

## EKSPLOITASI ANAK PENGEMIS LAMPU MERAH UNTUK KEBANGKITAN EKONOMI STUDI KASUS KELUARGA DI TANJUNG SABA PITAMEH NAN XX, KECAMATAN LUBUK BEGALUNG KOTA PADANG

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### ABSTRACT

This research explains the exploitation of child beggars at the red light, Lubuk Begalung, West Sumatra. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to explain the factors behind the emergence of child beggars and the economic changes felt by the families of these beggar children. The method used is qualitative method with data collection techniques namely observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of this study explain that the reason for the emergence of child beggars on the streets is because their families do not grow together and their deteriorating economy which makes them become child beggars who are made beggars because of their lack of economic needs so that there is exploitation of child beggars at the red light.

**Keywords:** Child Exploitation, begging.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (1990) the definition of exploitation is the utilization for one's own benefit, exploitation, extortion of others which is an act of disgrace. This child exploitation is usually coercive, the child is forced to work and earn money which is not their job. Because small children like them should get a proper education (Apriany et al, 2013).

Child exploitation is not far from the poverty factor, because the economy requires the child to go down to become a street beggar who is encouraged by their parents. Their parents told the child to go down to the streets (more precisely translated) to help their economy for basic needs. Poverty becomes the main factor in this case because their parents imagine that they will be free from poverty without thinking about the family norms that apply in society.

Child beggars are defined as children who beg for money from others in order to fulfill their needs. They use tattered clothes and other supporting tools such as plastic,

cardboard boxes, plastic drink cups as containers to collect money from people who give them. The common excuse they give is "I haven't eaten yet or I'm an orphan, ask for 2,000". Those who become beggars are trapped by continuing poverty because there is no permanent job to be had, the results of begging are not fixed, which makes them remain in the poverty line.

The form of exploitation that occurs in Lubuk Begalung is in the form of parents who force their children to beg at the red light. If the child does not want to do the work, then their parents will commit a form of violence in this case such as pinching, hitting and saying harsh words to the child. Under pressure from their parents, these children do this work to earn money at the red light by begging to motorists who stop at the red light.

They make their children a form of economic generation because looking at the culture that has been formed, people will feel sorry to see small children working on the streets as beggars. Because the culture that has been formed in the neighborhood makes children as their economic sector to fulfill their basic daily needs without thinking about the inhibiting factors of the child. Such as the loss of their opportunity to play and learn with their peers. Because they are forced to work (forced) for their parents.

According to Rukhsal (2015:4) normatively this violates the prevailing norms. As in the child protection law law no. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection as stated in Article 88 explains that: "any person who economically or sexually exploits a child with the intent to benefit themselves or others, shall be punished with a maximum imprisonment of 10 (ten) years and / or a maximum fine of Rp.200,000,000 (two hundred million rupiah).

The government also participates in this case to provide good guarantees to the child so that he does not return to the streets. The government must participate in handling these exploitation cases such as providing support in the form of education to the child and providing direction to children and their parents so that this exploitation does not drag on for too long. If left unchecked, how long will it take for some Indonesian children not to get justice for themselves to get a life like children their age playing with peers, sitting in school, and doing other positive activities.

Making children who are still at an early age become beggars shapes their character during the process towards adulthood. One of them is lazy to look for a decent job and lack of participation in their own progress. This is because he already has a character who likes to ask for the mercy of others.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to Tumengkol 2016 in a journal entitled "Child Exploitation in Poor Families in Tona 1 Village, Tahuna Timur District, Sangihe Islands Regency" discusses child exploitation in poor families whose parents work as fishermen. The main factor that causes child exploitation is because their income as fishermen is insufficient to finance their basic needs. In addition, the factor of the south sea wind and west wind that makes them unable to go to sea. To fulfill their needs, they are forced to borrow from middlemen. Although they know this is against the law, they are forced to do it for the survival of the family.

According to Khibran, et al 2022 in a journal entitled "Exploitation of Minors as Beggars at Red Lights in Makasar City" discusses that every family does their best for their family. a father does his job to be responsible for meeting the needs of his family. The loss of the father's role due to a messy family causes exploitation of children. This causes

the child to receive discriminatory behavior from the closest people to the environment. One type of exploitation obtained by the child is physical exploitation where the child's energy is used for work as a beggar, tissue seller, newspaper seller. This child exploitation makes the child not have the innocence that is appropriate for his age, but tends to behave naughty to speak harsh things.

