International Journal of Economics, Business and Innovation Research
https://e-journal.citakonsultindo.or.id/index.php/IJEBIR
E-ISSN : 2964-0865
IJEBIR

Begging Activities in Pontianak City: Analysis of Driving Factors and Their Impact on the Environment and Children

Jenisa Zeldzean[1], Siti Aisyah[2], Miko Rahmadi[3], Fuzy Firda Zhan[4]*

[1,2,3,4]Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Tanjungpura, Indonesia

*Email: fuzy.firda@fisip.untan.ac.id

Abstract

Looking at the facts on the ground, most of the beggars are not all poor or homeless, some of them are just pretending to attract the sympathy of many people by bringing children. This practice cannot be justified because it involves the exploitation of children and is a violation of children's rights. This research analyzes the driving factors and impacts on children and the environment in begging activities in Pontianak City. The method used in this research is a literature study where the researcher collects various literature to obtain research data. The research results show that several driving factors cause beggars to bring children when begging, such as economic factors, social factors, and educational factors which are the main factors. The research results also reveal the impact of begging with children on the surrounding environment which can affect other individuals or groups. The recommendation from this research is that the state needs to be more assertive in taking preventive measures to reduce the practice of begging with children and its negative impact on the surrounding environment and the children involved.

Keywords: beggar; child; factor; impact

INTRODUCTION

Social problems cannot be separated from poverty. Literally in the Big Indonesian Dictionary, poor means not having wealth. Poverty also means not being able to meet the level of living needs as well as low income and economic levels. In terms of poverty, it can be interpreted as a low standard of living, especially a lack of material wealth for a certain number or group of people compared to a more decent standard of living in the

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

community in question. In general, poverty is defined as a situation where income cannot meet basic needs so there is little possibility of ensuring survival (Suryawati, 2004). Poverty is a complex social problem, this problem can be influenced by various interrelated factors, such as income level, health, education, access to goods and services, location, geography, gender, and environmental conditions (Rumate & Engka, 2019).

It is not uncommon to live by asking/begging as a shortcut to survive. They are accustomed to cultural poverty by living a lazy life, depending on other people, and asking for the mercy of others to give them money. Culture is one of the causes of cultural poverty, namely in the form of values, and traditions that have been developed culturally or passed down from generation to generation, and a way of life that continues to develop among them. There are several patterns of behavior and attitudes shown by poor people as the most appropriate way to continue living in poverty (Palikhah, 2016). This way of life then became their foundation and formed their culture of poverty.

In their activities, most of the beggars are not all poor or homeless, some of them only pretend to attract the sympathy of many people by bringing children, or they even rent children to other people to beg to get people's pity and get more. lots of income (Rahmanita, 2018). According to the Detik News daily news written by the Detikcom team (2013) in the article titled "Bringing a Baby, an Effective Way for Beggars to Increase Their Income" it is explained that they admit that by bringing a baby a beggar can increase his income many times over. "You only pocket 50-80 thousand, which is different from carrying a baby, you can earn at least 200 thousand," said Sutinah, a 40-year-old female beggar.

Bringing children while begging can make other people feel pity and sympathy, thus encouraging the person to give more money to the beggar (Pratama, 2021). Instead of fulfilling life's necessities, it turns out that bringing children while begging is a golden opportunity for beggars to earn more money and continue living lazily. Bringing children to beg can also form wrong attitudes and imitation behavior in children. If children continue to be invited to beggars, they will receive learning that is not to the norms of a decent life in society (Kuntari & Hikmawati, 2020). This is what can create the next generation of beggars.

Living as a beggar with children in tow has a bad impact on the beggar, the children he carries, and the people who have given him extra sympathy. The beggar will continue to live a lazy life. Bringing children while begging is considered exploitation, as stated in Law no. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking is

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

explained in article 1 point 7 "Exploitation is an action with or without the victim's consent which includes but is not limited to prostitution, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, oppression, blackmail, physical use, sexual, reproductive organs, or unlawfully moving or transplanting organs and/or body tissue or exploiting a person's energy or abilities by another party to gain material or immaterial benefits." Apart from that, according to data from the International Labor Organization (2021) in the article titled "Child Labor Increases to 160 Million", there are around 168 million children who are child workers and around 85 million children do dangerous work.

