



Research Article

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Case Report: Perceptions of the Bajo Community on Children's Education in Bajo Indah Village, Soropia District, Konawe District

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Abstract

This study aims to determine public' perceptions of their children's education in Bajo Indah Village, Soropia District, Konawe Regency. The instruments used in this research for collecting data are interviews and questionnaires. Data analysis techniques used in this study used qualitative approaches. The percentage of Bajo people's perceptions of their children having to take the education path shows 90% stating positively that their children are to take the education path and 10% of subjects showing no response to the statement that children must take education. The percentage of subjects believing that their children have the motivation and responsible attitude created by the educational process is 71.4%. Their perception of school facilities and infrastructure in the Bajo Indah village area showed that 62% of the sample responded positively and considered the facilities and infrastructure sufficient, while the other 38% thought they were inadequate. Percentage results for the Bajo community's perceptions of the Bajo Indah Village Environment having a positive effect on children's education showed that 57% of the sample stated positively. In comparison, 43% thought the Bajo Indah Village Environment had an unfavorable effect on children's education. From all the percentage analyses above, the researcher took the research results on the importance of children's education in the Bajo Indah village, resulting in 86% positive and 14% negative perceptions that developed in the perceptions and mindset of the Bajo people.

Keywords: Public perception, Education, Bajo Tribe

1. Introduction

The Bajo community is a part of Indonesian society that lives by managing potential fishery resources (Marlina et al., 2020; Rahim et al., 2018). Geographically, the fishermen's community is a community that lives, grows, and develops in the coastal area, which is a transitional area between land and sea areas (Cahaya, 2015). The Bajo tribe community is one of the most common fishing communities, and they are known as accomplished sailors who spend their time at sea; they have been taught since childhood to be friendly with the sea because their main livelihood is fishing, and the sea fulfills their needs (Maulidyna et al., 2021; Suliyati, 2017). The quality of education, especially that of the children of the Bajo community, is still low, even though education is very important for every child, wherever he is because education is a process of changing behavior, personality, and maturity in thinking (Maemunah et al., 2021; Suardika, Rusmin, et al., 2020).

The view of the Bajo community on children's education is still lacking; this is closely related to the low level of community welfare, so demands meeting basic needs defeat the will to work and improve the education of fishermen's children (Pondan et al., 2018; Suardika et al., 2020). In fact, at a young age, the children of the Bajo tribe begin to be invited to go sailing and go to sea, so they rarely go to school. It must be understood that the life of the Bajo people requires multidimensional attention. The biggest challenge is how to build their lives to increase their welfare. Education can make the lives of the Bajo and other people who depend on marine and coastal resources more respectable. It means that it takes effort to change the paradigm of thinking of the Bajo people so that they care about their children's education and have more knowledge than their parents (Alifuddin et al., 2021; Wahyuni et al., 2022).

However, the factors that cause the low education of the children of the Bajo people are not just economic problems or from the view of parents; other factors such as personal factors (level of awareness), sociocultural factors (social culture), and the geographical location of the school also play a role. Sociocultural factors are perceptions, views, customs, and habits that have to do with the culture of a society. Students always make contact with the community. Negative and incorrect cultural influences in the education field will also impact children's development and growth (Agustang & Gratitude, 2018; Basri et al., 2017; F. Gobel et al., 2019). Students who associate with friends who are not in school or have dropped out will be affected by them. The fishermen of the Bajo tribe, especially those in Bajo Indah Village, have not had much access to education until now. There are still children who need to continue their education. Most only graduated from junior high school, and some still needed to finish elementary school (SD).

Furthermore, the children of fishermen continue their education to higher education (college) are only seven people. The community's understanding of the importance of education still needs to be improved, causing their children to have no motivation to compete in seeking the highest possible knowledge. While the number of children who dropped out of school was quite large, 68 children did so because their school had been closed for approximately one year, and they could not continue their education. Some of their children drop out and still need to finish junior high school (SMP). It is common for children to help their parents make a living at sea at an early age; they argue that their parent's income is insufficient. They usually work when they come home from school or on school holidays so that, on average, their children only have time to complete their education to the highest level. Figure 1 presents data on the education level of the Bajo people.

