

How to Find the Poor Families Potency as a Atrategy to Solve Poverty Problem at Multi-Ethnic Communities?

Yunindyawati Yunindyawati

*Sociology Department, Faculty of Sociology and Politics, Universitas Sriwijaya, Palembang, Indonesia
yunin.unsri@gmail.com*

Keywords: Poverty, Multi-Ethnic Communities, Reducing Poverty Solving Strategy, Internal and External Factors, Poor Families Potency.

Abstract: This paper investigates any factors of the causes poverty at the multi-ethnic communities in South Sumatera Indonesia based on the qualitative research data. Results suggest that the poverty roots are two main factors. The first are internal factors, such as lazy attitude, easily satisfied, mental fatalistic free- and-easy and low of knowledge. The second are external factors, among others; have debts, fewer jobs opportunities, too many children and have no production asset. Even though many roots of poverty, actually they have any potential capability to reduction of poverty. The potential is 1). Human potential such as having formal education, having many children and having good personality. 2). Social potential, among others: having religious groups, having mutual cooperation (gotong royong), and having common security group. 3) Political potential concerning; participation in political organization as well as policies against poverty 4). Physical and financial potential for example the availability of facilities and business institutions (PNPM agencies and the farm credits) 5). Nature potential by having land assets although in limited quantities.

1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a problem in the many countries, especially in the developing countries. Ozughalu (2014) said that poverty and vulnerability to poverty were major challenges facing developing countries and have attracted the attention of development economists and policy analysts in recent years. Many efforts to reduce poverty, but poverty remains challenges.

Poverty understanding and poverty research can be said to have gone through roughly three phases: Tale-telling, studies with a client focus as well as development research, and knowledge building about poverty reduction (Oyen, 2004)

Based on research showed that Agricultural growth is the most important factor in reducing inequality and poverty, and growth acceleration for developing countries (Imai, 2016). Indonesia

Indonesia as a country faced to this problem, so many program enhance to solve poverty for example: TAKESRA, KUKESRA, KUBE, JPS, PNMP, P2KP, and others. These programs were conducted as a manifestation of Indonesia Constitution (UUD 1945).

One of the poorest areas is Lempuing district, Ogan Komering Ilir reGENCY of South Sumatra. This region was inhibited by a multi ethnic population:

Sundanese, Javanese, Balinese as well as indigenous people who live in this region for generations. The majority of the work of the inhabitants are farmers and agricultural laborers. Almost people descendants experience poverty. Main factors cause of poverty were difficulty of accessing knowledge and information, and drop out of primary school.

Based on the realities, it is necessary to study the characteristics and conditions of poor families, the root causes of poverty, the potency of the poor family and to address the problem of poverty in the region. Through this research, exploration of poor family potency and description of the characteristics and the real condition of poor families will be known. This research not only to explore root causes of poverty but also to explore the potency of poor families so that the potency can be optimized in order to make themselves get out of poverty.

2 METHODS

Qualitative research methods are used in this research. Using in-depth interview and observation as data collection; data were then analyzed by

conducting a qualitative-analytic approach involving reduction, presentation and interpretation of data.

Using these methods, the description of the condition of poor families, the root causes of poverty, the potential of poor families could be explored and to find a variety of ways of life that can be used as a strategy of poor families can survive and get out of poverty, so that poverty alleviation program based on family and potential of local communities can be formulated.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Characteristics of Poor Family

Characteristics of poor families are seen from various aspects, among others, based on; Ethnicity, age of informant, number of children, amount of income, amount of expenditure, job, last education, skills over main job, social group/ organization, assistance from government or other party, and their views on poverty. Variations of data are obtained on such aspects as people living in Lempuing sub-district, among others Javanese, Koming, Bali and Batak. The assets owned are relatively limited although there are differences between families with each other. Similarly, the amount of income and expenditure also varies but is still in the poor category.

The root of poverty in poor families is caused by several factors, among others: internal factors and external factors. Internal factors concerning: lazy to work, quickly satisfied, resigned to God's destiny, wasteful, easy to give up and lack of knowledge. While the external factors that influence are: bound of debt, narrow jobs, many children, skills that are not optimal, does not have production assets.

3.2 Potency of Poor Family and Social Capital of Rural Community

Based on the characteristics of poor families, the potency of poor families can be identified. Potency of poor families include human potential, social potential, political potential, physical potential, financial potential, and natural potential.

Poor families have the human potentials such as: formal education, have children and have personality. Based on the data, every poor family has formal education. This shown that they are not illiterate. Poverty will be worse if supported by illiteracy. Fortunately, poor families in Lempuing have formal education.

Human potential of poor family can be identified by having children. The children are the future asset to a family. Although the large number of children can also be a constraint or a problem in the fulfillment of their life needs. But it depends on how poor family view to their children in their lives.

Based on information from religious leaders, poverty occurs because the number of children who are not supported by a good understanding and management so that children become the burden of poverty. In addition, the personality of poor family members can be an asset as well as obstacles in overcoming poverty. Become an asset when each family member has a strong motivation, tenacious, not quickly despair, and have the ideals to get out of the poverty. But it could be otherwise poverty still exists because of the unfavorable personality such as; Wasteful, hedonic, hopeless and so forth.