People who give money to beggars will also seem to be deceived because the children brought by the beggars are only an attraction to sympathize with the beggars. Moreover, it is contained in the Pontianak City Regional Regulation in Article 42(e) Every person/entity is prohibited; "giving money and/or goods to beggars and/or people begging for mercy at road intersections (traffic lights) which are part of the road or other public places."

The negative impact of bringing children to beg illustrates a complex social problem. This practice often involves the exploitation of toddlers who should be in a safe home or environment. According to them, children are seen as having high economic value because by inviting their children they will be able to arouse feelings of pity from people, so they are expected to get more money than by begging themselves, even though children, especially those who are still toddlers, should receive both physical and psychological protection (Kuntari & Eny, 2020). Based on Child Protection Law number 24 of 2001, parents are prohibited from exploiting their children for any reason, including poverty. Therefore, research is needed to identify the negative impacts of this practice. It is hoped that this research will help to increase public understanding of this issue and find better methods to protect children who engage in this practice.

To help minimize beggars bringing children, several areas such as Pontianak City have established regulations that prohibit giving money or goods to beggars. Therefore, further research is intended to determine the driving factors and the impact of bringing children to beg on the environment and children. By increasing understanding of the impact that will occur on the environment and children themselves, the government and community can work together to minimize the number of beggars bringing children to Pontianak City.

From the explanation given above, researchers want to know more deeply and answer the problems: (1) What are the driving factors that cause beggars to take children around the Pontianak City area (2) Impact on the environment (3) Negative impacts on

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

children when begging. In this way, the community and Pontianak City government can take more effective steps in overcoming this problem and improving community welfare.

METHOD

The method used in this research is library research or literature study where researchers collect various literature to obtain research data. Research using literature studies is research whose preparation is the same as other research, but the sources and methods for collecting data are taking data from the library, reading, taking notes, and processing research materials (Melfianora, 2019). Data was obtained by recording literature reviews or by reading from various sources, including books, scientific journals, digital data, and so on. After the researcher collected various literature related to the study being researched, the data obtained was compiled, analyzed, and concluded to obtain conclusions to analyze *Begging Activities in Pontianak City: Analysis of Driving Factors and Their Impact on the Environment and Children*.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers, it was found that cases of beggars in Pontianak City are still very high. Data from the West Kalimantan Provincial Social Service for 2020 shows an increase in the number of homeless people and beggars in Pontianak City every year, reaching 406 people in 2020. However, this figure may not reflect the actual number because it only includes those recorded. Through observations of daily behavior between parents and children as well as several reports, several important things were discovered regarding this phenomenon, including (1) factors that motivate parents to take children to beg; (2) impact on the social environment; (3) negative impact on child development. Thus, the phenomenon of begging with children in Pontianak City needs to be followed up through appropriate policies and programs to overcome it.

Driving Factors That Cause Beggars to Take Children

According to Hery Noer Aly, parents are the people who have the first responsibility for education, due to the natural fact that the beginning of life is between the mother and father (Rusmaini, 2011). However, the facts are different children are used as "tools" for their families to help find food by deliberately bringing their children when begging on the streets. This action is carried out so that they obtain profits that can be used to meet their daily living needs (Astri, 2014). Begging involving children is a complex issue and is often

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

caused by various motivating factors. Several factors that cause someone to beg while carrying a child are a) economic factors, b) social factors, and c) educational factors.

a. Economic Factors

The factor of exploitation of children by parents as beggars on the street is due to family economic factors where many parents exploit their children, children are forced to beg and sell tissue on the street to help with the family's needs (Suryanti, & Suud, 2023). Economic factors can be a very significant factor in encouraging someone to engage in begging. This may occur because the individual is in a very weak economic condition, where they may not have adequate access to economic resources, such as a decent job or a stable income. Poor economic conditions can also affect a person's daily life, including meeting basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and health services.

When someone does not have enough money or resources to meet their living needs, they are often trapped in a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break. A person can experience stress, fear, and despair due to not being able to meet these basic needs, which can ultimately drive them to seek other ways to survive, including begging. A child has a big influence on begging, sometimes people don't feel heart or pity if they don't give money to just eat (Pratama, 2021). However, this action is a form of child exploitation and can harm the children physically and psychologically.

b. Social Factors

Social factors are factors that influence a person's behavior and life in society. Social factors can include culture, norms, values, and social structures. Some parents consider begging as a way of life (Arbie, Makkulawuzar, & Rusmulyadi, 2023). They also believe that bringing their children will increase their chances of earning more money. Parents who carry out these exploitative activities admit that this is the way they should be. They think that the lower strata will never be able to advance to class. For this reason, they think there is no point in sending their children to school if they will end up having the same fate as them (Hari, 2018).

