

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON POVERTY INVESTIGATION IN SUKABUMI CITY WEST JAVA PROVINCE, INDONESIA

Siti Anah Kunyati

Langlangbuana University, Bandung, Indonesia

sitianahkunyati@unla.ac.id / sitianahkunyati@gmail.com

Abstract

In Indonesia, poverty is a national issue that must be taken seriously and reduced. The same thing is found in Sukabumi that shows a poverty rate of 8,05%. Therefore, poverty needs special attention in order to its citizens as a whole achieve a better and more humane welfare. Educating and prospering the community is pursued through a strong commitment through simultaneous and sustainable poverty alleviation programs. This research describes the picture of poverty and poverty reduction program by using descriptive qualitative research design. The informants used were civil apparatus representing Regional Device Organizations such as Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level (Bappeda), Social Agency, Medium Small Business Cooperation (KUKM) and Community Empowerment Board of two persons each. In addition, community leaders who run the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM) from Baros District, Waru Doyong and Gunung Puyuh which are represented by seven people each. Data collection techniques were conducted by interview, focus group discussion, and observation, while data validation was done by using triangulation from various sources both primary and secondary. The results of this study provide a picture of poor people in the city of Sukabumi as much as 8.05% or 311,822 people and the trend decreased poverty every year spread in seven districts. The poverty depth index is 1.17 while the severity of 0.25. This index is still below the national and provincial index of West Java, while the poverty reduction program in Sukabumi City is conducted by the Coordinating Team for Poverty Reduction. The poverty reduction policy is included in the Regional Action Plan as an elaboration of the Sukabumi City Mid Term Development and poverty reduction strategy.

Keywords: *Poverty, Poverty Alleviation, Social Justice*

INTRODUCTION

Poverty alleviation in Indonesia is an effort to realize the noble ideals of this nation's independence, namely to promote the common welfare and educate the nation. Efforts to create a social welfare condition emerged as a national issue, in relation to this time felt most of the people of Indonesia has not reached adequate welfare level including in the city of Sukabumi.

The problem of the picture of the achievement of welfare can not be separated with the picture of Human Development Index (HDI) achievement. Increasing success in solving poverty problems will indirectly boost HDI. HDI of Sukabumi city from 2010-2012 tends to increase, ie 74,91, 75,36, and 75,73 respectively. Compared with the province, the HDI of Sukabumi is always above the HDI of West Java Province. Nevertheless, the city of Sukabumi in that period remained ranked 7th out of 26 districts in West Java. Despite the increasing trend of HDI, based on BPS data, the number of poor people in Sukabumi City in 2013 amounted to 22,500 people or 8.05% of 311,822 residents of Sukabumi City. In the effort to overcome the poverty of the city of Sukabumi is needed to study the picture and program of poverty eradication, in order to formulate clearly the problem to determine various programs and strategies that will be used by government and society to reach better prosperity level in Sukabumi city.

Based on this, the researcher formulate the problems as follows:

- How to describe poverty in Sukabumi City ?
- What are the poverty reduction programs ?

The aims of this research are: 1) to get data about the description of poverty problem and 2) to get data and information about poverty reduction program and 3) to give contribution to government and society to overcome poverty more programmed and sustainable.

Literature Review

Concepts and Dimensions of Poverty

By BPS, poverty is an inability to meet minimum decent needs, including basic food needs equivalent to 2,100 kilo calories / person / day and non food such as housing, health, education, clothing, other goods / services. All of these are spelled out in 14 criteria for determining Poor Households based on the 2005 Socio-Economic Survey results and some references. (Bappenas, 2014). The complexity of the problems of the poor can be seen in various dimensions, such as: 1) political dimension; 2) the economic dimension; 3) the social dimension; 4) asset dimension; 5) environmental dimensions (Suparlan, 2000). With these dimensions poverty can be seen in a holistic view and how complex the problem is inter-related and inter-dimensional.

Community Work Concept in Poverty Reduction

In the social work approach many concepts appear to be synonymous with Community Work such as Community Partnership, Community Education, Community Practice, Community Intervention (Hardcastle, 2004). Using the Community Work approach to poverty reduction is done with community empowerment and a more pro-poor policy approach. In the community empowerment program, the role of civil society and the government is to provide social assistance to the poor. Social assistance for the poor is a social work practice aimed at helping to organize the community to solve the problems of the poor in order to maximally carry out its social functions in accordance with the available resources capabilities. In general, the purpose of Social Work is to interact between the client and the source / environmental system. While the principle of Social Assistance is: "making the best of the client's resources." Resources interpreted as a source system that can be used to solve client problems both derived from individuals and the environment (individuals, families, groups, communities, government).

