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ARTICLE

Enhancing Farmers' Quality of Life through Social Trust: A Case Study of Karangpatihan Village, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This study highlights the pivotal role of social trust in enhancing farmers' quality of life (QoL) in Karangpatihan Village, Indonesia. Utilizing Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), the research examines the influence of social trust on various QoL dimensions, finding significant impacts across all aspects, with the strongest effect on health and safety. The results emphasize the importance of fostering social trust to bolster adaptive strategies, such as adopting innovative farming techniques, optimizing resource use, and encouraging collaboration among farmers. Strengthening social capital in rural agricultural communities is vital for ensuring food security and long-term economic resilience. This research contributes to the existing body of literature on social capital by identifying trust as a crucial determinant of QoL in rural settings. The findings carry substantial policy implications, indicating that initiatives aimed at building trust are essential for enhancing farmers' well-being.

Keywords: Farmers; Quality of Life (QoL); Rural Development; Social Capital; Trust

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1. Introduction

The agricultural sector in Indonesia has shown steady growth, with a contribution of 13.28% to the national economy in 2022, and further growth of 1.37% mid-year [1]. Despite these economic contributions, Indonesian farmers face significant challenges that negatively impact their QoL. The well-being of farmers is critical not only to their individual livelihoods but also to national food security. However, factors such as industrialization, climate change, and land conversion threaten food production and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities [2, 3]. Furthermore, an aging agricultural workforce and urban migration among younger generations have reduced labor availability in rural areas [4]. Land ownership inequality also remains a pressing issue due to its substantial influence on farmers' subjective well-being [5, 6].

In response to these challenges, the government has implemented various initiatives, including subsidies and extension services, aimed at boosting productivity [7]. However, these efforts have had limited success in addressing the underlying social and structural issues that affect farmers' QoL. Previous policies have largely focused on economic output and technical support but have often overlooked the role of social capital, particularly trust, in shaping the well-being of farming communities. Well-being is a multifaceted concept that is often assessed using both subjective and objective measures. Subjective measures reflect individuals' personal perceptions of their life circumstances, including factors such as health, happiness, and financial stability, whereas objective measures focus on observable indicators like income, living conditions, and environmental quality [8].

In the context of rural farming communities, subjective well-being is significantly shaped by both internal factors (e.g., financial stability, work satisfaction, and health) and external factors (e.g., social relationships and environmental conditions). In rural communities where resources are limited, the subjective nature of well-being is often influenced by factors such as access to land, social relationships, and the ability to adapt to environmental challenges [9]. Therefore, subjective measures of well-being, including perceptions of social trust, are essential to understanding the QoL in agricultural contexts. Social capital, particularly trust, is an essential component of well-being in rural communities. Trust facilitates cooperation among farmers, enables the sharing of resources and knowledge, and enhances the community's ability to adapt to environmental and economic challenges [10, 11].

Social trust is an important element of social capital, which serves as a foundation for cooperative behavior and collective action in communities. In rural farming communities, especially in areas with challenging agricultural conditions such as drylands, social trust plays a critical role in fostering networks that enable resource pooling, knowledge sharing, and adoption of innovative practices. These networks are essential in supporting farmers as they navigate challenges, including those posed by climate variability and economic pressures [12, 13].

Karangpatihan Village, a dryland farming community, faces multiple challenges in maintaining agricultural productivity and ensuring the well-being of its residents. Understanding the role of social trust in this community is critical, as it can significantly impact their ability to improve agricultural performance and enhance quality of life (QoL). This study investigates the relationship between trust as a component of social capital, namely trust and QoL of farmers in Karangpatihan Village. By examining the dynamics of trust in local social capital networks, this study aims to explain how trust affects not only agricultural productivity but also the well-being of the wider rural farming community.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Trust and Farmers' Societies

Trust is a foundational element of social capital, defined as the expectation that individuals in a community will adhere to established social norms and act in ways that are honest and cooperative [14]. Trust enables individuals to work together, reducing transactional barriers and information asymmetries, which are particularly relevant in agrarian communities where cooperation is crucial to survival [15]. In rural farming societies, trust forms the basis for social cohesion, facilitating col-

laboration, reducing social conflict, and enhancing collective problem-solving capabilities [16, 17]. In the context of farmers' societies, trust is vital for fostering cooperative relationships that can lead to higher productivity and improved social welfare. Trust influences the way farmers engage in joint initiatives, such as shared use of resources, collective farming activities, and community-led agricultural innovation [18]. Studies have demonstrated that trust strengthens farmers' participation in these collective endeavors, increasing the likelihood of resource-sharing and cooperative decision-making [19]. In Senegal for example, trust fostered through collective commercialization training significantly enhanced cooperation and strengthened social networks within producer organizations, contributing to more resilient agricultural practices [20].

