

# Rational Choices Of The Community In Facing Annual Floods

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**Abstract:** This research was conducted with the aim of knowing how the habits of residents are a trigger factor for flood disasters and the rational choices of Tuweley Village residents in dealing with annual floods. In this research, the author used a qualitative research method with research procedures described descriptively. In relation to that, a methodological process consisting of Library Research and Field Research consisting of Observation, Interview, Documentation was adopted. Informants in this study were determined as many as 6 (six) people who were determined Purposively. The result of the research is that the habits of residents who are a trigger factor for flood disasters are throwing garbage into the river, lack of maintaining environmental cleanliness, and illegal logging. Then from these habits, it can lead to rational choices of residents of Tuweley Village in dealing with annual floods, namely the lack of funds to move houses, the selling price of land is cheaper than other places, the strategic location is close to offices and campuses so that some residents try to take advantage of trading groceries considering that there are also many students and female students who live in boarding houses around the location, and aim to be efficient in time.

**Keywords:** Rational Choice, Residents, Flood Disaster

## 1. Introduction

Flooding is a recurring disaster in several regions of Indonesia. In addition to natural factors, flooding is also caused by human activities. Building construction, tree felling, and river narrowing are examples of human activities that cause flooding (Fitriani, et al. 2016). Tolitoli Regency is an area consisting of six subdistricts, where during the rainy season there are a number of areas that are prone to flooding, including the subdistricts of Panasakan, Tuweley, Baru, and Nalu. When it rains for a long time, of these four areas, Tuweley Subdistrict is always the most affected when flooding occurs.

During the rainy season, there are a number of areas in Tuweley Village that are prone to flooding, especially settlements located near riverbanks. If it rains for 2 to 3 hours, the volume of river water will increase, causing the river to overflow because it has exceeded its capacity.

Floods often occur twice a month, in the morning and afternoon. Floods usually occur from January to June, then from October to December. Floods often occur between the

2nd and 10th at the beginning of the month, then pause for 15 days and occur again between the 25th and 30th at the end of the month.

The concept of rational choice that Coleman tries to put forward is similar to the phenomenon in this study, because the residents who settle and survive in the RT/RW.004 area in Tuweley Village are consciously aware that the location is highly prone to flooding if it rains heavily for a long time, so in this case, the residents who remain settle there make several efforts to deal with the flooding.

## 2. Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method. The location of this study is set in one of the villages in Baolan Subdistrict, namely Tuweley Village. The unit of analysis in this study is the object of the study, namely the residents who remain in Tuweley Village, and the subject of the study is the community of Tuweley Village, especially the residents who live in "RT/RW.004," which has often been hit by floods. Informants were obtained purposively, or deliberately, by selecting six (6) people.

## 3. Residents' Habits as Triggers for Annual Flooding

This section discusses four main issues related to community habits that trigger flooding, namely: (1) the habit of throwing garbage into rivers; (2) inadequate drainage capacity; (3) lack of awareness of environmental cleanliness; and (4) illegal logging.

### 3.1. The habit of throwing trash into rivers

The habit of residents littering is also one of the factors causing flooding. During heavy rainfall, waste accumulates and water flows uncontrollably, causing overflow and flooding. The overflow reaches residential areas.

### 3.2. Inadequate drainage capacity

The lack of drainage in residential areas causes overflowing water to easily become clogged due to trash accumulating at the bottom of the water flowing through residential areas, resulting in trash buildup in existing drainage areas. The uncontrolled flow of water from overflowing drainage clogged with trash causes flooding in residential areas.

### 3.3. Lack of Environmental Cleanliness

Due to the lack of attention paid by residents to environmental cleanliness, they dispose of waste indiscriminately without realizing that this can cause environmental pollution, thereby increasing the risk of flooding during the rainy season. The waste they dispose of clogs the flow of water in their residential areas, causing flooding.

### 3.4. Illegal Logging

Illegal logging, which often occurs in Tuweley Village, is one of the factors causing flooding disasters. This is because the continuous illegal logging has resulted in deforestation and

soil erosion during rainfall. Without reforestation by the residents of Tuweley Village, the unstable absorption of rainwater causes flooding disasters.

#### 4. Rational Choice for Dealing with Floods

Rational choice is a rational action taken by individuals or actors to perform an action based on a specific goal, and that goal is determined by values or choices (preferences). People act deliberately toward a goal, with that goal being shaped by values or choices. The reason residents chose to stay and survive in that location was because the cost of moving to another place was very high. In addition, residents chose to stay in the RT/RW.004 area because the selling price of the land was more affordable than in other places.

The results of interviews with residents who chose to live in the RT/RW.00 location, namely Mr. Suparman (29 years old), are as follows.

"I was originally a migrant from Buol who decided to live in Tolitoli. The reason I chose the RT/RW.004 location is that the price of land in this location is very affordable compared to other places. In addition, the RT/RW.004 area is only about 800 meters from my family's clove plantation, and I think that distance is not too far, making it easier for me to check on it".

The reason residents choose to settle here is not only because of the affordable land prices but also because it is close to the clove plantation. Therefore, choosing another location would require a significant amount of time to reach the clove plantation area. Moreover, vehicle fuel costs have increased significantly, making the decision to stay in this location the right choice.

According to the interview results by informant Mrs. Ratna (52 years old), a resident who owns a grocery store, as follows:

"The reason I chose to stay in this location is because it is close to the campus. And also, many students rent boarding houses close to the campus as their temporary place of residence. This is why I continue to operate my store in this location, as besides the customers who are local residents in the RT/RW.004 area, there are also many students who have become regular customers at my store. This is what brings me profit".

The information above explains that the reason for staying in the RT/RW.004 location is because of its strategic location near the campus. This is what Mrs. Ratna took advantage of to open a grocery store in that location with the aim of making it easier for the surrounding community to shop for groceries because the distance to the traditional market from that area is quite far.

Although the RT/RW.004 area in Tuweley Village is prone to flooding every year, many residents still choose to live there. As stated by the informant above, there are various reasons why residents choose to stay and live in that location. According to Linda Praharni Vibranti (43), Secretary of the Tuweley Village Office.

"In my opinion, many residents here still choose to stay in this location for various reasons and purposes. The price of land in this location is more affordable than in other places, and moreover, the location is quite close to infrastructure and public facilities such as campuses, hospitals, offices, and others, which is why some residents still choose to stay in this location." (Interview on Monday, February 6, 2023).

Based on the informant's statement, the reason or cause for residents staying is economic limitations, as moving to another place requires considerable costs. In addition, another reason residents stay is because the location is quite strategic, as it is close to clove plantations, campuses, offices, hospitals, and others. Therefore, residents choose to stay in that location in order to save time and take advantage of the surrounding environment because the location is quite close to public infrastructure.

Based on the above analysis, the author concludes that the residents' rational choice to remain in that location is in line with Coleman's statement in his rational choice theory that actors perform certain actions based on specific goals, and those goals are determined by values or preferences. This theory also shows that everyone acts deliberately towards a goal they want to achieve, where that goal is shaped by values and choices.

## 5. Conclusion

This theory is related to the issue raised, namely that residents in RT/RW.004 chose to remain in the area due to several reasons. Among these reasons are the very limited economic conditions, the location's proximity to the campus and boarding houses, and its strategic location, which led some residents to choose to remain in the area by selling basic necessities, as well as its proximity to their respective gardens. Another reason for staying is the proximity of the location to workplaces, schools, and campuses, so the rational choice for residents to stay is to save time and take advantage of the surrounding environment.

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