

Why did poultry slaughter men move to Rawa Lele and Rawa Kepiting and what are the (dis)advantages?

Coen van Wagenberg, Peter van Horne, Wageningen Economic Research, the Netherlands
 Rajali Yahya, Indonesia
 DIFS-Live project, August 2017

Introduction

With the Regional Regulation/perda No. 4 year 2007, the government of Jakarta implemented legislation to prohibit the slaughter of poultry in residential neighbourhoods in Jakarta City. For slaughter men that slaughter their poultry in such neighbourhoods, the government built slaughter facilities in designated locations around the city. In 2017, only part of the estimated 600-800 poultry slaughter men in Jakarta had moved to such government slaughter locations. This study aims to analyse why these slaughter men moved there and what they see as advantages and disadvantages of such government locations. Therefore, broiler slaughter men at two of these government slaughter locations, Rawa Lele and Rawa Kepiting, were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire during a field visit from 17 to 28 April 2017.

Respondents

At Rawa Lele, seven slaughter men were interviewed, and at Rawa Kepiting nine. Eleven interviews were with the owner of the company, three with relatives of the owner, and two with a supervisor. The average age of the respondents was 41 years. Thirteen respondents lived close to the slaughter location, less than an hour travelling time from the slaughter location (one way), and three between one and two hours traveling time. Workers of the companies lived closer to the slaughter location than the respondent. The vast majority, 13 out of 15 (one company had only one worker, the owner), lived at less than 15 minutes travelling time from the slaughter location. Especially at Rawa Kepiting, many were living in the direct surroundings of the slaughter location at less than five minutes travelling time.

The size of the respondents' companies varied between 100 and 6,500 broilers handled per day (Figure 1). The smaller companies (less than 1,000 per day) slaughtered all handled broilers. Many of the larger companies (over 1,000 per day) slaughtered only part of the handled broilers, the rest they sold as live birds. At Rawa Kepiting, three large companies (3,000 and 6,000 broilers per day) slaughtered all handled broilers. All companies slaughtered during the night, seven days a week. The majority started between 20.00 and 23.00 hours, and worked continuously until somewhere between 4.00 to 7.00 hours in the morning, because they wanted to deliver fresh/warm chicken to the customer early in the morning. During the day time, no slaughter activities took place.

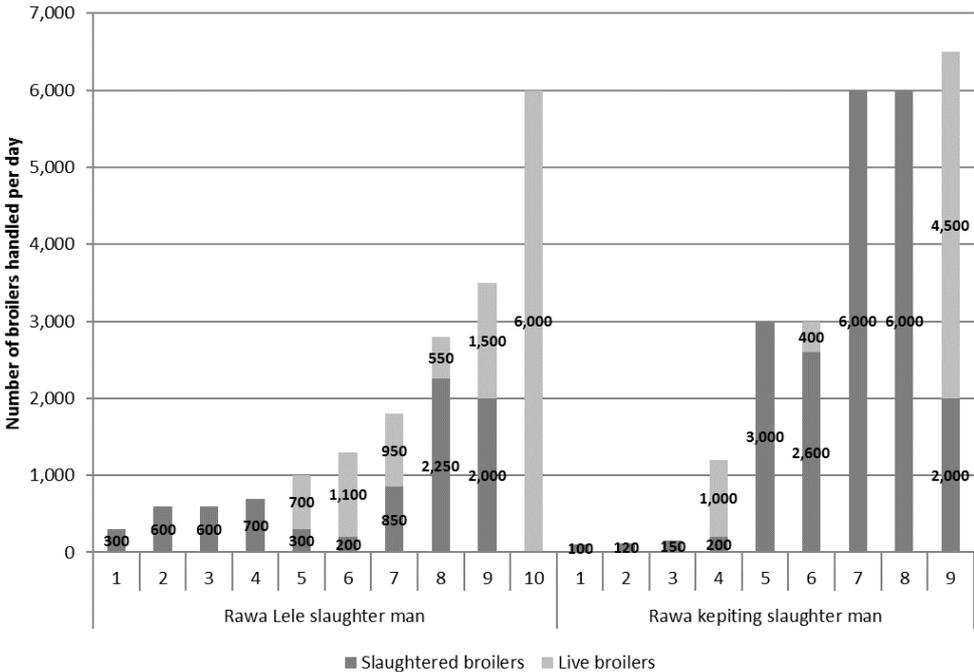


Figure 1: Size of the respondents' companies

Most companies received live broilers from several provinces, mostly West Java and Banten. The majority of the companies bought their broilers from multiple brokers or multiple farms. Three companies at Rawa Kepiting bought their broilers from a collector yard at Rawa Kepiting. Broilers were transported to the slaughter location by truck and pickup truck.

All companies at Rawa Lele produced warm whole carcasses or warm parts. At Rawa Kepiting, about half of the companies produced cooled parts or cooled whole carcasses. Products were only cooled for transport to the customer using ice blocks. Chillers to cool carcasses during the slaughter process were not used. The majority of the warm meat products went to restaurants or traditional markets. Cooled products went to restaurants, traditional markets, or supermarkets.

Reasons for moving to Rawa Lele of Rawa Kepiting

Six out of seven respondents from Rawa Lele indicated the government relocation program as a reason for moving there. Two respondents also indicated that the owner of the previous location did not extend the rental contract due to the government relocation program. Additionally, two respondents indicated complaining neighbours as a reason to move. Two of the four respondents from Rawa Kepiting that did slaughter broilers before moving there, indicated the government relocation program as a reason. The other two indicated that their previous location at the traditional market Pasar Senen was destroyed in a fire. Six of the seven respondents from Rawa Lele moved there only in 2016, whereas eight out of nine from Rawa Kepiting moved there from 2002 to 2015.