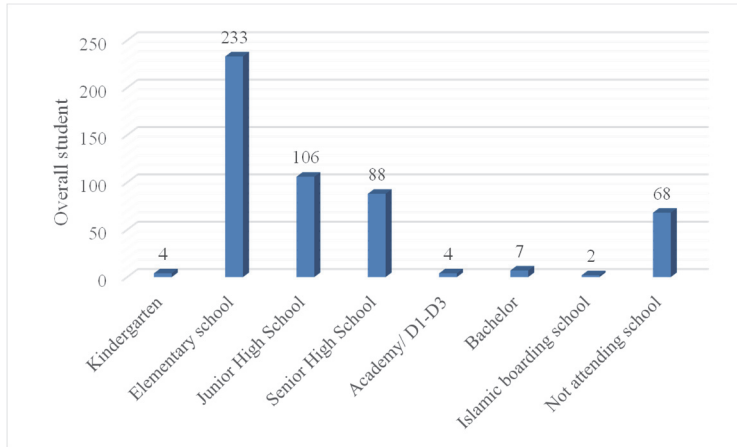


Figure 1. Education Level of the Bajo Tribe Community in Bajo Indah Village

Source: Statistical Data of Bajo Indah Village for 2022

Based on the information in Figure 1, one real example of a difference in education in the community is that some people still do not attend senior high school or college. Based on these problems and phenomena, researchers feel interested in conducting research titled "Bajo Community Perceptions of Children's Education in *Bajo Indah Village*, Soropia District, Konawe Regency." According to Yuniati's (2018) research, the perceptions of the Bajo tribe's fishing community, *Pulau Dua Darat Village*, and *Bungku Selatan District Morowali Regency* regarding children's education is less important due to the circumstances and conditions of the surrounding environment. According to them (the community), even without education, they can earn a daily income to meet the family's needs, so children's education is minimal, only reaching the undergraduate level for one person. She was not a native of *Pulau Dua Darat Village* but a migrant who served in the area. Factors contributing to the low educational attainment of fishermen's children in *Pulau Dua Darat Village* include a lack of parental attention to children's education, a lack of parental awareness of children's education, and a lack of parental attention to children's education. Saepuddin's research (2019) shows that the perception of fishing communities regarding children's education in *Teluk Village, Labuan District*, is that education is very important for themselves and their children. Many of the children of the fishing community in *Teluk Village, Labuan District*, have continued their education to a higher level.

2. Research Methodology

This type of research is qualitative, with descriptive characteristics and ethnographic research strategies. Research is carried out to discover an activity to discover previously unknown knowledge objectively. In this study, the researcher systematically looked for factual and accurate data from an activity and then described it qualitatively. This research was conducted in *Bajo Indah Village, Soropia District, Konawe Regency*. The subjects of this research were all objects where several sources or informants could provide information about problems related to the research to be carried out, consisting of parents, school heads, teachers, and the village head in *Bajo Indah Village, Soropia District, Konawe Regency*. The data collection techniques are observation and interviews. While the data analysis techniques used are data collection, reduction, data presentation, and conclusion (Matthew B. Miles, 1994).

3. Results and Discussion

From the total population of the Bajo Indah community, totaling 512 researchers, the sample used by researchers in this study was 21 people because qualitative research views the sampling process as a population parameter that is dynamic, special, and phasic compared to static or a priori. While there are statistical rules about the probability of sample size, there are only pointers to sample size by objective. Samples based on this concept can range from $n = 1$ to $n = 40$ or more (McMillan & Schumacher). Purposive sampling was used to get the sample. The researcher chose the population and the sample using purposive sampling, which is often used in qualitative research to choose and decide on research subjects. Based on this sample, the researcher chose and determined research subjects, with seven subjects for collecting data by interview and 21 for collecting research questionnaire data. Table 1 presents the results of a qualitative analysis of percentages regarding the perceptions of the *Bajo Indah* community towards education based on five statements given to 21 people from the *Bajo Indah* community. The following table shows the percentage of *Bajo Indah* people's perceptions of children's education.

Table 1. Percentage of perceptions of the Bajo community in *Bajo Indah* village on the importance of children's education

| No | Alternative answers | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | Yes | 18 | 86% |
| 2 | No | 3 | 14% |
| Total | | 21 | 100% |

Based on Table 1, of all the people in the Bajo community in *Bajo Indah* Village who filled out a questionnaire for the research, 86% thought that education was important for the Bajo community. Furthermore, another 14 percent think children's education is less important. Five people were interviewed, and the results showed that they know how important it is for their children to get a good education. As a result, they want to give their children the best education possible so that they grow up to be smart. Even as parents, they have the desire for their children to be able to study up to the university level, but their children do not have the desire to continue their education. Similarly, some of them believe that even if their children do not attend school, as parents, they have sent them to school until their children can read and write.

