

The Community Perceptions of Poverty in Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency (Research Results on March 2017)

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Abstract

This paper wants to analyze The Community Perceptions of Poverty in Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency (Research Results on March 2017) by using descriptive qualitative method. The result shows that Community perceptions of poverty at Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Subdistrict, Aceh Besar Regency were very diverse, some were positive, some were pessimistic or negative. A positive view, for example, considers poverty as a part of the life of the people in Gampong Ayon that is not used as a burden, while those who have a negative view of poverty occur in Gampong Ayon because of the lack of concern from the government.

Keywords

perception, society, poverty



I. Introduction

Poverty is problem throughout the history of Indonesia Country. In every country, poverty is the biggest problem. Poverty has made millions of children unable to get quality education, difficulties in financing health care, lack of savings and no investment, lack of access to public services, lack of employment opportunities, lack of social security and protection of families, strengthened migration flows to cities, and worse, poverty causes millions of people to meet their limited food, clothing and housing needs. Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.

One of the root causes of poverty in Indonesia is the high disparity between regions due to the unequal distribution of income, so that the gap between the rich and the poor in Indonesia is widening. Poverty is not just an economic problem, but rather is the end result of the interaction of social, economic, political and cultural factors. The phenomenon of poverty has been going on for a moment, although efforts have been made to overcome it, but to date there are members of the community living below the poverty line.

However, the current situation shows that the condition of economic growth is actually giving a signal of closeness with increasing indicators of poverty. Even from the impact of decentralization, these improvements and opportunities cannot yet be enjoyed by all groups. Even official poverty data show poverty stagnation at a higher rate than before the decentralization era.

Various programs and policies that have been made by the government in tackling poverty such as the Inpres of Disadvantaged Villages (IDT), Countermeasures to overcome the impact of the economic crisis, Poor Rice (Raskin), Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) and so on, have not been able to overcome the problem of poverty in the Gampong Ayon, , Aceh. All this happened because the program only focused on one of the dimensions of poverty symptoms such as political, economic, social that did not touch the root causes of poverty, for example Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), but was less effective because many were wrongly targeted, even opening up opportunities for misuse of funds resulting in social conflicts in several areas.

II. Review of Literatures

2.1 The Concepts of Perception

Perception is a view that is preceded by sensing of objects (objects, humans, ideas, symptoms and events) through the five senses so that it immediately gives meaning and value to an object by highlighting the nature typical of an object and the results of perception can be in the form of responses or judgments that are different from individuals.

2.2 Community Theory

The term community, etymologically derived from the Arabic word *syaraka* which means "to participate, participate". In general, the understanding of society can be explored through the characteristics of the community itself. The characteristics of the community according to Soekanto (2012 :) namely:

- a. Humans who live together. But theoretically the minimum number is two people who live together.
- b. Joined for quite a long time because with the gathering of humans, new humans will emerge. Humans can also talk, feel and understand; they also have desires to convey their impressions or feelings. As a result of living together, there arose a communication system and arises the rules that govern human relations within the group.
- c. They realize that they are a unity.
- d. They are systems of living together.

According to Ahmadi in Syani (2007) the community must have the following requirements:

- a. There must be human gathering, and there must be many, not animal gathering;
- b. Has lived a long time in a certain area;
- c. There are rules or laws that regulate them to go towards common interests and goals.

2.3 Poverty Theory

According to Todaro (2006) the variation of poverty in developing countries is caused by several factors: First; Geographical differences, population and income level. Second; Historical differences, partly colonized by different countries. Third; The difference between the wealth of natural resources and the quality of human resources. Fourth; Differences in the role of the private and state sectors. Fifth; Different industrial structures. Sixth; The difference in the degree of dependence on the economic and political power of other countries and the seventh; Differences in the distribution of power, political structure and domestic institutions.

According to Suharto (2005: 32), poverty determinants are divided into four groups, which consist of human capital, known as physical productive capital, employment status, and village characteristics. World Bank (2008) categorizes the characteristics of poor people according to community, region, household, and individual. In community factors,

infrastructure is the main determinant of poverty. The state of infrastructure is very closely related to the level of social welfare.

Todaro (2006) shows the link between poverty and underdevelopment with several economic and non-economic aspects. Three main components as a cause of community backwardness and poverty, these factors are the low standard of living, low self-esteem and freedom from the three aspects have a reciprocal relationship. The low standard of living is caused by the low level of income, low income caused by low levels of labor productivity, low labor productivity caused by high labor growth, high unemployment and low per capita investment.

They do not have production assets because they are poor, as a result they are entangled in an environment of endless and basic poverty. Based on Ginanjar's opinion that poverty can be caused by several things including the low economic activity that can be carried out by the community. With low economic activity it has implications for: a. Low level of education. b. Low level of health. c. Limited employment opportunities. d. Isolation conditions. 1. Low natural resources. 2. Technology and low population elements. 3. Low human resources. 4. Suggestions and infrastructure, including institutions that have not been good.

III. Research Methods

This paper uses descriptive qualitative method. Narbuko, (2007) provides a research understanding "An attempt to address the current problem solving based on data, and also presents data, analyze and interpret, and can also be comparative and comparative". Gampong Area is selected because: First; Ayon Gampong is one of Gampong in Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency whose number of poor population is very large despite various government programs. Second; Gampong Ayon with the condition of the majority of farmers.

Books and reports relating to the study are used as the data, namely the general condition of the study area. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, study documents and interviews with informants consisting of Gampong Keuchik, Secretary, Treasurer, Youth and Development Unit, Hallway Heads, Tuha Peut and community leaders. The informant was determined by purposive sampling.

IV. Discussion

The results showed a diversity of community perceptions in viewing poverty experienced by Gampong Ayon community, Seulimeum Subdistrict, Aceh Besar Regency. The diversity is so that it can show the objectivity obtained by the researcher. The results showed that there was a positive view of the community towards poverty and a negative one. A positive view regards poverty as a part of the people's life of Gampong Ayon, which do not used as a burden, while those who have a negative view of poverty occur in Gampong Ayon because of concern from the government is less. While the factors causing poverty by community of Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Subdistrict, Aceh Besar Regency, the results of the study have been detected, among others, due to cultural and structural factors.

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