In community empowerment programs the role of Community Worker is as: 1) Enabler: the role to accelerate change by assessing needs and potentials, insight needs, generating and developing organizations in society, developing interpersonal relationships, effective planning and helping relationships. 2) Broker / Mediator: effectively interacts between issues with source systems, mediates social conflicts, professional relationships, collaboration and fund raising. 3) Educator: delivers a variety of program socialization, capacity building, effective informal and non formal education. 4) Expert: provides professional services to community, government, social organizations, NGO, private, professional, provides quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation, exit effective strategy and choice of appropriate approaches and strategies (right on target, appropriate program, proper funding), 5) Advocate is a defense representing a community group for the fulfillment of community rights. Advocacy has a role in transforming private troubles into public issues or personal problems into social issues, (Hardcastle, David A. El.l. 2004: 356). The advocate promotes social justice by enabling exclusively individual to participate in decision making, change the power relationship of individual lives (Higham, 2006: 193).

The social policy approach in poverty reduction is often faced with the formulation of public policies that are not pro-poor. Advocacy as a social renewal, restructuring, negotiation, regulation, persuasion, demonstration, verbal skills, open access to various social services and open wider participation, including the poor in determining policies about their lives and society. At the level of generalists, they lobby families, groups and communities to build awareness of the poor to meet the public good and the needs of the poor. The active role is directed and conceptual and raises the issue of strategic (public issues) as a planning that needs to be considered. Thus, the role of advocacy becomes very important to influence the process of decision making and policy formulation in fighting for the rights of the poor who had been marginalized by the state and society.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research design used is descriptive qualitative. Researcher wants to describe the situation that has been and is going on actually in the city of Sukabumi that is related to the condition of poverty and poverty reduction program. The data analysis is done qualitatively. The primary data source are informants coming from local government such as from Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level (Bappeda), Social Service and Community Empowerment, Cooperatives of Small and Medium Enterprises (KUKM) each as much as two people and citizens, especially the administrators of National Program of Community Empowerment (PNPM) in three sub-districts namely Baros, Warudoyong and Gunung Puyuh with the number of seven. Secondary data sources were extracted from Sukabumi City government documents related to poverty reduction activities and programs. The determination of informants was done purposively but able to convey the description of the problem and poverty reduction.

Data collection techniques are 1) non-participant observation by looking at various services to poor people undertaken by the government and when bundles to formulate various programs and evaluation of poverty reduction activities; 2) interview techniques with informants such as officials and implementers of poverty reduction programs and 3) Focus Group Discussion techniques. FGD technique was conducted in Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level (Bappeda) twice with participants from various representatives of Regional Device Organizations within the Sukabumi city government and at the community level once. Data validation used triangulation from various data sources and data collection techniques. Data were crosschecked and rechecked from various sources. This research was conducted in Sukabumi City West Java Province from April to November 2015.

Research Findings

Poverty Overview of Sukabumi City

Sukabumi City is divided into 7 districts consisting of 33 urban villages. The total area of the city of Sukabumi is about 4,800.231 ha. At the end of 2013, based on BPS data, the population of Sukabumi City was 311,822 people, consisting of 158,175 male population (50.73%) and female population 153,647 (49.27%). The picture of the percentage of poor people in the city of Sukabumi in 2013 reached 8.05 percent. The amount is still below the average of West Java Province which is 9.61 percent and the national at 11.47%. The percentage of poor people in Sukabumi City in the last five years decreased from 9.16 percent in 2009 to 8.05 percent in 2013, although the decrease is relatively small every year at 0.40 percent. This indicates that government poverty reduction programs are quite effective in reducing poverty, The Index of Depth Poverty in Sukabumi City in 2013 reached 1.17. The index is still below the average of West Java Province which is 1.65 and National index at 1.89 points. While in 2012 reached 0.97 index which is still below the average of West Java Province which is 1.62 index and National at 1.90 points. This indicates that the average expenditure of the poor is getting away from the poverty line and the disparities in the expenditure of the poor are widening.

The Poverty Severity Index provides an overview of the spread of expenditure among the poor. This index can be used to determine the intensity of poverty. The higher the index value, the higher the inequality of expenditure among the poor.

When compared with regional achievement of 0.44% and 0.48% national achievement of Sukabumi poverty severity index shows a value of 0.25%. This shows better poverty severity than West Java and national.

The strategic issues of poverty problems in the sample districts are:

- 1) Social, health and education: poor access participation of the poor, awareness of healthy lifestyle, nutrition of toddlers, defecation and waste in the river, dengue fever, maternal health, unemployment, drop out students, non-formal education facilities are still limited.
- 2) Environment: drainage arrangement, uninhabitable houses, polluted river, garbage, clean

water and sanitation, land ownership and control.

