

The Role of PT. Wrestling in Social and Economic Change of the Community in Tokorondo Village, Poso Coastal District, Poso Regency (1976–1996)

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe: (1) the adaptation process of PT. Gulat in Tokorondo Village, (2) the social changes experienced by the Tokorondo community following the presence of PT. Gulat from 1976 to 1996, and (3) the role of PT. Gulat in improving the local economy. The research employed a qualitative approach with data collection techniques consisting of observation, interviews, and documentation. The findings indicate that: (1) the adaptation process of PT. Gulat proceeded swiftly and effectively through collaboration with the community, government, and local institutions; (2) the presence of PT. Gulat led to social transformations, including enhanced social interaction, the emergence of modern ways of thinking, and changes in lifestyle; (3) PT. Gulat contributed to economic improvement by providing employment opportunities, supporting socio-religious activities, and opening new business prospects. Therefore, PT. Gulat played a strategic role in fostering social change while simultaneously improving the living standards of the Tokorondo community during the period of 1976–1996.

Keywords: *PT. Gulat, Social Change, Economy, Tokorondo Village*

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INTRODUCTION

The development of the nation in Indonesia during the New Order period (1966–1998) was marked by a strong determination to modernize in various fields of life, especially the economic sector. The New Order government led by President Suharto sought to change the structure of Indonesia's economy from a traditional pattern based on subsistence agriculture to a modern economic pattern that was more integrated with national and international markets. Development policies are implemented through a series of Five-Year Development Plans (Repelita), which emphasize economic growth, political stability, and equitable development.

The government realizes that the majority of Indonesia's population lives in rural areas with low levels of welfare. Therefore, rural development is seen as the key to reducing social inequality and encouraging the creation of a more prosperous society. The strategy taken is to encourage rural industrialization through the use of natural resources, especially the agriculture, plantation, and forestry sectors. The driver of industrialization in rural areas is the community.

Society is a social group that continues to undergo changes, including changes in mindset, and ways of socializing with the surroundings. (N. Nuraedah, 2014).

Society is a group of human beings who have similarities and bonds in several ways, namely culture, attitudes, and behaviors that form a dynamic unity. Human life cannot be avoided from a dynamic life because humans are social creatures who need each other. (Sudarta, 2022). Society can change or transform through social change.

Social change in society In Indonesia, commonly known as "national development", it includes physical, material, and cultural orders that affect life. (Nuraedah et al., 2024). Social change occurs because of the existence of *agen of change* One of them is the government.

The government opens space for the private sector to participate in becoming the driving force for development. Large companies, both national and foreign, are invited to invest their capital in areas rich in natural resources. The presence of the company is expected to be able to make a real contribution, including by opening jobs to provide infrastructure, increasing state revenue, and helping to improve the living standards of rural communities.

The existence of a company in the community is a form of participation in improving and developing community development. The company and the commanders who live in the vicinity are two elements that influence each other. The company needs the surrounding community to support its business development, while the community also needs the company to improve their economy and develop the area along with the company. Therefore, it is undeniable that the company's activities have a social impact on the surrounding community. (Katiandagho, 2018).

One of the companies that plays an important role in social and economic development is PT. Wrestling which operated in Tokorondo Village, Poso Coastal District, Poso Regency, in the period 1976-1996.

Wrestling is an abbreviation for Mount latimojong, which refers to the name of a street in Makassar, South Sulawesi, where PT. Wrestling first operated in 1968. Before becoming a limited liability company, PT. Mount Latimojong (Wrestling) belongs to Sandewang. (PT) Mount Latimojong, Wrestling entered Tokorondo after Sandewang received information from his colleague, that Poso had many sources of timber. As a result, Sandewang immediately conducted a survey to the Poso area, precisely in Tokorondo Village. After conducting a survey, it was stated that Poso, especially Tokorondo Village, has excellent wood quality. (Cinu, 2017).

Before the entry of PT. Wrestling, the majority of the population of Tokorondo depend on agriculture, especially cocoa, and some others work as fishermen. People's life at that time was relatively simple with strong social interaction based on kinship values and mutual cooperation. Social relationships are more personal, with the main orientation on meeting family needs. However, the entry of PT. Wrestling brings a big change. Many residents have switched to company workers with the status of daily laborers and permanent employees. Population mobility increased due to the influx of workers from outside the village. Social interactions became more open, people's mindsets began to be influenced by modern values, and consumption patterns shifted from basic needs to more advanced lifestyles.