Table 2. Percentage of Bajo people's perception of children having to go through education

| No | Alternative answers | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | Yes | 18 | 86% |
| 2 | No | 3 | 14% |
| Total | | 21 | 100% |

From Table 2, it was found that all research samples collected through research questionnaires given to the Bajo community in *Bajo Indah* Village regarding their perceptions that children should take the educational path showed 90% of the subjects stating positively about the statement that their children were to take the educational path. Only 10% of the subjects have yet to respond to the statement that children must go to school. For now, the education of the children of the Bajo community in *Bajo Indah* village who have studied at a higher level, namely up to high school, is different than in the past, when the education of children in fishing communities only went up to elementary school or did not graduate from school. However, currently, there are still children who do not go to school because some of the children of fishing communities do not pursue higher education, namely because their parents do not have more material and do not have an open mind

about children's education, and because they lack motivation from their parents to continue education. The village head also expressed this.

“If you get motivation and advice from other people, it seems very difficult because the parents are not very motivating, they are more focused on work than going to school.”

The socio-economic life of fishing communities can also affect children's education level because it relates to the background of fishermen's lives in financing their children's education. When viewed from an economic background in general, the Bajo community in *Bajo Indah* village, those who still use boats, has a low economic level compared to those who use ships, which have a reasonably high economy in one sea.



Figure 1. An overview of the Bajo village area

According to a study by Ikhsan et al. (2020), fishermen in *Kampung Bajo* think the following about their children's education: (1) Education is not essential because fishermen's children have to help their parents go to sea; (2) children of fishermen in *Kampung Bajo* do not need high school because they will become sailors like their ancestors; and (3) there is not much motivation for fishermen's children to go to school. In the same way, Manguntara (2008) found that a higher level of parental education makes parents less aware of the importance of education. This makes them less likely to want their children to go to the next level of schooling. Nevertheless, the more educated parents are, the more likely they are to understand how important education is for their children and encourage them to keep studying at a high level.

Table 3. The percentage of children in the Bajo community have an attitude of being responsible for the results of the educational process

| No | Alternative answers | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 | Yes | 15 | 71,4 ⁰ % |
| 2 | No | 6 | 28,6% |
| Total | | 21 | 100% |

Table 3 shows that all samples of the Bajo community in *Bajo Indah* village show the perception that their children have the motivation and a responsible attitude created by the educational process. The percentage shows 71.4% answering yes and 28.6% choosing no. The fishing community's attitude toward children's education can be seen in their eagerness to pay attention to and participate. The attitude shown by the fishing community can provide motivation and enthusiasm for their children to continue higher education. One of the attitudes given is the role of providing sufficient free time,

energy, thoughts, and materials. Based on existing facts and data obtained from interviews with teachers in *Bajo Indah* Village, he said:

“in recent years, they have understood the importance of education, so they have been prepared. The costs they minimize are indeed the target for their children. They begin to have foresight. If you did not finish high school, you could go to sea as long as you could read and write. If now you do not compete and you already have motivation. Because if you want to give more understanding to parents than they have now, parents are too familiar with education.”

The school gave me enough motivation to raise awareness about children's education. This was explained by the teacher, who said:

“What Aliyah is doing as a senior high school, the only one closest to this area is explicitly creating the best alums. At the very least, the best alums become trigger or attract the attention of children to continue school and parents that after graduating from high school, I must send their child to school, at least not in the same way they do.”

F. A. Gobel et al. (2020) reported that for the Bajo people, the education that should not be lost is the value that is taught from generation to generation, and this should not be lost from the lives of their children and grandchildren. At the same time, formal education is not seen as necessary, so finishing elementary school (SD) is enough. Even if they continue their education at a higher level, they will still maintain or preserve the value of education based on their local cultural wisdom. According to Mangutara's (2015) research, the dropout rate is caused by two main factors, namely, internal and external factors. Internal factors related to children's low interest and motivation for school and their wrong perception of the meaning of education. External factors are closely related to the problem of parents' work as traditional fishermen.