According to Majuarsa, et al 2022 in a journal entitled "Law Enforcement Against Child Exploitation as a Street Beggar in the Kuta Area" discusses knowing and understanding the law enforcement provided by law enforcement to parents as perpetrators of child exploitation and to find out the legal protection of children exploited as beggars in the Kuta area. Sanctions given by law enforcers are currently in the form of administrative sanctions in the form of verbal warnings and children victims of exploitation receive protection while in court handling in accordance with the Law on Witness and Victim Protection.

The three journals above have similarities that will be researched by the author, where the three journals discuss the exploitation of child beggars, of course there are differences in the contents of these journals in the first journal the exploitation obtained by the child is the result of his family working as fishermen only so that there is no additional income when there is a sea breeze.

In the second journal, there is a messy family factor that causes the child to be forced to take to the streets to become a beggar. In the third journal contains legal protection against child beggars in Kuta provided by the authorities so that exploitation in Kuta can be reduced.

### **3. Research Method**

The method taken in this research uses qualitative methods by going directly to the field and supported by literature studies. This qualitative research method is a method that focuses on in-depth observation and also the nature of this research is in the form of a case regarding the exploitation of child beggars at the red light for the revival of the family economy. The object of research to be studied by researchers is the exploitation of child beggars at the Tanjung Saba Pitameh Nan Xx red light, Lubuk Begalung District, Padang City. Primary data obtained directly from the field in the form of information such as photos and interview transcripts.

The interviews conducted were direct interviews, namely asking the interviewees directly about the problems they faced. The results of interviews in the study came from parents who exploited their children. In order to support the qualitative method above, the author also conducted documentation, a form of documentation in this study in the form of a portrait of the beggar child. The author also makes observations by observing the object of study of this research, namely beggar children at the red light in Lubuk Begalung. The literature study used in this journal is data collection carried out by researchers by examining theories, opinions and points of view contained in print media, especially journals that support and are relevant to the issues discussed in the research.

## **4. Result and Discussion**

### **4.1 Factors for the exploitation of child beggars in Lubuk Begalung.**

The cause of the emergence of the phenomenon of child beggars is due to the economic weakness of the child's family. This is the main causal factor in terms of exploitation. Children who are at the poverty line are forced to work on the streets as beggars under the coercion of their own parents. The next factor is due to the parents' laziness to earn a living, because they see the income from their children who are used as beggars looks tempting. They do that without thinking about the inhibiting factors in their child.

Children who have been forced to become beggars will definitely have a soul that likes to ask for mercy rather than having to look for work themselves as adults. This affects the next life for the growth and development of a more decent life. Some of the factors driving the emergence of child exploitation include:

1. Poverty, Indonesia as a developing country, poverty is a major problem in this case because the average Indonesian has an income that is below the average, and there are few jobs, which is why many are below the poverty line.
2. The influence of the social environment, the influence of the environment is very influential on changing a person's mindset, if the surrounding environment looks bad then their mindset and way of development are also in accordance with the surrounding environment.

The results of information obtained by the author in Lubuk Begalung that one of the informants said "the children in this shop are not all their biological children, some are children of other siblings, because their parents are in prison, their biological mother is forced to entrust them to their relatives or grandmothers who are there. But they make the child a means of their livelihood because they see the opportunities that exist and the economic needs "NA (28).

Children who become beggars are also not immune from the family problems they face, a family that should protect and love them but they cannot feel it. The children begging on the streets are forced to be able to support themselves to survive in their broken families. Some were abandoned by their parents from <5 years old because their parents separated and some of their parents were in detention cells for other cases so that. They are left with their grandmother or other relatives. Unfortunately, these children did not receive full affection but were instead employed as child beggars.

The results of informants that the author obtained in Lubuk Begalung NA (28 11 MAY 2024) "came from Pekanbaru, then moved to Kasang Village, Padang Pariaman. She has 2 children aged 7 years and 5 years. NA(28)'s two children did not attend school because the school asked for data to be attached to the registration, but the two children could not attend school because their population data was not registered in Lubuk Begalung sub-district. Because he came from Kasang and had not taken care of the transfer letter so he did not have this data, this made his two children forced to not be able to continue their education, the 7-year-old had attended only kindergarten in the Kasang area but when he moved to Lubuk Begalung he did not continue school because of this and his 5-year-old son had never been to school ".

The theory used by the author in the study is in the form of social action theory, which in the theory of social action there is a theory used in this study is Max Weber's Theory of Social Action. According to Weber, every individual who takes action has his own motive or purpose. Like the actions of child exploitation carried out by families or

communities must have motives and goals in it, Weber said that in social action, humans do something because there is a goal to be obtained, then after that an action/movement is carried out. In this social action theory, the author relates to affective theory, namely actions taken due to emotional impulses and irrational thinking (Putra, et al 2020).