Advantages and disadvantages of slaughtering at Rawa Lele or Rawa Kepiting

Respondents from both Rawa Lele and Rawa Kepiting mentioned many advantages of slaughtering there (Table 1). Security/safety (11 times), completeness of the facilities (5), lower costs compared to other slaughter locations (5), and cleanliness of the location (4) were mentioned most. Security/safety is related to the risk of being threatened, suddenly being shut down, or having to pay 'security money' when illegally slaughtering outside a government location. At a government location, such risks are not present. The government providing all infrastructures (electricity, water, parking, security) gives a government location an advantage over other locations, where the slaughter man has to arrange that himself. Several respondents hinted that the costs of 'security money' were quite high, exceeding the slaughter fee they paid at the government location, thereby making slaughtering at a government location cheaper than elsewhere. The fact that the location is cleaned every day was also mentioned as an advantage.

Table 1: Advantages of slaughtering at Rawa Lele and Rawa Kepiting

Advantage	Rawa Lele	Rawa Kepiting	Total
Security/safety	6	5	11
Complete facility provided (electricity, water, parking, security)	2	3	5
Cheaper	1	4	5
Clean	3	1	4
More space	2	1	3
No problem with environment and neighbours	1	2	3
Close to home	0	1	1
Know other vendors	0	1	1
Close to collector yard	0	1	1
Hope for better quality carcasses	1	0	1
It is legal	1	0	1
Total	17	19	36

Respondents also mentioned many disadvantages of slaughtering at Rawa Lele or Rawa Kepiting (Table 2). Seven respondents indicated that water availability was insufficient, especially when all slaughter men are slaughtering at the same time. Three respondents were not satisfied with the quality of the water due to bad smell (2 times) and the water having a colour (1). A lower volume of chickens slaughtered compared to the previous location was mentioned three respondents, which recently moved to Rawa Lele. A larger distance to the market, a larger distance to home, and overcrowded facilities resulting in insufficient slaughter space were each mentioned by two respondents. Most disadvantages were only mentioned by one or two respondents, indicating that there are not many broadly recognized disadvantages. The slaughter men from Rawa Kepiting only mentioned few disadvantages, whereas those from Rawa Lele mentioned quite some more. This might be caused by the fact that most respondents from Rawa Lele only recently moved there, often not voluntarily.

Table 2: Disadvantages of slaughtering at Rawa Lele and Rawa Kepiting

Disadvantage	Rawa Lele	Rawa Kepiting	Total
Water availability	4	3	7
Water quality	2	1	3
Lower volume	3	0	3
Larger distance to market	2	0	2
Too far from home	1	1	2
Too crowded, not enough slaughter space	1	1	2
No maintenance of building by the government	0	1	1
Need to pay retribution	1	0	1
Distance between live bird collection and slaughter too far	1	0	1
Equipment (knives, chopping-block, etc.) disappear	1	0	1
Feathers are put on a pile and those are very smelly	0	1	1
Wall separating clean/dirty area should be removed to make it easier to move between these places	0	1	1
Not all slaughterers have been moved here by government	1	0	1
More competition, so lower carcass prices	1	0	1
Total	18	9	27

Conclusions

The interviewed slaughter men slaughtering broilers at Rawa Kepiting and Rawa Lele were forced to leave their previous slaughter location, due to the government relocation program, neighbours complaining, or a fire having destroyed their previous location. Advantages of the government slaughter location are the good security and safety (no 'security money') and the good complete facilities (clean slaughter booths, electricity, water, parking, security) provided by the government. Water availability could be improved.

Policy advice on requirements to government slaughter locations

Several requirements to government slaughter locations can be distilled from the results. Almost all respondents and all workers of the slaughter men interviewed lived close to the government slaughter location. Sufficient housing close to a government location seems therefore needed. Roads to the government slaughter location should be suitable for larger trucks, because live chickens are brought to the location with such trucks. A government slaughter location should be able to accommodate slaughter men of various sizes, because the size of slaughter men varies widely from 100 to 6,000 chickens per day. All slaughter men were forced to leave their previous slaughter location, be it through the governmental relocation program, a fire, or complaining neighbours. It seems that such a trigger was needed for them to move. Respondents mentioned quite some advantages of slaughtering at a government slaughter location. Most mentioned advantages are: good security and safety and the good complete facilities provided by the government. The good security and safety is mainly related to the 'security money' that a slaughter man has to pay when slaughtering outside such a government location. The good and complete facilities relate to the government providing clean slaughter booths, electricity, water, parking, and security on a government slaughter location, whereas outside the slaughter man has to arrange these things by himself. A disadvantage of a government slaughter location is that the amount of water available is sometimes insufficient when all slaughter men are working at the same time. No further broadly recognized disadvantages were identified. Dealing with the disadvantages and explaining the advantages of government slaughter locations could help to induce slaughter men slaughtering outside government slaughter locations to move to there.

To receive the live birds, collector yards have been established at the government locations. In these collector yards, the chickens can be placed until the moment they are going for slaughter. The owners of these collector yards slaughter the chickens themselves or sell them to others. Sometimes they sell to slaughter men at the same government slaughter location, but they also sell live chickens at traditional markets and live bird markets in Jakarta. This last is not in line with the rule that no live birds should leave a government slaughter location. Where and how these chickens are slaughtered was outside the scope of this study, but this could be in residential areas. This could increase the risk of spreading contagious animal diseases towards the human population in Jakarta.