- 3) Economics: limited employment, unskilled people, business capital, small and medium enterprises which can not compete, limited business capital.

Institutions and Poverty Reduction Program of Sukabumi City

Decree of Mayor of Sukabumi No 40 Year 2011 on the Establishment of Poverty Reduction Coordination Team with the task of coordinating poverty reduction policy and program in Sukabumi City. The Chairman of the Poverty Reduction Coordination Team is held by the Deputy Mayor and the secretariat team is at Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level (BAPPEDA). During this time the team runs well compared to TKPK in the district / city in West Java. Technical offices based on the main function of poverty reduction task are mostly handed over to the Social Service and Village Community Empowerment Board and related offices and offices.

The role of Health Coordination Team (TKPK) becomes one of the determinants of the success of poverty reduction. The role of advocacy is made easier because it is played by the number 2 person after the mayor who has power in Sukabumi City. Higham, (2006) states that “*Advocate is to promote social justice by enabling excluded individual to participate in decision making, change the power relationship that determines the policies and practices and improves the quality of individual lives*”. While based on the responses of respondents that the institutions in the community who are trusted in the poverty reduction task is the Community Self-Help Agency by 33%; Community Empowerment Institute as much as 11%, citizens Association (Rukun Warga) 31% others 13%. This data still illustrates that the community through various local institutions in managing poverty reduction programs is still trusted by the community. As-Schneider said (2006) “*Social capital as an element in the social welfare system, it receives the least attention in policy strategies*. Building social capital becomes important to strengthen community institutions for sustainable poverty reduction programs.

FGD results with target groups on community perceptions of poverty reduction programs or activities are: 1) Target community 89% stated that poverty reduction activities have been able to help poor people and need to be continued in according to the priority needs of target communities. 2) Environmental facilities need to be improved, income generation, training, economic empowerment and social assistance such as health and education costs. 3) Poverty reduction activities are still weak in the data collection of target groups so there are still many that are not right on target.

Local Action Plans

The Regional Action Plan is a reference for the compilation of the main reference program of the Sukabumi City Mid Term Development Plan and the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Local Action Plans relating to poverty alleviation along with budget ceilings consist of:

- 1) Superior Policy of poverty reduction program and recommendation for Local Regulation and Mid-Term Planning
- 2) Design of poverty alleviation in city, sub-district and sub-district level based on partnership and under coordination of Sukabumi Poverty Reduction Team.
- 3) Indicative ceiling as guarantee of program implementation and recommended in the process of preparing the APBD of Sukabumi City as follows:

**Table: Poverty Alleviation Empowerment Program
 and Sukabumi City Social Aid 2014**

NO	PROGRAM	BUDGET				TARGET SASARA N MISKIN (ORANG /KK
		APBN	APBD PROV.	APBD CITY	CSR	
1	Quality of Life and Protection of Women		25.000.000	33.000.000		10 head of family
2	Financial Housing Assistance from Governor		3.562.500.000		5.000.000	475 head of family
3	Financial Housing Assistance from minister of public housing		4.500.000.000			300 head of family
4	Poverty Alleviation	6.960.000.000		249.000.000		11.272 head
5	Social Insurance	14.732.831.375		7.600.000.000		
6	Financial assistance for poor students	4.694.015.000		900.000.000		10.367 head
7	hope family program/conditional cash transfer	1.197.300.000				1.901 head
8	Rice for the poor	505.406.250				14.975 head

Source: Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level Sukabumi City, 2014.

If we look at the data above then the help for the poor who come from the central government and the province is still larger than that coming from the government of Sukabumi.

CONCLUSION

The problem of poverty in Sukabumi City still shows a significant number although is still below the percentage of West Java Province and national. Similarly, the poverty rate associated with the depth index and the severity of poverty is still better than West Java and national figures. The effectiveness of the Poverty Reduction Coordinating Team and its commitment contributes to the reduction of poverty every year. Poverty alleviation programs are documented in regional action plans along with budget ceilings provided from central, provincial and municipal funds.

SUGGESTION

The involvement of the business community through the Corporate Social Responsibility program should be taken seriously as it becomes a potential financing for poverty alleviation. This needs a harmonious coordination with the provincial government of West Java because, so far, the management of CSR aid has been managed at the provincial level. Coordination and partnership with other stakeholders to build community participation should be done maximally because there are still many people who can be trusted in managing poverty alleviation. A strong commitment to reduce the poverty rate is more significant in every year, to be more progressive perceived benefits for social welfare.

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