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ANALYSIS OF POVERTY CHARACTERISTICS IN TORETE VILLAGE, BUNGKU PESISIR, MOROWALI REGENCY

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ABSTRAK

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Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis profil kerentanan dan strategi ketahanan ekonomi rumah tangga miskin, khususnya yang didominasi oleh kelompok usia lanjut dan berpendidikan rendah, di Desa Torete. Menggunakan pendekatan campuran (mixed-methods). Hasil studi kuantitatif menunjukkan bahwa mayoritas responden berada pada kelompok usia 61 tahun ke atas (64,3%) dengan tingkat pendidikan dasar (78,6% lulusan SD), dan didominasi oleh pekerjaan sebagai Ibu Rumah Tangga (46,4%) atau Petani (39,3%). Pola pengeluaran rumah tangga sangat konservatif, di mana sebagian besar responden (75,0%) tidak memiliki pengeluaran untuk transportasi dan fokus pengeluaran sepenuhnya pada kebutuhan pangan pokok. Ketahanan ekonomi kelompok ini ditopang oleh kepemilikan rumah sendiri yang tinggi (96,4%) dan meniadakan beban sewa. Temuan kualitatif mengonfirmasi bahwa hambatan terbesar responden adalah faktor internal seperti usia tua dan kondisi kesehatan yang membatasi kemampuan untuk mencari nafkah produktif. Strategi utama yang digunakan untuk menutupi defisit kebutuhan adalah bergantung pada dukungan finansial anak-anak. Selain itu, masalah struktural seperti akses lahan dan tuntutan transparansi dalam penyaluran bantuan sosial juga disoroti sebagai penghambat signifikan untuk keluar dari kemiskinan. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa bantuan sosial perlu dilengkapi dengan program pemberdayaan yang menargetkan generasi produktif dalam keluarga miskin dan jaminan perlindungan sosial yang memadai bagi lansia.

Keywords :

Poverty, Economic

Resilience, Elderly, Low

Education, Social

Assistance.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the vulnerability profile and economic resilience strategies of poor households, particularly those dominated by the elderly and those with low education levels, in Torete Village. A mixed-methods approach was used. The quantitative study results indicate that the majority of respondents are aged 61 years and above (64.3%), with a basic education level (78.6% are elementary school graduates), and are predominantly

housewives (46.4%) or farmers (39.3%). Household expenditure patterns are very conservative, with the majority of respondents (75.0%) having no transportation expenses and focusing their expenditures entirely on basic food needs. This group's economic resilience is supported by high home ownership (96.4%) and the elimination of rent. Qualitative findings confirm that the biggest obstacles faced by respondents are internal factors such as old age and health conditions that limit their ability to earn a productive living. The main strategy used to cover the deficit in needs is relying on financial support from children. In addition, structural issues such as land access and demands for transparency in the distribution of social assistance are also highlighted as significant obstacles to escaping poverty. This study concludes that social assistance needs to be complemented by empowerment programs that target the productive generation in poor families and adequate social protection guarantees for the elderly.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a complex issue that has persistently haunted Indonesia's national development agenda since the proclamation of independence. The government has implemented a series of large-scale social and economic intervention programs aimed at lifting millions of its citizens out of poverty (Amalia et al., 2022). Geographical conditions, accessibility, and local socioeconomic structures play a crucial role in determining the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs (Djojohadikusumo, 1995).

Rural areas exhibit a more complex form of poverty, often rooted in dependence on the agricultural sector, which is highly vulnerable to external shocks. Farmers and farm laborers face income uncertainty caused by fluctuating commodity prices, climate change, and pest attacks that can destroy harvests in an instant (Ferezagia, 2018). Herdiana (2022) describes how Indonesia's social system can perpetuate structures that disadvantage certain groups, reflected in rural communities' limited access to capital and modern technology.

The impact of poverty extends beyond mere material deprivation, as this economic turmoil erodes various fundamental dimensions of human life (Fabela and Khairunnisa, 2024). Spicker (2012) explains that economic conditions influence social interactions, and poverty can weaken social capital such as trust and mutual cooperation within a community. Psychological stress due to uncertainty about the future also places a heavy burden that can impact family harmony and child development.

