

# Social Mobility of Semendo Ethnic and Society Social Change in Way Tenong

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## Abstract

This study aims to determine Social Mobility and Social Change of Semendo Ethnic in Way Tenong Sub-district, West Lampung District. The research method used in this research was qualitative descriptive. Data collection techniques used observation, interview and documentation techniques. This research was conducted in Way Tenong Sub-district, West Lampung District. The results of research indicate that social mobility of Semendo ethnic was influenced by several factors. These factors were: 1) Getting a higher position in society 2). Self-impulse for more advanced life, 3). Social status, 4). Economic situation, 5). Education. Social mobility causes a social change. Factors causing social change in Semendo ethnic were: 1) attitudes-shifting toward officials. 2). education. 3). Transfer of profession.

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## 1. Introduction

The global era marked by the current globalization creates a great opportunity for people to migrate. Migration is not only happening within the country. But, many people choose overseas as a migration destination. Demographic Institute of F.E.U.I, (2010: 133) stated that migration is a movement of population with the aim for settling from somewhere to elsewhere beyond the political / state boundaries or administrative boundaries / internal boundaries of a country. The economic problems of families that can't fulfill their needs make someone look for other alternatives to get out of the poverty circle. If in their own country, people feel that there is no way out which guarantees the economy life, then they will make another country becomes the primary goal of seeking money in order to meet their economic needs.

However, it does not mean that the state itself does not care about its people. For having a great job, decent work ability and skills must necessarily be owned by someone. Especially in the current era of globalization where the world of advanced technology requires us to have the ability and good skills so that we are able to compete well.

Nevertheless, social migration or social mobility does not always about moving from their house. Social mobility is the social movement of a person or a grade group (social levels) from one level to others. (Pattinasarany, 2016: 32). Social mobility did not always move from vertical mobility only. But there was also a horizontal mobility. Human life dynamic actually works to determine human social mobility and different degrees or social classes among each other, even though this condition was not an absolute thing.

According to the commandment of Allah in the Qur'an Surat ar-Ra'd verse 13:11 which state "Allah does not change the circumstances of humans so that they change the circumstances that exist on themselves". The verse provides a clear explanation in which humans have the right to have mobility or have the right to determine their position in improving his life. Mobility can be either vertical mobility or horizontal mobility that is either increased or decreased. In addition, the verse adds clarity that humans have a role in changing their living conditions. This concept will be used as an overview in reading the mobility of the Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong and its social change. Way Tenong sub-district is a District located in Lampung Barat District, Lampung Province. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) Way Tenong sub-district, in Figures of 2017, Way Tenong sub-district consists of nine villages with a population of 33,190 inhabitants. People in Way Tenong are farmers of coffee, pepper, clove, rice and vegetables in order to get living cost and fulfill their need. Majority about 70%, Way Tenong society comes from Semendo ethnic. While 30% comes from various ethnic groups namely Java, Padang, Batak, Lampung and Bali. (Results of interviewing the district chairman, Mr. Harun Sanusi on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Way Tenong sub-district, West Lampung district).

Semendo ethnic was the first ethnic entered the Way Tenong sub-district. Although the District was dominated by Semendo people, there was no interference to other ethnics. They always live in harmony and support each other. The beginning of Semendo ethnic's coming to Way Tenong was for farming. As the time goes by, Semendo ethnic has begun to experience social mobility both horizontally and vertically. It can be seen from the working process of the Semendo ethnic people such as from a farmer become a teacher even vice versa when a teacher become a farmer. In addition, the mindset of the semendo ethnic was also diverse. Many Semendo ethnic people in Way Tenong send their children to cities in order to continue their education with the aim of obtaining a much better education compared to their parents. However, on the other hand there was also parent who thinks that education is not a guarantee to have a better job. Therefore, they want their child having the same job with them for becoming a farmer. This means that the Semendo ethnic people in Way Tenong sub-district have been experiencing social mobility either vertically or horizontally.

Social mobility that occurs in Semendo ethnic people will certainly undergo a change. These changes include changes in the social, cultural, economic, and society institutions. Social change was due to the encouragement of several factors that came from both within society (*internal*) and outside society (*external*). Trisnarningsih (2016: 204). Population mobility could be divided into two things such as the mobility of the vertical population and the mobility of the horizontal population. While according to Cycle theory (*cyclical theory*), a social change could not be fully controlled by anyone and by anything. Because there was cycle that must be followed in every society. According to this theory, the rise and the decline of a culture or life were normal things.