Poso Regency is one of the areas that will have forest resources. This potential is what attracts large companies to invest, including PT. Mount Latimojong (Wrestling). Tokorondo Village, which is located in coastal Poso District, Poso Regency, is one of the locations of the company's activities. Since 1976, PT. Obtaining permits for forests in the region, with a two-decade contract period. The presence of PT. Wrestling has a significant influence on the lives of the local community, both from economic and social aspects. The presence of PT. Wrestling not only changed the economic aspect, but also affected the local social and cultural structure. Communities that originally relied on traditional livelihoods had to adapt to industrial work patterns. Employment relationships that were previously based on family traditions turned into contract-based professional relationships.

This research is important to be carried out because of the lack of socio-economic history studies that explore the role of private companies in rural transformation in Central Sulawesi. So far, studies on companies have focused more on large plantations in Sumatra and Kalimantan, especially oil palm and rubber plantations, while in Sulawesi, especially Poso Regency, it is still rarely researched. In fact, the experience of the people of Tokorondo with PT. Wrestling shows interesting dynamics to learn. How the company can be well received by the community, how social and economic changes occur, and how it has a long-term impact on village life.

Therefore, this study aims to answer three main questions: (1) how the adjustment process of PT. Wrestling in Tokorondo Village, (2) how the social changes of the community after the presence of PT. Wrestling, and (3) how the role of PT. Wrestling in improving the community's economy. Thus, the research is expected to make an academic contribution to the study of local history and provide an empirical picture of the relationship between private companies, the government, and rural communities.

METHOD

This type of research is qualitative research, which is a research method that is used to research on the condition of natural objects as opposed to experiments, where research is a key experiment with inductive data analysis and the results of the research emphasize meaning rather than generalization, namely the reasoning process that departs from individuals to a general group. (Hilmi et al., 2018).

The research location is in Tokorondo Village, Poso Coastal District, Poso Regency, Central Sulawesi. The choice of this location is because Tokorondo is a village that is the center of operations of PT. Mount Latimojong (Wrestling) from 1976 to 1996. Thus, this village is the right place to study how private companies affect the social and economic life of rural communities.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The role of PT. Wrestling in Adjustment with the Tokorondo Village Community.

Role comes from the word role, which can be interpreted as a part that is carried out or played by a person, or an action that is performed by a person in an event. Role is a series of actions or behaviors carried out by a person in carrying out his rights and responsibilities in accordance with his position. Roles have a very important role in daily life because they can regulate individual behavior. (Paramita et al., 2022).

Role is an activity carried out by an individual or an institution/organization. The roles that need to be carried out by an institution/organization are usually regulated in regulations that reflect the functions of the institution. Roles consist of two types, namely the expected role and the actual role performed. In carrying out the role it plays, and there are factors that support and hinder it. (Afilaily, 2022).

The presence of PT. Wrestling in 1976 was well received by the people of Tokorondo Village. This is inseparable from the company's strategy in adjusting to local social conditions. From the beginning, the company understood that the sustainability of forest exploitation activities depended not only on government permits, but also on the acceptance of local communities. Therefore, PT. Wrestling immediately took a persuasive approach through several strategic steps.

Hiring local workers is an important entryway. By involving the village community as employees, the company not only provides new jobs, but also builds a sense of belonging to the company's activities. This recruitment allows citizens who previously relied solely on traditional agriculture and fisheries to obtain jobs with a fixed salary. In the long run, this policy fosters loyalty and minimizes potential conflicts between companies and society.

PT. Wrestling seeks to strengthen public acceptance through the development of basic infrastructure, especially roads. The construction of village road access not only facilitates the mobility of timber and the company's logistics activities, but also provides direct benefits to the community. The road facilitates residents' access to markets, schools, and health facilities. This infrastructure then accelerated the interaction of Tokorondo Village with other areas in Poso.

The company provides support for the socio-religious activities of the community. The forms of support provided are in the form of donations of funds for religious activities, support for youth through RISMA activities,

and participation in the construction of social facilities. This fosters a positive image of the company, as if PT. Wrestling is not just a foreign company that takes timber, but also a part of the village community.

The community emphasized that the existence of PT. Wrestling is not only seen from its economic side, but also from its social contribution. For example, there are testimonies that companies participate in local religious celebrations, even helping to renovate houses of worship. This kind of thing shows that PT. Wrestling has succeeded in instilling the values of togetherness with the people of Tokorondo village.