Additionally, trust is a critical factor in shaping social networks that provide access to resources, information, and support, which are essential for mitigating the risks associated with farming [21]. These social networks enable farmers to collectively respond to external challenges, such as climate change or economic fluctuations, by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of costs and responsibilities. These networks serve as vital community assets, characterized by trust, norms, and shared values that bind farmers together in their pursuit of mutual goals [22, 23]. As a result, trust serves as a social lubricant, enabling the smooth functioning of cooperative activities, which ultimately leads to higher agricultural productivity and improved resilience [24]. Despite its benefits, trust in farmers' societies is not uniform across communities. Trust levels can differ significantly due to variations in social structures, economic conditions, and historical experiences [25, 26]. For example, trust may be higher in communities with strong cooperative institutions or those that have participated in shared resource management for extended periods [27]. Studies by Abdulai and Huffman found that social trust directly impacts the adoption of agricultural innovations, as farmers in trust-based networks are more willing to engage in risk-taking and experiment with new techniques or technologies [28]. This willingness to innovate, in turn, boosts agricultural productivity, economic sustainability, and, crucially, the overall quality of life within the community. However, a gap remains in understanding how these trust-based interactions influence broader socio-economic outcomes, such as well-being and life satisfaction.

2.2. Trust and Quality of Life (QoL)

Quality of Life (QoL) is a multi-dimensional concept that encompasses both material and non-material aspects of well-being, including income, health, education, safety, emotional satisfaction, and social relationships [29]. QoL in rural farming communities is particularly shaped by a combination of objective factors such as access to healthcare, income levels, and infrastructure and subjective factors, including perceptions of happiness, community trust, and social support [30, 31]. In these contexts, trust plays an essential role in shaping both the objective and subjective dimensions of QoL. Social trust within farming communities influences QoL by creating an environment where collaboration, mutual support, and community engagement can flourish. When farmers trust one another, they are more likely to share resources, cooperate in joint projects, and participate in community-based initiatives, all of which contribute to better living conditions and higher life satisfaction [32]. Social cohesion derived from trust reduces the sense of isolation, a common challenge in rural areas, and fosters emotional well-being through strong interpersonal [33, 34]. These relationships of mutual trust create a support network that can act as a buffer against economic hardships, health crises, or environmental challenges, thus improving both the material and emotional aspects of QoL.

Moreover, trust encourages farmers to invest in their communities by participating in social and economic development activities, such as infrastructure projects, healthcare initiatives, and educational programs. These investments contribute to the overall well-being of the community, creating a positive feedback loop where trust enhances QoL, and improved QoL, in turn, strengthens trust among community members [35]. Research by Kehinde et al (2021) shows that communities with higher levels of trust tend to have better access to public goods, more robust social safety nets, and greater participation in local governance, all of which

enhance QoL. Trust also plays a significant role in mitigating the negative effects of external shocks on QoL. In farming communities, economic and environmental challenges such as market price fluctuations, climate change, or natural disasters can significantly impact livelihoods. However, farmers who are embedded in trust-based social networks are better able to cope with these challenges through collective action and resource-sharing mechanisms [36]. Collective actions such as sharing tools and resources, building essential infrastructure such as roads or irrigation systems, etc. All of these activities rely on trust and cooperation, helping everyone in the community to benefit and live a better life. These networks provide a platform for disseminating information about adaptation strategies, sharing best practices, and collectively investing in innovations that can mitigate risks and improve resilience. Consequently, trust not only enhances agricultural productivity but also safeguards the community's overall well-being during times of crisis.

