
**DESCRIBING THE POVERTY TRAP IN KAMPUNG NELAYAN SEBERANG,
MEDAN, INDONESIA**

Bakhrul Khair Amal¹

¹*Ph.D Student at Social and Politic Faculty, Airlangga University*

¹*Lecturer at Faculty of Social Science (FIS), State University of Medan (Unimed)*

ABSTRACT: *Poverty is one of the classic problems often faced by coastal communities, especially fishermen compared with the people who live in cities. It has happened for many years and at many coastal communities. It seems this problem without ending and will be faced again by their new generation. People who lives nearby coast is always regarded as a poor people. The result is most of the fifteen poor families in Kampung Nelayan Seberang live in poverty. They have no houses to be live in. They rent houses for many years without knowing when the houses belong to them. There is even a family heavily in debt with middlemen. In addition to income, everyday they receive low salary. It really does not enough to fulfill their daily needed.*

KEYWORDS: *mapping; poverty trap; poor; outcome*

INTRODUCTION

Poverty phenomenon occurs and exists in almost all countries in the world. Therefore, this issue is never "stale", including in the academic realm. This problem is very complicated so it is very intrusive for all of governments in the world. On several occasions, most countries agree to make efforts to reduce poverty with different terminology in every era. Efforts of collective action in world leaders to tackle the world's problems, including poverty, have create a movement known as the concept of *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*.

As a universal problem, the efforts to minimize poverty should be done together. The presence of SDGs is clearly as an indicator to show how the problem of poverty has made families suffer. Though poverty is a universal problem, studies also show that tackling the problem of poverty is not solely related to policy aspects, but it can touch many aspects of life. Based on the search of the literature that addresses poverty, it is known that the universal nature of the phenomenon of poverty does not automatically give birth to a framework of thought and prevention efforts which are also universal. It must be there is another reason. Socio-cultural also gives a significant contribution to this poverty.

Poverty is one of the classic problems often faced by coastal communities, especially fishermen compared with the people who live in cities. It has happened for many years and at many coastal communities. It seems this problem without ending and will be faced again by their new generation. People who lives nearby coast is always regarded as a poor people, hopeless and uneducated person. It seems that this people has no future till the end of his live. Because of this situation, the researcher would like to do a research to one of the coastal communities who always

live in poverty. The location of this research is Kampung Nelayan Seberang, Medan. The formulation of the problem in this research are:

- a) To which components of the poverty trap occurs at fishermen families in Kampung Nelayan Seberang, Medan?
- b) What is the effort of the family to overcome this poverty in Kampung Nelayan Seberang?

METHODOLOGY

Poverty is the state for the majority of the world's people and nations. Why is this? Is it enough to blame poor people for their own predicament? Have they been lazy, made poor decisions, and been solely responsible for their plight? What about their governments? Have they pursued policies that actually harm successful development? Such causes of poverty and inequality are no doubt real. But deeper and more global causes of poverty are often less discussed. Behind the increasing interconnectedness promised by globalization are global decisions, policies, and practices. These are typically influenced, driven, or formulated by the rich and powerful. These can be leaders of rich countries or other global actors such as multinational corporations, institutions, and influential people.

To solve such enormous external influence, the governments of poor nations and their people are often powerless. As a result, in the global context, a few get wealthy while the majority struggle. The poorest people will also have less access to health, education and other services. Problems of hunger, malnutrition and disease afflict the poorest in society. The poorest are also typically marginalized from society and have little representation or voice in public and political debates, making it even harder to escape poverty. By contrast, the wealthier you are, the more likely you are to benefit from economic or political policies. The amount the world spends on military, financial bailouts and other areas that benefit the wealthy, compared to the amount spent to address the daily crisis of poverty and related problems are often staggering.

Poverty

Poverty is epidemic dearth, or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. It is a multifaceted concept, which includes social, economic, and political elements. Poverty may be defined as either absolute or relative. Absolute poverty or destitution refers to the lack of means necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Relative poverty takes into consideration individual social and economic status compared to the rest of society.

After the industrial revolution, mass production in factories made production goods increasingly less expensive and more accessible. Of more importance is the modernization of agriculture, such as fertilizers, to provide enough yield to feed the population. Responding to basic needs can be restricted by constraints on government's ability to deliver services, such as corruption, tax avoidance, debt by the brain drain of health care and educational professionals. Strategies of increasing income to make basic needs more affordable typically include welfare, economic freedoms and providing financial services.

