



LOCATING RISK WITHIN THE TRANSITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTO ADULTHOOD IN PURWOKERTO, INDONESIA: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract. Young people often encounter a zig-zag journey to enter adulthood. After finishing their higher education stage, it is common for young people to transform into adults through work. This article aims to show the location of the concept of risk according to Beck in this transition process carried out by young people in Purwokerto, Indonesia. The method used in this article is descriptive qualitative with a literature study approach. The primary data sources in this article are 4 articles with the themes of young people and the risks of an incomplete higher education process, young people and the risks of digital work, and young people and the risks of creative work in the realm of contemporary arts. The findings of this article are that risks within young people's transition into adulthood can be found in the failure of higher education to connect with the "proper kind of work," the new type of work that involves a new space called digital space and the creative work of young people. This finding proves Beck's premise regarding the global generation of risk.

Keywords: youth, digital work, creative work, risk society, Indonesia

A. Introduction

In his book entitled "Metamorphosis of The World," Ulrich Beck introduces a new generation, namely the Global Risk Generation and Generation More (1). These generations are described as groups of young people who are part of the Risk Society (2), which emerged due to late capitalism in the modern era. In various sociological studies, young people are never interpreted as only a series of ages. Young people are interpreted as a transitional generation closely related to the risks resulting from late capitalism in the world of work (3,4). Young people are also considered a generation that often creates strategies to continue their lives through creative work (5,6). Lately, young people have been considered a generation closely related to creativity and authenticity (7,8).

To better understand the categorization of young people's terminology in sociological research, it is necessary to explain the epistemological meaning of youth. Although the debate has not yet ended, understanding young people as a generation and a social class is the best way. Young people as a generation are described as an age group with characteristics that characterize themselves. This age group usually changes every decade (9,10). As a generation, young people also need to be interpreted as a social class because of their specific characteristics, especially when faced with the economic and political choices around them (11,12).



From the explanation above, it can be understood that young people have a role as a generation and a class. If we look further, the concept of generation is sociologically related to the human transition period in social interaction. Sociologically, the human transition period begins in childhood. From that period, humans then moved towards youth. The next transition period is youth towards adulthood. The transition of youth toward adulthood can be achieved in several ways, first through higher education (13), second through the transition to work (3,4), and third through marriage (14).

The transition of young people to adulthood through higher education and employment are the two things that are most affected by the emergence of a Risk Society, as stated by Beck at the opening of this article. This is because late capitalism instantly influences higher education and employment. For example, it is common for young people to get jobs that are far from what they got from higher education. It is also not unusual for young people to end up spending the rest of their lives in work mechanisms and careers of jobs that are very far from the skills they got through higher education.

Through the explanation above, this article aims to show the locations where the risk of the transition period of young people to adulthood occurs. This article is essential because it offers a novelty that has not been done much by previous studies, showing the locations of risk, starting from higher education undertaken by young people. These new types of jobs are present through digital platforms, which can be called "creative" jobs that are very typical and closely related to young people. Through this novelty, this article provides a way to understand young people not only as a generation and class that is read only in numbers or statistical records without presenting the reality experienced in their daily lives as a generation that is trying to transition into a new generation through the mechanism of completing higher education and then working.

B. Methods

The method used in this article is descriptive qualitative. The method is a deep dive into the literature study approach. The approach is carried out by summarizing written sources such as journals, books, and other documents that define theories and provide information about the past and present to be organized based on the topics and documents needed (15,16). The written summary that is the primary data source in this article is articles published by the author in the period 2023-2024 with the central theme of the relations between youth and their workspace in general. After the data is collected and summarized, the author triangulates the articles used as primary sources. This triangulation includes triangulation of the theory used in the article as the primary data source. By triangulation, the analysis's credibility and authenticity (17) can be verified against the themes mentioned above.

From the sequence, four primary data sources were determined in the article, along with their categorization. First, an article entitled "The Behavior of Hustle Culture among Students in the Faculty of Social and Political Science, General Soedirman University" was summarized to track the risks experienced by young people in higher education (18). Second, an article entitled "Contextualization of Risk Society in the Reality of Digital Work in Purwokerto, Central Java, Indonesia" was summarized to track the risks in new workspaces on digital platforms (19). And lastly, two articles entitled "Urban space spatiality in Purwokerto, Central Java: Case from Gedung Soetedja" and "Youth Collective and Placemaking: Creation of Alternative Spaces by Heartcorner Collective, Purwokerto" were summarized to track the risks in creative work carried out by young people in Purwokerto (20,21).



