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

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Abstract

The Government of Aceh Besar Regency has made various efforts through assistance programs that are beneficial for the Gampong community to overcome poverty, but the poverty rate in Ayon Gampong, Seulimeum Sub-district is still high and has been going on for a long time, until now there are still many members of the community living under poverty. This poverty problem is very complex and multidimensional in nature, related to social, economic, cultural, and other aspects. The purpose of this study is to find out and describe community’s perceptions of poverty in Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency and to describe the causes of poverty. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. To get information in accordance with the objectives of the study, the informants were determined by Purposive Sampling with a total of 12 informants. The results showed that community perceptions of poverty in Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Sub-district, 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. Related to the factors that cause poverty in Gampong Ayon community, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency, which consists of cultural and structural factors. Cultural factors related to poverty that befell the Gampong Ayon community as a form of inheritance from the previous generation of poor fathers so that their children are also considered poor, while poverty is related to structural poverty because poverty is inherent in the poor population, because they do not have production assets and the ability to increase productivity.

Keywords
perception; society; poverty

I. Introduction

Poverty is a phenomenal problem throughout the history of Indonesia, in a country there is no greater problem than the problem of poverty. 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.

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 long time, although efforts have been made to overcome it, but to date there are still many members of the community living below the poverty line.

According to Dewi (2018) the limited access to health services, education, housing and settlements, infrastructure, capital/credit and information for the poor is one of the factors that causes poverty alleviation efforts to be less than optimal. Poverty is a social problem along with the development of trade throughout the world and with the establishment of certain standard of living as a habit of society. According to Soekanto (2012) poverty as "A condition in which a person is unable to maintain himself in accordance with the standard of life of the group and is also unable to utilize his mental or physical energy within the group".

The phenomenon experienced by the Gampong Ayon community, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency is the large number of poor people. 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, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency. 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 Literature

2.1 The Concepts of Perception

Etymologically, perception comes from Latin perceptio; from percipere, which means taking or taking. Sobur, (2008) Perception is "One of the important psychological aspects for humans in responding to the presence of various aspects and symptoms around them. Perception contains a very broad understanding, concerning internal and external. Various experts have provided various definitions of perception, although in principle they contain the same meaning.

Walgito (2010) perception is "A sensing process which is the process of receiving stimulus by individuals through the senses or also called a sensory process". But the process does not just stop, but the stimulus is continued and the next process is a process of perception. Therefore the process of perception cannot be separated from the sensing process which is the precursor of the process of perception.

According to Jalaluddin (2010) perception is "The experience of objects, events, or relationships obtained by concluding information and interpreting messages. Whereas Surtono (2011) perception is "Giving meaning to sensory stimuli, or interpreting information captured by the sensory organs". Thus it can be stated that the perception is organizing, interpreting the stimulus it senses so that it is something meaningful, and is an integrated response in the individual.
Perception is linked to the way a person views a particular object in different ways by using the sense devices possessed, then trying to interpret them. According to Pareek in Sobur, (2008), among others:

a. Attention, the first perception begins with attention. Not all the stimuli that are around us can we capture everything simultaneously, our attention is only focused on one or two objects that are of interest to us.
b. Needs, needs will cause the stimulus to enter our attention span and this need will cause us to interpret the stimulus differently.
c. Willingness, is someone's expectation of a stimulus that appears in order to react to the stimulus received more efficiently so that it is better if the person is ready first.
d. Value system, value system that applies in a person or society will affect one's perception.

From some of the opinions above about perception, it can be concluded that 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. In social science there is no absolute measure or exact number to determine how many people there must be. But theoretically the minimum number is two people who live together.
b. Joined for quite a long time. A collection of humans is not the same as a collection of inanimate objects such as chairs, tables and so on. 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. The system of living together gives rise to culture because each group member feels himself bound to one another.

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

The definition of poverty has expanded, along with the increasingly complex causes, indicators and other problems that surround it. Poverty is no longer only considered as an economic dimension but has expanded to social, health, education and political dimensions. According to the Central Statistics Agency, poverty is "Inability to meet minimum standards of basic needs which include food and non-food needs". According to Todaro (2006) the variation of poverty in developing countries is caused by several factors,
namely: 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.

To measure poverty, Indonesia through BPS uses a basic needs approach that can be measured by the number or count of the Head Count Index, namely the number and percentage of poor people below the poverty line. The poverty line is set at a level that is always constant in real terms so that we can reduce poverty by tracking the progress made in alleviating poverty over time.

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.

According to Ginanjar (2006: 49) there are 4 factors that cause poverty, these factors include: Poverty is inherent in the poor population, they are poor because they do not have production assets and the ability to increase productivity. 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 Method

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative. 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". This research was conducted in Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency. The selection of this location with the following considerations: 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.

The data source used in this study is primary data obtained through direct observation and interviews with the community in Gampong Ayon. While secondary data
is data sourced from documents, books and reports relating to the study, 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

This research was conducted to describe the community perception of poverty in Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency. The results showed a diversity of community perceptions in viewing poverty experienced by Gampong Ayon community, Seulimeum Sub-district, 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 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. While the factors causing poverty of Gampong Ayon community, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency, the results of the study have been detected, among others, due to cultural and structural factors. Cultural factors are related to the poverty affecting the Gampong Ayon community as a form of inheritance from previous generations, while poverty is related to structural poverty because poverty is inherent in the poor population, because they do not have production assets and the ability to increase productivity.

V. Conclusion

Based on the discussion as described above, it can be concluded as follows:

1. Community perceptions of poverty in Gampong Ayon, Seulimeum Sub-district, 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.

2. Related to the factors that cause poverty in Gampong Ayon community, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar Regency, which consists of cultural and structural factors. Cultural factors related to poverty that befell the Gampong Ayon community as a form of inheritance from the previous generation of poor fathers so that their children are also considered poor, while poverty is related to structural poverty because poverty is inherent in the poor population, because they do not have production assets and the ability to increase productivity.

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