

## **The Influence of Cultural Values and Value of Children on Mother's Time Allocation at Cimanuk Watershed Families**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this research were to describe the cultural values, the value of children and mother's time allocation for children at Cimanuk watershed and to analyze the effect of family characteristic, cultural values, and value of children toward time allocation of mothers to children at Sundanese and Javanese. This research involved 200 families who have children below five years old selected with purposive method. The samples were interviewed by using structure questionnaire. The result of this research showed that there was no significant different on the perception of the value of children between Sundanese and Javanese families. Regression analysis showed that mother's time allocation for children was influenced by the age of children, the length of mother's education, the mother's occupation, the uncertainty avoidance and power distance dimension of cultural values.

Keywords: cultural values, the value of children, investment for children, mother's time allocation.

## INTRODUCTION

A family as an institution, first and foremost for the children in the community has a crucial role in the achievement of a decent life for children. Some research that has been conducted shows that investment in human resources, especially by the family has proven to be a determinant of the level of well-being and can reduce the level of poverty (Cho, 2005; Anderson & Hague, 2007; Sitepu, 2007; Siregar & Wahyuniarti, 2008; Chaudry et al., 2010; Surachman & Hartoyo, 2015). Schultz (1972) divides the human resource investment in several categories, namely investments in school and education, learning after school, preschool learning activities, migration, health, information, and investment in children. Hartoyo (1998) defines investment as parents of children of all enterprises, activities, or allocation of family resources aimed at improving the quality of children expected to become productive individuals as adults.

Research related to investments in subsidiary has been conducted, but there have been hardly studies specifically on watersheds (DAS) done. Cimanuk watershed is one of the seven major watersheds in West Java. Socio-economic conditions are different between the upstream and downstream leading to the differences in the way the adaptation of each resident. The condition of the Cimanuk watershed has changed ecologically. As a result, environmental change decreases in water discharge in the upstream and the flow of water downstream increases. In addition to differences in environmental conditions, Cimanuk watershed is located in the upstream of Garut and the downstream lies in Indramayu. This has different socio-cultural conditions as well. Upstream can be said to represent the Sundanese, while the downstream can be said to represent the Javanese.

Basically, cultures have values that are always inherited, interpreted and implemented in line with the process of social change (Yunus, 2013). Cultural values have an important role in every part of human life in a community. As *software* on a computer, working culture as *software*, which was instrumental in shaping human behavior in feel, think, and act (Hofstede, 2005). Linkage cultural value to the perception of parents to children is very strong value. Sam (2001) conceptualized the value of the child as a psychological construction which refers to the expected benefits of having a child and also the costs and disadvantages. Culture affects all aspects of human development and it is reflected through a form of child care (Awde, 2009). This situation may affect the investment behavior of children who do parents.

The purposes of this study are: (1) Identify the difference in cultural values on Sundanese family represented by a family in the upstream and Javanese represented by a family in the downstream Cimanuk watershed; (2) Identify the perception of the value of children in families in the Cimanuk watershed; (3) Identify the allocation of time mothers in families in the Cimanuk watershed; (4) Analyze the influence of cultural values and perceptions of the value of the child against the mother time allocations for children in families in the Cimanuk watershed.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The study design was *cross sectional study*. This research is located in two districts through which the river Cimanuk namely Indramayu and Garut. The choice of location research is done *purposively*. The study population was a family residing in Cimanuk watershed which has children aged below five. Examples in this study were 200 families selected. These were divided into two groups based on ethnicity, i.e. 100 Javanese families represented by families residing in the downstream Cimanuk watershed (Indramayu Regency) and 100 Sundanese families represented by a family who is in the Cimanuk upper watersheds (Garut Regency). Sampling was conducted using purposive on condition the family that has young children aged 2-5 years old who had school (early childhood or kindergarten) and / or have children of school age.

The main data obtained through interview techniques using current tools questionnaires, including: (1) the characteristics of the respondent and family; (2) The value of culture using Hofstede's approach (2005) with five dimensions (*power distance*, individualism vs. collectivist, masculine vs. feminine, and *uncertainty avoidance*) with *Cronbach's alpha* 0.665; (3) The value of children refers to Sam (2001) which consists of a three-dimensional (psychological value, social value of children, and the economic value of children) with a *Cronbach's alpha* 0.874; (4) The time allocation approaches women with *recall* maternal activities.