Finally, trust influences QoL by promoting social inclusion and reducing inequality. In many rural communities, marginalized groups such as women, youth, or landless farmers may face barriers to participation in agricultural decision-making or resource allocation [37]. However, trust-based networks tend to be more inclusive, allowing for greater participation of these groups in cooperative activities [38]. This inclusivity ensures that the benefits of collective action and resource-sharing are distributed more equitably, improving QoL across the community and fostering a more cohesive, resilient society. The relationship between trust and QoL in farming communities is well-documented, with numerous studies highlighting how trust facilitates cooperation, enhances agricultural productivity, and improves socio-economic well-being. However, gaps remain in understanding the long-term sustainability of trust-based interactions and their broader implications for community resilience and development. Few studies have examined how trust evolves over time in response to changing economic, environmental, and social conditions, or how it can be institutionalized to ensure the continued improvement of QoL. This study aims to address these gaps by focusing on Karangpatihan Village, Indonesia, as a case study to explore the mechanisms through which trust influences QoL in a rural farming context. By investigating the role of trust in shaping both the material and emotional well-being of farmers, this research seeks to contribute to the broader literature on social capital, agricultural development, and rural sustainability.

3. Method

The data for this research were obtained through a structured questionnaire administered to predetermined respondents. The variable used in this research is the Social Capital Variable in the form of Trust as the dependent variable. Then, namely QoL as an independent variable with several sub variables, namely material, community, emotional, health and security welfare. Each of these variables and sub-variables has the following indicators (**Figure 1**). Each indicator is scored from 1 to 5 (Strongly disagree; Disagree; Neutral; Agree; Strongly agree). The questionnaire collected information on respondents' included items to measure social trust, which is a key component of social capital.

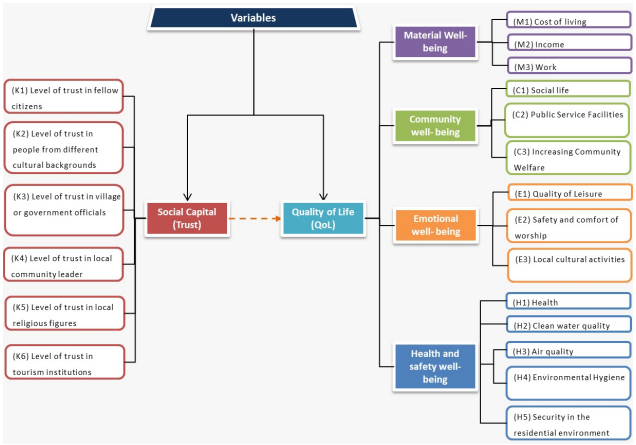

Figure 1. Variables, sub variables, and indicators.

The sample size for the study was determined using the Krejcie-Morgan formula (5%), which is commonly used in survey research to estimate an appropriate sample size for a given population. In Karangpatihan Village, there are 696 families working as farmers, and the final sample size was set at 250 respondents, selected through random sampling across four hamlets within the village. The analysis in this study was conducted using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), specifically

with Partial Least Squares (PLS) 3.0 software. SEM was chosen due to its ability to assess complex relationships between multiple independent and dependent variables simultaneously. In this study, SEM is particularly useful for understanding the influence of social capital, represented by trust, on the QoL of farmers. SEM allows for the modeling of both direct and indirect relationships between variables, making it ideal for studies involving latent constructs like social capital and QoL.

4. Results

4.1. General Description of Karangpatihan Village

Karangpatihan Village, situated in the Balong District of Ponorogo Regency, East Java, Indonesia, serves as an insightful case study for examining the role of social trust in enhancing the QoL of its farming community (**Figure 2**). An aspect that distinguishes Karangpatihan Village is the presence of a sizable population of individuals with intellectual disabilities, colloquially referred to as the "idiot community" in local [39]. According to official village records, there are 42 families with members diagnosed with intellectual disabilities, contributing to the village's unique social and economic structure. Beyond these families, the village consists of approximately 893 households, with 89 individuals classified as people with disabilities (ODK—Orang Dengan Kecacatan). The village's economy is primarily agrarian, with the majority of residents engaged in farming or working as agricultural laborers. Agriculture, which includes both crop farming and livestock rearing, forms the backbone of the village's economy. The residents of Karangpatihan typically spend their days cultivating fields, which serve as the primary source of income for most households. Crops grown in the village include staple foods such as rice and maize, with cultivation methods following traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations. However, modern interventions, supported by both government and non-governmental organizations, have gradually been introduced to improve productivity and sustainability.