Political potentials include participation in political organizations, and policies on poverty (cash transfers, *raskin* and village funding allocations for the poor). In Lempuing sub-district, the allocation of village funds for the poor has been posted. This is known from the village informant's informant, that the problem of poverty has received attention in the form of cash transfers, *raskin* and village funds.

Physical and financial potential, in the form of availability of facilities and business institutions (PNPM loan and farming credit). Physical potential that provides opportunities for poverty alleviation in the form of the existence of institutions such as cooperative village units, savings and loan cooperatives, and non-formal institutions such as customary institutions. In almost every village these customary institutions still survive, in the midst of the globalization of development. This shows that local wisdom is retained in social life in multi-ethnic rural areas.

Social potentials are; Study groups, *gotong royong*, farmer groups, night patrols. The study group is not only interpreted as a means of worship but also means of socialization among the people for the benefit of community life. In addition, the mutual assistance that has been lost in some areas, still live in the poor lempuing especially. Through mutual cooperation work that was originally required financial costs to be lighter and also can strengthen the intimacy and quirks. Similarly, farmers' groups and night watchmen. In addition to discussing the difficulties experienced to solve rural problems, this can be a resilience mechanism for rural communities.

The natural potential of land assets though in limited quantities. Poor families have natural assets in the form of land ownership ranging from 0.25 ha-2 ha. This land ownership becomes a potential for family subsistence. In addition to the natural potential is supported by the added value of trade skills, and

other businesses. Poor families have skills that can support their potential; Construction workers, brick making, service, HP, sewing, cooking.

The concept of social capital refers to the conceptualization of Fukuyama, there are three things: norms, social networks, and mutual trust. A society is wired by billions of exchanges that take place at any time between citizens or individuals, it can be argued that exchange serves as an important integral factor of social unity, which works through and builds social networks (thus resulting in a social order of society.) The social order of a society will be said in an orderly fashion, when the social networking is formed based on mutual trust between the citizens and formed in the arrangement (norms) that are mutually agreed as guiding action and orientation of collective behavior of the citizens (Dharmawan, 2010).

The social capital of the community Lempuing and in particular Poor families include values, norms, network / networking, trusts, values and norms underlying social activities that can be the basis of community capital The values of togetherness, mutual cooperation, religious values become the capital of attachment among the people Social network They formed organizing farming groups, village unit cooperatives, which can be used as a means to access information and financial for their business. Their beliefs wake up among tribes, although the elements of primordial then surfaced.

3.3 Poverty Alleviation Model Poor Families

The formulation of the poor family poverty alleviation model in Lempuing sub-district essentially emphasizes on optimizing the potential of poor families through internal and external strengthening. Internal strengthening is done synergistically between individual, religious leaders and introduction / government intervention through empowerment and extension program.

External strengthening provides the widest possible opportunity for the role and participation of poor families in improving their economic and social capacities. With this effort, the roots of poor families' poverty will be eroded and can pull out of their poverty chains. Of course, to be strong internally and externally cannot be separated from state / government intervention.

Therefore, public policies that favor the poor family either directly or indirectly are needed. it needed because the root causes of poverty of poor families in Lempuing there are cultural and structural.

It is necessary to create opportunities, opportunities, access and participation of poor families.

The root causes of poverty in the form of psychological aspects and cultural values that because poverty need to be reduced by involving the role of stakeholders from government elements, religious leaders and the general public. In this way, poverty alleviation can be done synergistically and hope can be holistic to erode the root of poverty for the community context Lempuing. These can be understood because the uniqueness of poor families in multi ethnic areas brings the consequences of differences in values, strong primordial and village harmony demands more attention to poor families. Surely this can benefit poor families to get out of poverty to self-reliant families.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The formulation of the poor family poverty alleviation model in Lempuing sub-district emphasizes on the optimization of the potential of poor families through internal and external strengthening. Internal strengthening is done synergistically between individual, religious leaders and introduction / government intervention through empowerment and extension program. External strengthening provides the widest possible opportunity for the role and participation of poor families in improving their economic and social capacities. With this effort, the roots of poor families' poverty will be eroded and can pull out of their poverty chains.

It needs the involvement of all parties in efforts to alleviate poverty, both government, community leaders, communities and poor families themselves. Poor families have cultural and structural poverty roots and therefore poverty alleviation must also refer to both the root of the problem.

REFERENCES

- Dharmawan, A. H., 2010. *Pertukaran dan Modal Sosial: Refleksi Sosiologi Pedesaan di Indonesia*, Pasca sarjana IPB. Bogor, Bahan Ajar.
- Imai, S. K., 2016. Agricultural Growth, Poverty and Inequality in Developing Countries. *Development June 2015*, Volume 58, Issue 2-3, pp 230-236.
- Oyen, E., 2004. Poverty Production: A Different Approach to Poverty Understanding. *Advances in Sociological Knowledge*. pp 299-315.

Ozughalu, M. U., 2014. Relationship Between Household Food Poverty and Vulnerability to Food Poverty: Evidence from Nigeria. *Social Indicators Research* January 2016, Volume 125, Issue 2, pp 567–587.

