An Overview of Chinese Ethnic in Sungai Penuh:
Experiencing Competitive Environment of Culture, Politics and Economic Domination

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Abstract: The people of Sungai Penuh are made up of five ethnic groups, of which one ethnic Chinese dominates the economic sector, causing social jealousy in the midst of people's lives. The purpose of this study is to reveal the factors that cause the success of Chinese ethnic to dominate the economy in Sungai Penuh. The above research objectives were answered by using descriptive qualitative method where the writer interviewed 34 informants by observing for three months, literature studies related to the key to the success of Tinghoa ethnicity. The results of this study indicate that there are three factors that lead to ethnic Tinghoa success, namely (1) The enthusiasm of entrepreneurs who exemplify excellent service for consumers (2) Economic accessibility gets convenience from the local government (3) Other ethnic attitudes are low-powered. With the disclosure of the above research objectives it can be concluded that the economy is very dependent on the culture that is owned by economic actors and the political interests that exist between the entrepreneur and the local government.

Keywords: Ethnic Tinghoa, Economy, Politics, Culture.

1. Introduction

Chinese ethnicity is a minority Indonesian society group, which has characteristics related to their culture and ancestors in China. this group proved successful in mastering strategic economic assets in Indonesia, which attracted the attention of researchers, to reveal the success factors. Several studies such as Handoko (1996) stated, the success of Chinese in trade was influenced by three traditional values such as hokie, hong sui, and hopeng. Likewise, Hidayat ZM (1993) stated that the Chinese were accustomed to performing four religious rituals to gain profit in doing business, namely the First Rupang Kuda in Pay ritual which was carried out individually or specifically (kwan kong), both praying to the shen / shien by offering meat- meat (sam ceng prayer), the three prayers using large candles, are considered to be able to bring a lot of sustenance, the four prayers using Hio which is more than 1 m long, with a diameter of about 10-15 cm, or prayer with incense one pack (Incense hundreds) the aim is also to bring a lot of sustenance. An interesting finding was revealed by Kinanti Nisful (2016), who stated that the number of Chinese-owned companies in Makassar in the old order was caused by political connections between ethnic Chinese and President Soekarno. Subsequent research conducted by exposing ethnic groups to the influence of overseas Chinese has an attachment to the value of Confucianism which encourages the spirit of economic activity.
Confucian ethics itself is in line with Western teachings, so that it becomes accepted by all groups of society, such as the obligation to work hard, maintain harmonization, respect for parents, coordinate cooperation, not highlight personal and unselfish [6]. According to Peter L. Berger, among two types of Confucianism; elite Confucianism and popular Confucianism, it is the Confucianism that influences economic activity; that is positive in working, pragmatic, disciplined, and creating a stable family [9]. Confucianism as a basic value in Chinese ethnic economic activities is strengthened by the results of the study [2]. They stated that the cultural teachings of Confucianism were the most fundamental in achieving the success of countries in Asia, namely China, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia and Korea. In addition there is the Guanxi method, namely the habits of the people of China to instill a sense of trust in colleagues, the obligation to carry out tasks together, and share experiences while doing business.

The results of previous studies revealed that the success of Chinese ethnicity was influenced by the values of Confucian culture. The author looks at the ethnic Chinese community in the river city full of Confucian culture combined with the ease of political accessibility provided by the local government. This is the reason for the researchers to examine the factors causing the success of the Chinese ethnic to dominate the economy in Sungai Penuh.

2. Method

This paper is prepared using qualitative methods. Data collection was conducted by interviewing in depth (indepth interview) 34 informants were selected by purposive sampling. In addition, the researchers conducted a three-month observation of the interaction process, the socio-cultural life of the migrant population and the indigenous community in the Sungai Penuh city market. In this case, observations were conducted by researchers in the form of non-participants and managed to collect documents in the form of Population Data of Sungai Penuh through the Central Bureau of Statistics to obtain the percentage of the total population of Sungai Penuh City distributed into the forms of ethnic divisions in Sungai Penuh City and City Documents in numbers obtained by researchers from the BPS office of Sungai Penuh City. In the form of the number of stores in Sungai Penuh, with ownership data. The entire data was analyzed through source triangulation and method triangulation to produce comprehensive information related to the factors that cause the success of the ethnic Chinese to dominate the economy in Sungai Penuh.

3. Result and Discussion

Domination is a situation where a person or group of people want to master the lives of other groups so that they accept the idea of a dominant group. The dominant group is a group that feels strong, feels able to regulate and control others according to its will through the dominant value system it creates (SarDesai 1989: 234-245).

3.1 Domination The spirit of entrepreneurs who exemplify excellent service for consumers

The enthusiasm of entrepreneurs who embody excellent service for consumers is the main factor causing the economy to be controlled by the ethnic Tinghoa. The findings in the Chinese ethnic field have ways to attract customers. This is in line with the work ethic theory of the Tiong-Hoa. (Amy Chua, 2004). Explain that 6 steps or ways that Chinese ethnicity must go through in business matters, including:

1) Do not be afraid to dream that you do not need to be proud to pursue a career from the lowest position, because you dare to dream of reaching a higher position.

2) Working and Working, Chinese people argue that if he does not do something useful for himself or others, his life will be in vain. Time and opportunity are a luxury that is never wasted.
3) Thinking for these three descendants is a Confucian philosophy, for example if someone has Rp. 50,000, - then he only uses Rp. 15,000, - for his personal use. The rest will be saved for the needs of children and grandchildren. Being frugal is believed to be able to anticipate various problems in the future.