C. Results And Discussion

1. First Location: Risk within High-Education

The first tracking of the risk location in this article is found in the higher education process of young people through universities. The primary data source for this tracking effort is an article entitled "The Behavior of Hustle Culture among Students in the Faculty of Social and Political Science, Jenderal Soedirman University," published in the International Journal of Multidisciplinary Sciences Volume 1, number 2, 2024. The article that used a quantitative method with 150 respondents from FISIP Unsoed students discusses three problems. The first is the encouragement to compile a digital portfolio among FISIP Unsoed students. Students compile this portfolio by participating in various online and offline trainings during their studies. Evidence of this portfolio compilation effort can be seen from the results of the study, which showed that 96% of respondents, or around 144 students, stated that compiling a portfolio is very important to support their efforts to work after graduating (18: p. 29).

The second problem discussed is the concern that the material obtained by students during lectures is too abstract and does not provide a practical understanding of the world of work later. To overcome this concern, students carry out internship mechanisms between lectures to gain social capital through work experience. This is proven by the data exposure of 86.7% or around 130 students stating that although social capital through theories delivered through lectures supports them to work, the theory will not be useful when they later become real workers (18: p. 30).

The third problem discussed is the normalization of a new way of working for students at FISIP Unsoed called "Hustle Culture." This way of working is how a young person is accustomed to being involved in multiple work mechanisms. The article states that 52.70% or 81 respondents at FISIP Unsoed are accustomed to doing work mixed with their daily lives to study for more than 4 to 8 hours a day (18: page 33). The duration is divided into 3 to 4 activities by 40.70% or 60 respondents (18: p. 35). In conclusion, the article draws the result that in the era of late capitalism, young people who are students are forced to do a new way of working to anticipate the perceptions and priorities that students have regarding the relationship between higher education and the jobs they will get through the transition process. This way of working then makes young people very vulnerable to the risks offered through new work mechanisms.

The findings in the article can be traced to previous research related to the risk society. First, research was conducted by Standing (22). In this research, the late capitalism era created a new working class, the precariat class, which is absorbed into Indonesian society as odd-job workers. Second, in research conducted by Bessant (10). This research re-reads Standing's concept of precariat workers with historical-sociological contextualization. This research states that it is normal in the late capitalist era for precariats to emerge and be accompanied by new types of work.

In the realm of higher education, these new risky work patterns can be directly related to the official policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture, namely Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM). In her research, Nurliana explicitly mentions that students who undertake the MBKM internship program at Gadjah Mada University experience vulnerability regarding hours and workload, wages, and social protection guarantees (23). Similar findings were found in research conducted by Bhakti et al. (24) and Hastangka & Hidayah (25). The two studies stated that the MBKM policy is problematic because it puts slightly exploitative pressure on the students who implement it.

2. Second Location: Risk within "New Type of Work"

The second risk location in this article is found in the new types of jobs that have emerged due to digitalization and platformization. The primary data source for this tracking effort is an



article entitled "Contextualization of Risk Society in the Reality of Digital Work in Purwokerto, Central Java, Indonesia," published in *Revista Nuestramerica* Volume 22 December 2023. Three main things are discussed in the article that operate a mixed method with informants from 40 digital workers in the transportation and freelance sectors in Purwokerto. First is the contextualization of Risk Society as a gig economy (19: p. 5-6). This term can be explained as an economy that makes people involved in it not have certain ability specifications to work and are not tied to just one type of job (26,27). In practice, the gig economy does not make the workers involved who benefit. On the contrary, it makes them precariat, as Standing (22) and Bessant (10) stated.

