

Poverty of Women and the Covid-19 Pandemic in Indonesia

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Abstract

Poverty for women is a picture where women experience limitations, the inability to fulfill their basic needs properly. Pandemic conditions that cause changes in behavior to limit all social activities to prevent transmission. By using a reference study supported by secondary data, this research aims to describe, explain and analyze poverty among women during the pandemic, then produce ideas on how to solve the problem of poverty in women. The results of this reference study found that poverty that occurs in women is caused by restrictions on social activity behavior in the community, resulting in a decrease in income in the family which impacts on women's poverty. Women are a vulnerable group to survive the Covid-19 pandemic without the support of adequate facilities and skills in mastering information technology, so women find it difficult to build and produce a creative economy. Even though during the Covid-19 pandemic, creative economy players were able to survive the downturn in economic conditions. Women are more susceptible to being poor. Conscious efforts are needed in these women to get up and add skills in mastering technology in building a creative economy.

Keywords

creative economy, women's awareness, covid-19

I. Introduction

Poverty of women is a serious problem and often occurs in almost every country. Many things are the factors that cause poverty in women. Poverty in the Indonesian dictionary is a condition of poverty where the situation of the population can only meet the needs of food, clothing and housing which are necessary to maintain a minimum standard of living. In the Global Gender Report, Indonesia's position is in the 83rd position out of 153 countries in the world. This position illustrates that Indonesian women have a high gender inequality problem. Gender inequality makes it difficult for women to get their rights in social and economic activities. Even though in fact the BPS data in 2019 shows the percentage of women as professionals is quite high, namely 47.46 percent. Referring to the Copenhagen declaration in defining poverty, it explains when a person or group is said to be poor if they experience deficiency in fulfilling their basic needs. The basic needs include food needs, drinking needs, safety needs and also related to various health facilities, environmental cleanliness, housing needs, education and information.

The pressures of poverty are experienced very differently by men and women. Men have experienced a threat to their social status, self-respect, and assurance in their economic role as providers for their family, through the loss of their cattle and through increased dependence on the informal earnings of their wife to meet basic household needs ~WHO (Monga et al, 2019)

BPS data shows that the economy in Indonesia is experiencing a recession, economic growth is minus to 5.32% in the second quarter and minus 3.49% in the third quarter, while the percentage of poor people in March 2020 was 9.78 percent, an increase of 0.56 percentage points against September 2019 and increased by 0.37 percentage points from March 2019 (BPS, 2020). Poverty occurs in women, it can occur due to environmental factors that are not conducive as in Rupita's research, explaining that women in border areas have poor lives. Due to poverty, these women are very prone to becoming victims of exploitation (Rupita, 2020). In conditions of difficult economic growth like this, women can take advantage of opportunities by developing forms of creative economy. Various assumptions about the covid-19 pandemic, the results of the literature study conducted by Sushanti's researchers stated that this pandemic was related to a political agenda in the international arena, thus creating global competition. Health and international politics as a unitary relationship carried out by actors, have an impact on how to decide policies in each country (Sushanti, 2020). One way of executing the policy on how to deal with a pandemic should be the government paying attention to the communication strategy with the community, conveying messages should be done by means of coercive, informative, canalizing, educative, persuasive and redundancy techniques. Any message related to covid-19 Zahrotunnimah suggests packaging messages in the form of instructions, appeals to the public to prevent covid-19 transmission. According to him, what the government is currently doing is not using coercive techniques by imposing sanctions to deter offenders. In addition, the government also has not used all communication techniques effectively to convey various policies in handling and preventing Covid-19 to their respective regions (Zahrotunnimah, 2020).

Coronavirus or COVID-19 has a very large impact on the atmosphere of tourism globally, especially in 2020. With a very fast spread, COVID-19 can make various countries in the world self-quarantine and affect 60 million people around the world both economically, socially, and environmentally (Zandi, February 06, 2020). COVID-19 has been categorized as a pandemic, restricting the movement of people and goods, disrupting vital components of human life such as travel, trade, food supplies, financial markets (OSHA, March 13, 2020; Chinazzi et al, 2020), and worst of all, humans are not can immediately provide technical assistance without adequate equipment, unpreparedness in the distribution of aid can also have a dangerous impact (World Health Organization, February 03, 2020). (Sinulingga, 2021)

From the data table 1 shows that the percentage of poor people with the largest percentage is in the Maluku and Papua Islands, amounting to 20.34 percent. Meanwhile, the lowest percentage of poor people is on the island of Kalimantan, which is 5.81 percent. Meanwhile, from the number, the largest distribution of poor people is still on the island of Java, namely as many as 14.05 million people. And the lowest number of poor people is on the island of Kalimantan as many as 0.97 million people.

