

The Socio Economic Life, Poverty And Trafficking Case Study In Tomohon City, North Sulawesi Province

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Abstract

The problem of socio-economic life towards poverty and trafficking has become a social disease of the community. It needs to get a serious concern because poverty is a complex problem involving various aspects such as the right to get food, health, education, and employment. Those aspects can trigger woman trafficking. The woman trafficking issue is actually not a new thing, but until the present, it still becomes a public concern, especially for the government officials who are often bothered by the actions of irresponsible people who incidentally take advantage of the poor economic conditions of the community. Based on these problems, this research focused on the phenomenon of socio-economic problems of the poor and woman trafficking. The method used was descriptive with secondary data which was then analyzed qualitatively. The results showed that in trafficking cases, the women were forced to be sex workers in other areas, international workers disguised themselves as dancers, and so on. A lot of girls became the victims of deception by criminals and became slaves in modern times. Efforts have been made by both the central and regional governments through exclamations and regulations in Regional Regulations on the prevention and control of human trafficking, especially woman trafficking, as well as organizations such as Non-Governmental Organizations, gender awareness, Information Center for Women's Protection, Bureau of Women's Empowerment, through seminars and workshops which resulted in a recommendation for regulations to protect girls and women.

Keywords

socio-economic; poverty; women trafficking



I. Introduction

One of the socio-economic problems in the community is woman trafficking which is increasingly concerning. It's even scary for most people, especially for most parents. Soekanto (2012) said that socio-economic problems were characterized by the placement of human positions in society against other people. Recently, there has been hot news about the increasing number of women trafficking domestically and internationally. The thing that needs to be questioned is why it has become more widespread lately? Is there a relationship with economic problems in our country and even internationally? The difficulty of getting a job requires people to try to earn a living in easy ways or justify any means without regard to self-esteem. The problem of social morality degradation becomes a scapegoat in the life of the poor, so the only solution is how to reshape the morality of the community as a social network, although it is not easy. The function of social networks is

to strengthen relations between groups so that vulnerabilities can be minimized. Rupita (2021) stated that the relationship between these groups was a local social capital in dealing with the COVID-19 situation in order to control social community vulnerabilities. The COVID-19 which is a non-natural disaster, greatly impacts the social and economic situations of an area on community activities (Musa, et al, 2021). As the impact that occurred in Tomohon City which is vulnerable to the transmission of the Coronavirus Diseases (COVID-19) outbreak. The trend of transmission of this pandemic continues to grow rapidly and haunts the community in all areas of Tomohon city.

The poverty problem indeed is the reality in this globalization era that identity is no longer the main thing compared to modern prestige. Duessenberry conducted a research among the Negro community in the United States and found out that consumption patterns were not derived from household income, but were influenced by the economic position of the household. It was from the social environment. This study also described that consumption patterns were oriented towards wealthier people. When prestige emerged, consumption patterns became the main choice compared to frugal behavior. For groups who felt poor, the pattern of human consumption that was considered richer was a role model to be seen as modern. This social research showed that among certain people, the problem of poverty was not merely meeting the needs of food, clothing and housing, but the impact of an annual socio-economic situation which has exceeded the international poverty line of 3 million 600 thousand per year. Couldn't it still be said that someone was poor if she/he had an income of 10 million per year or a household with an income of 3 million per year, which was still below the international poverty line? Someone already felt rich when they saw other people with an income of 2 million 500 thousand per year. Again, this is only a matter of social jealousy which can be mentioned as part of the influence of a series of globalization and modernization. Nabillah et al. (2020) stated that the causes of social vulnerability were: (a) the head of the family did not have a permanent job; (b) had very low salaries; (c) did not care about life problems of low income groups; (d) there was no integration of hazard vulnerability with the Integrated Healthcare Center for toddlers and classes for the elderly; (e) there was no accurate data on the existence of disability; and (f) the number of working women was still very low.