Table 4. The percentage regarding the perception of the Bajo community towards school facilities and infrastructure in the *Bajo Indah* village area is adequate

| No | Alternative answers | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | Yes | 13 | 62% |
| 2 | No | 8 | 38% |
| Total | | 21 | 100% |

From Table 4, it was found that all research samples taken from a research questionnaire given to the Bajo community in *Bajo Indah* village regarding their perceptions of school facilities and infrastructure in the Bajo Indah village area showed that 62% of the samples responded positively, and considered that the facilities and infrastructure were adequate. In comparison, 38% thought it was inadequate. The same thing was found in the study of Suardika et al. (2020), and one of the factors that have become the focus of attention in viewing this marginalization is access to public education, mainly formal education at the elementary and junior high school levels. Access to education, referred to in this section, is the community's ease and ability to obtain their children's basic educational needs. Thus, the review in this chapter is more general regarding the availability of educational institutions and population facilities to obtain formal education at various levels, from elementary to junior high. Although the subject matter of this discussion will present findings in the form of marginalization of learning from the community in the study locations, as an entry point, it will be explained in general about ways to access public schools at various levels of education.

Table 5. The percentage regarding the perception of the Bajo community towards the *Bajo Indah* Village Environment has a good influence on Children's Education

| No | Alternative answers | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | Yes | 12 | 57% |
| 2 | No | 9 | 43% |
| Total | | 21 | 100% |

According to the findings of the investigation, as shown in Table 6, all research samples collected through a research questionnaire distributed to the Bajo community of *Bajo Indah Village* on the perception of the *Bajo Indah* Village environment had a positive effect on children's education, with 57% of the samples stating positively and 43% of the samples stating negatively. The *Bajo Indah* Village environment has a negative influence on children's education. Factors that greatly influence children not to continue their education in fishing communities are environmental factors that could be more positive. Mr. Rustam also conveyed this:

"If children are not controlled by their parents, they are easily influenced by their friends, even though not all of their friends continue their education; some go to school, some do not, and this is what will significantly affect their other friends so that the child does not want school."

Environmental factors are a significant cause for children's education, but apart from these factors, the child's desire factor also dramatically influences their education. Sometimes parents' wishes differ from the wishes of the child; parents want their children to continue their education until they have extensive knowledge and become smart people so they can be helpful in society, but their children do not want to continue their education. From all the percentage analysis above, the researcher took the research results on the importance of children's education in the *Bajo Indah* village, resulting in 86% positive and 14% negative perceptions that developed in the perceptions and mindsets of the Bajo people. There are indications of negative and positive perceptions found by researchers in the mindset of the Bajo community about the importance of children's education.

From the results of interviews and discussions with several members of the Bajo community, it can be concluded that the percentage of Bajo people's perceptions of the *Bajo Indah* Village regarding the importance of children's education was 86%, who considered education essential for the Bajo community. Furthermore, another 14 percent think children's education is not so important. Results The percentage of Bajo people's perceptions of children having to take the education route showed that 90% of subjects stated positively about the statement that their children were to take the education route, and 10% of subjects showed no response to the statement that children had to take education. the perception that their children have the motivation and responsible attitude that is created by the educational process, the percentage shows 71.4% answered yes, and 28.6% chose no. their perception of school facilities and infrastructure in the *Bajo Indah* village area, showing that 62% of the sample stated positively and considered that the facilities and infrastructure were sufficient. In comparison, the other 38% thought they were inadequate. Percentage results regarding the perceptions of the Bajo community towards the *Bajo Indah* Village Environment having a good effect on children's education show that 57% of the sample stated positively, while 43% thought that the *Bajo Indah* Village Environment had an unfavorable effect on children's education. From all the percentage analysis above, the researcher took the research results on the importance of children's education in the *Bajo Indah* village, resulting in 86% positive and 14% negative perceptions that developed in the perceptions and mindsets of the Bajo people.

From the concept of perception and the results of the interviews, it can also be concluded that they are aware of the importance of children's education, so they have the desire to be able to provide the best education for their children to be smart, well-behaved, and proud of both parents, and to be better than them as parents. Then, the motivation that comes from parents also encourages children

to be enthusiastic about going to school so that they are motivated to learn and pursue education up to the university level constantly. They perceive that children's education is about educating and teaching children so that they can grow and develop well. Moreover, apart from home education, schooling is also necessary. For them, children's education is essential, even though they have to work hard to send them to school.

4. Conclusion

From the results of this investigation, many findings can serve as input to local government stakeholders and be used as a reference in developing the SDGs to create a community atmosphere following the SDGs. Some of the inputs are: (1) local government and local community leaders should strive for special training for Bajo fishermen on self-education and the education of their children so that all Bajo people understand and are aware of the importance of education for the future; (2) concerning the education of the children of the fishing community, the local education office holds socialization, and attention must be paid to the education of the children of the Bajo community in Southeast Sulawesi so that the children of the Bajo community can continue their education to a higher level without any obstacles in continuing their education

5. Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

6. Acknowledgments

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