A complete definition of poverty is proposed by John Friedman. According to Friedman (1979), poverty is inequality funds or inability of the individual to accumulate social power base. Social power base, according to Friedman, includes the following:

1. The top model of productive assets, such as land, housing, and medical equipment.
2. Financial resources, such as adequate income and credit.
3. Social organizations together, such as cooperatives.
4. Network or social networks to obtain employment, goods, knowledge and skills.
5. The information that is useful for life.

Definition of poverty can be divided into two, namely the relative poverty and absolute poverty. Relative poverty is expressed by what percentage of national income received by the group of people with a certain income class compared to the proportion of national income received by the group of people with more income class (Suyanto and Karnaji, 2005: 3). Arif and Adi Sasono (1984) also state that the concept of relative poverty defined by "the idea of relative standard" that takes into account the dimensions of space and time. The basic assumption is, poverty in a region is different from other regions, and poverty at a certain time is different from other times.

Meanwhile, the World Bank explained that the criteria of poor country or society are characterized:

- a. If 40% of the population with the lowest income received less than 12% of national income, it is called the division of national income is highly unequal;
- b. If 40% of the population with the lowest incomes receive 12-17% of national income, it is called moderate inequality; and
- c. If 40% of the population with the lowest incomes receive more than 17% of national income, it is called a low inequality.

Many indicators used to determine a person or group of people for being poor or not poor:

- a. Those who live below the poverty line in general do not have their own production factors, such as sufficient land or skills.
- b. Generally, they do not have the possibility to acquire production assets with their own strength. Earned income is not enough to acquire land or business capital. While, they do not have a requirement to fulfill bank credit needed, such as credit guarantees and others.
- c. Education level of the poor is generally low. They are generally consumed time to earn money so there is no time to learn. The same thing happens to their children which can not finish their school because they have to help their parents to earn additional income.
- d. Those who live in rural areas and have no arable land, or if there is a relatively small, generally become farm laborers or laborers outside agriculture. However, because the work is based on season, then their continue working to be free workers.
- e. Those who live in the city, in a young age and do not have skills or uneducated, while the city especially in developing countries, is not ready to accommodate the movement of urbanization from villages.

Besides, there are cultural characteristics of poverty which are rooted for years in the mind of the poor people. According to Lewis (1988), cultural characteristics of poverty are as follows:

- a. Low morale to achieve progress,

- b. Lack of fighting spirit to transform lives,
- c. Low motivation to work hard,
- d. The high level of submission to fate
- e. A passive response in the face of economic difficulties,
- f. The lack of aspiration to build a better life,
- g. Tend to seek immediate gratification and oriented to the present
- h. Not interested in formal education dimension of the future.
- i. The efforts to understand poverty as a social phenomenon must also be done by "borrowing" ideas of Karl Marx.
- j. Before talking about Marxism as an ideology, it is actually important to understand the intention of Marxism itself.

Social Phenomenology

Schutz is one of the pioneers of social phenomenology as an analytical tool in capturing all the symptoms that occur in this world. In addition, Schutz arranges that social phenomenology approach is more systematic, comprehensive, and practical as a useful approach for capturing a variety of symptoms (phenomena) in the social world.

In other words, a conceptual bridge between thinking phenomenology predecessor nuanced social philosophy and psychology and social sciences are directly related to humans at the collective level, ie society. There are two things appearing in this concept. First, pure phenomenology which contains the concept of social nuanced philosophical and transcendental metaphysical thinking. On the other hand, thought the social science is strongly associated with various forms of interaction in a society that is dispersed as symptoms in the social world. The symptoms in the social world is nothing but an object of formal study (focus of interest) from the phenomenological sociology.

Thought of Schutz becomes basic reference in research phenomenology as interesting study, but thought Schutz is not actually with his predecessors. Schutz sees phenomenology as social actions on experience, meaning and consciousness.

Location

The location of this research is in Kampung Nelayan Seberang. This location is in the territory of Deli Serdang. Based on the location of the area, it has three major industries, especially the ports managed by Pelindo 1. Port that is the point of the problem in this research that gives right to use the land now the settlement Kampung Nelayan Seberang. Based on the conditions described above, the scientific researchers feel the things that deviate from should remember the efforts of poverty alleviation programs have been conducted, but the number of poor people is relatively the same or even increased (the final report RTBL coastal area of Medan, 2015).