In addition, the detrimental view that the middle class will never advance and that education is useless greatly influences a person's beliefs. Education is an important part of opening up opportunities and improving the quality of life. With a good education, a person can gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in life. As a result, society needs to support education and provide equal opportunities for everyone to reach their full potential.

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

c. Education Factors

Educational factors also play an important role in why parents take their children to beg. With a lack of education, parents are unable to understand the negative impact of begging on their children's physical and psychological health, as well as their prospects (Drydakis, 2023). Educated parents will know the rights and obligations of parents towards their children. Apart from knowing the rights and obligations of parents towards their children, educated parents have a great opportunity to motivate their children to pursue their dreams and vice versa, when parents do not have the education they will ask, what is the use of their children's high school education get a job (Sinta, 2022).

Impact on the Social Environment

The social environment is one of the factors that can influence the actions of a person or group and change the behavior of each individual. The social environment includes the family environment, school environment, and playmate environment. This is supported by Amsyari (1986) that the social environment is other people around them, such as neighbors, friends, and even other people around them whom they do not know. Behavior is a manifestation of psychic life. As is known, behavior or activities in individuals or organisms do not arise by themselves, but as a result of stimuli and stimuli that affect the individual or organism (Walgito, 2005). The large number of street beggars, especially involving children, certainly influences the surrounding environment, including the children themselves, such as:

a. Influence other individuals/groups

Beggars bringing children is certainly not something that can be normalized, but it is not uncommon for bringing children while begging to tempt other individuals/groups to imitate by begging with children. As we previously knew, begging with a child will certainly get more sympathy from the public which makes them willing to spend small change on the beggar who brings the child. These beggars behaved as if they were people to be pitied. Their role is such that it invites pity from potential "philanthropists" whom they hope will be

able to donate a certain amount of money. Meanwhile, in this case, people who donate money to beggars of course do not know that bringing children has other purposes. This gave rise to a feeling of trust followed by pity, which moved them to do what the beggar asked. By giving alms for example, or you can also give them food. This

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

happened because compassion arose after seeing what the beggar was doing (Yuli, 2019). Moreover, bringing small children and the beggar will reap more profits.

b. Vulnerability to criminal influence/action

Children are an age that is very easily influenced by both good and evil. Of course, children who are used to living on the streets are more susceptible to bad influences that make children accustomed to criminal acts. This condition of being accustomed to living on the streets causes many of them to express their emotions on the streets, tend to behave violently, and act like thugs towards weaker street children. Apart from that, some children who are used to living on the streets are vulnerable to drug addiction and have sexual deviant tendencies. This situation shows that the psychology of children living on the streets is very fragile. This is more caused by economic pressure and poor social relations in their social environment. Some of these conditions show that the social, mental, and spiritual conditions of street children require more exposure because they still have many opportunities to develop their thought patterns, emotions, behavior, and physical development. A healthy environment is needed, especially parental role models, so that children do not lose meaning in their relationships and can fulfill their physical and psychological needs (Astri, 2014).

Negative Impact on Children

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, the word begging has two meanings, namely "begging for alms" and "asking humbly and with hope", while beggar means "a person who begs" so begging is someone's activity of asking for alms. by asking humbly and not forgetting to bring an expression full of hope. Begging itself is not all done by adults, some children carry out begging activities either because they are told by other people or their parents or simply by following their parents so that people who meet them can feel more empathy and make donations to the beggars.

The exploitation of children for begging has a profound impact on the child's psychology and also on the child's growth and development. Children have three phases of development, both from a psychological perspective and from a growth and development perspective. The first phase occurs when the child is from birth to 7 years old, in this phase the child's mental development, emotional life, and development of bodily functions begin. The second phase is when children start to enter the age of 7 years to 14 years which is usually referred to as childhood. During this period, children's cognitive abilities will experience rapid development and growth. At this time children also

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

begin to develop critical thinking. The third phase begins at the age of 14 to 21 years, which is usually referred to as adolescence or the puberty phase. It is also in this phase that children will influence their attitudes and actions in a more sensitive direction so that many children usually carry out actions that lead to child or adolescent delinquency. At this time children are at a developing age and children need more attention from their parents, children will be more vulnerable to stress due to being taken by their parents to beg and this tends to make children more likely to be drawn into crime.

