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The Ethnographic Study of Melukean Fish Farmers of Lamongan, East Java

Abstract

Indonesian fish farmers are inseparable from historical aspects affecting their developments from period to period both with respects to natural influences and their abilities to manage and maintain their fishponds. A multiplicity of strategy implemented by fish farmers throughout Indonesian region is highly varied and unique due to its specificities for local conditions. The purpose of the present research was to ascertain fish farmers lives in adapting to inundating environments. Methods used were moderate participant observation through participating in fishpond-related activities and in-depth interview with informants. Fish farming in sub-district of Deket, especially Meluke village, was generally practiced traditionally due to generally low level of education leading to lack of information on developments of fishpond-related technologies. There was a relationship between fish farmers behavior and their environments. Those behaviors provided interpretation on the basis of the environment they occupied. Currently, however, fish farmers already realized environmental changes leading to deterioration of their lives, but they persistently carried out destructive activities. It followed that fish farmers were only business-oriented in order to fulfill their needs without considering future prospects.

Keyword: environment, nature, igir, -igir, krikit, adaptation,

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