Power Relation and Its Threats to Sustainable Ecology

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Developing countries have always faced poverty as the main national issue, most of their citizens are peasants around the world are living in poverty. Prior studies show two factors which causes poverty: structural and cultural factors. Structural factors relate to misguided policy direction, whereas cultural factors are related to work ethics and restrictive social system. However, those analyses miss the intermediate factor between those two impoverishing factors. In Asian countries, there is a phenomenon about caste stratification as one of the forms of intermediate factor. The caste system requires a dominating power relation, from patron to client which result an attitude of compliance. Bugis, Indonesia, compliance (matunru) shows the evident of the unequal distribution of crops, crop-lien system and high interest rates. This shift of ownership could potentially lead to land use conversion which threatens sustainable ecology. Moreover, there is a significant correlation between poverty and sustainable ecology. Low ecology capacity creates poverty, and in turns, poverty leads to serious threats to sustainable ecology. This mix-method research attempts in responding the failures of implementing many pro-farmer policies and offers a comprehensive conceptual strategy which cultural aspect is unavoidable to reduce poverty by doing in-depth interview, questionnaires, and observation human behaviour. The data show policies for farmer's prosperity should be aligned with the sustainable ecology development based on food security and green economy. This research's results expectedly can be applied to many developing countries which have power relation issue as one of impoverishing factors. Keywords: Compliance (matunru), intermediate factor, poverty, sustainable ecology

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