The selection of Kampung Nelayan Seberang as a focal point of this research is not without reason. The area is dealing directly with the development of the industry continues to evolve, however this area has not been able to climb out of poverty and remain a slum in the city of Medan. Kampung Nelayan Seberang is a border area between Medan and Deli Serdang which visibly indicates the existence of overlapping interest in it. It is increasingly attractive when views Pelindo as a state-

owned institution proved to have contributed greatly to the presence of Kampung Nelayan Seberang.

DISCUSSION

The phenomenon of poverty and the poverty trap is a social reality that cannot be understood without explore the phenomenon itself. The focus of this research is to see the phenomenon of poverty in Kampung Nelayan Seberang with the research subjects are a family of fishermen. The phenomenon of poverty is reflected in the poverty traps that ensnare people in Kampung Seberang. Thus phenomenology is an effective approach to uncover the phenomenon of poverty in this study. Supported by the opinion of Siahhaan (2001), based on the phenomenological perspective, poverty is a social reality that is experienced by a poor household, therefore their households are more appropriate to describe it. This research is done in Belawan I, Medan Belawan District, specifically Kampung Nelayan Sebrang consisting of 600 households. This location is chosen with some reasons:

1. Administration, the settlement area of Kampung Nelayan Sebrang, Lingkungan 12 is illegal. The administration, the residential area of Kampung Nelayan Seberang enters to the administration area of Deli Serdang regency. Interestingly, the people living in this region are formally registered as residents of the city of Medan. Legality of residence is marked with the ownership of Identity card (KTP) issued by the authority of Medan city. More details, here is the location of Kampung Nelayan Seberang taken from Googlemap, 2014:

Picture 1. Location of the Research
Kampung Nelayan Seberang



Source: Googlemap, 2014 (modification)

The implications of this condition has given an impact on many sectors, one of them is the allocation of development aid by the government of Deli Serdang who has never touched this village even though they live and settle in the district of Deli Serdang.

2. Dominantly, people who lives in Kampung Nelayan Seberang is fisherman. When referring to the categorization used by Harahap (2012), the majority of the people in this village are fishermen

with a weight of boat below than 5 GT. Operationally, boat of this type has limited ability to explore the ocean so the potential to earn more money are limited.

3. Fishermen in Kampung Nelayan Seberang has built their own adaptation system in order to preserve life. Adaptation system life is visible in many aspects, especially economic and other aspects. Therefore, the depiction of these conditions through research undertaken will give a choice for the community decision to keep living in this 'illegal location' with limited access on a "cake of development".

Picture 2.

Simple boat belongs to fishermen in Kampung Nelayan Seberang



Unit of Research Subject

In accordance with the formulation of the issues raised in this study, the focus on family fisherman who becomes the subject of research is important, because the family is the unit of analysis. The role of head of the household in this research is as important as other family members, even culturally possible that the head of household has a different hierarchy of social status with other family members. It is useful to provide the integrity of family life. It is because the family is the unit of analysis is positioned as subjects in research.

The role of head of the household in this research is as important as other family members, even culturally possible that the head of household has a different hierarchy of social status with other family members. It is useful to provide the integrity of the social construction on the poverty trap faced by families of fishermen and the exit they build. The way out is a strategy designed and implemented as a manifestation of adaptation efforts on poverty trap filed by Chambers. Aside

from the above, another advantage gained by setting the family as the unit of analysis in this study are:

- a. In the community, the decision process is often simply not done by a single agent but collectively in the family. Under these conditions, there will be many things that can be drawn from the dynamic process of decision-making in the family, especially related to the selected adaptation strategies in the face of the poverty trap which is wrapped around,
- b. Seeing the family as the unit of analysis, indirectly choices and decisions of all family members is done individually also would be imaged simultaneously and can be seen as an important part simultaneously,
- c. Unit beneficiaries of the range of assistance/poverty reduction program the majority are families that put the family as the unit of analysis in this study can accurately describe the management of relief or family involvement in the development programs and is happening.

Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

In accordance with the formulation of the problem posed in this research, then the predominant type of data needed are primary and secondary data. Meanwhile, if seen from the presentation and adjusted to the approach used, the type of data to be extracted in the process of this research is qualitative data.

