

# Livehood Strategy As A Solution To Fulfilling Family Needs In Urban Slums

<sup>1</sup>Firdaus W. Suhaeb\*, <sup>2</sup>Ernawati S. Kaseng

<sup>1</sup>Department of Sosiologi, Faculty of Social Sciences and Law,  
Makassar State University  
E-mail: firdaus.w.suhaeb@unm.ac.id

<sup>2</sup>Departemen of Agricultural Technology Education, Faculty of Engineering,  
Makassar State University  
E-mail: ernawatisyahrudin71@unm.ac.id

\*Corresponding Author, E-mail: firdaus.w.suhaeb.unm@ac.id

## ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out how the concept of livelihood strategies and urban slums in a sociological perspective; and what forms a livelihood strategy on families in urban slums, as well as what impact of livehood strategy has on families in urban slums. The literature study method is used in this study, where from the secondary data obtained is then compiled so that later a conclusion can be drawn. The results of this study concluded that the livelihood strategies carried out by families in urban slums in order to meet their needs were carried out through double living patterns, livelihood source engineering, and spatial engineering (migration). The livelihood strategy is a way of adapting the head and family members to maintain the survival and economy of the family. The socio-economic impact of living strategies in meeting the needs of families in urban slums, namely in terms of education, housing, and income. So the family gets from the income of the various kinds of work they do. Therefore, the availability of adequate jobs from the government for families living in urban slums is highly expected.

Keyword: Livelihood strategies, Families, Slums, Needs Fulfillment, Cities

## I. INTRODUCTION

One of the social problems in Indonesia is urban slums. Some sociologists believe that the poverty present in slum areas is a widespread problem in various large cities, affecting

certain groups of people disproportionately. A group of people with all the resources necessary to improve the standard of living and quality of life in their environment, but have not yet reached the standard of living in

conditions that have not met a decent standard of living.

Urban areas face major challenges in the face of an influx of migrants seeking jobs and job opportunities that are better than where they previously lived. On the other hand, cities cannot provide jobs for migrant workers who lack skills and education. The current low income and economic uncertainty have made many migrants from rural areas who have come to urban areas. With such a feeling of hopelessness towards their economic conditions that they are willing to take any job, regardless of salary or safety factors can happen to them.

The emergence of slums in urban areas has also triggered high levels of poverty and crime. This is due to the rapid population growth in urban areas. Urban slums, according to Adon (2015), have become a haven for those who cannot afford to build decent homes. In the end, they will live and settle in slums built on uninhabitable land.

In Law Number 4 of 1992, the term housing and decent settlement according to Raldi's (2007) view of housing is a set whose function is to provide a residential environment. This includes the necessary equipment and environmental infrastructure. In fact, settlements in urban and rural areas serve as living environments as well as places of activity that contribute to the economic well-being of local communities. Livelihood can refer to how people make a living. It can be based on the type of work they do, where they live, or the resources they have.

Apart from being a human need, housing or settlements have an important

strategic role in the development of the nation's next generation, namely as a center for education, quality improvement, and national identity. The high price of land in agglomerations forces vulnerable groups to seek housing both legally and illegally. This in the view of Suryani (2016: 135), explains that it will create urban slums. Many residential areas in the suburbs appear shabby due to unsanitary environmental conditions. The residents of the slums cannot meet their basic needs because they live below the poverty line, their homes are made of wood, the land they occupy does not belong to them, and they are vulnerable to floods and diseases. They usually survive in slums, although in various respects it is unprofitable. Therefore, it is certainly very interesting to study further to describe and analyze livelihood strategies as a solution to fulfilling family needs in urban slums.

## II. METHOD

The study of this article is to find out how the concept of livelihood strategies and urban slums in a sociological perspective; and what forms a livelihood strategy on families in urban slums, as well as what impact of livelihood strategy has on families in urban slums. The literature study method was used in this study. Through sequential data obtained from reference materials and the results of previous studies, researchers are then compiled so that later a conclusion can be drawn about the Livelihood Strategy as a Solution to Fulfilling Family Needs in Urban Slums (Mardalis, 1999). The stages of collecting reference data are carried out

through reading, recording, and then processing from the collected materials.