Table 1. Percentage and number of poor people by island, March 2020

Pulau	Persentase Penduduk Miskin			Jumlah Penduduk Miskin (ribu orang)		
	Perkotaan	Perdesaan	Total	Perkotaan	Perdesaan	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Sumatera	8,39	11,01	9,87	2 154,41	3 683,06	5 837,47
Jawa	7,48	12,64	9,24	7 493,53	6 559,28	14 052,81
Bali dan Nusa Tenggara	8,56	17,69	13,55	582,20	1 450,63	2 032,83
Kalimantan	4,35	7,13	5,81	345,36	624,28	969,64
Sulawesi	5,63	13,12	10,10	452,28	1 554,50	2 006,78
Maluku dan Papua	5,25	28,15	20,34	134,18	1 390,31	1 524,49
Indonesia	7,38	12,82	9,78	11 161,96	15 262,06	26 424,02

Source: Processed from national socio-economic survey data (Susenas) March 2020

If it is related to women, a situation where women are only able to meet their basic needs without being able to excess, only at a very minimum level. That is why poverty occurs in women. In his research, Tebay wrote that women in Paniay Papua experience difficulties in public services, difficulty accessing education, inadequate health and involvement in economic activities. Utilization of land in the regions is unable to encourage women to achieve economic independence because it is only controlled by investors. Women with basic education are not able to compete, apart from language barriers that are far behind the immigrant population. Paniay women are isolated in poverty and cannot enjoy the development efforts undertaken by the government (Tebay, 2019).

II. Research Methods

As a pandemic situation occurs, all activities are carried out in a Work From Home, School From Home manner. Meanwhile, research needs to be carried out as a form of dedication by researchers to focus on understanding the topic of poverty issues in Indonesia. This article is a literature study with various reliable sources whose legitimacy and legality can be accounted for academically. Researchers looked for the latest data from the Central Statistics Agency, as a reference for secondary data, analyzed the data with literature reviews published in the last five years. Researchers cannot go directly to the field, because there are restrictions on all social activities. However, with the experience of researchers who have focused on research on poverty studies, using all their preferences in gathering information, conduct exploration and elaborate reference studies effectively and systematically. Secondary data taken from BPS in 2020, then analyzed and elaborated with literature review and research perspectives to produce ideas in the form of ways to overcome poverty problems that occur in women.

The variables that were operationalized in this study consisted of women's poverty and the Covid-19 pandemic. Poverty for women is meant to explain the definition of being poor from women, the factors that cause women to be poor and what their potential is women have to get out of poverty. Meanwhile, what is related to the covid-19 pandemic is explaining how the situation is with the covid-19 pandemic, all protocols in preventing the covid-19 case cause restrictions on social and economic activities. The impacts and opportunities of this pandemic condition in Indonesia are described in this article, then the researchers determine how to overcome poverty for women in pandemic conditions in Indonesia.

III. Results and Discussion

Women's poverty occurs as a result of a series of events in which women's pasts are shaped. Women with childhood growing up in families, schools and communities reflect the knowledge and experience that makes them know how to deal with poverty itself. Women can be familiar with poverty and turn it into independence in life. Knowledge and skills in their families, schools and communities have enabled them to get out of poverty even though the pandemic situation is considered difficult for economic activities.

When a pandemic situation, where restrictions on social mobility are limited, the features of technology become ways and methods to facilitate communication and exchange information (Komalasari, 2020). Despite the ease of technology, it is not fully understood by women because of their limited knowledge and abilities. Women are only targeted by producers who are able to market their products, they are trapped as loyal consumers in online marketing (Suharnanik, 2020). The covid-19 pandemic, limiting social activities so that it has an impact on economic activity. It should be noted that women have various

potentials that can be exploited during a pandemic. On the other hand, men tend not to be accustomed to limiting their social mobility so that their productivity and creativity tend to decrease. Or women can work together with men to build a creative economy that is done at home. Women often look more flexible working at home with covid-19. Of course, technological support is needed.

The poverty of a country is determined by the size of the family income, the higher the family income, the poverty rate decreases and vice versa if the family income is small, the poverty rate will increase. Women's income contributes to family income. In his research, Rozaki stated that female workers who work abroad are able to generate remittances and drive the village economy (Rozaki, 2016). Of course this is not what is expected in reducing poverty for women, because they are prone to being exploited and exposed to trafficking modes. Women who have the ability and skills in mastering technology will understand how to survive and make friends in this difficult situation.