In addition to crop farming, livestock plays a critical role in supporting livelihoods. Many households raise animals such as goats and chickens, while a smaller number keep cows. Livestock not only serves as a supplementary source of income but also as an economic safety net for the villagers. The rearing of goats and chickens is particularly widespread, with most households managing small-scale, family-run farms. This diversified approach to agriculture enhances the resilience of the village's economy, especially in the face of fluctuating agricultural yields due to weather conditions and market prices. Another significant aspect of the local economy is aquaculture, specifically catfish farming. This initiative, spearheaded by the village government, is aimed at empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing them with the means to contribute to the community's economy. The catfish farming project is one of the social trust mechanisms that help integrate these individuals into the village's economic activities. Each person with intellectual disabilities is given a fish pond to manage, making this project a vital source of income and an important pillar of the local economy. This initiative reflects the community's commitment to inclusivity and social welfare, creating a system where even the most vulnerable members can participate in and benefit from economic development.

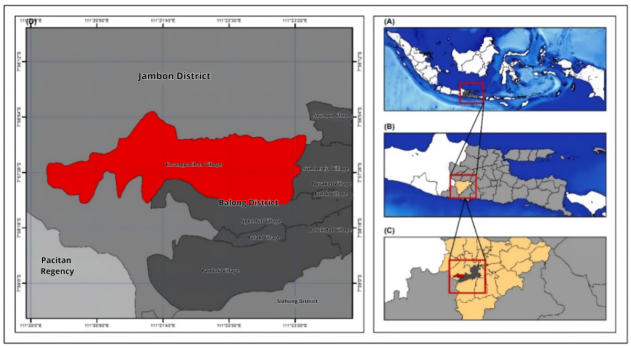

Figure 2. Karangpatihan Village administrative map.

The village's approach to integrating individuals with disabilities into the workforce through catfish farming is particularly noteworthy. This socially inclusive economic model demonstrates how social trust and community-based support can be leveraged to enhance the QoL for all residents, including those with disabilities. The success of this initiative also highlights the potential for replication in other rural areas facing similar socioeconomic challenges. Furthermore, Karangpati-

han Village benefits from a close-knit community structure, where strong social bonds facilitate mutual support and collective action. The traditional values of cooperation, shared responsibility, and collective ownership have been instrumental in sustaining the village's agricultural economy and fostering social cohesion. This sense of social trust not only aids in economic resilience but also contributes to the overall well-being of the village's population, making it an essential factor in improving their QoL.

4.2. Respondent Characteristics

The survey involved a total of 375 respondents in Karangpatihan Village, which spans across four hamlets: Krajan Hamlet, Bibis Hamlet, Bendo Hamlet, and Tulisreko Hamlet. Based on **Table 1**, the respondents were mostly male, comprising 79% of the total, with 296 male respondents compared to 79 female respondents (21%). The predominance of male respondents reflects the community's demographic and livelihood patterns, as most of the men in the village work as land-owning farmers and livestock breeders, which accounts for 76% of the sample. In terms of age distribution, 89% of the respondents fall into the working-age group (15–64 years old), while the elderly group (above 65 years) represents 11% of the total. There were no respondents from the education-age group (0–14 years), as expected given the survey's focus on working adults and the elderly population.

The respondents' educational backgrounds varied significantly, with 52% having only an elementary school equivalent education, which indicates a relatively low level of formal education within the village. A smaller proportion, 19%, completed middle school, while 16% finished high school, and only 1% had completed a bachelor's degree (S1). This distribution suggests that educational attainment in the village is skewed toward lower levels, which could have an impact on respondents' agricultural practices, decision-making, and overall economic performance. Regarding employment, the majority of respondents (284 individuals, or 76%) identified as land-owning farmers and ranchers, reflecting the agrarian nature of the community. Another 16 respondents (4%) were employed as farm workers, and smaller percentages were either private employees (9%) or did not work (7 respondents). Additionally, there were two civil servants among the respondents, representing a marginal proportion.

Table 1. Characteristics of respondents.

