

Social and Economic Resilience of Poor Families in Children's Education at Higher Education in Donggo District

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Abstract

The socio-economic resilience of poor families in children's education is the ability of poor families to remain resilient and adaptive amidst economic challenges. Poor families who have a high level of resilience demonstrate the ability to overcome limited resources positively, especially regarding children's education. Through a qualitative approach, in-depth interviews were conducted to understand the experiences, strategies, and supports implemented by poor families. The research results highlight the important role of social solidarity in shaping the resilience of poor families. This solidarity is manifested in financial and emotional support from the local community, creating a social network that strengthens the fighting spirit. In addition, economic resilience is reflected in the creative efforts of poor families to increase income, such as small-scale farming and involvement in local businesses.

Keywords: *Children's Education, Poor Families, Social and Economic Resilience.*

INTRODUCTION

Higher education for poor families is often a big challenge because of the various economic obstacles that must be faced. Limited access to financial resources may limit their ability to provide higher education for poor family members. These conditions create an environment where meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing becomes a top priority, and higher education is often seen as an additional burden. Poor families must overcome limitations in accessing books, learning equipment, and other educational facilities that can affect the quality of education. However, amidst these limitations, poor families try to survive and try to send their children to college (Ras et al., 2022). For poor families, when someone in their family gets a bachelor's degree, it becomes their investment in the future which can lift the family out of poverty.

The problem of poverty continues to be a serious issue in various regions of the world, especially in Indonesia, which is a developing country. The impacts of poverty include millions of children who cannot access education, difficulties in financing health needs, limitations in savings and investment, and other problems that can lead to acts of violence and crime (Muzakkir & Yunanda, 2021). This condition of poverty can cause mental health for both poor children and families (Ali & Alam, 2022). Mental disorders, as stated by the World Health Organization (WHO),

mental disorders refer to the condition of individuals who experience problems and symptoms that include aspects of abnormal thoughts, emotions, and behavior. The prevalence of mental disorders continues to increase both globally and at the national level (Nuraeni, et al, 2024).

In Indonesia, the phenomenon of low socioeconomic status is closely related to the level of poverty spread across various regions (Aunillah, 2014). Poverty is often used as an indicator to assess the level of welfare of the population of a region or country (Haughton & Khandker, 2009). Official statistical data published by BPS in 2020 regarding the profile of poverty in Indonesia in March 2020 recorded the number of poor people at 26.42 million people, an increase of 1.63 million people compared to September 2019. On average, households The poor have 4.66 family members with a poverty line of around IDR 2,118,678 per month per poor household. Socioeconomic status itself reflects a person's position in society, which is determined by his ability to meet daily needs from his income and can also depend on the level of achievement he has in society (Atika & Rasyid, 2018). According to the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Sitepu, 2012). formulating criteria to classify a group is not an easy thing.

Socio-cultural ties in the rural environment remain steadfast. Apart from that, the principle of solidarity

based on ethnic, cultural, and religious aspects is still deeply rooted. Social relationships that emphasize the principle of kinship are a key factor in strengthening people's social interactions during a pandemic. Despite facing economic challenges, the level of vulnerability is relatively low because the village community's economy still relies primarily on natural sectors such as agriculture and plantations. Effective handling and mitigation efforts from the local government also provide significant support (Wirmando & Saranga, 2022).

In Donggo District, Bima Regency, the challenge of higher education for poor families can be one of the factors that influence their level of socio-economic resilience. Socioeconomic resilience refers to the ability of a community or family to recover from economic or social stress, including the ability to cope with uncertainty and change. When poor families in Donggo District face limitations in access to higher education, this can have long-term impacts on their socio-economic resilience. Restricting access to higher education can contribute to a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break, as opportunities to improve skills and obtain higher-income jobs are limited.

Socio-cultural ties in rural communities are still solid. Apart from that, the concept of kinship which is rooted in ethnic and religious aspects is still relevant. Despite facing economic challenges, the level of vulnerability in the economic sector is relatively low because the livelihoods of rural communities still depend on natural resources such as agriculture and plantations. This approach is supported by effective handling and mitigation measures implemented by the local government (Sabariman & Susanti, 2021).

