

# Resilience of the Urban Poor Daring the Covid-19 Pandemic

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the living conditions of the urban poor during the Covid-19 pandemic in Makassar City. The research method in this study uses a descriptive-qualitative approach. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, interviews and documentation. The data validation technique is triangulation of sources to assess the credibility of data from data sources. Data analysis techniques through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions. The results of the study show that changes in behavior and the impact on economic activity during the Covid-19 pandemic have led to an increase in the number and level of poverty in Makassar City. This can be seen from the decrease in income due to increased unemployment and reduced employment and business opportunities. For this reason, the government has implemented a short-term and fast management program in the form of a social safety net to overcome health, economic and social shocks caused by the Covid 19 pandemic through several assistance policies to the urban poor in particular and society in general.

Kata Kunci: Resilience, Poor, Urban, Covid-19 Pandemic

## I. INTRODUCTION

Because the global outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic is suspected to have a significant impact on people's lives, it will be very interesting to try to examine the impact of the pandemic on poverty in Indonesia. As we know, the Covid-19 pandemic that occurred at the end of 2019 to date [1] has had an impact on all sectors of life [2] mainly in this case is economic contraction in various countries in the world including Indonesia. The emergence of policies to limit community activities as

an effort to deal with the pandemic has caused significant economic losses nationally [3]. One of the economic sectors that experienced shocks during the Covid-19 pandemic was the urban poor.

All circles of society are also affected by this pandemic, including marginalized communities, especially the urban poor, freelancers, informal workers, and temporary workers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately. For this reason, the Ministry of Finance said that Covid-19 has provided a threat to health

problems and a threat to psychiatric conditions due to the risk of an increase in positive cases of Covid-19 up to tens of thousands of people per day, impacting the threat of job loss, especially in the poor.

For the poor, life is an endless struggle ([4]. Poor families focus on improving economic conditions, not on family relationships or parenting [5]. Living in poverty can increase sources of stress, especially in parental families, and can reduce the sensitivity of parental involvement, which can lead to child despair [6]. Family problems due to poverty also indirectly affect the family. The pressures of poor families associated with financial constraints can also indirectly affect parents' perceptions of their children's education.

According to a survey conducted by Ronald Buck & Joe Deutsch [7], both the urban and rural poor face many problems, including: B. Inadequate housing and access to professional services, including education. Education tends to be low for various reasons, since poverty is a widespread and complex cycle of problems that can affect the lives of different people. Select Karini [8] explains in this survey that school participation is related to poverty. A survey conducted in the Bangkabilityung Islands based on trends from 2012 to 2016 concluded that the lower the poverty rate, the higher the school participation rate.

Poverty status is measured by the ability of the population to meet basic needs (basic needs approach). Because this approach considers poverty as an economic barrier, poverty is measured by the Poverty Line (HL), which is the ability to meet basic food and non-food needs. Therefore, the purchasing power and

income that determine the price of consumer goods are important factors in determining the number and location of poverty. Poverty development is uneven between regions and sectors due to differences in resource drivers, access to information technology, employment opportunities, and affordability of various development programs[9].

But it is undeniable that there are many challenges that must be faced, both economically and academically, to meet daily needs and other sudden needs. This is because the fulfillment of these needs can affect survival and adaptation to the environment. Especially in life from late adolescence to early adulthood, for example when people have to face challenges and are ready to master life independently before they start studying or entering the professional world, they must do so independently, live separately from parents, or live independently of their partner.

In this process, sometimes there are processes that disrupt the balance of the social environment of young people. At this early age, they must be more independent and able to empathize with their position in society. Thus, this stage of late adolescence is the right stage to know how resilient he is in living life, especially for adolescents in dangerous situations [10] found that there are many studies that show that poor families and children with low financial status can pursue higher education in school despite their limited family financial resources. And those who can tolerate all the pressures of life are said to be tough [11].

An optimistic and confident understanding of self-control can be more socially supportive or more effective in dealing with stress [12]. Optimism,

understanding of self-control, and self-esteem are associated with proactive problem-solving efforts [12], alertness and compensation for stressful events before the individual feels the full effects. You can do it. The ability to act positively and positively with respect to time and opportunity minimizes the harmful psychological effects of stress.

Mood, depression, healthy behaviors, and other potentially supportive psychosocial factors explain the relationship between cognitive processes, the search for meaning, and the emergence of life difficulties. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that the ability to understand stressful or traumatic events, including suffering financial difficulties, usually leads to psychological adaptation [13]. Resilience is defined as the ability to recover from negative emotional experiences and flexibly adapt to the ever-changing demands of stressful experiences [14].

