

HISTORY OF JAVA ETHNIC MIGRATION IN KAYU ARO DISTRICT, KERINCI, JAMBI

***Friska Muflihun Soleh¹ and Erniwati²**

¹ Master Program of Social Science of Universitas Negeri

Padangmailto:wibiwijaya8@gmail.com

² Lecturer Master Program of Social Science of Universitas Negeri Padang

Email: friskamuflihun@gmail.commailto:wibiwijaya8@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Javanese Ethnic in Kayu Aro District were the majority ethnic in the middle of the Kerinci community settlement in Kayu Aro District. Even though they were migrants, the Javanese ethnic culture and customs in Kayu Aro district were still carried out and maintained. Javanese ethnicity in Kayu Aro had a very important role in economic development in Kerinci Regency. The existence of Javanese ethnic since Dutch colonialism in Kayu Aro, has become an important history and needs to be known. This paper aimed to reveal how the history of Javanese ethnic migration in Kayu Aro district. This study used historical methods with heuristic data collection techniques, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The results showed that the migration of Javanese in Kayu Aro district originated from an ethical political program implemented by the Dutch colonial government, namely education, irrigation and migration. The Dutch colonial government brought Javanese ethnic to Kayu Aro district as contract workers for tea plantations which began in 1928. However, along with the development of colonization, the Dutch colonial government experienced difficulties in providing workers salaries. Therefore, one way to pay for the salary, the Dutch colonial government gave each head of the family land to live outside of the HGU land.

Key Word: Migration, Java Ethnic

INTRODUCTION

Kayu Aro district in terms of population is one of the sub-districts in Kerinci Regency which is quite developed. From the population data of Kayu Aro district in 1998, it was recorded that the total population of Kayu Aro district was approximately 20,000 residents. From the average population of Kayu Aro district, around 60% are

residents of Javanese ethnicity, 20% are ethnic Kerinci, 15% are Minangkabau ethnic groups and 5% are from other ethnic groups.

One of the plantations that became the mainstay of the Dutch East Indies government was tea plantations located in Kayu Aro District, Kerinci Regency, Jambi Province now. The tea plantation is the largest tea plantation in the World, known as the PTP Nusantara VI Kayu Aro tea plantation. Init tea plantations witnessed Javanese ethnic migration in Kayu Aro District, Kerinci Regency, Jambi Province.

Employees or workers on the PTP Nusantara VI Kayu Aro plantation on average are Javanese ethnic. The employees were brought to Kerinci around the 1920s to do labor in the form of forest encroachment and tea planting. The employees are prohibited from going to school, so that for generations they only work as tea workers.

Therefore, the population of Javanese ethnic in Kayu Aro district is something interesting to study. In addition, it is related to the occupation of the Dutch East Indies government in Indonesia. But it is also interesting because in Kayu Aro district which is basically part of the Kerinci community area, however, the population of Java becomes the majority in Kayu Aro district. Javanese ethnic culture and customs were not affected by local culture. But they still retain their characteristics and character as Javanese ethnic.

METHOD

The type of research I use was field research using the Historical Method. This research was conducted in two sub-districts, namely Kayu Aro and Kayu Aro Barat Districts, Kerinci District, Jambi Province. This research belongs to qualitative research, where in qualitative research produces descriptive data. Data collected in the form of written, oral, image, and other sources related to the object of research. The purpose of qualitative methods was to reveal data from research results by describing objects as they are. Data could use heuristic steps, source criticism, interpretation and historiography.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Since the mid-19th century, political ethnics have influenced the Dutch parliament. The Dutch government began to think about how the interests of the people,

especially prosperity and education. This also applies, especially for the Dutch colony. Furthermore, at the end of the 19th century a State commission was commissioned to conduct research on the prosperity of the people of rural areas on Java. Then Van Deventer in *De Gids* magazine, Amsterdam with an article titled *Een Eere Schuld*, he described how poverty of the population in Java was due to the culture of culture.

Furthermore, the Dutch government ordered the Dutch East Indies government to take measures to improve the fate of the people. Van Deventer then made a formula proposed to the Dutch East Indies government. The proposal had a core namely *educatie*, *irrigatie*, and *emigratie*. In other words, carrying out school construction, improving food production and transferring people from Java to outside Java who had the aim of reducing overpopulation in Java and overcoming the decline in people's prosperity.