Meanwhile, poor people in developed countries usually have high purchasing power. Meanwhile in Indonesia, the poor must be really poor and do not have sufficient purchasing power. People living below the poverty line are characterized by limited ownership of production factors, or none at all, apart from energy, low education and so on. The development policy as stated in the Medium Term Development Plan (RPJM) is to improve people's welfare, which includes a target to reduce poverty. This target will be successful if the purchasing power of the population can be continuously increased.

The government always emphasizes "We help the poor" when there will be a fuel price increase, including conveying the following message: how heavy the burden of life is experienced by underprivileged families or people who are still poor, therefore, along with the increase in fuel prices, the government provides cash subsidies direct funds, specifically for the poor or near poor to lighten the burden of their lives and help meet their daily needs. The government asks all parties to ensure the smooth distribution of this direct cash subsidy to the people, do not hinder it, and even be misused. The world is changing, the global economic competition is getting tougher and even more difficult. Poverty in developing countries is increasingly pressing for the struggle to improve the welfare of their respective people. Indonesia is one of the more or less squeezed countries in the global world. Rich countries are getting richer, while poor countries and developing countries like Indonesia are still looking for a helping hand to stabilize the economy.

People who want to participate in this program must first form a solidarity committee which can then request funds for specific programs. There are more than 100,000 Solidarity committees that provide electricity and water to 10 million people and drainage facilities to eight million people. 500 thousand scholarships have been awarded and 2400 small companies have been formed.

Solidarity provides malnourished people, interest-free credit to farmers, capital to small companies, scholarships for children, land rights to squatters, and funds for urgent infrastructure such as roads, electricity and hospitals.

II. Research Method

2.1 Research Method

The research method used was descriptive, which is something that is used to solve problems that exists at the present time. Its implementation was not only up to data collection and compilation, but what was used in this research was secondary data or something obtained from research results. After being collected, it was interpreted qualitatively to come to clear and appropriate conclusions (Sugiyono, 2018).

2.2 Research Site

This research was conducted in Tomohon City, North Sulawesi Province, based on the data from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Tomohon City (2021) and from the respondents, in this case the women.

III. Results and Discussion

The whole description of material shortages usually included daily needs for food, clothing, housing and health services, poverty in this sense was understood as a situation of scarcity of basic goods and services. Social needs involved social isolation, dependence, and inability to participate in society. This involved education and information while social exclusion was usually distinguished from poverty as it included political and moral issues and was not limited to the economic sphere as well as a description of a lack of adequate income and wealth. The issue of vulnerability to poverty was also influenced by most of the people who were relatively stable in dealing with the social restriction policy situation during the COVID-19 pandemic in Tomohon City and throughout Indonesia. Although the basis of cultural civilization was still solid and strong and served as a barometer of an agrarian-based and consumer-based economy for services, there were other aspects that were no less important, namely the issue of improving the welfare of the community which was relatively good (Riyanto, 2014).

