

Determinants of Social Poverty in Mountainous Areas of Talegong, Garut Regency

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Abstract. Poverty is a multidimensional problem since it is not only an economic problem but also a social, political and even cultural problem. The purpose of this research is to identify the determinant factor of social poverty in the mountain region of Talegong Subdistrict. This research uses a quantitative descriptive analysis with field survey method. The analysis technique using descriptive statistics and the sample is determined by purposive random sampling. The concept of social poverty uses BPS and Chambers indicators. Respondents interviewed were village heads, LPMDes, community leaders and communities in seven villages in Talegong sub-district. Based on the results of observations and interviews with respondents, there are four determinants of social poverty in Talegong sub-district: the factor of poverty itself, abandonment, alienation & remoteness and vulnerable to natural disasters. While three other factors such as physical, mental and social neglect factors; social impairment factor and behavioral deviation from religious and community norms, and factors of victims and physical, mental and social violence were not found in Talegong sub-district.

Keyword: Poverty, Disability, Alienation & Remoteness, Natural Disasters

Introduction

Poverty is a phenomenon that has recently been intensively discussed by various stakeholders, especially the government, both central and local government. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), a person is considered poor if he or she is not able to meet the minimum living needs. The minimum requirement of life is the need to consume food in a dose of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day and minimum non food requirements such as housing, education, health and transportation. Furthermore, BPS uses the poverty line of 220,000 Rupiahs per capita per month (Hermawan, 2012; 139). In West Java, number of people living below the poverty line is still high. Based on BPS data, the number of poor people in West Java in March 2016 was 4,224,325 (8,95 percent of the total population) which was lower than the number of poor people in September 2015 of 4,485,654 people (9,57 percent). Out of 4,224,325 poor people, 7.67 % were in urban areas and 11.80 % were in rural areas (BPS, 2017). This means that the number of poor people in the rural areas of

west Java was much more than it is of urban areas. The reason for this is that in rural areas there are fewer economic activities that can be utilized by society because people find it difficult to get a job. The effect was that the number of people in poverty in the rural areas is still high. Meanwhile, in West Java, the number of poor people in regency of Garut was identified to be in third place after Cirebon regency with 365,390 poor people in 2016 (BPS, 2017). Furthermore, Tasya Aspiranti, Ima Amaliah, Pupung Purnamasari and Sri Suwarsi (2016) found out that in 2015, Garut regency was the poorest area after Bogor Regency and Cirebon Regency. Regarding household expenditure on food and non-food items as well as the amount of protein consumed by people, Garut Regency has the lowest spending level compared to other districts in West Java. Meanwhile, based on floor area per capita, Garut regency is the smallest area. In addition, regarding the communication infrastructure ownership aspect, people of Garut regency do not have adequate access to information technology (wired-phone or computer) (BPS, 2017). The availability of minimal facilities and

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