The detailed analysis of the data used to answer each objective is as follows:

1. Cultural values are measured by collecting data on the state of cultural values around the residence of respondents. Scoring is done to all the questions in order to obtain a total score. Answer "disagree" was given a score of 1, the answer "not agree" was given a score of 2, answer "agree" was given a score of 3, and answer "strongly agree" was given a score of 4. Thus, there will be obtained a score ranging from 12 - 48. The score is then converted into categorized by *the cutoff* of each dimension.
2. Child's perception of value was measured by collecting data related to parents' perceptions of the value of children. Scoring is done to all the questions in order to obtain a total score. Answer "disagree" was given a score of 1, answer "not agree" was given a score of 2, answers "agree" was given a score of 3, and an answer "strongly agree" was given a score of 4. Thus there will be obtained a score ranging from 23 - 69. The score is then converted into *cutoff*.
3. Allocation of time mothers to infants by recall maternal 24 hours of activities. After categorized based on four categories of mother to child time allocation, i.e. the time to teach children, bathing them fatherly time, time to feed the child, and the time to care for children in general, allocation of time mothers each category is calculated by the number of minutes / day.
4. Family characteristics, cultural values, child and maternal time allocation, were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Data of family characteristics include age, education, occupation, income per capita, and large families. Descriptive analysis used includes different test, crosstab test, the value of the minimum - maximum, frequency, average value, and standard deviation.
5. Analyzes the factors that influence the allocation of time mothers used multiple linear regression.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Characteristics of Respondents

Average respondents were in the category of early adulthood. Respondents age minimum 22 years and maximum 52 years. More than half (54%) of respondents have 0-6 year old education. Most (67.5%) of Sundanese and Javanese respondents live as a housewife. Unlike Sundanese, Javanese in none of the respondents came from large families. Based on the results of different test average of big families, big families in Sundanese and Javanese were significantly different ( $p$ -value = 0.000). More than a quarter (27.5%) of Sundanese and Javanese respondents has incomes below the poverty line according to the BPS West Java, so it can be categorized as poor.

### Cultural Values

Based on the results of different test average of Sundanese and Javanese, they have a dimension of *power distance* which was significantly different ( $p$ -value= 0.000). Power distance is a measure of the strength or interpersonal influence between superiors and subordinates or when it is in the public sphere meaning leaders and people (Hofstede, 2005). Small power distance means the degree of dependence of the people on the small leaders. It is seen from the average index owned by Sundanese (75.67) and Javanese (56.67) which was very different. Additionally, Sundanese have an index of at least 33.3 and a maximum of 100, while the index of the Javanese has a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 100. In Table 1 it can be seen that the Sundanese had a power rather low distance. The Javanese have a category of distance high-powers which is more than Sundanese. Mangundjaya (2006) stated that the Javanese have a strong social hierarchy characterized by differences in the language used at every level of the social hierarchy. However, Sundanese and Javanese characteristics do not vary much, but the Sundanese have a social hierarchy that is not too rigid as Javanese (Mangundjaya, 2006).

On the dimension of individualism and collectivism, Sundanese and Javanese have a tendency to collectivism. This is consistent with research Hofstede (2005) stated that Indonesia belongs to the category of the collective. However, in the category of individualist Javanese have a larger number than the Sundanese. From the results of different test average of indexes owned Sundanese and Javanese, there is a significant difference ( $p$ -value= 0.000). The average value index score of individualism vs. collectivism dimension Sundanese (81.00) is greater than the average index score Javanese (70.67). Mangundjaya (2006) stated in his research that the Javanese are more independent and do not receive material assistance from family. They own houses, economic, and family independently. This could mean that the Javanese are individualist. Some tend to be large (83.5%) of respondents in the category in the dimension of feminine masculinity vs. femininity. Hofstede (2005) stated that the community is said to be feminine when separation of roles by gender is not seen clearly, both men and women must be friendly, soft, and focus on improving the quality of life. There is a real difference between the average index score owned by Sundanese and Javanese in

this dimension ( $p$ -value= 0.002). The mean index score of Sundanese is 48.53, while the score of the average index of the Javanese is 41.07

Table 1 Distribution of the value of the cultural dimensions of power distance respondents by ethnic

Cultural Value Dimensions	Sundanese	Javanese	Total
	%	%	%
<i>Power Distance</i>			
High	7	37	22
Low	93	63	88
Total	100.0	100.0	100.00
<i>Individualisme vs Kolektivisme</i>			
Individualism	0	11	5.5
Collectivism	100	89	94.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.00
<i>Maskulin vs Feminin</i>			
Feminine	83	84	83.5
Masculine	17	16	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.00
<i>Uncertainty avoidance</i>			
<i>Weak Uncertainty Avoidance</i>	51	43	47
<i>Strong Uncertainty Avoidance</i>	49	57	53
Total	100.0	100.0	100.00