However, social changes not always give a positive impact on society. Certainly, there will be a negative impact. The impact of social change was like two sides of a different currency which could not be separated. Therefore, it needed a control from the individual itself in order to prevent the negative things from social changes. Not all social changes that occur in society could be accepted by all societies. Because we know, Indonesian people are multicultural society. Therefore, the researcher was interested to do research on Social Mobility of Semendo ethnic people and Social Change of people in Way Tenong sub-district, West Lampung District.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

### a. Social mobility

Setiadi, (2011: 504), stated that social mobility was a movement form of status and individual or people group role from a lower social class to a higher social class, or from a high social class to a lower social class (vertical) or social class movements with the same direction degree or horizontal. Social mobility was the social movement of a person or a group from one level (social level) to others. (Pattinasarany, 2016: 32). Social mobility did not always move from vertical mobility only. But there was also a horizontal mobility. Human life dynamics actually works to determine human social mobility, and different degrees or social classes among each other, even though this condition was not an absolute thing. Setiadi, (2011: 504), stated that social mobility was a movement form of status and individual or people group role from a lower social class to a higher social class, or from a high social class to a lower social class (vertical) or social class movements with the same direction degree or horizontal.

### b. Social change

John Philip Gilin in Ranjabar, ( 2015: 5) stated the meaning of social changes as a variation of accepted ways of life, either because of changes in geographical conditions, material culture, population composition, ideology or because of the diffusion or the new discoveries in society. According to Haper in Martono, (2016: 5) social change was defined as a significant change of social structure on certain time. Setiadi, (2011: 613) based on time, change itself was divided into two things: slow change (evolution) and rapid change (revolution). Rogers (1985), stated that adequate theory should encompass the fundamental question. According to Wiliam F. Ogbum in Lure, (1993: 220) social change includes elements of material culture to immaterial elements.

## 3. Research Methods

This study used descriptive method because it will provide an overview of the problem through analysis by using a scientific approach in accordance with the actual situation. According to Pargito (2009: 8), descriptive research was a study that describes or explains various natural phenomena and human creation phenomena (form, structure, activity, change, relationship between phenomena, etc). This research was conducted to analyze how Social Mobility of Semendo ethnic people and People Social Change in Way Tenong sub-district, West

Lampung District. The model used in this research was Phenomenology model. Phenomenology research is a research that specifically focuses to the phenomenon and reality that is seen to examine the explanation in it. Phenomenology will dig the data to discover the meaning of the basic and essential things of the phenomena and the reality or experience experienced by the researcher's object. Data collection was obtained from interviews, observation, and documentation. In accordance to the problem formulation, purpose and usefulness of research, then in this study the authors used descriptive qualitative method with the type of research was phenomenology. By using this method, it was expected to obtain good descriptive data. The research location chosen by writer was Way Tenong sub-district of West Lampung district with the consideration that the location is an interesting area to be analyzed in which from the people who dominated by semendo ethnic who have experienced change and willing to accept the change.

#### **4. Research Result Analysis**

The Semendo ethnic people in Way Tenong sub-district have experienced a social mobility in society. This Social mobility could be seen from research in the field. Based on interviews with resource persons in the field, it was obtained the data about Social Mobility of Semendo ethnic and Social Change in Way Tenong sub-district, West Lampung District. Based on findings in the field, social mobility occurred in Semendo ethnic was influenced by a sense of desire to get a much better life. Based on research in the field, researchers found several factors that cause social mobility. These factors are as follows.

1. Getting a higher position in the society.
2. Attitudes of Openness to the Period Development
3. Self-impulse for more advanced life
4. Social status
5. Economic situation
6. Education

Based on the results of research, social mobility that occurred in the Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong sub-district had a positive and negative impact. This was reinforced from the interview with the respondents that the negative impacts could be reacted from the anxiety of their position. Such anxiety could be a public outlook on their performance. Humans live in a society will always be accompanied by the criticisms of people around them. Either it was constructive criticism or unconstructive criticism which drops someone.

Social mobility in Semendo ethnic people in Way Tenong district of West Lampung District will certainly cause a social change. The factors that cause social change as follows:

##### **a. Attitudes-shifting toward Officials**

Martono, Nanang (2012: 12) stated that the encouragement of social change could be divided into three aspects such as social, psychological and cultural factors. Psychological factors basically relate to the existence of individuals in carrying out its role in society. In line with that opinion, the changes that occurred in the Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong sub-district were the shift of attitude toward the officials, both village officials and local officials. This was an attitude that influences their work changes.

Semendo ethnic could not be separated from farming activities although the main job was not the farmer. This occurred to Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong sub-district, West Lampung District. Evidence that the Semendo ethnic could not be separated from agricultural activities was that they still have enough land and coffee plantations. Moreover the coffee plantation was their investment which quite promising. However, the farming activities could not be separated from Semendo ethnic. There has been a change in terms of management and cultivation of the plantation. Semendo people choose another ethnic to sort out their land or plantations. So they did not need to drain the energy to manage the land by their selves. When asked for clarity to the research respondents, once asked this problem, society replied with almost the same answer that they chose another ethnic to manage the land followed by a reason in which let the person do the work but we still get the results.

