

Kata kunci - pekerja anak, pemangku kepentingan, agrikultur, penghapusan

INTRODUCTION

A social issue regarding child labor remains being concerned in emerging country like Indonesia. This statement is consistent which was mentioned by Cho, Fang, Tayur & Xu (2019) that many developing or emerging countries are part of the supply base of global manufacturing networks on child labor. They stated almost 200 million children are engaged on child labor. This statement is also inline with the International Labor Organization (ILO)'s data in 2016. Instead of mentioning the number, ILO explained that the number of child labor engaged more in agriculture rather than manufacture sector (ILO, 2017).

According to the Indonesia National Labor Force Survey "Survei Angkatan Kerja Nasional - Sakernas" (2014), it is about 2 million children aged 15 to 17 were found working in several sectors. However, the unavailability of comprehensive data on child labors is indeed a challenge for efforts to deal with labors in Indonesia, especially data on working children under the age of 15. The Indonesian Child Labor Survey (ICLS) which was carried out by Indonesia Statistics (BPS) and ILO is not available anymore. The last data regarding working children in Indonesia was in 2009.

Based on the ICLS 2009, 57 percent of working children aged 15-17 work in agriculture, including forestry, hunting and fishery. It also indicates that according to working place 47% of them work in farms, garden and plantations, and most of them are unpaid family workers. Apart from being involved in family growing activities, they are found to be involved in commercial commodity plantation such as rubber, tobacco, palm oil growing (Dash, 2013).

The main factors contributing to child labor, as in many countries are tradition and poverty, and also the lack of public awareness and understanding around the issue of child labor (Bosu & Tzannatos, 2003). Most of parents do not consider that employing children in farms and plantations as an issue, especially the children who are still in school age. Another factor is that the children themselves have no activity after returning from school. One of the traditions in the past time which remains exist among the parents is that helping them after school in farms, garden or plantations. According to one of the parents said (during the preliminary interview) that when the harvest season arrives, employing them may avoid delays to finish all the farms and plantation's activities. Since the local market labor cannot also provide sufficient adult worker to work in farms and plantations. Thus, the limited number of adult labors may attract children and their parents to get involved in this job. In other words, this issue may arise because of supply and demand's aspects on child labor (Cho, Fang, Tayur & Xu, 2019; Satriawan & Ghifari, 2018) including agriculture sector (Beegle, Gatti, Dehejia & Krutikova, 2008).

The studies on child labors are mainly focusing on evaluating the NGO's initiatives or firm's strategies on child labor programs in different countries (Aransiola & Justus, 2018; Cho, et al, 2019; Del Carpio, Loayza & Wada, 2016; Maconachie & Hilson, 2016). Other papers have discussed the factors contributing to child labors (Bosu & Tzannatos, 2003; Dash, 2013; Moyi, 2011; Santana & Itaparica, 2011). Although the collaboration's efforts, consequences as well as the intervention of the stakeholders have been discussed as a part of the previous researches on child labor, its connection with socio-political view, NGO's network perspectives, and NGO's network salience have not been sufficiently discussed, particularly in agriculture sector in Indonesia. This paper tries to fill the gap in the literature.

As above mentioned, the current study focusses on how the collaboration and coordination of stakeholders strengthen the elimination of child labors in Indonesia, how the stakeholders against child labor, particularly in agriculture sector which was located in several cities in Indonesia. Section two reviews related literature on child labor and outlines detailed discussion of NGO's network's salience on child labor, including its theoretical framework.

The finding shows that the collaboration effects the capacity of network members through strengthening partnership for action against child labor, enhancing national level stakeholders' knowledge on child labor in agriculture sector, and developing a model of child-friendly place. Section two explains the method used in this study, which the data was obtained from the interviews made with representatives of the 20 NGO's directors and operating managers, and dataset include all the

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publicized organization's reports and legal documents concerning child labor. The next section explains the discussion and the last is the conclusion, as well showing the importance of this study to advocates for more supportive policies on child labor elimination and technical support to stakeholders both at national level as well as regional level and guidance to the future research.