Information	Amount
Gender	
Man	296
Woman	79
Age	
Education age group (0–14 years)	0
Working group (15–64 years)	334
Elderly group (>65 years)	41
Last education	
Non formal education/ Did not attend school	38
Elementary school (Equivalent)	188
Middle school (Equivalent)	73
High school (Equivalent)	62
Bachelor's degree (S1)	4
Work	
Land owner farmers and ranchers	284
Farm workers	16
Civil servants	2
Private employees	34
Does not work	7
Other	32
Participation in Farmer Groups	
Yes	250
No	125
Income based on UMR	
>IDR 2,149,709,-	210
<IDR 2,149,709,-	165

Source: Analysis results, 2023.

Participation in farmer groups is critical for optimizing agricultural yields and enhancing the collective knowledge of farming practices. In Karangpatihan Village, 85% of the respondents (250 farmers) were active members of farmer groups, which often support not only crop production but also livestock management. These groups play a pivotal role in enhancing agricultural efficiency and community cohesion as the farmer groups help build a sense of unity and cooperation, where members share knowledge, help each other with farming challenges, and improve their livelihoods together. This teamwork makes the community stronger and more connected, helping everyone achieve better farming results and overall well-being. However, 15% of respondents were not affiliated with any farmer group, which may indicate barriers to access or personal choice. Income levels among the respondents varied, with 44% earn-

ing above the regional minimum wage for Ponorogo Regency, which is set at IDR 2,149,709. However, the remaining 56% of respondents earned below this threshold. This income disparity highlights the economic challenges faced by a significant portion of the population, which may be linked to their lower levels of education and reliance on subsistence farming practices.

4.3. Relationship between Trust and QoL of Karangpatihan Village Farmers

4.3.1. Outer Model of Trust and QoL

In this study, Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was utilized to assess the outer model between the Trust (K) and QoL variables of farmers in Karangpatihan Village. The primary objective of CFA is to evaluate the measurement model by validating the relationships between observed indicators and their underlying latent constructs. This process involves testing the indicator validity and ensuring that the measurement model is reliable and valid for hypothesis testing and structural model estimation.

The outer model analysis employed the factor loading criteria where an indicator is considered valid if its factor loading is greater than 0.7. Indicators with a loading factor below 0.7 are deemed invalid and must be eliminated to improve model reliability and overall validity. In this study, the initial CFA results revealed several indicators that fell below the 0.7 threshold and were subsequently excluded to enhance model fit. Specifically, the following indicators were eliminated. After refining the model through indicator elimination, reliability testing was conducted. The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) was calculated for each latent construct to assess convergent validity. The AVE represents the average amount of variance that a construct captures from its indicators relative to the variance due to measurement error. To meet the acceptable standard for reliability, the AVE should be greater than 0.5.

In the first stage of CFA (**Figure 3a**), several AVE values did not meet the reliability standard. In the second stage of CFA, as depicted in **Figure 3b**, the model was reassessed after eliminating the invalid indicators. All remaining indicators exhibited factor loadings greater than 0.7, thereby confirming their validity. Moreover, reliability testing at this stage showed that all constructs met the AVE threshold of 0.5, demonstrating adequate convergent validity and internal consistency across the model. The improvement in AVE values across all variables suggests that the model now more accurately reflects the underlying relationships between trust and QoL for Karangpatihan farmers. The overall trust construct, represented by reliable indicators, significantly contributes to various dimensions of QoL.