The village government also welcomed this collaboration. The company's relationship with the local government is supported by a clear contract related to the use of community land. This is important because land in the village is not only economically valuable, but also contains social meaning. With formal contracts, potential conflicts over land ownership can be minimized, and people feel that their rights are respected.

Social Changes in the Tokorondo Village Community

Social change is a process that results from a decision or agreement taken individually or in groups in society. The decision taken is based on the group's wishes and expectations so that the change can be realized. (Goa, 2017).

Social change is the standard of living that will be experienced by people anywhere and anytime, changes that occur in various aspects of their lives, which occur between individuals and groups in the midst of association as well as their environment. (Kasnawi & Asang, 2014).

Social change is a change in behavior patterns, interactions, and social relationships that occur in society both between individuals and other individuals and with society. (Paridah & Situmorang, 2023).

The presence of PT. Wrestling brought great changes to the social structure of the Tokorondo Village community. These changes are not only economic, but also in aspects of social life, culture, and even people's mindsets. In general, the entry of companies has encouraged the village community to abandon the traditional agriculture-based lifestyle towards a more modern lifestyle.

Before 1976 most of the residents of Tokorondo worked as cocoa farmers, and fishermen whose produce was used to meet daily household needs. The presence of PT. Wrestling opens up new opportunities by recruiting local workers as daily laborers and permanent employees. This shift in jobs created a new work pattern for society based on fixed wages, regular working hours, and a contract system. For the village community who were previously used to working freely in the agriculture and fisheries sector, this system is a new thing. This change in work patterns also has an impact on consumption patterns: people are getting used to receiving monthly salaries and managing household finances based on fixed income.

The presence of companies increases the number of population. PT. Wrestling not only employs local residents, but also brings in workers from outside the village, even outside the region. This caused the number of residents in Tokorondo to increase significantly during the company's operation. The influx of immigrants brings new social dynamics, as people have to interact with different cultures, languages, and customs. These interactions broaden the horizons of local communities, create broader social connections among different individuals, and accelerate the process of cultural unification. From a sociological perspective, it is a social integration in which different groups build interaction and self-adjustment. However, on the other hand, the increasing population also has the potential to cause competition in obtaining jobs and other economic resources

The mindset and lifestyle of the people of Tokorondo Village have also undergone significant changes. People's lives that were previously simple and based on basic needs are gradually changing to more modern. The workers of PT. Wrestling began to get to know modern household items such as radios, televisions, motorcycles, and other electronic equipment. Public consumption is no longer limited to basic needs, but extends to secondary

and tertiary needs. In addition, children's education is a top priority, because families realize the importance of school as a way of social mobility.

However, these changes do not always go smoothly and without consequences. The presence of PT. Wrestling also poses new challenges in the form of socio-economic disparities. People who work in the Company enjoy an increase in income and standard of living, while others who are not directly involved in the company's activities continue to survive in the limited traditional economic conditions. These differences will later have an impact on community conflicts, if not handled immediately, will have an impact on prolonged conflicts in the community.

Changes in the Economy of the Community

The term economics comes from the Greek word "oikos" which means family or household and "and" which means regulations or laws. So the meaning of the word economy literally is a house management or household rule. Economics is a social science that studies human activities related to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. (Wulandari, 2022).

Economics is the study of how societies, individuals and countries manage existing resources to achieve well-being. Economics studies the actions of humans in meeting diverse needs with limited resources through the choices of production, consumption and distribution. (Zulfa, 2021).

The presence of PT. Wrestling has a very significant economic impact on the lives of the people of Tokorondo Village. The company not only functions as a forest resource manager, but also becomes the main driving force for the Village's economic growth during its period of operation. The impact can be seen in the following aspects:

Job Provision

The majority of the villagers get the opportunity to work as employees at PT. Wrestling, both in the position of freelance day laborers, permanent employees, and field workers who are directly involved in the process of logging, transportation, and wood processing. The fixed wage system introduced by the company became something new for the community, which previously relied only on agricultural and fishery products with erratic incomes. With a monthly salary, families have more stable economic certainty. This has a positive impact on increasing people's purchasing power and encouraging the formation of a new working class in the village

The growth of local business opportunities The influx of large numbers of workers, both from the village and from outside, creates a new market for local economic activities. People who do not work directly in the company take advantage of this opportunity by opening food stalls, food stalls, transportation businesses, and other services that support the needs of workers. Thus, the presence of PT. Wrestling not only impacts those who work in companies, but also has a far-reaching impact in the Village.