In accordance with the theory that I use, Max Weber says that every individual who takes action has his own motive or purpose. Such as acts of child exploitation carried out by families or communities must have motives and goals in them. The form of exploitation carried out on her 7-year-old daughter is to make her daughter a beggar who plays a role using a cardboard box with the words "orphan" and a small child cleaning car glass with a duster while asking for money from motorists who stop at red lights. The exploitation she did was due to her lack of economic needs, her husband was in a detention cell so she could not fulfill her and her child's basic needs.



Figure 1.1  
Portrait of a Child Red Light Beggar, Lubuk begalung, May 2024.  
Source: Aura Maskarita

The results of information obtained by the author in Lubuk Begalung NA (28) "the results of begging are around 100-150 thousand if the traffic is quiet the money he gets can be 100 if the traffic is busy can be 150 thousand a day. But deducting money for food and snacks for his children so that the net can be 100 thousand or less 100 thousand. Not only is food money deducted, the money from begging is also divided by the need to pay rent, water and electricity and other needs. It is very sad to see a child treated like this because he cannot enjoy his childhood according to his peers. Meanwhile, his parents who are still physically healthy do not want to look for work, only relying on money from begging".

The exploitation he did to his child was in the form of coercion to beg every day to meet the basic needs of the child and himself, if the child did not want to beg he did in the form of violence such as hitting, pinching the child and yelling in a loud tone while saying "kak, pai ambiak box tu cari pitih kasitu!" (kak, take the box and beg at the red light).

His son who had just taken a break while playing running around with his friend was forced to stop his game and then rushed towards the red light with a sullen face, because his mother told him to work again, not long after working he returned while

carrying 2 thousand rupiah and the box he was holding, but again told by his mother to work but with a costume as a car glass cleaning boy with his duster, he was forced to return to the heat at the red light to beg.

From the results of information obtained by the author in Lubuk Begalung NA (28) "The Satpol PP has often carried out raids, especially when approaching big holidays, usually 10 days before the big holidays, raids are carried out, because of the increase in beggars there so that it disturbs motorists who pass by. Sometimes there are beggars here who ask forcibly by knocking on the windshield of the car until they are given money. There are also those who use babies while being carried to make people pity to see them. So they get money from people because the driver feels sorry for the beggar".

The results of information obtained in Lubuk Begalung NA (28) said "they do this work without being fixated on time so they just do it at will not adrift on working time or target working hours. However, if the child is sick, he or she cannot earn money and then uses the money saved from previous work to fulfill his or her daily needs.

#### **4.2 EXPLOITATION TO FULFILL ECONOMIC NEEDS**

Economic change means that there is economic development that is felt by those who live. Families who make their children as beggars feel a change that is not too far away because the results of begging are not too large, only enough for their daily needs. The results of begging are only around 100 thousand to 150 thousand a day, in fact, it is not really sufficient for their needs.

This is because the consumptive lifestyle is still very close. Moreover, at this time all basic needs have skyrocketed in price, and the husband of NA (28) is currently in a detention cell because he is caught in a criminal case, so they still lack money to be able to buy the needs of the three of them. Her 7-year-old daughter begs all day while collecting rupiahs to fulfill her family's needs, while her mother does not look for another job, only waiting for the money from her son's work.

It was very sad to see the change in the backbone of the family that he had to feel from childhood to change the fate of his family to look better but he had to lose his hope to be happy with his world. From the results of the begging money is divided again in the form of other needs as well such as paying water and electricity as well as house rent and daily consumption needs so that they can continue to live in the future. A father who is supposed to fulfill the needs of his family must be ensnared by state law which makes him detained in a prison cell and his small child must become the backbone for his family so that life can continue.

A person is forced to commit acts of child exploitation due to a lack of economic factors. A low economy raises these problems. Actually, the act of child exploitation is carried out not from parents or family alone, but from irresponsible individuals.

People who exploit children usually work with the child's parents to use their children to get money. Children who are told to beg on the street are characterized by injustice because of the loss of rights that exist in the child. Children who should learn and get to know their environment are forced to take actions that should not have been undertaken (Cahyan, 2023).

## 5. CONCLUSION

Factors that cause child exploitation in the red light area of Lubuk Begalung are due to economic factors and their unhealthy form of environment. They see the opportunity that children can be used as a means of livelihood so that they form a group of beggars. Unharmonious family factors lead to unkempt children becoming beggars.

Economic fulfillment in the form of exploitation is also formed in this case because the loss of the father's role as the backbone makes the child participate in becoming a beggar who makes the child work for the basic needs of himself and his family.

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