Avoidance of uncertainty or uncertainty avoidance is defined as the members of the public anxiety over the situation which is ambiguous and unknown (Hofstede, 2011). More than half (53%) of the total respondents are in the category *strong* for the dimension of *uncertainty avoidance*. Javanese have higher numbers in the category of *strong uncertainty avoidance* compared with the Sundanese. Based on the results of different test average of the index on the dimension of uncertainty avoidance, Sundanese and Javanese are not significantly different ( $p$ -value= 0.419). This is evidenced by the average value index score which is not much different from that of Sundanese and Javanese respectively 55.11 and 58.66. Mangundjaya (2006) said that Sundanese and Javanese like to be in a stable condition and predictable.

In addition to visits of cultural value dimensions according to Hofstede, the study also looks at the cultural value based on the custom form of Koetjaraningrat (2002). Javanese tend to have a culture that is more viscous than the Sundanese. Javanese respondents admitted that they knew a lot about the people around him who believe in myths and ancestral spirits. In addition, people in the Javanese still often perform traditional ceremonies such as mapagsri, unjung-unjungan, or clean the cemetery before harvest. Not only ceremonies or dances but there are also Javanese historical relics such as tombs sacred and historical objects such as a dagger or other heirloom kept private. Almost all respondents in Sundanese agreed that the newly married couple should live in a family environment female party. Unlike the Sundanese, Javanese respondents disagreed with the statement. According to them, they should be independent, do not join the family of women and men.

**Value of children**

For parents, the value of children in everyday life can be known from the fact that the child's condition became a devoted affection and happiness family (psychological value) (Hastuti, et al., 2010). In Table 2 it appears that more than half (56.5) of Sundanese and Javanese respondents have a psychological value in the category moderate. Java tribe has a number that is less than the Sundanese in this category. However, the value of psychological is in high category, Java tribe (43%) has a greater number than that of Sundanese (35%). Based on the results of different test average of the index, Sundanese and Javanese have a psychological value that was not significantly different ( $p\text{-value}= 0.199$ ), the mean value of psychological Sundanese (78.33) is also lower than the Javanese (80.47). This study found that Sunda has a psychological value that stands out compared to the other dimensions of value children. This is consistent with research conducted in 1975 on the Sundanese, which also put emphasis more on psychological or emotional aspects of perception of the value of the child, such as happiness and strengthened the relationship of husband and wife (Darroch, et al., 1981).

**Table 2 Distribution of child value per dimension respondents by ethnic**

Perception of Child Value		Sundanese	Javanese	Total
		%	%	%
Psychological	Low	7	2	4.5
	Average	58	55	56.5
	High	35	43	39
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Social	Low	11	9	10
	Average	61	48	54.5
	High	28	43	35.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Economy	Low	51	53	52
	Average	36	23	29.5
	High	13	24	23.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100

On the dimension of the social value of children, Sundanese and Javanese have the average social value of children who were significantly different ( $p\text{-value}= 0.035$ ). The average value index of Sundanese is smaller – 74.29 compared to the average value index – 78.33 Javanese. The average value index of Sundanese is smaller at 74.29 compared to the average value index – 78.33 Javanese. Sundanese (28%) has a lesser amount than the Javanese (43%) on the value of a child's social high category. This may imply that parents of the families in the Javanese have higher perception of the social gain when they have children. Background of different social, education, health, customs or culture of a social group as well as income or livelihood different causes different views of the child (Suciati, 2013; Hastuti, et al., 2010; Trommsdorff & Nauck, 2005).

More than half (52%) of the economic value of children Sundanese and Javanese are in the low category. In the category of low and high, Javanese (53% & 24%) have a more number than Sundanese (51% & 13%), but in the medium category Sundanese (36%) have more number than the Javanese (23%). A

minimum value of the index of the Javanese in this dimension is quite low, which is 20 while the Sundanese have an index of at least 26.6. Based on the results of different test average of the index of economic value of children, there is no real difference between Sundanese and Javanese in children's economic value ( $p$ -value= 0.881). it can be seen from the average index of the economic value of the Sundanese and Javanese children who do not differ much respectively 62.47 and 62.87. This study shows that the economic value of Javanese children had higher numbers at the high category than Sundanese. This is consistent with the research by Darroch, et al. (1981) which stated that people perceive the advantages of Java over having a child in the instrumental aspects such as financial aid in the old days, other financial aid, help on homework, and other assistance.