Resilience can positively and deeply embrace oneself and their situation and interpret life events well. Resilience has several characteristics. It is the ability to recover from the stresses of life, learn the positive elements of the environment, look for them, successfully support the process of adapting to all situations, and develop skills that are all depressed. From life both externally and internally [15]. Mackay and Iwasaki explain that individuals with resilience skills: (A) you can determine what you want and you won't be drawn into a circle of helplessness. (B) The ability to coordinate various emotions, especially negative emotions resulting from traumatic experiences. (C) Have a better vision or ability to see the future [16].

Resilience according to Benard in [2] is intended as a process of self-awakening

from various problems and pressures of competence in the form of social competence, problem solving skills, autonomy, and sense of purpose. Papalia, Olds, and Feldman [17] define resilience as an attitude that a person has about tenacity, resilience, not giving up easily in the face of difficult times. Meanwhile, effort according to [18] is the activity of mobilizing energy, mind, or body to achieve a goal and goal. For this reason, this study aims to describe the living conditions of the urban poor during the Covid-19 pandemic in Makassar City.

## II. METHOD

This research is the result of a literature review and observations of researchers using a descriptive-qualitative approach, to describe the resilience that occurs in urban communities during the Covid-19 pandemic in Makassar City. Descriptive research according to Soejarna [19], is a study that seeks to describe a symptom, event that occurs in a certain situation or situation based on data obtained in detail in accordance with the research problem studied [11].

Research informants are selected by purposive sampling technique where the selection of informants using certain considerations [20]. The informants in this study were heads of families who received BLT (Direct Cash Assistance) funds from the government regularly, had children, and did not have permanent employment. Data collection techniques are carried out through observation, interviews, documentation, and conducting focused discussions ([21]).

Research data analysis uses descriptive-qualitative data analysis, namely data reduction, data display, and

conclusion drawing [22]. Data analysis is carried out through a systematic process of data obtained from interviews, field notes and other documents that can be informed to others. Meanwhile, the data validation technique is carried out through triangulation, namely source triangulation.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### *Living Conditions of the Urban Poor*

In general, poverty is a condition in which a person or group of people is unable to fulfill their basic right to maintain and develop a dignified life. From an economic point of view, poverty meets the basic needs of food and not food, as the concept used by BPS and several other countries is the ability to meet basic needs (basic needs approach), in a state of inaction. (expenses). aside). The poor are those whose average per capita monthly expenditure from the survey results (sample) is below the poverty line. The poverty rate published by BPS is the result of macro data and Susenas (National Socioeconomic Survey) and shows the proportion of the poor to the total population of the region.

The Poverty Line is a representation of the rupiah required or the price paid in order for the population to live a minimum decent life that includes meeting the minimum needs of food (equivalent to 2,100 kilocalories per capita per day) and non-essential food. The Poverty Line used by BPS consists of two components, namely the Food Poverty Line (GKM) which consists of 52 types of commodities and the Non-Food Poverty Line (GKNM) which consists of 51 types of commodities for urban areas, and 47 types of commodities for rural areas.

The increase in the poor population from September 2019 to March 2020 was recorded at 1.5 million people. The most common is Java, whose status has changed from vulnerable to poor to poor. Of the six provinces in Java, DKI Jakarta was the fastest and worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the number of poor people rising from 3.42% in September 2019 to 4.53% in March 2020 1.11,% Increase. Or around 488,000, which is equivalent to the total population of DKI Jakarta of 4.53 million. This number increased by 115,000 or 1.06% compared to the previous year. According to BPS data (2020a), according to DKI, these states are DI Yogyakarta, West Java, Central Java, East Java, Bali, Banten, North Sumatra, South Sumatra, Lampung, Bengkulu, Jambi, Riau Islands, NTB, NTT, Central Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, North Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Papua experienced the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic very seriously.

The entire region is thought to have seen an increase in the number of poor people of different intensity. The problem of poverty is not just about calculating the percentage and number of poor people. But what needs to be noted is regarding the depth and severity of poverty. The poverty depth index is a measure of the average spending gap of each poor person. Relevant to the increase in the number and prevalence of poverty due to the pandemic, the average expenditure of the poor tends to be farther away and is characterized by the fall of vulnerable groups of the poor (workers and informal sector workers) to the poor and the poor to become poorer.