Higher education is a bridge that enables change and improvements in the quality of life, however, in reality, access to higher education is often a serious challenge for poor families. In Donggo District, economic and social dynamics form a complex landscape, especially for families who struggle to send their children to college. In the face of economic uncertainty and various social obstacles, the concept of social and economic resilience has emerged as a vital element in supporting the educational journey of children from poor families.

In their children's education at university, poor families are often faced with significant economic pressures, ranging from education costs to meeting daily needs. Family social and economic resilience is a

crucial determinant in determining the extent to which poor families in Donggo District can maintain the continuity of their children's education. How are poor families in Donggo District able to survive and adapt amidst often complex economic constraints?

This research aims to explore the social and economic resilience of poor families in supporting children's education at tertiary institutions in Donggo District. Through this approach, research does not only examine aspects of economic constraints but also explores how social factors, such as support networks and resilience strategies, play an important role in supporting poor families' efforts to provide higher education for their children.

METHODS

The research explores the social and economic resilience of poor families in Donggo District who strive to provide higher education for their children. A qualitative approach was used to understand in depth the experiences, strategies, and supports they implemented in facing economic limitations. Through in-depth interviews, researchers approached poor families with empathy to gain direct insight into the challenges they faced and the responses they implemented. Participatory observation is also used to understand the dynamics of the daily lives of poor families and their interactions within the community. In addition, the research involved content analysis of the narratives of poor families documented through interviews (Ningi, 2022). This qualitative data was then analyzed thematically to identify patterns, themes, and nuances that emerged along with the stories of the resilience of poor families. This research not only focuses on the economic dimension but also goes in-depth into the social aspects involving poor families. It is hoped that this in-depth understanding can provide a more comprehensive and contextual picture of the resilience of poor families in Donggo District in the context of their children's higher education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social and Economic Resilience of Poor Families in Donggo District

Data from the government reports that the number of poor people reached 31.02 million people or 13.33 percent of the total population of Indonesia in 2010. However, on the other hand, the government also distributed rice to the poor, known as "*Raskin*", for

around 70 million people, and provided health insurance through the Poor Community Health Insurance (Jamkesmas) program to around 76.4 million people in the same year. In previous years, there was considerable attention to the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) (Sitepu, 2012). However, these conditions do not prevent poor families from sending their children to higher education and surviving amidst low economic conditions.

Socioeconomic resilience refers to the ability of a community or family to overcome economic or social stress and recover from negative impacts that may occur. In general, this concept covers the extent to which an entity can adapt, survive, and even thrive in the face of uncertainty, crisis, or changes in the economic and social environment.

Meanwhile, resilience includes a person's ability to provide a positive response when facing difficulties so that they can survive, rise, and adapt to difficult conditions. Individuals who show resilience will recover from challenging situations, returning to their original state after experiencing pressure, bending, or being stretched (Oktaverina & Kritinawati, 2021). It is important to recognize that resilience is not the opposite of adversity or challenge, but rather the ability to develop and grow through difficult experiences. In addition, referring to research that supports the concept of resilience gives more strength to this understanding.

In the midst of the reality of life in Donggo District, a picture of a society that has high social solidarity with poor families who are trying to send their children to college is depicted. Social solidarity here is a strong basis for forming relationships between citizens who are more than just neighbors; but rather an emotional bond and shared responsibility for the welfare of others. At the social level, there is deep sentiment and awareness of the economic difficulties faced by poor families. The community in Donggo District shares the understanding that education has an important role in changing fate, and therefore, helping children from poor families to obtain higher education is a shared priority.

This solidarity attitude can be observed from two perspectives, namely (1) the mutual cooperation aspect, and (2) the assistance aspect between members of the farming community. These two perspectives have a different focus, where mutual cooperation focuses more on general activities that have an impact and influence that is shared by the entire community, such

as improving irrigation of rice fields or agricultural roads. Meanwhile, aid activities between members are more oriented toward individual interests, such as plowing fields, planting seeds, and helping bring in the rice harvest (Rusdi, et al, 2020).