What are the socioeconomic characteristics of poor households in Torete Village? Poor households in Torete Village are characterized by a predominance of elderly

household heads, many headed by women, with very low levels of education, as most have only completed elementary school. Their primary occupations are housewives and subsistence farmers, thus lacking a steady income. Although most live in their own permanent homes, have private toilets, and cook using LPG, their economic capabilities remain limited because almost all lack transportation. Spending patterns focused solely on basic needs indicate low purchasing power and the high economic vulnerability they face. This study aims to comprehensively identify and analyze the characteristics of poor households in Torete Village. The research focuses on demographic aspects such as age and gender, education level, type of employment, and health conditions that influence the productive capacity of the poor. Furthermore, this study aims to describe housing conditions, asset ownership, and access to basic facilities as indicators of well-being. Household expenditure patterns are analyzed to assess the level of economic vulnerability and consumption structure of the poor. Overall, this study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the factors shaping poverty in Torete Village, thus providing a basis for formulating more targeted poverty alleviation policies.

LITERATURE VIEW

Measuring poverty levels requires valid quantitative instruments; one of the most fundamental indicators commonly used is the Head Count Index (HCI). This index simply calculates the proportion or percentage of the population whose expenditure falls below a predetermined threshold, known as the poverty line (Yoserizal, 2015). The HCI, in essence, serves as a snapshot, showing the scale of the problem without detailing its depth (Prasodjo, 2017).

Efforts to understand the dimensions of poverty more comprehensively have led experts to develop the Poverty Gap Index (P1) as a complementary measure. This indicator measures the average gap between the actual expenditure of the poor and the poverty line, which is then expressed as a percentage of the poverty line itself (Haughton and Khandker, 2012). More sophisticated poverty measures also consider the level of inequality within the poor population; the Poverty Severity Index (P2) was designed to address this analytical need (Arsyad, 2003). This index assigns exponentially greater weight to individuals furthest from the poverty line, making it highly sensitive to the distribution of expenditures among the poor. P2 measures the "severity" of poverty by highlighting the conditions of the most extreme or marginalized poor within a population (Safri and Alin, 2021).

The 2024 poverty data for Central Sulawesi Province places Morowali Regency within a broader regional comparison spectrum. Morowali Regency recorded a poverty rate of 11.55 percent, slightly lower than the average poverty rate for Central Sulawesi Province as a whole, which is 11.77 percent.

Table 1. Population Data for Torete Village, Morowali Regency

| No | Dusun | Population L | Population P | TOTAL | KK |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------|-----|
| 1 | Dusun I | 155 | 131 | 286 | 64 |
| 2 | Dusun II | 100 | 83 | 183 | 47 |
| 3 | Dusun III | 56 | 52 | 108 | 26 |
| 4 | Dusun IV | 97 | 99 | 196 | 28 |
| 5 | Dusun V | 112 | 106 | 218 | 45 |
| TOTAL | | 520 | 471 | 991 | 236 |

Source: Torete Village/Sub-district Office Data

Torete Village administrative data presents a detailed demographic composition down to the hamlet level, indicating a total population of 991. The entire population is distributed among 236 families (KK) spread across five hamlets. The population distribution in Torete Village shows uneven concentration among the five hamlets, reflecting the community's settlement patterns. Hamlet I is recorded as the area with the largest population, accommodating 286 people, or approximately 28.8 percent of the total village population. Hamlets V and IV follow with populations of 218 and 196 people, respectively. Conversely, Hamlet III is the area with the smallest population, inhabited by only 108 people. The distribution of the number of families also follows a similar pattern, with the highest concentration in Hamlet I with 64 families, while the lowest is in Hamlet III with 26 families.