The Dutch East Indies government assigned an assistant resident, H. G. Heyting, to study the possibility of moving residents from Java to other areas that were less populated and had extensive agricultural land. H. G. Heyting then in 1903 proposed a system that had a core 1) building a core village with a population of 500 family heads. 2) the core villagers are given adequate assistance so that the economy is strong and furthermore the core village is expected to be a base for new colonies to open up the surrounding area. The first core village was built in 1905 in *Gegongtataan*, then 1921 in *Wonosobo* on a project in *Way Semangka*. Then in the following years other regions began to be expanded, including *Palembang* and *Jambi*. The arrival of Javanese ethnic to *KayuAro* is an agenda that has been designed long ago by the Dutch colonial government. The reason why Javanese ethnic are employed is because of the persistence of Javanese in their work. This is why the migration process involves more Javanese ethnic.

Migration is a transfer of population from one place to another. Basically, the transfer is done solely to stay in the destination. The occurrence of such displacement can be from village to city, or from dense areas to areas that are not dense. There are several theories that explain the outline migration. According to Everet S. Leo, with his push-pull theory, he explained that migration in the broadest sense is a change of residence either permanently or temporarily. In his theory, Everet mentions that there

are no restrictions, both on the distance of displacement and its nature, namely whether the difference is voluntary or forced. So, migration is the movement of the population from one place to another with the intention to settle in the destination. This is without questioning the distance, easy or difficult, each migration has a place of origin, destination and various obstacles that hinder. Distance factor is a factor that always exists from several barrier factors.

The next theory of migration is the Gravity Theory proposed by Ravenstein (1889). The theory of gravity is a theory of the laws of migration whose description is appropriate and in line with the current phenomenon. Among these descriptions is the further the distance, the less the volume of migrants. This theory is also known as a distance decay theory because every true migration flow will cause a return flow as a substitute. As the existence of differences in villages and cities will result in migration. This is because the main motive for migration is largely economic. Ravenstein's theory turned out to be still relevant today, even though it had been more or less a century ago.

Briefly by Ravenstein the theory of gravity is referred to as migration laws, namely:

- a. Migrants usually tend to choose the closest place as a destination.
- b. The difficulty of obtaining income in the area of origin makes migrants look for places that can make them get better income.
- c. Information from relatives who have already moved is something that makes migrants want to migrate.
- d. Negative information from the destination area reduces the intention of the migrants.
- e. The level of mobility is high if the higher the influence on the city.
- f. Migrants usually choose areas to migrate where friends or relatives already exist.
- g. The higher a person's income, the higher one's mobility.
- h. The pattern of migration of a person or group usually occurs due to natural disasters, wars and others.
- i. Migrants who have not had more families migrate than migrants who are married.

Some of the factors that cause the migration of Javanese to Kayu Aro in general are the population intensity in Java which has a high population growth rate, but is not comparable with the level of ability to manage natural resources. So the increase in population was a factor in Javanese ethnic migration apart from the existence of the Dutch colonial migration program. Basically, there are two groupings on the causal factors of Javanese ethnic migrating, namely the Push factor and the pull factor (pull factor).

1. Diminishing sources of life on Java such as declining demand, it makes Javanese people think to find ways to solve this problem, one of which is migration.
2. Reduced or narrowed employment in Java.
3. The annoyance and disruption of the human rights of people in Java due to colonialism.
4. Job reasons, education and even marriage.

While the pull factors of Javanese ethnic migration include:

1. There is an opportunity or a better life expectancy at Kayu Aro.
2. There are developments in Kayu Aro.
3. The opportunity to get a better job at Kayu Aro.
4. Better environmental conditions and living facilities.
5. There is an attraction or lure from the Dutch colonial government

CONCLUSION

The arrival of Javanese ethnic in Kayu Aro was based on the existence of an ethical political program implemented by the Dutch colonial government. The program made a policy that some of the Javanese people had to be moved out of Java for equity and as laborers for the Netherlands. Kayu Aro was chosen as one of the migration locations because of its soil fertility which can be used for tea plantations and other commodities including vegetables.

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