

# Poverty and Socio-Economic Inequality from Socio-Cultural Perspective

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## ABSTRACT

In this study will describe the causes of poverty and social from the socio-cultural perspective of the community. Poverty and social inequality are the main problems in regional development, including in Garut Regency. Equitable development in Garut Regency still needs more improvements. There were many factors causing this high poverty rate; not only the economic aspect but also the socio-cultural aspect deemed contributive to this problem. In this study, poverty and social inequality were analyzed from society's socio-cultural perspectives. This research was centered on the community with its socio-cultural conditions through library sources. The method used in this research was a literature study based on available written works. The results showed that; The mindset of the community as a socio-cultural aspect affected poverty rate and social inequality. The mindsets in question are weak, pessimistic, and less open-minded. Poverty and social problems are some of the aspects that affect society, so it is necessary to find ways to overcome these social problems and overcome them through policies and elements of the community.

**Keywords:** Poverty, Inequality, Social, Culture.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a condition where people do not have the ability to meet their most basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education, and health. Poverty may be caused by the scarcity of materials to meet those basic needs or the difficulty of access to education and work. The problem of poverty and social inequality has not been optimally addressed up to now. The World Bank states that poverty is living with an income below the US \$ 1 per day [1]. Based on Law no. 24 of 2004, poverty is a socio-economic condition of a person or group of people whose basic rights are not fulfilled to maintain and develop a dignified life.

In general, poverty is defined as a condition when a person or group of people is unable to fulfill their basic rights to maintain and develop a dignified life. From this definition, it is understood that poverty is a multidimensional problem that is difficult to measure, so it is necessary to agree on the measurement approach used.

Furthermore, social inequality is a state of social imbalance that exists in society which makes high discrepancy. Every society is constantly marked by inequality. inequality means unbalanced, asymmetrical, or different. Inequality has an impact on socio-economic and social stratification especially in accessing economic resources. The problem of inequality is a problem of justice, which is related to social problems. The problem of inequality is closely related to the poverty problem [2].

Socio-economic inequality includes poverty, lack of employment, and welfare. Social stratification includes political and cultural gaps. The social inequality in Indonesia is evidently visible, between the rich and the poor, as well as between officials and the people. In other words, social class differences in identity, cognition, feelings, and behavior make it less likely that working-class individuals can benefit from educational and occupational opportunities to improve their material circumstances [3].

Culture comes from the Latin "colere" which means to cultivate or work. Others believe that the term comes from the Sanskrit word buddhayah, which is the plural form of buddhi which means mind or reason. Thus, culture or culture can be interpreted as matters related to reason. Socio-cultural consists of two words, namely social and cultural. Social means everything related to the surrounding community. While culture comes from the word bodhya which means mind and reason.

Culture is also defined as manmade creation or innovation-based as a manifest of their thoughts and ideas holding love and perception. Culture is born from that is passed down from one generation to the next regarding their habits and customs that are held very closely by the people. However, these values are usually only attached to people who still uphold their customs and culture [4].

Meanwhile, according to Lena Dominelli Social is an incomplete part of a human relationship that requires an understanding of the fragile parts within. Edward B. Tylor argued that culture is a complex whole, which includes beliefs, knowledge, arts, morals, customs, laws, and other capabilities acquired by a person as part of society [5]. It can be concluded that socio-culture is everything created by humans with their thoughts and minds in social life. Participation in cultural activities can also be instrumental in helping people and communities to overcome poverty and social exclusion [6].

Socio-cultural change is a symptom of a social and cultural pattern change in society. Socio-cultural change is a common phenomenon that occurs throughout the ages in every society. These changes occur in accordance with the nature and human life that dynamically changes [7].

Poverty and social inequality are global problems these days. The problem of inequality is one of the serious problems that hit the Indonesian economy [8]. In addition to being actual, poverty and social inequality are socio-economic diseases that are not only experienced by developing countries but also in developed countries.

It is shown that socioeconomic inequalities are currently perceived by the population as excessive and illegitimate, and the gap between expectations and social reality has led to growing requests for "leveling" being made to the state [9]. Including in Indonesia as a developing country, the problem of poverty and social inequality is a major problem in national development. The level of poverty and social inequality in Indonesia varies from region to region. Generally, eastern regions of Indonesia have higher poverty and social inequality rate than western Indonesia. The government should improve infrastructure in rural areas and in eastern

Indonesia in order to increase agricultural production [10]

The dichotomy is that coastal communities are represented as poor, uneducated, dull, disgraced, and inferior, while urban communities are represented as noble, educated, rich, honorable, clean, and superior people. This happened because development was only oriented towards urban areas as the center of human civilization in the colonial era [11]. Growth with the dimension of equity is an inseparable series in carrying out sustainable national development (sustainable development) [12].