Table 2. List of Poor Communities Receiving BLT in Torete Village

| | Beneficiary's Family Name | Job | Address |
|----|---------------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 | DIJA | Petani | Dusun 1 |
| 2 | FATMAWATI HERMAN | IRT | Dusun 1 |
| 3 | MAKMUR, M | Petani | Dusun 1 |
| 4 | SIMBULA | Petani | Dusun 1 |
| 5 | HANS ASIS | Petani | Dusun 5 |
| 6 | BURADIAH | Petani | Dusun 5 |
| 7 | ERNAWATI | IRT | Dusun 5 |
| 8 | HIDAYAT | IRT | Dusun 2 |
| 9 | ALI, R | Petani | Dusun 2 |
| 10 | RUDINI | Petani | Dusun 3 |
| 11 | HASRIA | IRT | Dusun 3 |
| 12 | IDRUS LADIDO | Petani | Dusun 3 |
| 13 | BASIR KASENG | Petani | Dusun 5 |
| 14 | ABDUL AHYA | Petani | Dusun 4 |

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|---------|
| 15 | KASENG | Petani | Dusun 4 |
| 16 | KARIM, S | Petani | Dusun 3 |
| 17 | MAKMUR | IRT | Dusun 3 |
| 18 | AFANDI | Nelayan | Dusun 4 |
| 19 | MUHAMMAD ASCHAR, A | Tidak Kerja | Dusun 3 |
| 20 | AMIRUDIN, L | Nelayan | Dusun 1 |
| 21 | HASSIA | IRT | Dusun 4 |

Source: Torete Village/Sub-district Office Data

The table above lists 21 heads of families (KK) eligible to receive official village assistance. Each family is assigned a consistent amount of Rp 300,000. Official data details recipients' names, ID card numbers, primary occupations (farmers and housewives), and addresses across Hamlets 1 to 5 in Dorete Village. This extensive research separately identified seven heads of families (KK) not included in the official list as additional respondents. The field study method identified these seven families as crucial components for obtaining a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of the village BLT program. The Village Head of Dorete validated this document, ensuring that the BLT distribution process complied with the administrative regulations in effect as of May 2, 2025. This research also included seven families as additional data from non-BLT recipients who were living in poverty.

Previous research has demonstrated the dichotomy of poverty as a multidimensional and structural phenomenon, necessitating a specific approach in each region. Previous studies have mostly explored measurements using macro indices such as FGT and regression analysis between provinces or districts; Studies by Nabawi (2020) and Prasodjo (2017) provide a framework for the demographic and regional influences on poverty on a broad scale; However, research in Torete Village, which is a center of the fisheries economy and is close to the Morowali industrial area, has been minimally explored; This study has the novelty of providing a comprehensive analysis of socio-economic characteristics at the household level at the grassroots level; The results of this analysis can serve as an accurate database for village governments to formulate poverty alleviation policies that are truly relevant to local needs; This in-depth profile compilation closes the gap in studies that focus on the village level as the main unit of analysis.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a mixed-methods approach, consciously combining quantitative and qualitative elements to achieve a holistic and multidimensional understanding. Quantitative data collection was conducted through a household survey

utilizing a structured questionnaire as the primary instrument to capture numerical data on expenditure levels and demographic characteristics (Sugiyono, 2017). The qualitative approach was pursued through in-depth interviews involving heads of households, respected community leaders, and village officials. The population within this research framework encompassed all households residing in Torete Village, which constituted the entire research universe. The researcher employed multiple sampling techniques to ensure representativeness and depth of information, including proportional stratified random sampling and purposive sampling. Through this combination of the two techniques, this study ultimately determined a sample of 28 heads of households, considered representative of the population, including both poor families and government assistance recipients. The data analysis process in this study was conducted through two distinct pathways, specifically tailored to the nature of the collected data. Quantitative data analysis focused on mathematical calculations to generate three main poverty indicators: the Head Count Index (HCI), the Poverty Gap Index (P1), and the Poverty Severity Index (P2).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1) Descriptive Analysis of Poor Residents of Torete Village: Characteristics of Poor Households

Based on the findings of the questionnaire data, it was found that the characteristics of poor households in Torete Village in general are as follows:

