



Access to Basic Needs for Marginalized Groups in Indonesia: A Case Study of the Homeless and Beggars

Husmiati Yusuf^(✉), Hari Harjanto Setiawan, Mery Ganti, Yanuar Farida Wismayanti, Badrun Susantyo, Nurhayu, Ita Konita, Menik Budiarti, and Muhammad Belanawane Sulubere

National Research and Innovation Agency, Jakarta, Indonesia
husmiati@brin.go.id

Abstract. The social problem associated with extreme poverty is a large number of homeless and beggars scattered in big cities. Around 77,500 homeless and beggars are estimated to live in big cities in Indonesia in 2019. The government has tried to provide solutions through the implementation of regulations, providing skills training, socio-economic assistance, decent housing, and organizing transmigration. Social service institutions are also provided for this special group. This paper aims to discuss the provision of basic needs for the homeless and beggars. The basic needs discussed in this paper include housing, food, education, health, and citizenship identity. The methodology used is qualitative, with in-depth interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). Thematic analysis of qualitative data in accordance with predetermined themes. The main informants are beneficiaries of orphanages and Social Welfare Institutions in six major cities in Indonesia. The results show that many basic needs of marginalized groups still have not been met, especially access to health services and citizenship identity. This study recommends the issuance of regulations that involve various stakeholders. This research contributes to practitioners and academics about basic rights services for homeless and beggar groups.

Keywords: Marginal groups · Basic needs · Homeless · Beggars · Poverty

1 Introduction

The percentage of poor people in March 2022 was 9.54% or 26.16 million people [1]. The groups that include the poor are the homeless and beggars. This group lives below the national poverty line is the amount of money a person needs to meet the minimum basic needs for a decent life. The concept of working poor can be obtained by combining poverty status and employment status, with how much they work but live in poverty [2]. The situation has become somewhat unclear in the informal workforce. It's even more unclear to those who choose to work as homeless and homeless beggars [3, 4].

Homelessness and begging are complex social problems. These problems are related to poverty, health conditions, housing, and families [5]. Homeless people are difficult

to define because most of them are homeless. Their duration of being homeless in big cities varies, some are permanent and some are seasonal. This is a challenge for most countries in the world in their efforts to make policies to overcome this problem [6]. The presence of homeless people and beggars in urban areas has been contradictory, so this phenomenon is a social phenomenon that must be taken seriously. The problem of homeless people and beggars is the government's responsibility, especially the Ministry of Social Affairs, to address this problem.

The central and local governments have been dealing with this problem for a long time. Reducing the number of homeless and beggars through various programs such as mentoring, business skills, and religious development. In addition, the government is trying to build a decent place to live for them [7]. The Government of Indonesia is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely eradicating poverty in all its forms worldwide [8]. It aims to improve human life quality, including community productivity and economic independence, by driving domestic economic strategies, particularly for marginalized groups such as the homeless and beggars.

Based on the description above, this research answers the question of how the homeless and beggars can access their basic needs. Specifically, this paper answers five questions, including; what is the condition of their place of residence, how is their education and skills, what is their income, how is their health, and what is their identity. This research data is a case study, it has not shown national data. The research was conducted on beneficiaries of social services in orphanages and Social Welfare Institutions. This research cannot be generalized but can be applied on the condition that the area has similarities.

1.1 The Condition of Homeless and Beggars in Indonesia

Homelessness and begging are common social problems, especially in big cities. The more advanced development in a country will have an impact on the more the number of homeless and beggars. The reason is that a person's needs are increasing, while the available jobs are limited [9]. Although the government has always tried to reduce the population of homeless people and beggars through policing operations, the numbers have never decreased and even tend to increase. The ease of making money in big cities is the main attraction for migrants from outside the region without bringing adequate skills and education. Lazy attitude and unwilling to try to change life for the better, wanting something instant, and low resilience ability [10].

The study also found several factors regarding the reasons they became homeless and beggars [11], Economic reasons or poverty, geographical constraints in the area of origin, psychological and socio-cultural factors are factors that must be considered. Because the income from begging is relatively high, they are hesitant to take other jobs. The government has made various efforts to deal with this problem. Establish halls, homes belonging to the central and regional governments, and Social Welfare Institutions. Social rehabilitation efforts at the orphanage have not been maximized, because the homeless and beggars tend to return to the streets after receiving guidance at the orphanage. This study provides recommendations to the government regarding the provision of houses for homeless people and beggars. These efforts serve as social rehabilitation, and provide strict sanctions for those who return to the streets to become homeless [12].