4) Never giving up, ethnic Chinese believe that every obstacle in life will bring themselves to a better state. Successful trials will be rewarded with greater rewards. Mastering business from upstream to downstream a Chinese businessman will save production costs by handling the entire production process.

5) Give the best service Chinese proverb says "If you are not good at smiling don't open a shop”. Approximately the purpose is in a career or business, work ability is not the main one, but the ability to bring yourself into various situations will take an important role

6) Maintain relationships according to the Chinese proverb "Even though it is noisy and pooping everywhere, never slaughter geese laying golden eggs" It means that as busy as anything, good relationships with relationships are something that must and must be maintained. because they are like swans laying gold.

Of the six work ethics above must be applied in doing business by Ethnic Tinghoa. However, in Sungai Penuh City, a very visible thing to attract consumers is giving the best / excellent service. The Chinese proverb reads "If you are not good at smiling, don't open a shop.” in various situations that will take an important role.

3.2 Economic accessibility gets the ease of the local government

Accessibility is one of the factors that can stimulate the growth of markets and centers of economic growth. The ease of economic accessibility that occurs in the Sungai Penuh City Market can be described as follows:

Picx 1. The ease of economic accessibility
From the analysis above shows that, the indigenous population was not so involved in fostering the economy of Sungai Penuh City, it is known that the indigenous population did not contribute to the newly developed development area. The interests of the government and the ethnic Tinghoa and the two are mutually beneficial to form the Full River City towards progress. This factor makes it easier for Tinghoa ethnic groups to dominate the market area of Sungai Penuh City, because the Tinghoa ethnic group has strong support from the Setemot government. As a good government government should be a mediator in the case of social jealousy faced by the natives at this time, but in the real event, the government has made it easier for the Tinghoa ethnic group to establish large buildings without any obstacles from the government.

While the indigenous population had difficulty in establishing various businesses, due to many factors, based on interviews with XY informants said that, natives experienced difficulties in trading, so capital to establish a business was rarely owned by the indigenous population, coupled with the amount of shop tax and market resulting in many shops who closes and seeks livelihood as a service from the ethnic Tinghoa, without requiring a lot of capital. With cases like this, of course indigenous people or indigenous people experience irregularities in their social life, so that latent conflicts arise that are hidden and need to be raised to the surface so that they can be handled effectively. The relationship between local people or Sungai Penuh City and ethnic Tinghoa has experienced an increase in a fairly harmonious relationship in life, both socio-culturally and in economic activities between the two.

But the harmony of the relationship does not mean there is no negative sentiment from each member of the community. In recent times there have been minor incidents, of course this is the seeds of latent conflict that began to arise in a few members of the Sungai Penuh City community. Even though the negative sentiment was only expressed by two people, it did not rule out the possibility that other members of the community would feel the same, namely negative sentiment towards the citizens of the Tinghoa descent.

3.3 Other ethnic mental attitudes are low-powered

The ethnic Tinghoa located in Sungai Penuh City is also never tired in developing its business. It is known by the researcher based on observation data, interviews and data obtained from the field. It is depicted that in Sungai Penuh City, the following researchers put the development of ethnic Chinese in Kota Sungai Penuh from the first year to date.

The indigenous population was unable to compete with the Chinese ethnic. The effects of the 1998 monetary crisis were still felt by the residents of Sungai Penuh, the price of goods was not balanced, accompanied by a lack of employment. The main incident is still a big problem faced by farmers in Sungai Penuh City, when the Chinese ethnic experienced very rapid progress in the economic sector, the indigenous population only started and entered the world of trade such as the sequence of events listed above. Of the three factors causing the success of ethnic Chinese dominate the economy in Sungai Penuh above, there are also other things that support the success of the Chinese in Sungai Penuh City namely;

1) The growth of idealized mobility in the form of achieving a better life rate than they have so far. This is related to the challenges and high work ethic in survivalism in the country.
2) The doctrine of confusionism provides a channel for formulating its view of the world, since it basically confuses horizontal relations and provides a moral foundation for the horizontal institution.
3) World view provides an opportunity for the emergence of a work ethic such as their tenacity in trying, diligently, diligently, and actively working
4) There is sufficient capital and also due to other factors originating from the indigenous and Dutch Indies government. From the indigenous side, for example, the lack of indigenous traders’ capital so that they are difficult to compete with ethnic Chinese traders.
5) Chinese traders can only develop their business in areas where the population is more inclined to agriculture (agrarian). In areas with resilient populations in the trade sector, they cannot develop, for example in West Sumatra.

6) Factors of the Dutch East Indies government that provide higher social education than the indigenous group.

4. Conclusion

Based on the description above it can be concluded that, the dominant does not always show dominance, like in Sungai Penuh city, based on the composition of the population, it appears that the Kerinci tribe is more dominant than the Chinese, but in dominating the Economic and Trade sector is controlled by Ethnic Tiong Hoa. Characterrized by various forms of business that he founded, such as hotels, cooperatives, shops buildings located in the City of Full River. The main cause of this dominance is excellent service that is very satisfying customers. The Chinese work ethic is indeed developed in the life of doing business, so that other ethnic groups in Sungai Penuh City do not have high competitiveness to defeat the economic and trade sectors, then this is also supported by the local government, the government makes decisions by making business licenses easier for ethnic Tinghoa so that this policy indicates a local social jealousy towards ethnic Tinghoa. Although their relationship seems harmonious and tolerance is high enough, but the seeds of the latent conflict exist in every ethnicity. This requires a handling to avoid conflict escalation

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