Table 4. Descriptive Analysis of Respondents' Identity

| Variabel | Category | Frequenc y | Percentag e (%) | Valid Percentage (%) | Cumulative (%) |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Age | 20-30 Tahun | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 3,6 |
| | 31-40 Tahun | 2 | 7,1 | 7,1 | 10,7 |
| | 41-50 Tahun | 4 | 14,3 | 14,3 | 25,0 |
| | 51-60 Tahun | 3 | 10,7 | 10,7 | 35,7 |
| | 61 Tahun ke atas | 18 | 64,3 | 64,3 | 100,0 |
| Gender | Laki-Laki | 11 | 39,3 | 39,3 | 39,3 |
| | Perempuan | 17 | 60,7 | 60,7 | 100,0 |
| Education Level | Tidak Sekolah | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 3,6 |
| | SD | 22 | 78,6 | 78,6 | 82,1 |
| | SMP | 3 | 10,7 | 10,7 | 92,9 |
| | SMA | 2 | 7,1 | 7,1 | 100,0 |
| Occupation | Petani | 11 | 39,3 | 39,3 | 39,3 |
| | Nelayan | 2 | 7,1 | 7,1 | 46,4 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| | Wiraswasta | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 50,0 |
| | Ibu Rumah Tangga | 13 | 46,4 | 46,4 | 96,4 |
| | Tidak Ada | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 100,0 |
| Residential Status | Kontrak | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 3,6 |
| | Milik Sendiri | 27 | 96,4 | 96,4 | 100,0 |
| House Structure | Permanen | 20 | 71,4 | 71,4 | 71,4 |
| Type | Semi Permanen | 8 | 28,6 | 28,6 | 100,0 |
| Type of Flooring | Kayu | 4 | 14,3 | 14,3 | 14,3 |
| | Semen | 5 | 17,9 | 17,9 | 32,1 |
| | Tebal | 19 | 67,9 | 67,9 | 100,0 |
| Type of Roofing | Asbes | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 3,6 |
| | Seng | 27 | 96,4 | 96,4 | 100,0 |
| Type of Wall | Batako | 6 | 21,4 | 21,4 | 21,4 |
| | Beton | 9 | 32,1 | 32,1 | 53,6 |
| | Beton/Kayu | 4 | 14,3 | 14,3 | 67,9 |
| | Kayu | 9 | 32,1 | 32,1 | 100,0 |
| Toilet | Pribadi | 28 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 |
| Cooking Fuel | Gas | 20 | 71,4 | 71,4 | 71,4 |
| | Kayu | 7 | 25,0 | 25,0 | 96,4 |
| | Minyak | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 100,0 |
| Transportation | Pribadi | 7 | 25,0 | 25,0 | 25,0 |
| | Tidak Ada | 21 | 75,0 | 75,0 | 100,0 |
| Number of School-Age Children | 0 | 21 | 75,0 | 75,0 | 75,0 |
| | 1 | 5 | 17,9 | 17,9 | 92,9 |
| | 3 | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 96,4 |
| | 4 | 1 | 3,6 | 3,6 | 100,0 |

Source: Processed Data 2025.

Descriptive analysis of 28 respondents shows a demographic profile dominated by elderly and female populations, where the majority of respondents (64.3%) are in the age group of 61 years and above, and 60.7% are women. The level of education of respondents is very low, indicated by 78.6% who only completed elementary school (SD), with an accumulation of up to 82.1% of respondents having a maximum education of elementary school or no schooling at all. In terms of occupation, respondents are divided between farmers (39.3%) and housewives (46.4%), which together cover 85.7% of the total respondents. Although this demographic condition seems vulnerable, the condition of housing ownership shows high stability with 96.4% occupying their own homes, the majority (71.4%) being permanent, and having ideal sanitation facilities (100% private

WC/bathroom). The respondents' lifestyle is also characterized by limited access to transportation (75.0% do not have private transportation) and minimal responsibility for children's education, where 75.0% of respondents do not have children attending school.

