

The Concept of Self-Reliance

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*Self-Reliant,
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Abstract

Self-reliance is the ability that is owned within self that combines with the abilities of other individuals who form cooperation in order to realize progress/increase in welfare. Self-reliant individuals can get what they want through their own efforts and combine their own efforts and the efforts of others to achieve the greatest success together. A self-reliant society is a collection of self-reliant individuals, who are able to manage the resources at their disposal, meet their needs, grow independently, and minimize dependence on existing external institutions. Efforts to grow and develop self-reliance need to be directed so that with their strengths and abilities they strive to work together in achieving all their needs and desires.

I. Introduction

Definition of Self-Reliance

Self-reliance is the ability that is owned within self that combines with the abilities of other individuals who form cooperation in order to realize progress/increase in welfare. Self-reliant individuals can get what they want through their own efforts and combine their own efforts and the efforts of others to achieve the greatest success together. A self-reliant society is a collection of self-reliant individuals, who are able to manage the resources at their disposal, meet their needs, grow independently, and minimize dependence on existing external institutions. Efforts to grow and develop self-reliance need to be directed so that with their strengths and abilities they strive to work together in achieving all their needs and desires. The characteristics of self-reliant individuals include having self-confidence, moral beliefs, a clear and focused vision, and being responsible for their actions. According to Hubeis (2002), self-reliance is a manifestation of a person's ability to utilize his potential in fulfilling his life needs to solve the problems he faces, which is characterized by the ability to freely make the best choices.

According to Nawawi and Martini (1994), self-reliance is the totality of personality that every individual needs/must have as a human resource. Human characteristics with self-reliant personality qualities are individuals who have traits and attitudes: diligent, happy to work, able to work hard, diligent, persistent, disciplined, dare to seize opportunities, honest,

able to compete, able to work together, can be trusted and trust others, have ideals and know what to do to make them come true, open to criticism and suggestions, and do not give up.

Based on a deductive study, according to Sumardjo (1999), the characteristics of a self-reliant person are: (1) Self-confident and able to decide or take an action that is considered the most profitable (efficient) quickly and precisely in managing his business without depending on or being subordinated by another party. (2) Always developing self-awareness and need for the importance of improving themselves and their lives, and having the initiative and strong will to realize their hopes (optimistic and fighting power). (3) Able to cooperate with other parties in an equal position so that interdependence occurs in mutually beneficial situations in sustainable business partnerships (interdependencies). (4) Having a high filtering power in determining the best choice of action for alternative businesses that are taken in life (filter system). (5) Always trying to improve his life (modern life) through various efforts to broaden his thinking and knowledge, attitudes and skills (cosmopolitan), so that he responds positively to changing situations (dynamic) and tries to consciously overcome problems with the most appropriate procedures (progressive).

Slamet (1995) stated that self-reliance emphasizes aspirations, creativity, dares to take risks, takes initiative, often acts on the basis of one's own strength in togetherness. Fonchingong and Fonjong (2003) state that self-reliance begins with understanding/thinking that considers oneself and one's own resources as the main capital to achieve goals and find satisfaction. Self-reliant communities are people who are able to manage their own resources, are able to meet their own basic needs, grow independently, and are carried out through collaboration.

Anyanwu (Fonchingong and Fonjong 2003) emphasizes that self-reliance is the ability to rely on one's own strength and local resources and potential which is the main capital and by minimizing dependence on existing external institutions, to achieve goals. Sumardjo (2010a) states that self-reliance is a condition when a person or a community has real autonomy within the corridor of the prevailing value system, namely being able to determine their destiny and life and free from all forms of subordination/domination/oppression of other parties.

In detail, Sumardjo (1999) states that someone who has a self-reliant personality, in living life and earning income does not depend on the help of others, for example in the form of donations, instructions, orders, suggestions, or appeals, but self-reliant individuals are more dependent on their own strength. The presence or presence of other parties is placed more as partners (colleagues) who are mutually beneficial. Sumardjo further stated that a self-reliant person is someone who in improving the quality of his life does not only rely on instructions from the authorities or other parties but rather relies on the ability to make his own decisions correctly and on his own strength which is driven by his motivation to improve the quality of his life. In this case, his self-reliance is characterized by the presence

of initiative, namely the ability to see opportunities, choose alternatives (creative), decide the best choice for his role in society, and try to seize opportunities with all the abilities he has and needs to have.

Sumardjo (2012a) formulates the stages of building human resources, starting from dependence, leading to empowerment to interdependence/independence. This formulation has a similar meaning with Covey's (2013) thought that individual maturity in a continuum of maturity starts from dependence to independence to interdependence. Dependent individuals need others to get what they want, empowered individuals can get what they want through their own efforts and self-reliant individuals combine their own efforts and the efforts of others to achieve the greatest success together. Self-reliance is the highest level of empowerment. Furthermore, Covey (2013) states that individuals who are in the interdependence stage are characterized by three things: (a) interpersonal leadership, (b) empathic communication, and (c) cooperation; while Sumardjo (2012a) measures self-reliance from three perspectives, namely: modern, efficient, and competitive.