This can be seen if one of the poor families sends their children to college in Bima, Makassar, Mataram, or other cities, they will work together to give money to the family. This is done as their social responsibility to every poor family who sends their children to higher education. Apart from emotional support, social solidarity is also reflected in joint efforts to find economic solutions. The people of Donggo District are involved in mutual cooperation activities, local fundraising, or joint projects to help overcome the financial burdens faced by poor families. This solidarity creates an environment where every member of society feels responsible for the common welfare.

The importance of these values of social solidarity creates a united and collaborative community, creating an environment that supports and encourages every child to reach their potential, regardless of their economic background. This is a picture of the people of Donggo District which proves that social solidarity is a force that can overcome inequality and provide fairer opportunities for all.

Even though poor families in Donggo District may face economic limitations in earning sufficient income for their daily needs, the existence of strong social solidarity within their community remains the foundation that enables them to send their children to college (Asyifani, et al, 2021). In this context, social solidarity can be reflected in the emotional and practical support provided by local communities to poor families who are trying to send their children to college. Communities in Donggo District unite to provide financial assistance, provide guidance, or even participate in mutual cooperation activities to help overcome the economic obstacles faced by poor families.

Additionally, this solidarity may create an environment where poor families feel supported and accepted by the local community. The sense of brotherhood and caring in everyday life becomes social capital that strengthens the enthusiasm and determination of poor families to provide higher education to their children. With solidarity maintained, poor families in Donggo District may feel better able to overcome the financial and psychological obstacles that

arise in their efforts to send their children to college. In this way, social solidarity not only provides a strong foundation for the sustainability of higher education among poor families but also creates a supportive, inclusive, and empowering environment.

The economic resilience of poor families in Donggo District who want to facilitate their children's access to higher education can be reflected in the adaptive strategies they implement. Despite economic constraints, resilient poor families may create creative solutions to overcome the financial constraints that arise in higher education. In this case, poor families can show resilience by utilizing available local resources. They look for side hustle opportunities, local scholarships, or educational assistance programs hosted in their communities. This effort reflects awareness of educational needs and a willingness to adapt to the surrounding environment to achieve higher educational goals.

Resilient poor families optimize the potential for support from their own family members. They work together to create wise financial management strategies, prioritize education as an investment in the future, and provide moral and emotional support to each other. Economic resilience in supporting children's higher education in Donggo District can include the ability of poor families to adapt to change, explore local opportunities, and build networks that can support efforts to achieve higher education goals despite limited economic resources.

Higher Education for Poor Families in Donggo

Districts, that live in mountainous areas, reflect a life that is closely related to nature and agriculture, especially in their main income as corn farmers. Amid hills and green expanses, families experience daily life characterized by agricultural activities as the main source of income. In everyday life, simplicity and dependence on nature are visible. Corn farmers in Donggo District have to face weather challenges and uncertainties that can affect their crop yields. However, despite this uncertainty, the community shows resilience and tenacity to manage their natural resources. This can be seen in every house in Donggo District, some of whose children have bachelor's degrees, and some even have master's degrees and doctors. This shows how strongly the Donggo people desire to send their children to college.

Even though the majority of Donggo District residents make their living as corn farmers, the

diversity of this community is also reflected in various aspects of their lives. Local culture, traditions, and family values are also an integral part of their daily lives. This beautiful rural view and simple life is an illustration of the sustainability of the people of Donggo District. Even though they live in a mountainous area with limited resources, they still show courage and determination to maintain agricultural traditions and strong social solidarity among their members.

Rural communities generally face conditions of destitution or poverty, even though they constitute the majority of a country's population. Therefore, to achieve holistic development of the country, it is important to involve the development of village communities. Although recognizing the difficulties of developing rural communities, such as lack of capital, low levels of education, and lack of personnel who can guide them towards change, as well as high heterogeneity between communities, all must be considered as challenges that need to be overcome by stakeholders. This challenge should be an encouragement for officers to find solutions to support village community development efforts (Muzakkir & Yunanda, 2021).

Article 8 paragraph (1) explains the criteria for being called poor. The Minister determines the criteria for the poor as a basis for carrying out the handling of the poor. In paragraph (2), it is stated that in determining these criteria, the Minister will coordinate with related ministries and institutions. Furthermore, in paragraph (3), it is stated that the criteria that have been determined will be the basis for institutions that have responsibility for government affairs in the field of statistics to carry out the data collection process (Sitepu, 2012: 49).