Tabel 5. Analisis Deskriptif Pola Pengeluaran (Biaya dan Kebutuhan Pokok)

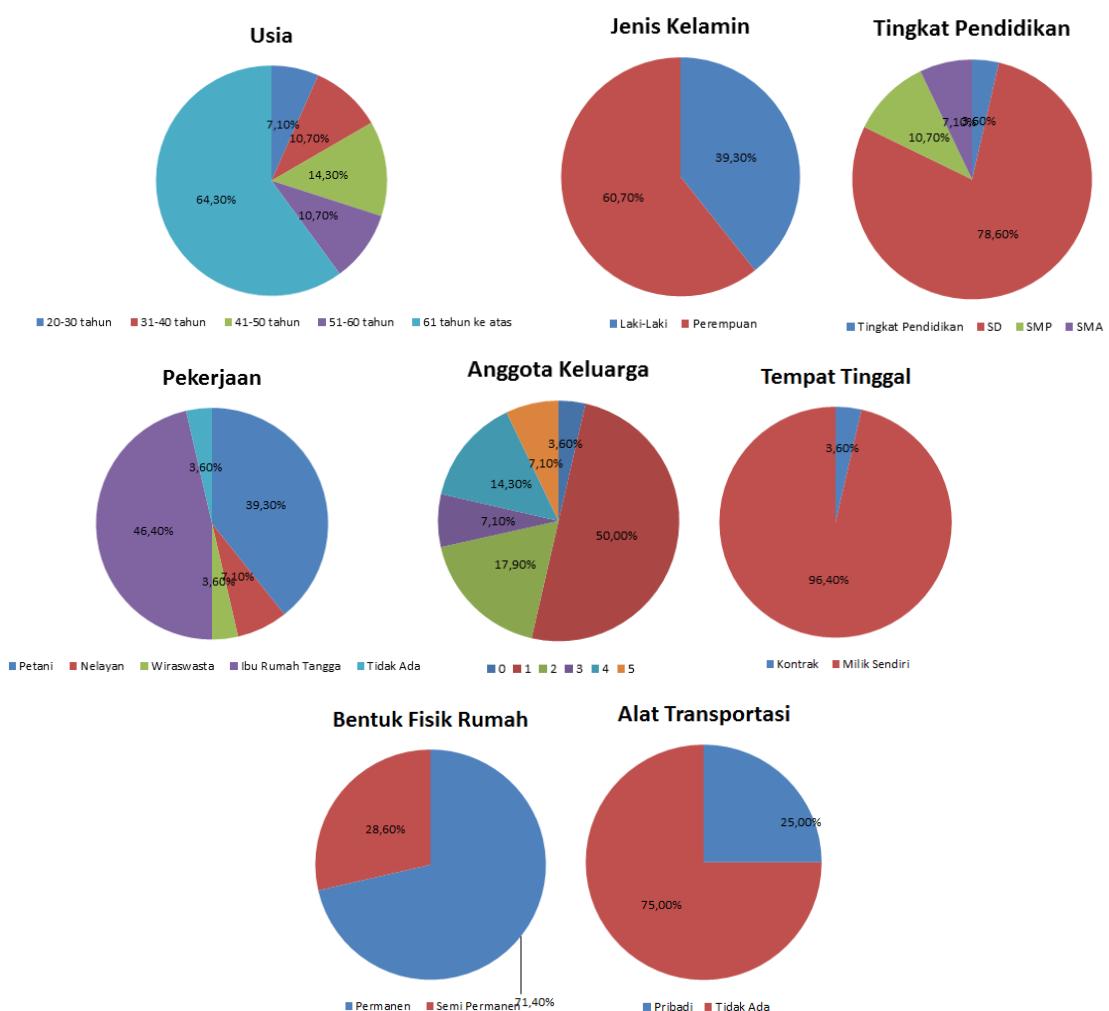
| Variable | Dominant Expenditure Category | Frequenc y | Percen t (%) | Category Without Expenditure (Rp-) | Frequenc y | Percen t (%) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Monthly Transportation Cost | Rp200.000,00 | 4 | 14,3 | Rp- | 21 | 75,0 |
| PDAM Water Bill | Rp15.000,00 | 17 | 60,7 | Rp- | 3 | 10,7 |
| Water Source Other Than PDAM | Tidak Ada | 27 | 96,4 | Sumur | 1 | 3,6 |
| Monthly Education Cost | - | - | - | Rp- | 28 | 100,0 |
| PLN Electricity Bill | Rp100.000,00 | 13 | 46,4 | Rp50.000,00 | 5 | 17,9 |
| Cigarettes | - | - | - | Rp- | 19 | 67,9 |
| Mobile Credit/Data | - | - | - | Rp- | 20 | 71,4 |
| Clothing | - | - | - | Rp- | 27 | 96,4 |
| Rice | Rp30.000,00 | 7 | 25,0 | Rp105.000,00 | 6 | 21,4 |
| Coffee | Rp18.000,00 | 14 | 50,0 | Rp- | 6 | 21,4 |
| Sugar | Rp20.000,00 | 16 | 57,1 | Rp10.000,00 | 10 | 35,7 |
| Tea | Rp12.000,00 | 8 | 28,6 | Rp- | 9 | 32,1 |
| Milk | Rp- | 18 | 64,3 | Rp20.000,00 | 6 | 21,4 |
| Eggs | Rp55.000,00 | 13 | 46,4 | Rp- | 8 | 28,6 |
| Tofu/Tempeh | Rp- | 21 | 75,0 | Rp10.00 | 3 | 10,7 |
| Fish | Rp20.000,00 | 11 | 39,3 | Rp- | 6 | 21,4 |
| Meat | Rp- | 28 | 100,0 | - | - | - |
| Vegetables | Rp10.000,00 | 10 | 35,7 | Rp- | 7 | 25,0 |
| School Children's Allowance | Rp- | 21 | 75,0 | Rp1.000.000,00 | 3 | 10,7 |