### Total Value of Children

The Javanese parents have a perception of the value of children better than the parents in Sundanese. It is of the number of parental perceptions of the value of children in Sundanese lower categories are more numerous and higher categories fewer than the Javanese, as shown in Table 3. This is in line with the results of Darroch, et al. (1981) which stated that parents in Javanese mostly found to have a child who can provide benefits in assisting the work, providing assistance in the old days, strengthening the brotherhood, giving happiness and sustainability of the family. Based on the average index of perception of different test values of children, parents' perception of the value of children in both parts showed that there is no a significant difference ( $p$ -value= 0.081). It is seen from the average index value perception of children of each tribe that was not much different from that of Sundanese and Javanese respectively 73.47 and 75.89.

Table 3 Distribution of respondents' perception of the value of children in total based on the rate

Total Child Value Perception	Sundanese	Javanese	Total
	%	%	%
Low	8	4	6
Average	69	66	67.5
High	23	30	26.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

### Time Allocation of Mothers for Children

In economic theory, time is a resource or commodity parents who invested in children (Huston & Aronson, 2005). This time allocation and efficiency of time spent outside working hours are more important than the economic welfare of working time (Becker, 1965). Speaking in terms of child development, psychology and economics experts agree that one that affects a child's development is the time spent with his mother (Brilli, 2015).

Table 4 shows the real difference between the time allocation of mothers in Sundanese and Javanese in the category allocation of time mothers to teach children, to bathe the child and for parenting. Hartoyo (1998) found that one of the factors that affect the time allocation of mothers for children is maternal employment status. Working mothers would tend to have less time for children compared to mothers who did not work. This is in line with research conducted by

Huston & Aronson (2005) which shows the difference in the allocation of time working mother and not working. This type of work also affects the time allocation of mothers to child (Hartoyo, 1998). This is consistent with the study conducted at two different locations and cause different types of work parents between Sundanese and Javanese. Time allocation for parenting in general includes the children play together, sleep together with children, and other activities with the children who are not in the category of time allocation of mothers. The total of the average allocation time mother to child in the Sundanese is 423.04 minutes or 7.05 hours, while the average allocation time mother to child in the Javanese was 432.7 minutes or 7.21 hours a day.

Table 4 Average of time allocation of mothers to children based on ethnicity and type of activity

Time allocation of mother (minutes)	Sundanese (Mean±SD)	Javanese (Mean±SD)	<i>p-value</i>
Mother's time allocation for teach the children	44.58±67.98	30.34±42.96	0.078*
Mother's time allocation for bath the children	34.40±23.02	27.25±13.8	0.008**
Mother's time allocation for parenting in general	282.40±166.90	326.39±178.16	0.073*
Mother's time allocation for give children eat	61.66±77.7	48.72±45.02	0.151

Note: \*) significant at a *p-value* of <0.05 ; \*\*) significant at *p-value* <0.01

### Factors Affecting Capital Time Allocation for Kids

The results of influence model 1 showed that toddler's age had a significant negative effect on the allocation of time for the child's mother, with a value B of 3.97. It can be interpreted, the younger the age of the children, the more time allocated – 3.97 minutes. This is in line with Hartoyo (1998) who stated that the older the age, the less time devoted for children. In addition, the old mother's education has a significantly positive effect on the total time allocated by a mother to her child (B = 11.01). That means that the higher the mother's education will increase the time allocated to the child's mother at 11.01 minutes. Rosidah, Hartoyo & Muflikhati (2012) stated that the educated wife has a significant influence on the investment behavior of children.

In Table 5 also shows that the mother's occupation has a significantly negative influence on the allocation of time for the child's mother, with B amounting to 57.87. Then the allocation of time for working mothers of children is at 57.87 which is less than that in women who do not work. Hartoyo (1998) and Huston & Aronson (2005) found that one of the factors that influence the allocation of time for the child's mother is a mother's job status. Working mothers would tend to have less time for children compared to mothers who do not work. In addition, the test results also showed that the influence of cultural values dimension of uncertainty avoidance have a significantly negative effect on the allocation of time for the child's mother, with a value B of 59.31. It can be interpreted that a mother has a value of weak uncertainty avoidance will have a 59.31-minute time allocation which is greater compared to mothers who have

weak value of low uncertainty. Uncertainty avoidance measures the extent to which humans can tolerate any uncertainty in his life (Hofstede, 2005). People who have strong avoidance will tend to be happier about the condition of a stable and predictable. People who have a strong avoidance tend to be trying to find things that are more secure. They will be working or looking for a more viable revenue laneways better future so that the time devoted to children is less and less. In terms of investment possibilities for people who have a strong avoidance would prefer to invest in things that are more secure and minimize the uncertainty, for instance savings, so if they wanted to invest for a child, they would choose to invest in savings or money compared to allocate their time to their children.