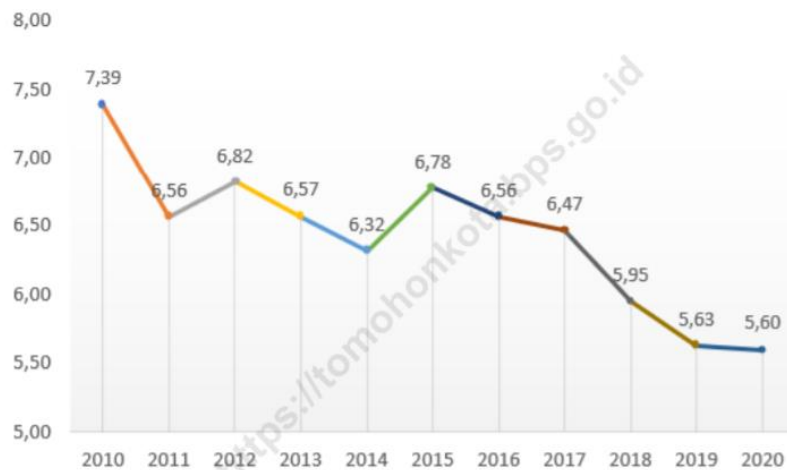


Figure 1. Percentage of Poor Population in Tomohon City 2010 – 2020

Source: Tomohon City in Figures, 2021

The up and down of the poverty rate was highly dependent on poverty alleviation programs, whether carried out by the central government or local governments. The poor was the people who were very vulnerable to changes that occur in their surroundings, especially to the changes in prices for food ingredients. Therefore, government assistance in the form of basic foodstuffs could reduce poverty, but with assistance for health and education it was hoped that it would also be able to reduce poverty. In the long term, people who are below the poverty line are expected to be able to get out of the cycle of poverty and be able to live independently without any help from the government.

Absolute poverty was generally measured using the Poverty Line (PL). The Poverty Line was a representation of the minimum amount of rupiah needed to meet the minimum basic needs of food which was equivalent to 2100 kg calories per capita per day and non-food basic needs. The number of poor people was very much influenced by the Poverty Line because the poor was the people who had an average per capita expenditure per month below the PL.

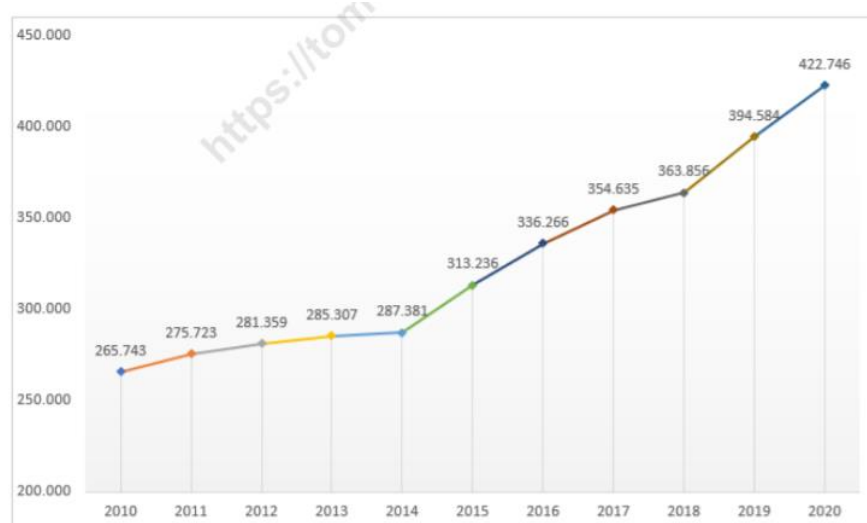


Figure 2. Poverty Line (Rupiah) in Tomohon City 2010-2020

Source: Tomohon City in Figures, 2021

Based on Figure 2, it can be seen that the Poverty Line of Tomohon City from 2010 to 2020 continued to increase. In 2010, the poverty line of Tomohon City was Rp.265,743, - increased to Rp.422,746, - in 2020. The increase in PL was also influenced by inflation. The problem of poverty was not just the number and percentage of the poor people. Another dimension to consider was the depth and severity of poverty. Besides being able to reduce the number of the poor people, poverty alleviation policies must also be able to reduce the depth and severity of poverty.