Source: Research Data, 2025

Based on the frequency data and very detailed descriptive statistics from 28 respondents, it can be concluded that the demographic profile shows an elderly population, dominated by women (60.7%), with the majority (64.3%) in the age group of

61 years and above (average age 4.25 on a scale of 5). The level of education of respondents is very low, with 78.6% only completing elementary school. Although the average monthly income is relatively low at Rp1,296,428.57 with a standard deviation of almost the same size (Rp1,271,840.935), indicating income inequality, spending patterns show a very strict focus on basic needs. The majority of respondents consistently do not have spending on tertiary or non-essential costs, such as cigarettes (67.9% Rp-), phone credit (71.4% Rp-), and almost all do not have spending on clothing (96.4% Rp-).

Table 4. Summary of Respondents' Descriptive Analysis



Sumber: Hasil Olah Data, 2025

The absolute majority of poor households in Torete Village are trapped in poverty based on clear demographic vulnerability; 64.3 percent of household heads have entered the age group above 61 years, indicating a non-productive condition that limits the physical ability to earn a stable income, a problem that is exacerbated because 78.6 percent of household heads have only completed elementary school (SD), narrowing the horizon of formal employment opportunities. Signals of gender vulnerability are reflected in 60.7 percent of households headed by women, who bear the main burden of supporting

the family economy; their work is concentrated in the informal sector, namely as housewives (46.4 percent) or farmers (39.3 percent), confirming dependence on livelihoods that are vulnerable to fluctuations. Family structure shows a tendency towards small nuclei, with 50 percent of households having only one member other than the head of the household, a pattern indicating that productive family members are forced to migrate.

2. Interview Result

Qualitative analysis through in-depth interviews with four respondents provided a rich perspective on the reality of poverty at the household level. These interviews reinforced quantitative findings, which identified respondents as an older age group with high economic vulnerability. This condition is driven primarily by the lack of a steady source of income, which makes them heavily dependent on social assistance schemes and family support. All respondents stated that their existing income never felt sufficient to cover all daily needs, forcing them to adopt very restrictive and sometimes painful survival strategies. This perspective is crucial for formulating more targeted policy recommendations based not only on statistical data but also on community lived experiences.

Age and health factors were the main barriers for respondents in maintaining productive employment. Respondent Idrus (61), who previously worked as a farmer, is now almost unable to work due to his illness. He explained that he was "a farmer, but since becoming ill, he has rarely farmed. So he relies on cash assistance (BLT) and fee money (dust money), highlighting the transition from active worker to aid recipient. A similar situation was experienced by Jamilah (62), who openly stated that she "rarely farms because she's old and hopes for fees (dust money) and land that sells," indicating that her physical disability forces her to wait for assistance or uncertain assets. This physical limitation fundamentally undermines the household's ability to achieve financial independence.