"Children at this age tend to imitate everything they see, if what they see is criminal, violent, then they will grow up not far from that," said Fety Nurhidayati from the Atmaveda Consultant Pekanbaru office, Wednesday (20/11/2019). Apart from not getting enough attention from their parents, most of the children who are asked to beg or taken to beg do not have adequate education, such as only having graduated from elementary school or even not having school education at all, and because of this it is also the reason why the family is likely to beggars. will give birth to new beggars.

Children who should be using their growing years to play and explore their world, instead have the responsibility to beg or follow their parents in begging which makes the child's environment or time-limited to play, explore, and even socialize with people of the same age.

Apart from having an impact on the psychological side, bringing or ordering underage children will also have an impact on the child's growth and development, both in terms of bone growth, hormones, and the regeneration of body cells. Children can become physically unhealthy due to fatigue and lack of rest when begging, etc. again facing weather conditions that are sometimes hot which makes a lot of dust everywhere, and rain which makes clothes wet and cold, which will make children susceptible to disease.

CONCLUSION

Begging with children can certainly provide benefits to beggars such as increasing sympathy from the local community. This activity is based on several driving factors that cause beggars to bring children when begging on the streets, such as economic factors, social factors, and educational factors. On the other hand, begging has children with a negative impact on the environment and the children themselves.

The bad impact of bringing children to beg on the environment can certainly tempt other beggars to join in because they see other beggars who are successful using this method and the environment will also be more vulnerable to crime because beggar

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

children who are used to living on the streets tend to be accustomed to crime in the area. street.

Apart from hurting the social environment, begging with children can also affect the child himself both psychologically and in terms of the child's own growth and development hormones, for example, juvenile delinquency which occurs due to the beggar's child not getting enough attention from their parents and getting used to living as a "tool". " and the child's growth and development is not optimal due to lack of rest, nutritional intake, and susceptibility to infectious diseases.

The researcher has suggestions for the Pontianak City government to pay more attention to beggars or homeless people by establishing schools for street children and providing health programs for street children the researchers also provide suggestions to appeal to residents to stop giving money to beggars who have children or not, apart from The researcher also provided other suggestions in the form of skills training for beggars so that they have sufficient abilities to work in an industry or create their job opportunities.

REFERENCES

Agustini, A., Sukardi, S., & Suhardiman, S. (2021). Bisnis Pengemis Dalam Perspektif Peraturan Daerah Kalimantan Barat No. 11 Tahun 2019 Pasal 37 Dan Hukum Islam Di Kota Pontianak. *Al-Aqad*, 1(2), 124-131. http://e-journal.iainptk.ac.id/index.php/al-aqad/article/download/395/198

Arbie, A. A., Makkulawuzar, K., & Rusmulyadi. (2023). Legal Protection for Exploitation of Children as Beggars in the Market by Parents in Gorontalo Regency. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Pendidikan (JISIP),* 7(4). https://ejournal.mandalanursa.org/index.php/JISIP/article/view/6052

Aslichatus S. (2018). *Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Eksploitasi Anak Sebagai Pengemis Dalam Perspektif Hukum Islam (Studi Kasus di Yayasan Serata Kota Semarang).* Thesis. Fakultas Syari'ah dan Hukum. Universitas Islam Negeri Walisongo: Semarang.

Astri, H. (2014). Kehidupan Anak Jalanan Di Indonesia: Faktor Penyebab, Tatanan Hidup dan Kerentanan Berperilaku Menyimpang. *Aspirasi: Jurnal Masalah-Masalah Sosial,* 5(2), 145-155. https://dprexternal3.dpr.go.id/index.php/aspirasi/article/view/454

Detik News. (2013). *Bawa Bayi, Cara Jitu Pengemis Dongkrak Penghasilan*. https://news.detik.com/berita/d-2327556/bawa-bayi-cara-jitu-pengemis-dongkrak-penghasilan

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Drydakis, N. (2023). Forced Labor and Health-Related Outcomes. The Case of Beggar Children. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 146. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106490