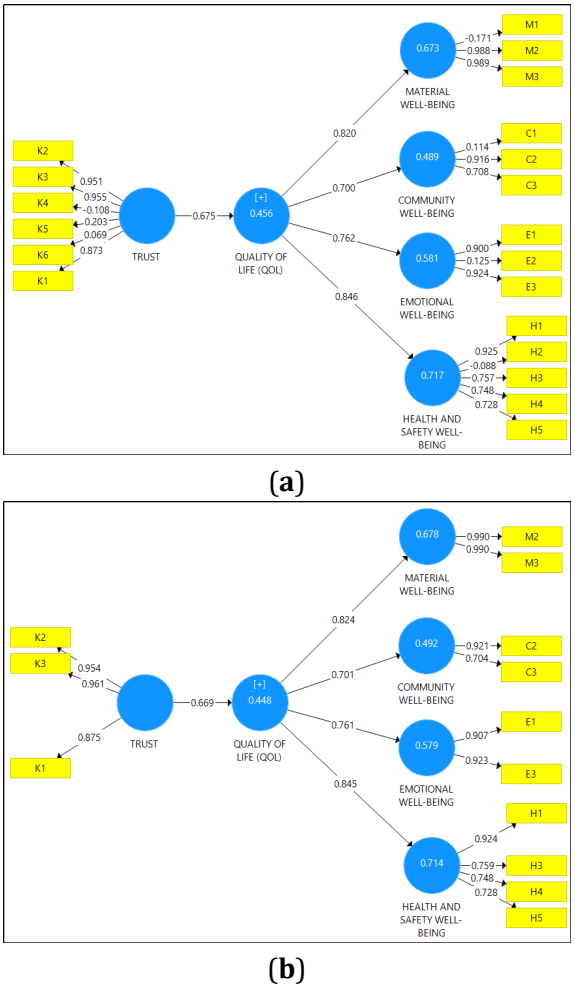

Figure 3. (**a**) The first stage and (**b**) the second stage of CFA of Trust and QoL.

Ensuring that the structural equation model meets the required fit criteria is critical for validating the reliability and applicability of the model in this research. Based on the guidelines, several goodness-of-fit indices are typically used to evaluate model fit, with specific thresholds for each metric as follows RMS Theta (Root

Mean Square Theta): Values less than 0.102 indicate a good fit. SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Square Residual): The acceptable threshold is typically < 0.10 or in some cases < 0.08 for a more stringent criterion. NFI (Normed Fit Index): Values greater than 0.9 suggest an adequate model fit[40, 41]. As shown in **Table 2**, the results from both CFA Stage 1 and CFA Stage 2 indicate that the model progressively improved through the validation process, meeting the recommended fit criteria at both stages.

Table 2. Loading factor values.

Variable	Symbol	Loading Factor Value	Information	Loading Factor Value	Information
		Stage I		**Stage 2**	
Trust	K1	0.873	Valid	0.875	Valid
	K2	0.951	Valid	0.954	Valid
	K3	0.955	Valid	0.961	Valid
	K4	−0.108	Invalid		
	K5	0.203	Invalid		
	K6	0.069	Invalid		
Material well-being	M1	−0.171	Invalid		
	M2	0.988	Valid	0.990	Valid
	M3	0.989	Valid	0.990	Valid
Community well- being	C1	0.114	Invalid		
	C2	0.916	Valid	0.921	Valid
	C3	0.708	Valid	0.704	Valid
Emotional well-being	E1	0.900	Valid	0.907	Valid
	E2	0.125	Invalid		
	E3	0.924	Valid	0.923	Valid
Health and safety well-being	H1	0.925	Valid	0.924	Valid
	H2	−0.088	Invalid		
	H3	0.757	Valid	0.759	Valid
	H4	0.748	Valid	0.748	Valid
	H5	0.728	Valid	0.728	Valid

Source: Analysis results, 2023.

The second stage of CFA yielded a model that met all the critical fit criteria, providing stronger support for the overall validity of the constructs in the measurement model (**Table 3**). Given these results, the final model from CFA Stage 2 was selected as the basis for analyzing the relationship between Trust and QoL in the context of the farmers in Karangpatihan Village. The successful confirmation of model fit across two stages of CFA demonstrates the robustness of the model in explaining the relationship between social trust and the QoL of farmers. The model's final form, validated by rigorous fit indices, confirms that social trust is a critical predictor of various dimensions of QoL, including material well-being, community well-being, emotional well-being, and health and safety well-being.

4.3.2. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)

In this research, SEM was employed to test the relationships between the latent variables, specifically the relationship between Trust and the QoL of farmers in Karangpatihan Village. The SEM analysis was refined through bootstrapping, as shown in **Figure 4**, which involved re-sampling to estimate the precision of the SEM coefficients. During this process, several manifest indicators were removed due to invalidity based on their loading factors, improving the model fit and enhancing the reliability of the remaining indicators. This iterative process resulted in a robust SEM that accurately captured the underlying relationships between trust and various dimensions of QoL. As demonstrated in **Table 4**, the effect of Trust on QoL produced a path coefficient value of 0.669 (66.9%), indicating a statistically significant relationship at the 5% significance level (t-statistic

Table 3. Goodness of fit test.