This also appears to be a serious problem that must be addressed immediately. Nowadays, more than 1 billion people worldwide live on less than a dollar a day. Indonesia as a developing country does not escape from the threat of poverty, although the percentage of the poor decreases every year, the number of poor people is increasing due to the increasing number of Indonesians. Based on BPS data in 2020, the population of Tomohon City in 2020 was 100,587 people, consisting of 50,815 Men and 49,772 Women. The percentage of poor people in 2018 was 6,250 people, in 2019, it decreased by 5,990 people but increased again in 2020 by 6,060 people. The Poverty Line of the population of Tomohon City in 2018 was recorded at Rp.363,856/capita/month with a composition of the poverty severity index of 0.38; poverty depth index of 1.25; the percentage of poverty was 5.96%. In 2019 it was recorded at Rp.394,584/capita/month with a composition of the poverty severity index of 0.25%; poverty severity index of 0.78; the percentage of poverty was 5.71%. In 2020 it was recorded at Rp.422,746/capita/month with a composition of the poverty severity index of 0.25; poverty severity index of 0.96; the percentage of poverty was 5.42%.

The social diseases of community due to the poverty impact, for example, were criminal cases in this case the pimps or intermediaries who were coming to villages to recruit girls, especially underage (teenagers), in the lure of big salaries, working as restaurant or bar waiters, and if anyone was interested, their parents were given money and their daughter was brought under and accommodated in one place, then her identity was made in the form of a resident card, a transfer card, a travel document with names, addresses, parents' names, all of which were fake. After the fake documents were complete then the children were taken away. The way they rode the ship or flied on airplane was also not like other normal passengers. They had to wait until the plane was in a hurry so that the inspection was not too strict. At the destination the girl was asked to serve sex with the visitors of the bar or cafe. Of course, the girl was shocked and refused the new assignment, but the owner of the bar already had an officer who would force the girl to do it. Usually the girl continued to refuse and asked to be returned to her original place. This was where the cover of their crime was exposed, the bar owner through his staff handed over a list of debts containing the ticket price, food allowance while in the shelter, allowance for letters, clothes, cosmetics and other expenses. If the girl couldn't pay it off, she was forced to do the assigned job which was to serve sex with male bar patrons, if she didn't want to, she was beaten, locked up, not fed, and in the end she gave up and worked until her debt was paid off. Sometimes the debt was very difficult to pay off, because all costs during the shelter were borne by the girl including the cost of treatment if she had a venereal disease due to her work. Also, the recruitment fee has been given to her parents, ticket fees and so on were charged to her, as well as all the risks she experienced, while the criminal or pimp did not have any risks, in fact receiving a large net income. It was really a crime beyond humanity. Another case was the recruitment of workers to Japan under the guise of dancers, also recruited from the villages, especially those with beautiful faces and slim bodies, then they were trained to dance then they were sent to Japan and were employed in bars and restaurants, some of them actually work as entertainers for three to six months,

but some of them did not return to Indonesia, they were chased by the Japanese police and finally asked for protection from the bar guards. Since then their fate could not be traced again especially if they experienced violence or exploitation, it was clear that no one would help them.

The restrictions to the community to do their activities outside also greatly affected the income of the community which impacted the income of the community, especially women, as well as for local workers and migrant workers. Surhayadi et al. (2020) argued in his study that the COVID-19 pandemic was very vulnerable to the re-growth of new poor communities in Indonesia.

IV. Conclusion

Prominent trafficking cases include being used as sex workers in Irian Jaya and sending international workers to Japan under the guise of dancers, and others. Indeed, slavery on earth was abolished a long time ago but until the present, there are still many girls who are victims of fraud by criminals and are still experiencing slavery in this modern era. Many efforts have been made by both the central and local governments through exclamations and regulations, for example in the regions through the regional regulation on the prevention and control of human trafficking, especially woman trafficking, as well as organizations such as gender-aware NGOs, Information Center for Women's Protection, Bureau of Women's Empowerment, through seminars and workshops which resulted in a recommendation for regulations to protect girls and women.

The era of regional autonomy reform has opened up opportunities for women to demand the same rights and obligations as men. Women's activists found that all the burdens suffered by women were based on the wrong understanding of the relationship and role of men and women in the family and in development. Women's problems cannot be separated from the unequal relationship between men and women. Therefore, they must be corrected by ensuring that women and men get access, control, roles and benefits in a balanced way in all aspects of life.

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