Programs to overcome the problems of homeless people and beggars have been implemented by the government and the Child Welfare Institution. There are many other problems related to the homeless and beggars in Indonesia. If this problem is not resolved, it will be the burden of the government as the responsible party [13]. The government is trying to carry out social rehabilitation aimed at changing their living habits. Changing the habit from expecting help to earning good effort. So that they can function socially in society. Social entrepreneurship is one of the programs to overcome this problem. Meanwhile, other functions are to grow awareness of the importance of the rehabilitation program given because it is related to daily life, helping to meet basic needs, develop their potential, and help them be able to behave normatively. Welfare is an ideal thing that everyone wants to achieve. Efforts to achieve prosperity cannot run smoothly, but there are various obstacles and obstacles [14].

The state of the homeless and beggars shows that they are not functioning socially. They function socially when they can access basic needs. They must also carry out their duties and responsibilities as members of the community. The government helps them basically in order to solve their own problems [15].

1.2 Basic Needs

As God's creatures, all humans without exception have basic needs that must be met to maintain their life. The need to maintain physical and psychological balance [16] stated that every human being has five basic needs, namely: physical needs, comfort, love, personality, and self-actualization are all factors to consider. Similar to the writings of Linn and Gelberg [17] who in their research found homeless people on the coast of Southern California chose Health as a basic need followed by steady work, housing, and food.

This study also discusses the basic needs of the homeless and beggars such as the need for health services, religious guidance, and the need for comprehensive social rehabilitation services. Social rehabilitation services are a process so that a person is able to carry out his social functions well in community life.

2 Method

This study uses qualitative methods to obtain more in-depth information [18]. Informants were determined purposively, namely the researcher determined certain characteristics according to the research objectives. The main informants are the homeless and beggar groups who are the beneficiaries of social services both within the institution and in the community. The locations of homeless and beggars who became informants were South Sulawesi, Central Java, East Java, West Java, North Sumatra, and DKI Jakarta.

Data collection begins with a study of documentation and literature study to dig up more information about homeless people and beggars. Furthermore, data was collected through various methods, including in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The data obtained were analysis in stages: 1) editing, checking the entire list of questions filled out by the informant; 2) coding, giving symbols or markings for the answers of the informants; and 3) interpretation, interpreting based on the concept group [19]. Data analysis using a predetermined theme. The theme is about access to basic needs.

3 Result and Discussion

The lives of homeless and beggars who are socio-economically vulnerable require special programs to change their lives. They live without a place to live on the grounds of earning a living, have no work at home, and face psychological problems that require them to leave home. Most of them only graduated from elementary school, or junior high school and they belong to the productive age group. Their presence in public places raises pros and cons for the community. Some think they disturb the view [20].

Most of them only graduated from elementary school, or junior high school and they belong to the productive age group. One of the limitations in accessing needs is due to the low level of education. They cannot work in the formal sector. They also have no fixed place to live. Various factors cause them to become a group that is not accepted by society. A low level of education and limited work skills affect their income level. They choose to be homeless and beggars because they are not absorbed in the world of work. The state is said to have failed in providing the rights of its citizens if there are still beggars roaming in public places [21].

This group is vulnerable and discriminated against. They do not have adequate access to education. They are called a vulnerable group because they do not have a permanent place to live. Some of them live in carts and move from one place to another. They do not have ID cards or official identities. Their children cannot go to school because they do not have birth certificates. Under these conditions their life requires social protection from the state. This group's social functioning is impaired. A person's social functions are actions that are carried out for needs and carry out life tasks [15].

It takes an assessment from social workers in advance to determine the basic needs of the homeless and beggars. The concrete needs of the family are met during the early stages of treatment, a trusting relationship can be established between workers and clients [22]. The importance of the assessment is to find out the potential and sources of social welfare needed. With a good assessment, the policy in terms of appropriate public action can be implemented [23].

3.1 Residence

They come to live in the big city with their spouses and children. Because they do not have permanent residence, they can only work in the informal sector. Based on information from homeless people and beggars who live in orphanages and social welfare institutions, 28% of those who receive services at institutions. Meanwhile, 22% of homeless people and beggars admitted to living in rented rooms in slum areas close to where they earn their living. While the other 17% live in a relative's house.

Some beneficiary also admitted that they live on the move or do not settle down, living under bridges or on shop terraces. While others stated that they had lived in an empty building. They make a living as scavengers or beggars to survive. They live in rented houses located in slum areas adjacent to garbage disposal areas, riverbanks, under bridges, and locations that endanger safety. According to research on the treatment of homeless people and beggars, community settlements have a major impact. So they should be given access to basic needs and job assistance for them [24].