### III. DISCUSSION

#### A. The Concept of Livelihood Strategy And Urban Slum in a Sociological Perspective

##### 1. The Concept of Livelihood Strategy in a Sociological Perspective

The Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) defines life as a way of life. According to Dharmawan (2007), living in sociology is a strategy in the concept of living, which refers to livelihood strategy. The definition of a livelihood strategy that is more than just a means of making a living goes beyond just getting a salary. It is necessary to consider how the social system and resources are involved in the process of its activities. There are many ways to look at this process, depending on how individual actions are collectively controlled. Individual and family survival strategies can be manipulated in different ways.

A livelihood strategy is an individual or group action carried out to maintain a livelihood, taking into account the existence of a dominant social infrastructure, social structure and cultural value system. Also as a strategy to build a livelihood system in the view of the Bogorian stream, the livelihood strategy always refers to the broad meaning where the household income base for the people in the livelihood system comes from economic and non-economic activities.

An individual or family livelihood strategy is one that includes assets

(natural, physical, human, and financial capital), activities, and access (intermediaries and social relationships) that together determine their lives. According to Masithoh (2005), individuals and their family members can use a variety of resources, including livelihood strategies, to ensure the survival of themselves and their families through the application of livelihood support strategies. Households use a variety of resources to survive, largely based on what they have.

The availability of resources and the ability to utilize multiple livelihoods affect the selection of livelihood models. One source of income alone is not enough to fulfillment of the family. Ellis (2000) divides sources of income into three categories:

##### a. *Sector on-farm income*

Income from your land, whether it is cultivated by you or through rent or profit sharing, falls into this category. The livelihoods derived from farming can be broadly defined.

##### b. *Sector off-farm income*

Non-agricultural sources of income, such as wages, profit sharing, non-wage employment contracts, and so on, are still included in the agricultural sector.

##### c. *Sector non-farm income*

Non-agricultural income includes things like pensions and salaries, as well as profits from small businesses themselves.

Household livelihood strategies can use 3 different livelihood strategies, as

outlined by Scoones (1998) in Turasih (2011):

- a. The process of improving the efficiency of a sector by incorporating outside resources such as technology and labor is known as "livelihood engineering".
- b. It is possible to increase income by finding work outside the farm or mobilizing family members (father, mother, and children) to work in jobs other than agriculture. This is known as the double living pattern (diversification).
- c. Migration (spatial engineering) is an attempt to move to another area outside the village to make money.

Prasetya (2013) argues that the structure of household income is the sum of the income of all household members, regardless of their occupation. Household income sources can be interpreted as household assets, resources, or capital that can be used to achieve household income goals. Resources are everything that your home may or may not use. Assets are goods that are owned or used by people, while capital is goods that people own or use (Purnomo 2006).

There are five main types of capital or assets that can help people in making livelihood, or what is commonly called livelihood assets. Five types of capital according to Ellis (2000):

a. *Natural Capital*

Capital can also be referred to as the environment, which includes all the physical and non-physical factors that surround a person. Renewable and non-renewable resources are both

acceptable sources of capital. Water, soil, trees, timber stocks from gardens or forests and fish populations in the oceans are examples of natural resource capital.

b. *Physical Capital*

Irrigation canals, roads, and buildings all belong to the category of physical capital.

c. *Human Capital*

Those who are considered "poor" have the most valuable asset: their human resources. Health, education and the ability of a person to perform everyday tasks are all factors that determine this capital.

d. *Financial Capital and Substitutes*

Households use this capital in the form of cash. New cash, savings, or loans can all be used to increase this capital.

e. *Social Capital*

Individuals and families can benefit from complex social capital communities. A good example of social capital is the ability to effectively network with others. These are vertical or horizontal relationships for collaboration and support to improve economic access.

2. *Perspectives on Sociological Theory as a Basis for the Concept of Livelihood Strategy*

Both actors and resources serve as carriers in Coleman's theory of rational choice. The term "perpetrator" refers to a person who makes use of existing material. The term "resources" generally refers to natural and human resources.

Actors are at the center of the theory of rational choice. Actors are seen as people with a purpose or reason for their actions. This implies that the actor has a certain goal in mind and takes steps to achieve it. Actions must be taken according to the level of choice of actors to achieve goals that correspond to their values and needs.