Increase in income and community welfare. The salaries earned by the employees are used to finance family needs that were previously difficult to meet. Many families can repair their homes, buy modern household items, and send their children to a higher level. Education is one of the sectors that benefits the most, as many parents now have the ability to finance their children to go to school. This change shows that the presence of PT. Wrestling makes a real contribution to improving household welfare and opening up opportunities for the next generation.

Social contribution of the community In addition to having a direct impact on the family economy, PT. Wrestling also shows its concern for the social life of the village community. The company also provides financial and material support for socio-religious activities, the construction of public facilities, and youth activities. This social contribution further strengthens the company's relationship with the community, as well as increases public trust with the company's existence in Tokorondo Village.

Although the economic impact caused by PT. Wrestling is quite big, there is also a side of vulnerability that must be noted. The economic dependence of the community on companies is very high. Most of the population depends on their main source of income from their salaries as PT. Wrestling. This condition makes the economic structure of the village unbalanced, because there is almost no diversification of other sources of income that can support people's lives. When the contract of PT. Wrestling ended in 1996, many residents lost their jobs, local economic activity declined dramatically, and unemployment increased. This shows that economic growth that relies on one actor or one sector is not sustainable.

This teaches the importance of considering the economy of rural communities. Because a single dependence on large companies creates long-term vulnerabilities, especially when the company is no longer operating. Therefore, there needs to be a more economic development strategy, for example by developing the modern agricultural sector, micro businesses, and village cooperatives. In this way, people still have an alternative source of income that can sustain their well-being even though large companies are no longer present in the region.

After the cessation of operations of PT. Wrestling has an impact on the community. The arrival of PT. Wrestling does have a considerable impact on the people of Tokorondo Village, both from a social and economic perspective. During its operation, the company is able to create jobs, increase community income, and open access to infrastructure development and social activities. However, when the company ceased operations in 1996, the people of Tokorondo were faced with a new, more complex situation. The positive impact that was previously felt is slowly shifting into a serious problem, especially related to the management of former company land.

One of the main problems that arises is the condition of the former operational lands of PT. Wrestling. Land that was once used for the company's activities is now abandoned. This is because some of the land has been cemented and built with sturdy floors, so that it can no longer be used by the community for agricultural and plantation activities. In fact, before the company's arrival, the land was the location of the community's coconut and cocoa plantations. Along with the cessation of the company, the economic function of the land underwent changes. Some of the land is still used, for example used by the community as a center of economic activities, for example as the Tokorondo Village Traditional Market, this market used to be one of the important points in community buying and selling activities, where agricultural products, fisheries, and daily necessities were traded regularly. Then after the market was moved to the location of PT. Wrestling was abandoned again and became an unused vacant land and then used as the headquarters of the Brimob Corps and a police helicopter base, until now. This shows the transfer of land functions for the sake of state security. However, most of the rest of the land is left unused.

The condition of the soil that has been hardened with cement and concrete floors makes it difficult for the community to convert it back into productive land. As a result, the economic potential of the village that should be able to be mobilized through the use of the land is simply lost.

This situation shows the unsustainable economic development of the village after the cessation of operations of PT. Wrestling. Communities lose access to resources that were once the center of economic activity, while the village government does not have the full capacity or authority to revitalize these lands. Thus, the post-operation land problem of PT. Wrestling is one of the real examples of the negative impact of public dependence on large companies.

CONCLUSIONS

The role of PT. Wrestling in the social and economic changes of the Tokorondo Village community in 1976–1996 showed that the company was able to adapt quickly to local social conditions through the recruitment of local labor, infrastructure development, and support for socio-religious activities, thus creating harmonious relations between the company, the community, and the government. The presence of PT. Wrestling promotes social change in the form of changing livelihoods, increasing the population, and modernizing

people's mindsets and lifestyles, although it also creates a socio-economic gap between corporate workers and traditional society. Economically, companies contribute greatly to creating jobs, increasing income, and creating new business opportunities, but the high dependence on companies makes society vulnerable when contracts expire in 1996. Therefore, the community needs to be an active subject in development, maintain local cultural values, and take advantage of economic opportunities wisely and sustainably. The Tokorondo Village Government is expected to develop policies that are in favor of the community and ensure cooperation with companies brings equitable and sustainable benefits. Meanwhile, the next researcher is expected to develop a similar study with a wider scope so that the research results are more useful for the community.

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