Poverty of women is an inexhaustible scourge to be explored from various scientific angles. Women's poverty occurs due to women's inability to carry out economic activities. In Language philosophically, using the perspective of Bourdieu, a French philosopher, economic practice is closely related to habitus, capital and arena. Habitus is formed from past behavior, while capital depends on how much ownership of economic capital and social capital and the arena is the environment where this competition is possible. Poor women are formed from an environment that does not provide sufficient economic and social capital so that their competitiveness is low in their social life. When women are faced with a pandemic period that has to limit their economic activities, while their technological skills are low, it will be difficult for them to survive and the all-digital arena is unable to follow them, unable to use them and ultimately can only be considered fateful, just seeing,

Women's income contributes to household income so that it has an impact on poverty levels in Indonesia. In this pandemic condition, women can carry out productive economic activities so that family income can survive and even get better (Adnan & Amri, 2020). Sarmiati's research confirms that women have a high participation rate of more than 50% in the presence of PNPM Mandiri P2KP activities, and are even willing to volunteer and be active in activities (Sarmiati, 2003). From the literacy of this research, it can provide the following data and analysis:

Table 2. Women's Potential and Alternative Solutions in Covid-19 Conditions

Potential Women	Covid-19 conditions	Alternative Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation Rate • Liveliness in community activities (empowerment economy) • Creative economy 	Restrictions on social and economic activities in society.	Increased source income of women through upgrading skills the economy creative.

Source: Processed by Researchers from Reference, 2020.

Table 2 explains that it is still possible to increase women's income so that family income increases. The pandemic conditions do limit all socio-economic activities in activities. However, the potential for women who are very active in economic empowerment activities in their community is able to encourage an increase in women's income in the family. This means that the forum for building a creative economy based on online media technology should be intensified and facilitated by the government

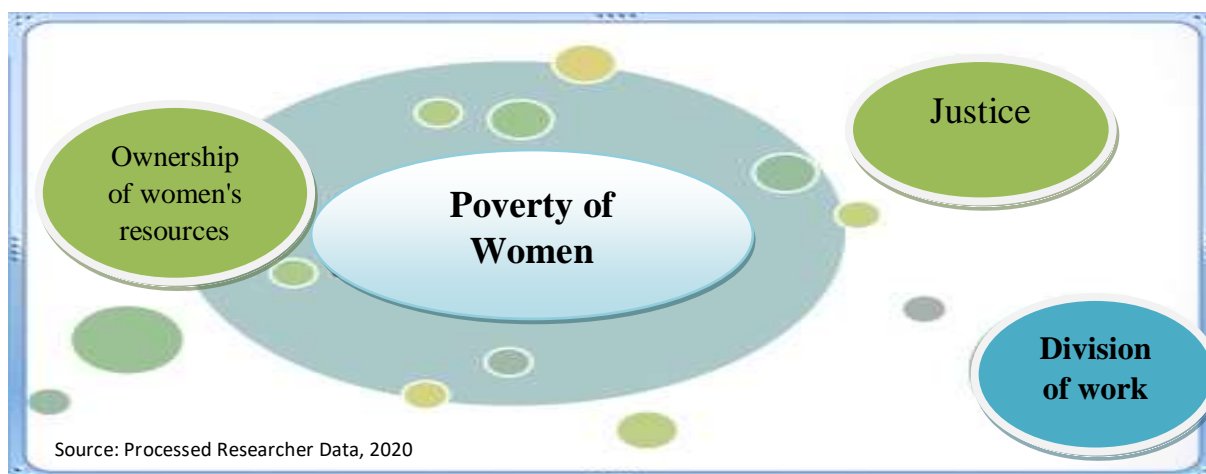


Figure 1. Factors of Poverty for Women

In Figure 1. It gives an illustration that women are in a poor condition influenced by factors of justice, division of labor and ownership of women's resources. As in Taufik's research where poverty occurs due to lack of maximal enforcement of justice, so according to him poverty alleviation in women must be based on the values of justice. Justice will be implemented well in society if you use religious values, the role of religion is important because it contains teachings about justice (Taufik, 2017). Poverty can occur if the position of women is weak in political support, as was the case in Niko's research, which analyzed the Benawan Dayak community to perpetuate patriarchy so that women could not be involved in traditional traditions. According to field data observations, These Dayak women become poor because they are hindered by the gender division of labor. Women are removed from their role in customary activities, so that access to the outside world cannot be done (Niko, 2019). Meanwhile, women with limited resources are also an important factor in their poverty. Sofiani's research explains that there is an imbalance in the distribution of resources, including experiences in the public arena, access to information, financial support and training (Sofiani, 2011). From these three factors, it can be analyzed that women are unable to move forward with their powerlessness, without adequate facilities and experience, then they will fall into poverty. In this pandemic condition, if the labor division factor is enforced it can be helped by the ability in technology in the online realm. The problem of public territory seized by customary culture which does not allow it to leave the house can be solved by surfing the online world. The emphasis is on the third factor, namely the support of women's resources and their experiences in creative economic activities.