METHOD

The method is designed to build the meaning of phenomenon from the perspective of NGO's network's members. Data was obtained from the interviews with the 20 NGO's directors and field operating managers as the participants who include in its network's members. As mentioned by Diaz Andrade (2009) and Glesne (1999) that by involving the key persons and exploring the personal experience of them as the participant, this research can reveal the viewpoints of NGO's network's members who are directly related to the child labor's issues, in this case is in the agriculture sector in Indonesia.

In addition, the observation is also conducted by visiting several villages as the objects of target's program around Probolinggo and Jember, East Java, namely Desa Wringin Telu, Seboro, Pandean, and Desa Rawan. Besides East Java, another observation is also carried out at West Nusa Tenggara, such as Desa Sukaraja, Montongsari and Batu Anten. Apart from the interview and observation data, this study also reviews the relevant report and legal documents in relation with child labor in agriculture sector

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned above that the data was obtained from the observation, interviews prepared with the 20 NGO's directors and operating managers, and dataset include all the publicized organization's reports and legal documents concerning child labor.

The Program effects the capacity of network members through strengthening partnership for action against child labor

The complexity of child labor issue in agriculture sector, especially in tobacco plantation, requires actions from multi-stakeholders' partnership for actions against child labor, which consist of government, civil society and private sector organizations and their network members. One of the programs to improve the capacity of network members is through strengthening partnership by establishing PAACLA, the Partnership for Actions Against Child Labor in Agriculture in Indonesia. This partnership should be able to have further strengthened and empowered to carry out its functions in implementing coordinated actions against child labor in this sector.



Picture 1.

Focus Group Discussion
Source: JARAK, 2021 and 2022

Increasing the awareness and understanding of parents and farmers regarding child labor and its regulation

Based on the observation and interviews, it shows that most of parents and farmers do not aware the child's labor's concept. One of the programs to make the parents and farmers understand about the concept of child labor is by having training or socialization. It is designed to make easily understood by them, thus it may improve their understanding about child labor and regulations.



Picture 2.

Socialization to parents and farmers about the child's labor's concept
Source: JARAK, 2021 and 2022

Developing a model of child-friendly village.

The first launching of a government program for child labor was a child-friendly village at the year of 2010. However, it has not been implemented well. By having this program, the program's manager re-introduces and realizes it into a real program in every village's target.

The purpose of this child-friendly village is to:

- a. Implement the government policy regarding children's right through village's developments;
- b. Improve the village's authority commitment to fulfill children's interest and needs;
- c. Increase capacity and roles of the village authority regarding to provide children's protections.

The pictures below are the example of its program.



Picture 3.

Visiting to Desa Sengkareng and Kaliwangko



Picture 4.

Visiting to Desa Wringin Telu Jember and Desa Pandean Probolinggo

Advocation for more supportive policies on child labor elimination and technical support for stakeholders both at national as well as regional level.

Indonesia has made progress in eliminating child labor and the national policy framework has been put in place. The result of both ILO convention 138 concerning minimum age and ILO Convention 182 concerning the immediate abolition of the worst form of child labor has been ratified and had been reflected in the Manpower law at the year of 2021. Besides, the government of Indonesia has endorsed a road map to child labor- free Indonesia in 2022 to guide stakeholders in tackling the child labor issue.

Progress in legislation has also been made at the sub national level where several provinces have regulation that prohibit child labor and promote child protection. However, the progress of legislation

at the sub national level is not in the same level among provinces and districts and in general has not been transformed into concrete program by the regional governments.

CONCLUSION

Finally, it can be concluded that significant progresses of the programs have been achieved and the efforts are normally heading to the right direction. The result of the study shows that the role of stakeholder's collaborations effects the capacity of network members through strengthening partnership for action against child labor. This partnership covers multi-stakeholder such as government, private sector organizations and civil society which carry out its functions in implementing coordinated actions against child labor in the agriculture sector.

This also reveals the increasing on the awareness and understanding of parents and farmers regarding child labor and its regulation by having training and socializations. The last finding of the study is to offer and realize the development of a model of child-friendly place or village. There is also available the guidance for setting up and develop it in a comprehensive manner. However, the most important thing is not only setting up a friendly place but also to develop more sustainable program for it.

This program has an implication to advocate for more supportive policies on child labor elimination and technical support for stakeholders both at national as well as regional level.

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