Semendo ethnic had a character that was quite unique. If Semendo people have more money, they will not buy luxury goods first. But they will buy coffee plantations for future investments. No wonder if Semendo people had many coffee plantations. This Habit was still happening to Semendo people. Especially in Semendo people who were economically capable. They will always look for the coffee garden to buy and also find others to manage.

Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong district has been changed. In the past, they used to look for forests and then open by themselves into coffee plantations, currently many Semendo people decide to buy land from other ethnic. They prefer to buy rather than have to open their own forest because it was easier to pay people than to sweat. This shift of thought on Semendo ethnic has begun to change. If in the past Semendo people prefer to manage by themselves from the beginning of land clearing until harvest time arrives. Nowadays people prefer to pay other people's energy.

## b. Education

Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong sub-district was very concerned about the education of their children. Education was a top priority. Various efforts will be made to get a better education. One way done by the Semendo ethnic to get an education for their children was to give freedom to their children after graduating from school to choose their own college. They want their children to be successful through education. Education was captured in an effective way to change family life for the better.

Education is able to shift jobs in agriculture that was much attached to the Semendo ethnic. If previously farmed was a major job for the Semendo ethnic, because it had a high education, farm work was only a complement. It was said to be complementary because they did not come directly to manage the land. The land was entrusted to others to manage it. Nevertheless, the uniqueness of the Semendo ethnic was inseparable from agricultural activities. Based on the findings of the field, Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong sub-district was increasingly have a high education and have the power, then they will seek land for investment. Despite having a better job, Semendo ethnic believed that agriculture business still have to walk.

Semendo ethnic had diverse and unique customs. The customs could be seen from the inheritance sharing system, marriage and others. The uniqueness was still preserved to this day. But it had movement experience such as changes at the wedding. One of the factors causing the change was education. As more educated person, as shorter the events of the Semendo existing customs. Even at weddings, many part which were not in accordance with the custom of Semendo.

**Table 1. Before And After Happened Changes In Semendo Tribe**

	<b>Before any changes</b>	<b>After the change</b>
Economic activity	Farming (active)	Farming (passive)
	Open their own plantation land	Buying garden which ready to harvest
	Own plantation area	Own land
	Manage the plantation itself	Paying workers from other ethnic to manage it
	Harvesting yourself	Paying workers from other ethnic to harvest
Culture	Orientation to agricultural activities	Orientation to education
	Performances of traditional events depend on agricultural activities	Performances of traditional events are not dependent on agricultural activities and can be done anytime
	Life is still highly dependent on agricultural produce	Life does not depend on agricultural produce because farming is not the main job
	Wedding party events depend on the crop	Wedding events can be done anytime and are not dependent on the harvest
	Traditional art (single guitar)	Modern art (single organs)

Source: Interview Result 2018

Based on table 4 it can be explained that the Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong sub-district, West Lampung district has experienced a change. This could be seen from the economic activities of the Semendo ethnic in agriculture. Although Semendo ethnic could not be separated from agricultural activities, now farm work was a complementary work. If in the past, Semendo people start farming from forest clearing, nowadays they prefer to pay someone else or buy plantations that are ready to be harvested. The change was influenced by the level of education. Currently Semendo ethnic in Way Tenong sub-district was very concerned about the education of their children. Parents will pursue ways for their children to continue their education to a higher level. After graduating from college, many of them did not go back to their hometown. They prefer to work overseas. In addition to education, other factors that affect the change were an attitude-shifting to the official. Working as a village or a local official will certainly take a lot of time. The busy work schedule requires them focusing on one job only. So farming was a complementary worker. Social mobility that occurred in Semendo ethnic caused a social change both economic and cultural fields.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion that has been described on Social Mobility of Semendo ethnic people and People Society Changes in Way Tenong sub-district, West Lampung district. The research showed that the rate of social mobility of Semendo people was influenced by Self-impulse for more advanced life. Social mobility caused a social change in Semendo people in Way Tenong sub-istrict, West Lampung district. Social changes occurred in Semendo ethnic society were influenced by several factors such as attitudes-shifting toward officials and education. Previously farming was the main job of Semendo ethnic. Nowadays, because many Semendo ethnic who already have a high education so that they choose to work in government agencies, companies in accordance with their fields. However, they still have investments in plantation land entrusted to others to manage it. Although not became an active farmer but agricultural activities could not be separated from Semendo ethnic life. In addition, other changes could be seen from the culture such as technology used by Semendo ethnic. Moreover, majority the language used was national language, especially in their children. Indigenous events such as weddings have also been widely used national method rather than used traditional customs. Indeed a change occurred could not be avoided. All depends on the society itself which willing to accept or not.

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