3.2 Education and Skills

They arrive in large cities with insufficient educational background and skills. Most of them are only at the junior high school level and are over 35 years old. This condition shows that the homeless and beggars are a vulnerable group before receiving social services from the government. They do not have access to the right to a decent life. their children do not have the birth identity to which they are entitled. The homeless must be dealt with by providing access to adequate housing. The absence of an ID card causes them to be unable to access social assistance for the poor from the government. Thus, the issuance of an identity card containing an identification number must be carried out in order to be able to access government programs [25].

Most of the did not have skills (34%), and 22% claimed to have skills. Of the beneficiary who are in nursing homes, 17% do not have skills and 28% say they have skills. The types of skills possessed are quite varied. Most of them, as much as 25%, have skills in making food, 9% for handicrafts, 5% for farming and animal husbandry, 4% for automotive and sewing, 2% for trading, driving a car, salon, and others. The number who do not have skills is still quite high, namely 42%. Such conditions require education and skills. There are studies that state that the provision of education will be a solution for the poor, namely the homeless and beggars [26].

3.3 Income

This study also obtained information that fifty percent of beneficiary have an average weekly income ranging from IDR. 100.000 to IDR 300.000. Most of the beneficiary also have an average expenditure of between IDR 100.000 and IDR 300.000 per week. This means that there is a difference of 1% whose income is greater than the expenditure. Recipients who have an income between IDR 300.000 and IDR 700.000 are 18%. However, beneficiary who spend between IDR 300.000 and IDR 700.000 show a figure that is higher than the average weekly income of 26%.

Most of the income they earn per week, on average between IDR 100.000 and to IDR 300.000 while their expenses are greater than their income. The most widely used expenditure is to meet daily needs. This causes their lives to be vulnerable to debt. If this condition continues without any intervention, their lives will still be in the category of poor people. The condition is getting worse because most of the beneficiary also have debt. Most of the beneficiary stated that they do not have savings. Research data shows that those who say they don't have savings are 80% and only 20% have savings. However, more than half of the beneficiary claimed to have a debt of 50%. This condition requires an increase in income through Productive Economic Enterprises so that the homeless and beggars can live independently [27]. Empowerment is very necessary for the homeless and beggars, because there is an element of freedom to choose. Self-capacity development does not have to be pressured by program implementers [28]. The government only provides alternative solutions that are offered to them. In principle, helping them is so that they are able to help themselves.

3.4 Health

Many recipients of the rehabilitation program for the homeless and beggars do not have health insurance. Beneficiary in nursing homes who do not have health insurance are more than those who already have. Of the total beneficiary, only 16% have access to health insurance. Beneficiaries who do not have health insurance are 29%. Meanwhile, beneficiary in institutions indicated that the majority of beneficiary had access to health insurance, namely 34% already had access to health insurance, but the number who did not have a health insurance card was also quite significant, reaching 21%.

The health above does not include mental health. The condition of vagrants and beggars ranges with this health. One study revealed the importance of recreational areas and ongoing engagement with medical and mental health sites for homeless people and beggars [29]. A difficult life causes a person to experience mental health disorders. This should be a concern in addition to physical health. Regarding this mental health, the use of addictive substances by the homeless is seen as a valuable way of coping with life [30].

3.5 Identity

There is still beneficiary who do not have ID cards as identification. There are still about 13% of beneficiary who are in nursing homes who do not have ID cards, and beneficiary indicate the figure is 4%. The results of in-depth interviews and discussions with the caretaker of the orphanage showed that the ownership of the ID card also received support from the orphanage. For example, in South Sulawesi Province, according to the foundation, most of them obtained ID cards because of the foundation's intervention by approaching the Population and Civil Registry Office in Makassar. The same thing also happened in DKI Jakarta, where according to the Foundation, it provides guarantees or certificates to make it easier for beneficiaries to obtain ID cards from the local area where they live.

Conditions the same thing also happened in government-owned institutions in Central and East Java Provinces, where they provided access to identity or ID cards for beneficiaries [31]. Resident identity is very important for all citizens, including homeless people and beggars. The importance of this residence document in achieving human rights for all citizens [32]. This includes obtaining social assistance for homeless people and beggars. Citizens who will receive social assistance must have a resident identity as proof of citizenship.

4 Conclusion

Homeless and beggars are a marginalized group due to limited access to social services and opportunities for advancement. This study shows that the condition of the homeless and beggars do experience limitations in access to services. They do not have access to ownership of personal identification, health insurance or marriage certificates, or birth certificates. This condition results in their limited access to social services such as social assistance, health and education services, as well as skills including access to

decent work. The existence of social rehabilitation service institutions is often unable to provide full support to them. Limited human resources, facilities and infrastructure, and the complexity of unsupported regulations and policies. Conditions like this require handling involving various parties, including the government, corporate responsibility, and the community.

Authors' Contributions

All authors listed are major contributors. They contributed to the collection of discussion data and the writing of this paper.

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