In West Java, Inequality in terms of equitable development results in poverty and inequality. Garut Regency is ranked 2nd as the area with the poorest people among 27 regencies or cities in West Java in 2019 [13]. There are many factors that cause poverty and social inequality in Garut Regency, one of which is seen from the socio-cultural aspects of the community that affect the poverty rate and social inequality.

## 2. METHODS

This current study used a literature study research method. This literature study research is primarily conducted based on written works including research results, both published and unpublished [14]. The information was based on secondary data originating from literature or information in the form of printed or digital media. Techniques The data was obtained from library sources, reading, and processing research materials

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Garut Regency is one of the regencies in West Java Province, the poverty rate in Garut is still quite high because Garut's per capita income is still below the average per capita income of West Java. The average income of West Java is 11 million per capita per year, while the average income of Garut is 8 million per capita per year. This makes Garut one of the poorest regions in West Java Province [13] after Bogor and Cirebon.

Viewed from household expenditures for food and non-food items consumed by the community, it can be seen that Garut Regency has the lowest level of expenditure compared to other districts in West Java Province. It is typically around 60% of gross domestic product (GDP) and is, therefore, an essential variable for economic analysis of demand [15]. Based on the floor area per capita, Garut Regency has the narrowest floor area. From the aspect of telecommunications infrastructure, Garut Regency also does not have adequate access to information technology. Many Garut Residents do not have the awareness that education is very important in accessing vacancies which makes it difficult for them to get a job.

**Table 1.** Garut Regency Poverty Indicators 2009-2019

Indicator	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of poor people (Thousand people)	410,6	335,6	330,9	315,8	320,9	315,6	325,7	298,5	291,2	241,31	317,6
Percentage of poor people (Percent)	17,87	13,94	13,5	12,72	12,79	12,47	12,81	11,64	11,27	9,27	12,47

Table 1 displays that the poverty rate in Garut Regency is still high. Thus, it's not surprising that Garut Regency is ranked 2nd as the area with the most poor residents among the 27 regencies/cities in West Java in 2019. This poverty and social inequality factor when viewed from the socio-cultural aspect is closely related to the way of thinking. How people think may affect their behavior. Therefore, if the way of thinking of the people in a certain area is weak or does not think forward, it is certain that the people in that region will not progress. Therefore, it is not surprising if the way of thinking in certain areas is weak or does not think ahead, which can lead to stagnant life. One concrete example of a way of thinking that is not advanced is laziness. Laziness can be defined as the inability to do something. Then, the attachment between the individual and this culture will always have an heir who continues the cultural pattern that has been formed [17].

Garut Regency with its many natural potentials does not guarantee the welfare of its people, especially from an economic perspective. The less developed socio-cultural community is caused by several factors, namely; 1) lack of awareness of education, and 2) cultural patterns of being lazy to work and ignoring what comes ahead has an impact on the community's economic system due to poor quality human resources. Human resources are the investment for human capital. [18].

In addition to the laziness, a mindset that is still not 'open minded' also has an effect on poverty. Generally, this happens to people who live in rural areas or in remote areas. Communities in such areas rely more on natural products to meet their needs. Lack of awareness of education, in order to get a job with a higher income is another factor influencing poverty. They tend to think 'what's the point of going to high school, with a bachelor's degree, if later they return to the gardens or rice fields because of the limited number of jobs'. This kind of pessimistic mindset has become entrenched in people's lives, especially people in remote areas of Garut in spite of their potential, especially the tourism aspect.

Garut Regency is one of the tourist destinations in West Java because it has a lot of tourism potential that can attract tourists. The number of tourist attractions in Garut such as Cipanas, Situ Bagendit, Canguang Temple, Santolo Beach as tourist destinations. So it is

necessary to study this tourism potential to realize the creative economy [19].

This entrenched mindset lasts a long time and is passed on to the younger generation, so they too are carried away with this kind of mindset. [20]. As a result, efforts to minimize poverty and social inequality in Garut are increasingly hampered because one of the indicators of poverty is human resources. With quality human resources, the business of economic growth will no longer stagnate. However, if the quality of existing human resources is less qualified, then there is an increase in unemployment and poverty as well as social inequality. So, this wrong mindset needs to be straightened out so that it doesn't become more entrenched in society, so that people can get prosperity and be free from poverty.

## 4.CONCLUSIONS

Garut is one of the regencies in West Java Province, the poverty rate in Garut is still quite high. Garut Regency is ranked 2nd as the area with the most poor people among 27 Regencies/Cities in West Java in 2019. The percentage of poverty in Garut Regency reaches 12.47% with a total poor population of 317.6 thousand people. The high poverty rate seen from the socio-cultural aspect is caused by the weak mindset of the community. This mindset needs to be addressed so that it does not become more entrenched in society, and the community has a more advanced mindset so as to help the people get prosperity. With this, it will eventually reduce the poverty index in Garut.

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