Both gig economies then create traps for the workers involved in them. The trap occurs in three ways. First, a deskilling trap (19: page 8-9). The term deskilling is interpreted as a decrease in aspects of worker capabilities, which include (1) Making work more accessible to do; (2) Limiting the need for skilled labor by simplifying work and making workers easily replaced by other workers or machines; (3) Lowering job specifications from those requiring skilled labor to semi-skilled or even unskilled labor; and (4) Training of workers is replaced by the use of technology that is specifically able to control worker behavior through providing payment incentives, monitoring systems, as well as standard operating procedures (28). Second is the platformization of workspace (19: p. 9-11). Platformization comes from efforts to change conservative workspaces into digital workspaces. However, this change is not accompanied by guarantees of rights in this change. As a result, in platformization, workers' rights are often violated, especially regarding working hours and wages (29,30). And the last is the dependence on algorithms in digital platforms. In gig economy practice, algorithms can be equated with equal opportunity. However, algorithms are also not free from employer preferences to exploit their workers (31–33).

Third, when modernity, which is the cause of late capitalism and creates a risky society, cannot be controlled through the reflexivity of the authority of power, then what happens is a reduction in the role of that power, in this case, the government through its public policies. As a concrete example of this collaboration, it is reflected as a policy to establish a creative economy as a new economic mainstream (19: p. 14-15). This policy is a national policy that must be implemented at the regional level. However, because it was established haphazardly, this policy makes the workers involved in it part of the Risk Society.

3. Third Location: Risk within Creative Work

The third risk location in this article was found in the creative work carried out by young people. The primary data source for this tracking effort is an article entitled "Urban space spatiality in Purwokerto, Central Java: Case from Gedung Soetedja" published in the *Sosiohumaniora Journal* Volume 10 (1) 2024 and "Youth Collective and Placemaking: Creation of Alternative Spaces by Heartcorner Collective, Purwokerto" published in the *Innovative Research Journal* Volume 4 Number 2 in 2024. Both articles use a descriptive qualitative research method with a case study approach. The main informant of both articles is a young people collective called Heartcorner Collective. The collective is a group of young people from Jenderal Soedirman University. After graduating from college, they tried to do creative work (34) in the form of do-it-yourself music production and distribution.

The two articles mention two forms of risk young people face when transitioning to adulthood through creative work. The first is the mismatch between the skills acquired during higher education and the work they are currently doing. Therefore, young people in the Heartcorner Collective rely on the social capital they have gained outside of higher education to support this work. This social capital is in the form of networks and independent learning methods to understand a social practice, which, precisely in the two articles, is in the form of do-it-yourself music production and distribution (20: p. 125, 21: p. 208).



Second, young people must make some efforts to create their workspace. This is because, as a district city or city referred to by Van Klinken as a provincial city (35), Purwokerto has many shortcomings in the facilities and infrastructure to support various activities compared to metropolitan cities. The most obvious consequence of the risk of creating their workspace is the absence of a proper workspace. Both articles show evidence of this. The first article shows that the young people lost their proper workspace with the relocation of the performance space called Gedung Soetedja by the Banyumas Regency government in 2017 (20: p. 128).

In the second article, young people who choose to work creatively must carry out the process of creating workspaces or placemaking in spaces that are considered inappropriate (21: p. 209-2013)

D. Conclusion

This article aims to contextualize Beck's premise regarding the existence of global generation risk and generation more, which departs from the premise of risk society. By providing a specific emphasis on one generation, namely young people, it will be possible to find where the existence of global generation risk and generation more is. The two generations are depicted in young people who are trying to undergo transition efforts towards adulthood through higher education that does not provide specific provisions for transitioning towards adulthood through the world of work, the existence of new types of work that are very likely to be faced by young people after completing higher education in the form of digital work and creative work. This proves that the efforts of young people trying to transition are always followed by risks caused by late capitalism.

As a chronological sequence of research planned as ongoing research, this article is expected to be a medium to convey a summary of the author's initial findings in the first year. Furthermore, the author will continue to examine various forms of risk experienced by young people when transitioning towards adulthood through other mediums in the second year of his research. With such a sequence, it is hoped that a broader picture will be obtained to understand three things. First, the transition of young people towards adulthood through higher education and work; second, to understand young people as a generation as well as a social class; and third, the strategies carried out by young people when facing the transition to new types of jobs that contain risks through the mechanism of separating the notion of work and carrier.

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