GoFi Index	CFA Stage 1	Classification	CFA Stage 2	Classification
SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Square)	0.023	Good fit	0.089	Good fit
NFI (Normed Fit Index)	0.222	Good fit	0.541	Good fit
RMS Theta	0.031	Good fit	0.026	Good fit

> 1.96). This path coefficient highlights that trust plays a critical role in shaping the QoL of farmers in Karangpatihan Village. Additionally, trust also exhibited significant indirect effects on the four dimensions of QoL. Among these, the strongest indirect effect was observed between trust and health and safety well-being, with a path coefficient of 0.845 (84.5%), suggesting that trust heavily influences farmers' perceptions of their health and safety in the village.

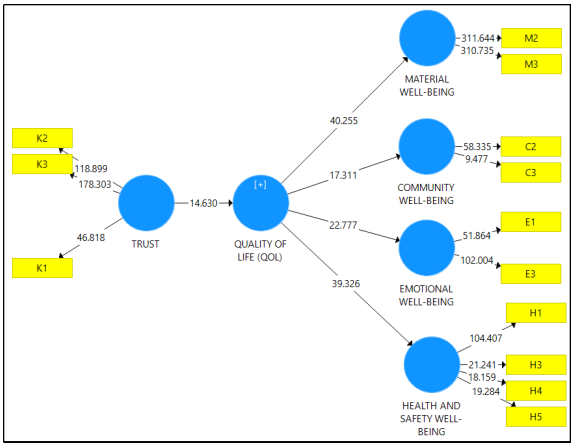

Figure 4. Bootstrapping model.

The R^2 value, which measures the proportion of variance in the endogenous variable (QoL) that is explained by the exogenous variable (Trust), was calculated at 0.207. This indicates that Trust explains 20.7% of the variance in QoL among farmers in Karangpatihan Village. This is a moderately strong R^2 value, suggesting that while trust is a key determinant of QoL, other external factors may also contribute significantly to QoL outcomes in this context. The SEM results provide significant insights into the critical role of trust in enhancing various aspects of farmers' QoL in Karangpatihan Village. The findings highlight that trust exerts both direct and indirect effects on key well-being dimensions, particularly in terms of health and safety, emotional stability, and material conditions. These results offer valuable evidence for policymakers and rural development agencies to focus on building trust within farming communities as a pathway to improving overall well-being.

5. Discussion

The findings of this study emphasize the critical role that social trust plays in enhancing the QoL among farmers in Karangpatihan Village. These results corroborate existing literature on social capital, which identifies trust as a key component in promoting social cohesion, economic growth, and well-being in rural settings [42, 43]. The relationship between trust and material well-being highlightings that trust directly impacts farmers' economic conditions. High levels of trust among farmers facilitate the exchange of agricultural knowledge, resources, and best practices, which contribute to improved productivity and income. In this study, 56% of farmers reported incomes exceeding the minimum wage of IDR 2,149,709, demonstrating that trust fosters collaborative efforts in adopting new technologies and farming methods. These outcomes align with previous research, suggesting that trust serves as a mechanism for fostering resilience and innovation within agricultural communities [44, 45]. Trust also positively impacts community welfare. The study demonstrates that trust in fellow farmers and government institutions has led to improvements in public services and infrastructure. This is consistent with [31, 43]. The concept of social capital highlights trust as a key facilitator of cooperation and collective action in communities.

Trust also has a profound impact on the emotional well-being of farmers in Karangpatihan Village. High levels of trust within the community foster a sense of security, belonging, and emotional support [46, 47]. This trust enables farmers to participate more fully in social and cultural activities, which enhances their emotional stability and life satisfaction. These findings are in line with the work of [48, 49], who noted the role of trust in enhanc-

Table 4. Direct/indirect effect model value.

