

ABSTRACT

The Sakai ethnic group in the Subdistrict of Mandau, Riau Province, has been known as underdeveloped and live from one place to another. This is in line with the swidden cultivation activities and the collection of forest products which are still done traditionally. The settlement of the Sakai community was at first difficult to be reached, and had very limited interactions with the outside community. During the last decade the development of settlement orientation has been studied due to the continued exploitation of forest lands conducted by the oil and gas mining activities, the exploitation of timber conducted by the logging company (HPH), and the land conversion conducted by private estates.

The study aims at investigating the behaviour of migration and household occupations of the Sakai community. Primary data are collected through structured interview using questionnaires to 40 household samples out of 162 household targets in the study area. The respondents are household heads and are purposively selected through accident random sampling. Besides, observation in the field and indepth interview were also done to several community figures.

The study shows that various environmental development of the study area has influenced the community to settle themselves in regions which have accessibilities as well as interactions with more developed community outside their settlement areas. Their migrating behaviour that they performed in groups tends to diminish gradually, and the community are increasingly motivated to settle permanently.

The main occupation of the households is still traditional, i.e., performing shifting cultivation, tapping rubber, and catching fish. They still maintain these types of occupations because, pressed by subsistence needs, they are supported by tradition and living values that still prevail in the community, and by the limited technology, innovation, and skills. Nevertheless, many types of occupation prevail due to the active participation of the household members.

The exploitation and conversion of forest land has led to the increasing decrease of forest resource utilization, so that not many inhabitants are engaged in forest resource activities such as hunting and looking for other forest products. Furthermore, the frequency of people in utilizing the employment opportunities in various natural resource activities is also decreasing. This is mainly because the Sakai people tend to fail to compete with the other community in various factors such as income, education, skill, and work disciplin.

INTISARI

Masyarakat Suku Sakai yang bermukim di Kecamatan Mandau Propinsi Riau, sejak semula dikenal sebagai masyarakat terbelakang yang tempat tinggalnya selalu berpindah-pindah. Hal tersebut sejalan dengan kegiatan ladang berpindah dan meramu hasil hutan yang mereka lakukan secara tradisional. Permukiman masyarakat tersebut semula sulit dijangkau dan memiliki interaksi yang sangat terbatas dengan masyarakat luar.

Pada beberapa dekade terakhir, kegiatan eksploitasi sumberdaya kawasan hutan di wilayah Kecamatan Mandau telah berlangsung secara intensif. Kegiatan tersebut antara lain kegiatan penambangan minyak dan gas bumi, eksploitasi kayu oleh pemegang HPH dan konversi lahan oleh Perkebunan Besar Swasta.

Penelitian dilakukan bertujuan untuk mengetahui perilaku migrasi dan kegiatan matapencaharian rumah tangga masyarakat Suku Sakai. Data primer terutama dihimpun melalui wawancara terstruktur dengan menggunakan kuesioner terhadap 40 rumah tangga sampel dari 162 rumah tangga populasi sasaran di wilayah penelitian. Responden adalah kepala keluarga yang dipilih secara *accident random sampling*. Selain itu, juga dilakukan observasi dan wawancara mendalam dengan beberapa tokoh masyarakat.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pelbagai perkembangan lingkungan wilayah penelitian telah mempengaruhi masyarakat untuk bermukim di kawasan yang memiliki aksesibilitas dan interaksi dengan masyarakat luar yang lebih tinggi. Migrasi secara berkelompok cenderung tidak dilakukan lagi dan masyarakat telah memiliki motivasi untuk tinggal menetap.

Matapencaharian utama rumah tangga masih bertumpu pada sektor tradisional, yaitu usahatani ladang berpindah, menyadap karet dan menangkap ikan. Bertahannya kegiatan tersebut selain oleh motif kebutuhan dan keamanan pangan, juga ditopang oleh tradisi dan nilai-nilai yang berlangsung dalam masyarakat serta taraf teknologi, inovasi dan keterampilan yang sangat terbatas. Pelbagai matapencaharian dapat berlangsung karena adanya partisipasi anggota rumah tangga yang cukup tinggi.

Eksplorasi dan konversi kawasan hutan menjadikan hasil hutan yang dapat diusahakan masyarakat menyusut sehingga hanya sedikit warga yang melakukan kegiatan meramu hasil hutan (berburu dan hasil hutan ikutan lainnya). Demikian pula, frekuensi warga dalam memanfaatkan kesempatan kerja pada pelbagai komponen kegiatan pengusahaan sumberdaya alam yang berlangsung juga berkurang. Hal tersebut terutama disebabkan oleh pendapatan, pendidikan, keterampilan dan disiplin kerja kalah bersaing dengan masyarakat lain.