Primary data in the form of qualitative data in this study to answer the formulation of the problem posed. For the formulation of the first issues on related research on whether the condition of the elements of material deficiencies cover the lives of poor families in the fishing community in the city of Medan, then searching various social cultural aspects in the life of people in Kampung Nelayan in Medan becomes very important. For the early stage is used participant observation. Nevertheless, observational techniques are not the only way to collect the data to understand the social and cultural systems examined. To enrich, interview techniques become the primary choice. Through the interview process of formation, the presence of the parties and the role of each party will be subjective excavated certainly possible with the help of diverse examples that can be seen from social activities.

Attempts to answer a second related problem formulation explanation of how the process of building the conservation of the poverty trap that exists as part of the social construction of urban fishing communities in the field in relation to the Marxist approach is fully seen within the framework of social life assessed.

Table.1

Classification of the Research

No	Classification	Description
1	Job	Some poor fishermen
2	Income	Low income or outcome is higher than income for every day
3	Family	Married, ever been married, having family members

There are fifteen families of fishermen who are targeted as a representation of poverty in Kampung Nelayan Seberang. Researcher maps the first related to the condition of poverty. It can be seen from the research efforts to present a few facts about the amount of income and home ownership in the village. Furthermore, the determination of the fifteen poor families are formulated together with community leaders, traditional leaders, religious leaders as well as some advice from people who build up five poor family name.

The process of determining these 15 families use category. This category is useful to help researchers described the omission of the State and the poverty trap. These categories are employment, income and family members. The first category is the work. Work is meant here is the work that became the focal point of the poverty of fishermen in Kampung Nelayan Seberang. The second category is the revenue. The third category is family itself. The purpose of this category of the family is a complete family or at a nuclear family consisting of a husband, wife and children. It is useful to illustrate how a family pass poverty, trapped by poverty. Families here also can be said as families who have been married or never married. It is because many phenomena happens in Kampung Nelayan Seberang who switches their profession to Malaysia. It is as one way to escape from the poverty trap.

Table.2: Mapping of Material Shortage in Fifteen Poor Families in Kampung Nelayan Seberang

No	Family name	Indicator of material shortage
1	Aisyah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor • working as a knitter nets with a low income and not settled. • Income is uncertain • Helping children's finance • higher outcome
2	Jainal Abidin Hasibuan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor • Living with his son • Jobless wife • Low income but high outcome
3	Rustam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income though having additional job • Living in a rent house • High outcome
4	Idris Nasution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in a rent house • A rent house is not suitable for living • Only possessing TV • Having low salary
5	Suhermanto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land for living belongs to another people

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 times move from one house to another • Toilet in a river • Only possess TV and mobile phone • Low salary • Cost for school is expensive
6	Muhammad Ranik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in a rent house • Without using electricity • Rent a boat • Without having table and chairs in a living room
7	Chandra Surya Darma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income depends on the season • For daily needed is helped by parents
8	Sahriadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income • Helping parents
9	Muhammad Yusuf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor • Do not possess his own house • Should fulfill children's school • Low income but high outcome
10	Asnan Nasution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional outcome • Income reduce • Hoping help from government
11	Suminah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor • Smallest house • Left by her husband working to Malaysia • Working as a fried banana seller
12	Suriadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having un-enough income • Outcome is increased • Outcome is bigger than income
13	Muhammad Ramli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagnant income • Outcome is increase • gamble
14	Rudi Amin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income is not balance with outcome • Stingy for his needed • Should pay middleman every month
15	Saali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor • House made of bamboo and a thatched roof • There is no tap water and well

CONCLUSION

The table above shows a trend that the noose material deficiencies are apparent from the large expenditure which is disproportionate to the revenue generated. It is because the choice to get income is highly dependent on the season and the market price at the auction. The result is most of the fifteen poor families choose to save as much as possible needs. There is even a family heavily in debt with middlemen. In addition to income, forms of material deprivation of fifteen poor families do not receive an enough salary to fulfill their life daily. They have no house of their own. While most of them only have the right to stay and occupy the houses and they live without rights to the land. Forms of material deprivation becomes dominant when the context is raised at Kampung Nelayan Seberang, where most of the residents who live in the region only have the right to live and have to pay annual deposit to the head of the environment that will be given to the IPCs.

Possession of assets other than the home is also not so good. It can be proven from the condition of those who sometimes have only television as the only valuable items at home. Even, one family just only has a table or bench for guests. It is very pity for this family who has many problem to survive his life. Till now, people in Kampung Nelayan Seberang is hopeless and powerless. They have no effort to run out from this poverty trap. They have tried many ways to improve the quality of their life by working to another place, such as Malaysia. But till now, it still cannot change their life to be better.

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