The COVID-19 pandemic deepened and exacerbated poverty. The pandemic of poverty continues to spread among

community groups. The most affected are those who work or do business in the informal sector, followed by the industrial sector due to production delays, followed by the transportation service sector due to PSBB policies and home recommendations. Moreover, the impact of this pandemic is increasingly felt in the agricultural sector. According to BPS, 70.53% of low-income groups experienced a decrease in income, and the rest were middle and high incomes.

### *Resilience of the Urban Poor During the Covid Pandemic*

The term resilience was first formulated by Block (in klohn, 1996) under the name ego-resilience which is defined as a general ability that involves high self-adjustment ability and flexibility when faced with internal and external pressures. According to R.G Reed (in Nurinayanti and Atiudina [23] defines resilience as the capacity or ability to adapt positively in overcoming significant life problems. Resilience is a psychological construct proposed by behavioral experts in order to find out, define and measure the capacity of individuals to survive and develop in adverse conditions and to determine the ability of individuals to recover from pressure conditions. [24]

According to Holling [25], the meaning of resilience is an emphasis on the context of attraction and persistence over how willing humans are to fight persistently. In the context of world resilience is considered random and unpredictable. In addition, resilience can also be interpreted as how to adapt and reduce vulnerability [26]. The resilience framework has the concept of three main keywords, namely maintaining, restoring and seeking balance [26]. Holling also

defines that resilience in ecosystems acts as the capacity of systems to reorganize and manage change to maintain the same identity, structure and function [25].

Resilience according to Benard in [2] is intended as a process of self-awakening from various problems and pressures of competence in the form of social competence, problem solving skills, autonomy, and sense of purpose. Papalia, Olds, and Feldman [17] define resilience as an attitude that a person has about tenacity, resilience, not giving up easily in the face of difficult times. Meanwhile, effort according to [27] is the activity of mobilizing energy, mind, or body to achieve a goal and goal.

Disturbances experienced by poor communities in urban areas bring losses that cause communities to become vulnerable. Vulnerable communities need to adapt so that they are resilient and achieve resilience so that they can face further disruptions or threats if they occur in the future. Community resilience is influenced by a community's adaptability in the face of disruption. The ability of the community to adapt can be assessed by looking at the resources (resource robustness) owned by the community.

Mackay and Iwasaki have found that individuals with resilience skills: (A) you can judge what you want and you won't be drawn into a circle of helplessness. (B) The ability to coordinate various emotions, especially negative emotions resulting from traumatic experiences. (C) Have a better vision or ability to see the future [16]. From some of these explanations, it can be said that resilience people are good at coping with stress by changing the way they deal with problems, self-control, and how to deal with stress.

Resilience allows individuals to focus on real problems and overcome the risk of depression and many challenges without being overwhelmed by negative emotions and thoughts. A person with good resilience is an optimistic person who believes that everything can change for the better. Individuals have hope for the future and believe that they can govern their way of life. Optimism makes you physically healthy and reduces your chances of suffering from depression. Resilience is the ability to respond to difficulties and traumas in a healthy and productive way and necessary to cope with the stresses of everyday life. [28]

The Covid19 pandemic is a global pandemic caused by the emergence of a virus called coronavirus [29]. Corona virus is a zoonotic disease. That is, it is transmitted between animals and humans. It affects the human respiratory tract and can cause severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), usually with early influenza-like symptoms. The transmission of this disease is usually due to breathing due to coughing or sneezing.

Based on the Indonesian Ministry of Health, the development of Covid-19 cases in Wuhan began on December 30, 2019 where the Wuhan Municipal Health Committee issued an "urgent notice on the treatment of pneumonia of unknown cause" (Hanoatubun) [30]. This virus shows a significant spread and even causes many deaths in various countries in the world including Indonesia. Until later on March 11, 2020, WHO announced that the current outbreak was a global pandemic [31]

## V. CONCLUSION

Changes in behavior and the impact on economic activities during the Covid-19 pandemic have led to an increase in the number and level of poverty in the city of Makassar and nationally. This can be seen from the decline in income caused by increasing unemployment and reduced employment and business opportunities. Although the largest impact of Covid-19 occurred in Java, DKI Jakarta, and urban areas, overall, the distribution of poverty by island has not changed, but the poverty distribution map according to economic sectors continues to make major changes that have an impact on the informal, service (including tourism and transportation) and agricultural sectors.

To anticipate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on poverty, the central and local governments have implemented short-term and rapid management programs in the form of social safety nets to overcome the health, economic, and social shocks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic through several assistance policies to the urban poor, especially and the community in general.

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