According to the 2023 BPS report by Nur Khoirunnisa, poverty remains a problem that plagues society and continues to show an increasing trend. Based on data published by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS, 2023), in March 2020, the poverty rate in Indonesia reached 9.78% and then increased to 10.19% in September of the same year.

In 2022, the poverty rate will increase again by 0.03%, starting from 9.54% in March to 9.57% in September of the same year. Meanwhile data on poor people in BPS NTB in 2023 shows "In March 2023, the percentage of poor people reached 13.85 percent, an increase of 0.03 percentage points compared to

September 2022, and an increase of 0.17 percent compared to March 2022. The number of poor people in March 2023 reached 751.23 thousand people, an increase of 6.54 thousand people compared to September 2022 and an increase of 19.29 thousand people compared to March 2022.

In the urban context, the percentage of poor people in September 2022 reached 13.98 percent but decreased to 13.76 percent in March 2023. Meanwhile, the percentage of poor people in rural areas in September 2022 was 13.66 percent, increasing to 13.95 percent in March 2023. When compared with September 2022, the number of poor people in urban areas decreased by 0.5 thousand people (from 384.03 thousand people in September 2022 to 383.53 thousand people in March 2023). Meanwhile, in the same period, the number of poor people in rural areas increased by 7.04 thousand people (from 360.66 thousand people in September 2022 to 367.70 thousand people in March 2023). The Poverty Line in March 2023 will reach IDR 498,996 per capita per month, with a composition of the Food Poverty Line of IDR 374,441 (75.04 percent) and the Non-Food Poverty Line of IDR 124,555 (24.96 percent).

The data above shows that in March 2023, the poverty rate in Indonesia reached 13.85%, an increase of 0.03 percentage points compared to September 2022, and an increase of 0.17 points compared to March 2022. The number of poor people in March 2023 reached 751.23 thousand people, an increase of 6.54 thousand people from September 2022 and 19.29 thousand people from March 2022.

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The Poverty Line in March 2023 will reach IDR 498,996 per capita per month, with the Food Poverty Line contributing 75.04% and the Non-Food Poverty Line 24.96%. This analysis shows that most of the costs of living that cause poverty are related to basic needs such as food.

The struggle of poor families in Donggo District to provide higher education to their children creates a narrative filled with tenacity, determination, and social solidarity amidst the economic limitations they face. Despite facing the reality that financial resources are limited, poor families in the region demonstrate extraordinary resilience and the ability to adapt to challenges.

In the context of higher education, financial uncertainty can be a significant barrier for poor families in Donggo District. Nevertheless, they found a way to overcome these obstacles. Diverse economic endeavors such as small-scale farming, local crafts, or participating in social assistance programs can be strategies they implement to increase their income and support their children's higher education costs.

Solidarity among poor families in Donggo District is an important pillar in their journey. There is a sharing of experiences, tips, and emotional support between community members who have the same goal, namely providing higher education to their children. Support from fellow poor families creates an empowering social network, giving them a sense of togetherness and confidence to continue moving towards their higher education goals.

It is important to recognize that amidst economic challenges, the social resilience of poor families is also reflected in their psychological resilience and fighting spirit (Johar et al., 2021). They not only face economic constraints but also manage stress and pressure in a way that allows them to remain focused on their children's higher education goals. In everyday life, the solidarity and resilience of poor families in Donggo District create an inspiring story about how collective strength and the spirit of struggle can help overcome economic limitations and open the door to higher education opportunities for future generations.

CONCLUSION

The conclusions from this research are: (1) The experience of this poor family illustrates that resilience does not only refer to economic resilience, but also to the ability to adapt, share experiences, and respond to challenges with determination. The social and economic resilience of poor families encourages positive change, creates creative strategies, and builds psychological resilience amidst limited resources; (2) Social solidarity as the main pillar. Social solidarity as the main pillar in overcoming economic challenges and supporting higher education for children belonging to poor families. Support and social networks among poor families create an environment that strengthens the fighting spirit and gives confidence in facing limitations.

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