Hari, E. P. A. (2018). Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Eksploitasi Orang Tua Terhadap Anak Jalanan. *eJournal Sosiatri-Sosiologi*, 6(1): 1-15. https://ejournal.ps.fisip-unmul.ac.id/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/01_format_artikel_ejournal_mulai_hlm_Ganjil-1%20-%20Copy%20(01-29-18-07-28-42).pdf

Heranto Soebijoto. (2019). *Psikolog: Anak-anak yang Hidup dan Mengemis di Jalanan Berisiko Terseret Kriminalitas*. https://wartakota.tribunnews.com/2019/11/21/psikolog-anak-anak-yang-hidup-dan-mengemis-di-jalanan-berisiko-terseret-kriminalitas

International Labour Organization, (2021). *Pekerja Anak Meningkat Menjadi 160 Juta.* https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_804223/lang--en/index.html

Jacobus, E. N. (2018). Analisis Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Kemiskinan Rumah Tangga Di Sulawesi Utara. *Pembangunan Ekonomi dan Keuangan Daerah*, 19(3). https://doi.org/10.35794/jpekd.32744.19.3.2018

Kuntari, S., & Hikmawati, E. (2020). Melacak akar permasalahan gelandangan pengemis (gepeng). *Media Informasi Penelitian Kesejahteraan Sosial*, 41(1), 11-26. https://doi.org/10.31105/mipks.v41i1.2272

Melfianora. (2019). Penulisan Karya Tulis Ilmiah Dengan Studi Literatur. *Open Science Framework,* 12(1), 14-26. https://osf.io/efmc2/

Mensi, M, Sapara. (2020). Dampak Lingkungan Sosial Terhadap Perubahan Perilaku Remaja Perempuan di Desa Ammat Kecamatan Amma Kabupaten Kepulauan Talaud. *Jurnal Holistik*, 13(3). https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/holistik/article/view/29607

Palikhah, N. (2016). Konsep Kemiskinan Kultural. *Alhadharah: Jurnal Ilmu Dakwah*, 15(30), 1-17. https://doi.org/10.18592/alhadharah.v15i30.1205

Pratama, R. S. (2021). Eksploitasi Anak Yang Dijadikan Pengemis Oleh Orangtuanya Di Kota Surabaya. *Court Review: Jurnal Penelitian Hukum*, 1(04), 23-33. https://aksiologi.org/index.php/courtreview/article/view/50

Rahmanita, V. A. (2018). *Mencari Nafkah Dengan Memanfaatkan Balita Oleh Pengemis Jalanan Dalam Perspektif Hukum Ekonomi Syariah (Studi Kasus Di Kawasan Masjid Agung Palembang).* Doctoral dissertation, UIN Raden Fatah Palembang. http://eprints.radenfatah.ac.id/3352

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Rumate, V. A., & Engka, D. S. (2019). Pengaruh Tingkat Inflasi, Investasi, Pertumbuhan Ekonomi dan Tingkat Pengangguran Terhadap Tingkat Kemiskinan di Provinsi Sulawesi Utara. *Jurnal Pembangunan dan Keuangan Daerah,* 19(3), 116005. https://doi.org/10.35794/jpekd.16456.19.3.2017

Rusmaini. (2011). *Ilmu Pendidikan*. Palembang: Grafika Telindo Press.

Sinta, D. (2022). *Analisis Faktor-Faktor Penyebab Eksploitasi Terhadap Anak: Studi Kasus Desa Wora Kecamatan Wera Kabupaten Bima NTB.* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Mataram). http://etheses.uinmataram.ac.id/2818

Suryanti, N. M. N., & Suud, S. (2023). Eksploitasi Anak Dibawah Umur Oleh Orang Tua Sebagai Pengemis Jalanan di Kota Mataram. *Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial Keberagaman,* 10(1), 13-19. https://doi.org/10.29303/juridiksiam.v10i1.366

Yuli A. (2019) *Pengemis Dan Upaya Penanggulangan (Studi Kasus Kawasan Pemakaman Syekh Muhammad Arsyad Albanjari Di Desa Kalampaian Kecamatan Astambul Kabupaten Banjar Kalimantan Selatan).* Thesis. Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan. Universitas Lambung Mangkurat: Banjarmasin.

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.