Table 5 Summary of regression analysis for factors suspected to influence the time allocation for the child's mother

Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	B	$\beta$	B	$\beta$
Constanta	729.099**	-	704.468	-
Mother's age (year)	-1.669	-0.061	-1.442	-0.052
Children's age (month)	-3.970**	-0.287	-4.440**	-0.321
Length of mother's education (year)	11.013*	0.181	7.532+	0.124
Mother's occupation (1=work; 0=not work)	-57.871*	-0.158	-58.282*	-0.160
Family size (people)	-3.841	-0.033	-0.711	-0.006
Family income (rupiahs)	-1.780E-5	-0.070	-1.480E-5	-0.058
<i>Uncertainty Avoidance</i> (1= <i>strong</i> ; 0= <i>weak</i> )	-59.319*	-0.144	-	-
Masculine vs feminine (1=masculine; 0=feminine)	45.876	0.061	-	-
Collectivism vs Individualism (1=collectivism; 0=individualism)	37.637	0.082	-	-
<i>Power Distance</i> (1=high; 0=low)	-55.810 <sup>+</sup>	-0.163	-	-
Economic value of children (index)	-0.310	-0.021	-	-
Social value of children (index)	-0.606	-0.067	-	-
Psychological value of children (index)	-0.217	-0.017	-	-
Total value of children	-	-	-0.785	-0.045
Suku (0=Sundanese, 1=Javanese)	-	-	5.073	0.015
Adj R Square	0.139		0.110	
Sig.	0.000		0.000	

Note: <sup>+</sup>significant at  $p$ -value<0.1; \*) significant at a  $p$ -valueof <0.05; \*\* significant at  $p$ -value<0.01, respectively.

Cultural values dimension of power distance despite having no significant effect, but also has a negative influence on the direction allocated time mother (B = 55.81). It can be interpreted that respondents who have a category power lower distance, will allocate greater time for children 55.81 points compared with respondents with a distance power of high category. People who are in an environment power distance of high, they will tend to feel helpless. This powerlessness makes them free to carry out their activities in daily activities, including in the allocation of time for their children. Value adj. R square 0139 can be interpreted that only 13.9 percent of the time allocated mother to child is influenced by independent variables studied, while the remaining 86.1 percent is influenced by other variables not studied as the economic conditions (good or not

good), the number of children of school, family type (Suciati, 2013) and characteristics like age and education husband (Bianchi & Robinson, 2004).

Results of regression test on a second model show that the age of the children and the mother's employment status affects the allocation of time for the child's mother. Values influence of age and children against mother to child time allocation is a negative value of B at 4.44. This means that any increase in the age of five a month will reduce the mother to child time allocation of 4.44 minutes. In addition to toddler age, maternal employment status also has a significantly negative effect on the allocation of time for the child's mother with a value of 58 282 B. This means that the working mother has time allocation for 58 282 minutes fewer children compared to mothers who did not work.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusion**

Overall, characteristics of the family on the family of Sundanese and Javanese were not significantly different, just large families among families of Sundanese and Javanese that have a noticeable difference. Sundanese have larger families than the Javanese. In general, the cultural value of the Sundanese and Javanese has significant differences. Value of children in both locations as a whole also did not have a noticeable difference. One significant different dimension is the dimension of the social value of children. In this dimension, the Javanese have the average score which is greater than the average score of the social value of children of Sundanese. Allocation of time mothers in teaching children, bathing, and parenting in general is a really difference between Sundanese and Javanese. The Javanese have a larger flat in the category allocation of time nurturing mothers in general, whereas the two other categories Javanese have the average smaller than the Sundanese.

The test results show that the effect of age of the children, mother's occupation, and cultural values have a significantly negative effect on the time allocation of mothers. Independent variables were 11.8 percent influence the allocation of time mothers, while the remaining 88.2 percent is influenced by other variables not studied as the economic conditions (good or not good), the number of children of school, family type, and characteristics of the husband such as age and education husband.

### **Recommendations**

Some research found that the investment behavior of parents of children in the form of time and money is one of the determinants of the child quality. The research found that there are differences in the time allocation of the mother in a different area. This is expected to be considered by the government to provide assistance as well as encourage people to make investments against children. This study only differentiates by region located upstream and downstream of Cimanuk watershed. Further research is expected to complete the limited scope of analysis. In addition, further research is expected to be done on the socio-economic background of different communities (e.g. families in urban and rural). The increase also needs to be done in terms of improved methods and parameters as

well as the expansion of the observation of the aspects of the things that have not been observed and analyzed in this study.

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