Various factors cause poverty, but during this pandemic the Central Bureau of Statistics provides data to describe the causes of poverty levels as follows:

1. The covid-19 pandemic has caused changes in behavior so that there are obstacles in carrying out economic activities that encourage an increase in the poverty rate.
2. The GDP (Gross Domestic Product) figure experienced slowing growth in the 1st quarter of 2020.
3. The number of tourist visits has decreased, in March the decline was almost 64.11 percent compared to March 2019.
4. The increase in the price of basic commodities, including rice (1.78%). Chicken meat (5.53%), cooking oil (7.06%), sugar (13.35%), and eggs (11.10%).
5. The average per capita expenditure in Decile 1 for the period September 2019-March 2020 has increased by 1.67% and the increase is lower than GK's growth of 3.2%.

6. The group vulnerable to poverty is the informal sector workers who reach 12.5 million, so that with the covid-19 they are the most affected community group.

In describing the causes of poverty caused by this global pandemic, BPS provides details and comprehensively. But there is a business sector that is forgotten by BPS, because this research states that there has been an increase in unemployment and layoffs of employees during the pandemic (Safri'ah, 2020). In addition, the government is considered to have failed in overcoming this pandemic due to several factors such as slow decision making, weak coordination, non-compliance and public indifference to the health protocol appeal (Agustino, 2020). The long pandemic condition has not yet ended causing poverty so the cause by BPS is related to pandemic conditions, not looking for causes of poverty but that is the reality faced by the country and even all countries in the world. For example in point one, where the causes of behavior change cause the mobility of the people to reduce their activities in the economic sector. The point of this cause lies in the change in behavior which is usually mobile to become still and restricted in motion. All people are forced to do activities at home only, then who actually benefits. Who is accustomed to being at home and having limited space for movement, limited public space by not doing activities together and not crowding around. Of course, women are the sex that is often treated, but without the facilities and the ability to use their domestic space, it will not produce anything. Limitation in activities causes a decrease in the production of goods and services, this is what is explained in the second point where GDP decreases due to the problem of limited space for movement. Policies that regulate the business sector that cause all offices and goods and service companies must restrict their employees from coming to work. Although SMEs are encouraged to develop, readiness to sustain this pandemic has not been thought about beforehand so the resources of small and medium enterprises are not ready for this condition.

This is what causes GDP to decline. As for the points to three related to decreased tourist visits, also part of limited behavior change. All sectors that cause crowds, such as recreation areas, arts, museums, are all limited, even though women who play a role in the tourism sector have a significant contribution. Meanwhile, to explain points five and six, of course, it is also very related to changes in behavior that limit activities in the public sector, when public space is restricted and prohibited, activities will be carried out at home, this causes household consumption costs to rise and causes household needs to increase such as chickens eggs, oil and rice. The need for food and drink is the main consumption that drives the daily expenditure of each family to increase while the family income decreases.

IV. Conclusion

When women are in poor condition, there are so many reasons for this problem. Poverty for women is a problem for women who experience economic difficulties in terms of access and ability. This problem can arise due to the lack of access and facilities and infrastructure owned by women. Social rights opportunities become a barrier for women to adapt themselves to be the same as men. In addition, poverty in women can also occur due to behavioral, ideological choices, such as women refusing to work because their partner prohibits them. Or because of behavior that is unable to spend money according to the portion, measuring income and expenditure. Poverty can also occur due to inadequate abilities and skills in seeing opportunities for economic activity.

When basic needs cannot be properly fulfilled, for example the need for food, drink, shelter and the need for security, then the woman is categorized as poor woman. The Covid-19 pandemic situation implements health protocols, including restrictions on community activities, causing changes in behavior to limit all activities including economic activities.

With this limitation, economic activities based on information technology are an alternative solution to lift and revive the economy during difficult times. Women are able to contribute because culturally women are limited in activities outside the home. However, the domestication of women will not be of any benefit if they are not given skills training in mastering technology. After conducting reference studies and research experiences in the topic of poverty in Indonesia, the conclusions can be concluded that the attitude of women in realizing themselves to move forward to develop their potential in mastering technology and building independence through creative economic activities. With the contribution of women to increase creative economic activities, women's income will increase, so that their basic needs can be fulfilled properly. Women's poverty can be prevented and overcome through women's self-awareness, support for adequate facilities and opportunities to develop themselves in independence through the creative economy. Then the result can be concluded is the attitude of women in realizing themselves to move forward to develop their potential in mastering technology and building independence through creative economic activities. With the contribution of women to increase creative economic activities, women's income will increase, so that their basic needs can be fulfilled properly. Women's poverty can be prevented and overcome through women's self-awareness, support for adequate facilities and opportunities to develop themselves in independence through the creative economy. Then the result can be concluded is the attitude of women in realizing themselves to move forward to develop their potential in mastering technology and building independence through creative economic activities. With the contribution of women to increase creative economic activities, women's income will increase, so that their basic needs can be fulfilled properly. Women's poverty can be prevented and overcome through women's self-awareness, support for adequate facilities and opportunities to develop themselves in independence through the creative economy.

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