Cartwright and Zander (1968) suggest that to grow and foster self-reliance, the target group needs to be directed so that with their strengths and abilities they can try to work together to achieve everything they need and want. Self-reliance does not mean anti-cooperation or rejection of interrelatedness and interdependence. Self-reliance actually needs to emphasize the need for cooperation accompanied by the growth and development of (1) problem solving ability, (2) aspirations, (3) creativity, (4) courage to face risks, (5) tenacity, (6) entrepreneurial attitudes and abilities, and (7) one's initiative to act on the basis of one's own strength in togetherness (collective self-reliance).

Sumardjo (2008) explains that a person or a community is said to be self-reliant when having the internal ability to cooperate or interact with other parties in an interdependent, synergistic, and sustainable manner, within the corridor of social values that are shared with dignity and justice. Being self-reliant does not mean isolating oneself or not needing other parties, but rather its existence in addition to being needed, it also requires the presence of other parties, in a situation of mutual strengthening, mutual dependability, and mutual benefit in a just and civilized situation. According to Sumardjo (2012b) self-reliance refers to individuality, not individualism or individualism or egotism. Self-reliance is an attitude and behavior that can lead humans to successfully live life and live, "together" with other people interdependently. Soebiyanto (1998) states that to grow and foster the self-reliance of farmers, farmers need to be directed so that with their strength and ability they work together to achieve everything they need.

Efforts to grow and develop self-reliance need to be directed so that with their strengths and abilities they strive to work together in achieving all their needs and desires. Self-reliance, thus, is the ability that is possessed within oneself which combines with the abilities of other individuals to form cooperation in order to realize progress/increase in welfare. Self-reliant individuals can get what they want through their own efforts and

combine their own efforts and the efforts of others to achieve the greatest success together. A self-reliant society is a collection of self-reliant individuals, who are able to manage the resources at their disposal, meet their needs, grow independently, and minimize dependence on existing external institutions. Self-reliant individuals can get what they want through their own efforts and combine their own efforts and the efforts of others to achieve the greatest success together, in terms of partnership, modernity, and competitiveness.

Self-Reliance Indicator

Partnership, according to Suporahardjo (2005) in a formal context, is a contractual agreement between two or more people/organizations who mutually agree on the results (profits/losses) of the business carried out together in the agreement made; in the context of serving the public interest, a partnership is defined as a relationship on the basis of mutual benefit to achieve common goals related to cooperation in terms of business made. This definition requires the existence of a cooperative relationship and responsibility as well as sharing in terms of resources, benefits, and risks achieving one goal. The achievement of common goals and the principle of mutual benefit are important elements of a partnership.

According to Tadjudin (2000), the concept of partnership rests on a form of interdependence interaction based on several principles, which consist of equality, fairness, mutual revival, sustainability, and openness. The values that must be embraced in a partnership are respecting others, integrity, clarity of rights or rules of the game, consensus, trust-based relationships, responsibility, openness, and recognition. According to Sumardjo (2010b) the principles in a partnership are mutual support, mutually reinforcing, and mutual "live". Based on the description above, a partnership is characterized as the ability to build relationships that need, mutually strengthen, and are mutually beneficial in running and developing businesses, which are based on the principles of equality, mutual trust, and do not force each other.

Modernity is defined as a set of traits or characteristics that can make a person more successful in the future. The application of modernity can take the form of individual modernity and social modernity (Mashud et al. 2010). Realizing social modernity, individuals who become members of a community must reflect the nature of modern humans. The characteristics of modern humans according to Dube (1988) are those who are able to accept and produce new innovations, the ability to think rationally, increase the ability to solve problems, empathy, and the ability to adapt to change.

Hasan (1987) detailed the characteristics of modern society as follows: (1) looking forward not backward, (2) having a dynamic and active attitude, not an attitude of waiting, (3) being rational, not based on feelings, and (4) being open to new things. According to Inkeles (1983), the characteristics of a person or modern society are: (1) open to new experiences, (2) ready to accept social change, (3) tending to acquire/have new opinions, (4)

actively seeking facts and information, (5) believing in the ability, (6) planning oriented, (7) future-oriented, (8) believing in the calculability, (9) having educational aspirations, (10) respecting the dignity of others, and (11) always being optimistic and never give up. Based on the description above, modernity in this study is characterized as the ability to accept and produce innovation, adaptive to change, future and present orientation, and sensitivity to existing opportunities and take advantage of them.

Competitiveness in principle is the ability to produce commodities of good quality (Kindleberger and Lindert 1993). Regarding quality, Crosby (1979) states that quality is conformance to requirements, that is, in accordance with what is required or standardized. Deming (1986) states that quality is conformity to market or consumer needs. Feigenbaum (1986) states that quality is full customer satisfaction. A product is categorized as quality if it can give full satisfaction to consumers, which is in accordance with what is expected or exceeds consumer expectations for a product. Based on the description above, competitiveness is characterized as the ability to prioritize quality to meet customer needs and expectations.

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