Direct/ Indirect Effect	Original Sample	T-Statistic	P-Value
Quality of Life (QoL) -> Community well-being	0.701	17,311	0.000
Quality of Life (QoL) -> Emotional well-being	0.761	22,777	0.000
Quality of Life (QoL) -> Health and safety well-being	0.845	39,326	0.000
Quality of Life (QoL) -> well-being materials	0.824	40,255	0.000
Trust -> Community well-being	0.469	10,023	0.000
Trust -> Emotional well-being	0.509	10,535	0.000
Trust -> Health and safety well-being	0.566	12,432	0.000
Trust -> Material well-being	0.551	12,507	0.000
Trust -> Quality of Life (QoL)	0.669	14,630	0.000

Source: Analysis results, 2023.

ing emotional resilience and social cohesion within communities. One of the strongest relationships identified in this study is between trust and health and safety well-being. Trust among farmers and in public institutions plays a crucial role in maintaining environmental cleanliness, ensuring food security, and improving access to public health services. Farmers who trust each other are more likely to engage in collective actions that promote a healthier and safer environment, including efforts to improve air quality, sanitation, and overall environmental cleanliness.

The findings of this study offer several practical implications for policymakers and rural development practitioners. First, the results underscore the importance of trust-building initiatives in rural development. Trust among community members, as well as between farmers and government institutions, is a vital factor in improving various dimensions of QoL. Policymakers should prioritize the development of programs that promote participatory decision-making, transparency, and collaboration, as these can strengthen social capital and enhance community welfare. While this study offers valuable insights into the relationship between trust and QoL, it has several limitations. The research focuses primarily on trust as a dimension of social capital, overlooking other aspects such as social networks, reciprocity, and shared norms. Future research should take a more holistic approach by examining the interactions between trust, social networks, and community norms to provide a more comprehensive understanding of social capital's role in shaping QoL.

Future research should explore the role of trust among other agricultural stakeholders, such as tenant farmers, local businesses, and cooperatives, to provide a broader understanding of trust's influence on the agricultural sector. Incorporating these perspectives could yield valuable insights into how trust operates within the wider agricultural economy and how it can be leveraged to improve rural livelihoods. These findings provide valuable evidence for policymakers and rural development practitioners to prioritize trust-building initiatives as a key strategy for improving the well-being of farming communities. By strengthening trust between farmers, community leaders, and government institutions, rural development programs can be more effective, equitable, and sustainable.

6. Conclusions

This study highlights the crucial role of social trust in enhancing the quality of life (QoL) of farmers in Karangpatihan Village, Indonesia. Utilizing Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), the research demonstrates that social trust has a significant positive impact on various dimensions of QoL, with the strongest effects observed in health and safety. The findings suggest that fostering social trust is essential for encouraging adaptive strategies among farmers, such as adopting innovative farming techniques, optimizing resource use, and enhancing collaboration, which collectively improve agricultural productivity and economic resilience. One limitation of this study is its focus on trust as a single component of social capital. Future research should explore other dimensions, such as social networks and norms, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of social capital's role in improving QoL. For policymakers,

the results underscore the importance of integrating trust-building strategies into rural development initiatives. Strengthening social trust between farmers, local authorities, and community leaders can lead to more effective collaboration and long-term improvements in farmers' QoL. Initiatives that encourage collective action, resource sharing, and support for agricultural innovations are key to fostering sustainable development in rural farming communities.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization, G.P., A.T.N. and I.R.D.A.; methodology, A.T.N. and G.P.; software, L.I.I.; validation, G.P., R.P. and A.S.; formal analysis, G.P., S.H.F. and A.P.S.; investigation, G.P., S.A.N.; resources, G.P., F.F.N.; data curation, G.P., A.T.N. and R.P.; writing—original draft preparation, G.P., I.R.D.A. and A.S.; writing—review and editing, G.P., S.H.F. and L.I.I.; visualization, G.P., S.A.N. and A.P.S.; supervision, G.P., A.T.N. and F.F.N.; project administration, G.P., I.R.D.A. and A.T.N.; funding acquisition, G.P. and A.T.N. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Institutional Review Board Statement

Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was obtained all subjects involved in the study. Written informed consent has been obtained from the farmers to publish this paper.

Data Availability Statement

The questionnaire used in gathering the data as well as the data sets used in the analysis that support the research findings are available with the author.

Conflicts of Interest

The author is not conflict interest regarding this submission. Then, the funders had no role in the study's design; in the collection, analysis, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; or in the decision to publish the results.

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