The most dominant survival strategy among respondents was relying on financial support from children. When asked about how she copes with the shortage, Musnia honestly replied that she "asks for help from her children because she lives alone," indicating that children serve as the primary social safety net. This pattern was also evident in Jamilah, who stated that her lack of basic necessities would be "helped by her children to meet her needs," indicating the existence of informal mechanisms of intergenerational mutual cooperation. While effective in the short term for meeting basic needs, this dependence has the potential to burden the economy of younger generations in financially vulnerable environments. Nevertheless, some respondents have made independent efforts to supplement their income. Idrus, despite his ill health, demonstrated initiative by "making things, like baking cakes to sell," and "having a small kiosk"

at his home. These side businesses are indicative of the micro-entrepreneurship spirit that emerges from desperate circumstances, albeit on a very limited scale and easily interrupted by health challenges. However, for other respondents, such as Musnia and Hadoria, the option for additional businesses was "None," with Hadoria specifically citing "poor health" as the reason, confirming that health factors are indeed a dual obstacle, both in primary and secondary employment.

Government involvement through social assistance programs such as Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) and "Dust Money" (Uang Debu) is acknowledged as a lifeline but has not yet brought about significant change. Respondents like Musnia and Jamilah consistently stated that they only receive "Dust Money," a form of compensation that cannot be relied upon as a steady income. Respondent Hadoria, despite receiving BLT, admitted that the assistance "is not enough," highlighting the gap between the amount of assistance received and the ever-increasing real living costs. These social assistance programs are seen as serving only as a temporary cushion, not designed to promote sustainable social mobility out of poverty.

Larger structural issues also emerge as serious challenges, particularly related to access to productive resources such as land. Respondent Jamilah expressed frustration with land ownership, saying that her biggest obstacle is "having our own land to sell. But many land mafias control the land, so we can only hope that the government will provide access." This statement demonstrates that poverty in Torete Village is not solely an individual problem but also a problem of injustice in the control and utilization of natural resources that should be a source of economic potential.

DISCUSSION

The lack of a sustainable income is a fundamental element of poverty experienced by the majority of respondents. This phenomenon places households in a highly vulnerable position due to their reliance on uncertain sources of income, such as cash assistance or sporadic land sales. The lack of predictable cash flow hinders families' ability to engage in long-term financial planning, save, or invest in productive activities. The head of the household's productivity capacity is constrained by advanced age and declining health, as evidenced by the recognition that they have passed their peak physical productivity. Physical limitations directly cut off primary access to income, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Structural issues related to access to land ownership serve as the most fundamental barrier for communities. Land is not simply a means of production for farmers but also a valuable asset that can be sold for urgent needs or business capital.

Access to this crucial asset is hampered by unfair agrarian practices, as evidenced by the issue of land control by land mafias. This disparity in asset ownership robs the poor of their ability to claim their rights to productive resources, which should be a path out of poverty. The quality of human resources limits employment options due to the very low level of formal education, narrowing the horizon of non-traditional employment opportunities.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

This study concludes that poverty in Torete Village is influenced by the socio-economic characteristics of vulnerable households. The majority of household heads are elderly, many are headed by women, and they have low levels of education, with most only completing elementary school. This situation limits access to productive employment, leading to the dominant occupations being housewives and subsistence farmers with irregular incomes. Although most poor households live in permanent, self-owned homes, have private toilets, and use LPG, their economic capacity remains limited due to a lack of transportation and spending patterns focused solely on basic needs. Dependence on social assistance and family support reflects persistent economic vulnerability. Based on these findings, more targeted economic empowerment programs are needed for productive-age household members through skills training and micro-enterprise support. Given that many households are headed by women, gender-based empowerment programs need to be strengthened. The government also needs to improve social protection for the elderly and ensure that social assistance distribution is transparent and targeted. Improving access to mobility and economic support facilities is crucial for expanding employment opportunities and reducing economic dependency. Consistent and locally tailored interventions are expected to improve the welfare of poor households in Torete Village.

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