Coleman's rational choice is based on factors such as rewards, costs, and profits that are socioeconomic aspects. Rewards are benefits obtained by putting oneself in danger. Here, sacrifices are avoided and profits come from the reduction of those sacrifices.

Compared with the rational action paradigm of other sociologists, Coleman's theory of rational choice is considered a synthesis. With a certain belief, Coleman claims that his approach is rooted in the basic methodological principles of individualism. Using the theory of rational choice as a cornerstone of the micro-level, the phenomenon of the macro-level can be explained. Rational choice theory is focused on actors who are seen as having goals and objectives, while actors are also seen as having choices or values. So, the subject with goals, the one who works towards a specific goal in mind, is in demand. The choice of actors is irrelevant in the theory of rational choice, but it is important that the actions taken to achieve those goals correspond to the degree of choice that the actor has (Susiolo, 2020: 3).

### *3. The Concept of Urban Slums in a Sociological Perspective*

A residential area is a group of residences in one or more sub-districts

with existing infrastructure (Mulyono, 2009: 134). Meanwhile, according to Parsudi in (Rahardjo, 2010: 118), slums or slums areas are densely populated areas, the lanes are dirty, and are the residences or residences of the poor in urban areas that are part of the entire city. A place to live is a place where people live, both physically and technologically, but also in terms of social and economic conditions, as well as in terms of culture and demography. There are several definitions in Law Number 1 of 2011 concerning Housing and Settlements:

- a. An ideal place to live, a means of building a family, and an expression of the wealth of its owner, a house is a building that represents the value of its inhabitants and the wealth of its owner.
- b. Housing can be a set of houses in the composition of settlements, both urban and rural, which as a result of the improvement of private buildings, equipped with foundations, offices and utilities constitutes a set of houses in the composition of settlements, both urban and rural, which as a result of remedial actions of residential buildings, are equipped with infrastructure, facilities and utilities.
- c. Settlements, both urban and rural, consist of a number of dwellings connected by roads, sewers, and other public service facilities and infrastructure.
- d. Slums are uninhabitable areas due to poor maintenance, excessive building thickness, poor building quality, and weak foundations.

High population density, small building sizes, and roofs made of materials almost identical to walls characterize slums (Nafsi, et al., 2019). In Nafsi et al (2019), Parsudi Suparlan stated that slums are characterized by:

- a. Facilities for the general public are in deplorable condition.
- b. The conditions of work in a house or settlement, as well as the people living in its rooms, provide insight into its poorer inhabitants.
- c. In slums, the high frequency of use and volume density of space reflects the vagueness of spatial planning and the economic powerlessness of its inhabitants.
- d. A slum is a collection of people who live together but have different cultural and social identities, and this identity can be viewed in the following ways: 1) the unity of society that is on state-owned land, so it is illegitimate and illegitimate; 2) the unity of the community that is part of the RW or RT; and 3) Community units are considered RW or RT, but not squatters.
- e. Different social and economic conditions characterize the inhabitants of slums. A wide variety of occupations and income levels can be found among the population, as well as where they live. In slums, people form social groups based on their level of financial security.
- f. The majority of people living in slums are those who work in the informal sector or have additional sources of income in the informal sector.

Adisasmita (2010:11) states that urban slum neighborhoods include:

- a. Physically, it consists of narrow land, irregular land use, poor infrastructure, and poor wastewater treatment, all of which are susceptible to disease outbreaks. Perishable and semi-permanent are common characteristics of built houses.
- b. Mutual aid stands out from other urban areas for its unique social characteristics, including its dense population, small land area, low level of education, and poor health.
- c. Due to the scarcity and high prices of urban land, most slums do not follow existing legal procedures from a legal point of view.
- d. Economically, the labor force is diverse and the economy is largely unregulated, including rickshaw drivers and laborers, street vendors and scavengers.

## **B. Form a Livelihood Strategy in Families in Urban Slums**

### *1. Community Resource Engineering Strategies in urban slums*

One of the livelihood strategies carried out by urban slum families is the strategy of engineering the source of livelihood of the community. the strategy of expanding and maintaining life by slum people by means of being rough laborers, coolies, gembels and beggars. Slum communities, on the other hand, also use intensification (increasing working hours) as a way to balance their family's economic outcomes.

### *2. Double Livelihood Pattern Strategy*

Families and communities in urban slums are implementing a double-livelihood pattern strategy by trying to find work outside the main job sector. Various ways for family members to get a job, such as working as a rickshaw driver in addition to other jobs such as small laborers, beggars and laundry workers to increase their household income by mobilizing other family members to work so that later they can contribute to their household income (father, mother and son).

### 3. *Spatial Engineering Strategy (Migration)*

A strategy called a spatial engineering (migration) strategy is one that families in urban slums use to earn money by moving to new locations, whether circularly, permanently or annually. Some family members or communities migrate because they argue that there is no permanent job that can be done around the slums so they decide to move somewhere that has job opportunities for the fulfillment of their family's economy.

## C. The Impact of Living Strategies on Families in Urban Slums

### 1. *Education*

Family education or slum communities, so far slum communities have always wanted to send their children to school. Their hope is to send their children to school so that their future is higher than the future of their parents and can change the fate of their family even though the obstacles they experience in sending their children to school are the

limitations of the family economy which is sometimes inadequate.

### 2. *Residence*

Another basic human need is the need for a place to live or a home. Residences occupied by families from slum communities are usually hitchhiking, contracts or government land. With a modest income, they have to be patient to save little by little and do their best to meet the needs of their family. Due to limited costs and the need for life, it is getting higher and higher, so they have to slam bones to make a living, but some of them seem to want to be able to live in flats provided by the government through saving money.

### 3. *Income*

Slum communities earn income/income to meet the needs of their families. Income is very influential on the socioeconomic life of the family so that the size of the income can affect the social status of a person or family in the community. The income of families from slum communities that they usually get depends on the number of hours worked or is obtained through uncertain income. It can be seen that the income from this side job is obtained from many people who need their services as construction workers, washing workers and depending on the number of results obtained

## V. CONCLUSION

The livelihood strategy carried out by families in urban slums in order to meet their needs is carried out through double living patterns, livelihood source engineering, and spatial engineering (migration). The

livelihood strategy is a way of adapting the head and family members to maintain the survival and economy of the family. The socio-economic impact of living strategies in meeting the needs of families in urban slums, namely in terms of education, housing, and income. This is what the family gets from the income of various kinds of work they do so that it can have a positive or negative impact. Therefore, the availability of adequate jobs from the government for families living in urban slums is highly expected.

## REFERENCES

- Dharmawan A.H. 2007. *Sistem Penghidupan dan Nafkah Pedesaan: Pandangan Sosiologi Nafkah (Livelihood Sociology) Mazhab Barat dan Mazhab Bogor*. [Internet]. [Dikutip 27 2022]. Jurnal Sodality. Vol. 01 No. 02. Diunduh dari: <https://journal.ipb.ac.id/index.php/sodality/article/view/5932/4609>.
- Ellis, F. (2000). *Rural Livelihoods and Diversity in Developing Countries*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Prasetya A.R. 2013. *Struktur dan strategi nafkah rumahtangga petani peserta program pengelolaan hutan bersama masyarakat (Phbm) di Bogorejo*. [Skripsi]. Bogor (ID): Institut Pertanian Bogor.
- Purnomo AM. 2006. *Strategi nafkah desa sekitar hutan studi kasus desa sekitar PHBM (Pengelolaan Hutan Bersama Masyarakat) di Kabupaten Kuningan, Provinsi Jawa Barat*. [Thesis]. Bogor (ID): Institut Pertanian Bogor.
- Rahardjo, Mohammad Gamal. *"SLUM" Kajian Permukiman Kumuh dalam Perpektif Spasial*. Yogyakarta : Media Perkasa, 2010.
- Scoones I. 1998. *Sustainable Rural Livelihood: A Framework for Analysis*. Institute of Development Studies.
- Susiolo, R. K. D. 2020. *Pilihan Rasional Individu Menikah Pada Usia Dini Di Kabupaten Trenggalek*. Publicio: Jurnal Ilmiah Politik, Kebijakan dan Sosial, Vol: 2, h: 2-3.
- Undang-Undang Nomor 1 Tahun 2011 Tentang *Perumahan dan Kawasan Permukiman*
- Undang-Undang Nomor 4 Tahun 1992 Tentang *Dasar Istilah Permohonan Perumahan dan Pemukiman Layak*