
Characteristics of Street Children in Pekanbaru City

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Abstract: This study aims to explore the characteristics of street children. The results will be interpreted with descriptive analysis. Descriptive method is used to examine, record, analyze, and interpret the dominant factors of children becoming street children. This research was conducted in Pekanbaru City, Riau Province. The number of respondents in this study was 40 respondents with accidental sampling techniques. There are 3 kinds of the existence of street children, namely factors at the micro-level (immediate causes), factors at the level of mess (underlying causes), and factors at the macro-level (basic causes). Street children in Pekanbaru are mostly 11-13 years old. Factors that cause a child to become a street child in Pekanbaru City, are classified into three interconnected categories, namely the initiative or encouragement of the child himself, family parenting, and family economy. These three factors have an indirect influence on the incidence of a child becoming a street child in the city of Pekanbaru.

Keywords: characteristics, street children

1. Introduction

The competition for life in urban areas is increasingly difficult, individuals who do not have certain skills and skills will become marginalized individuals. Marginalized individuals will look for ways to be able to sustain the lives of both individuals as adults or individuals as children. One of the activities chosen is to become a street child. Street children are often found in big cities in Indonesia, street children who are in urban areas are fighting for their own lives to survive, there are also some burdened with handling family needs.

The figure of street children popping up in the city, both in the overhang of shops, in stations, terminals, markets, tourist attractions and even in the graves. Street children make the starting place as a shelter, shelter, as well as looking for a source of life, although some are still living with their families (Kushartati, 2004) Life as street children on the streets is not a pleasant life choice, but a compulsion that they must accept because of certain causes. However, it has become a phenomenon that concerns all of us psychologically they are children or adolescents who to some extent do not have a strong mental-emotional formation, while at the same time they must be on a hard road and tend to negatively affect development and formation his personality.

Street children generally work as hawkers, scavengers, polish workers, child prostitutes and garbage scavengers, parking attendants, buskers, extortion, fighting, and other violence. Street children often face a greater risk among traffic accidents, so that street children are more susceptible to unhealthy habits from the street culture, especially free sex and drug abuse. Definition Street children are "boys or girls under the age of 18 who spend, spend, or use most of their time to carry out daily life activities on the street. The government in protecting children in Indonesia has issued legislation rules. In UU RI No. 23 of 2002 concerning child protection, the general provisions of article 1 paragraph 1 states "a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old, including children who are still in the womb". As a child, all his needs are properly fulfilled, physically, mentally, spiritually and socially. A child who does not get his basic rights is forced to be on the streets to make a living.

The rise of street children in this day and age makes us obliged to look for any motives that cause children to prefer to live on the streets. The existence of street children from ancient times until now is still an interesting conversation to look for the truth because street children are not only experienced by teenagers, but also by early children and even toddlers who are not good at walking, they have been taken to live on the streets. This is experienced in every developing city and developed the city. Based on the above phenomenon, this article discusses the factors that cause children to make a living on the streets of Pekanbaru.

The Department of Social Affairs (2001) states that there are 3 kinds of causes of street children, namely factors at the micro-level (immediate causes), factors at the level of mess (underlying causes), and factors at the macro-level (basic causes)

a. The Micro-level (*Immediate Causes*)

Factors at the micro-level are factors related to children and their families. The Department of Social Affairs (2001) also explains that at the micro-level the identifiable causes of children and families are related but also stand alone, namely:

- 1) Runaway from family, told to work either because you're still in school or have dropped out, adventure, playing games or being invited by friends.
- 2) Because family is neglected, the inability of parents to provide basic needs, rejected by parents, mistreatment or violence at home, difficulties relating to family or neighbors, separation from parents, wrong attitudes towards children, limitations in caring for children who are resulting in children facing physical, psychological and social problems. This is also influenced by increasing family problems caused by unemployment poverty, divorce, young marriage, and violence in the family.
- 3) The Communication gap between parents and children, where parents are no longer able to understand the conditions and expectations of children, has caused children to seek freedom.
- 4) The Weakening of large families, where large families are no longer able to help the nuclear families, this is caused by a shift in values, economic conditions, and government development policies.

b. The Mess-level (*Underlying Causes*)

The factors that cause the emergence of street children at this level of mess are the factors that exist in society. According to the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs (2001), at the mess (community) level, identifiable causes include:

1. In poor communities, children are an asset to help increase family income, children are taught to work which causes drop out of school
2. In other societies, urbanization becomes a habit and children follow the habit.
3. Public rejection and the perception of street children as criminal candidates.

c. The Macro-level (*Basic Causes*)

Factors that cause the emergence of street children at the macro level are factors related to macrostructure. The Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs (2005) explains that at the macro-level (community structure), the identifiable causes are:

1. The Economy, is the existence of informal sector employment opportunities that do not require expertise capital, they must long on the streets and leave school, rural and urban inequality that encourages urbanization. Migration from villages to cities looking for work, which is caused by disparities in urban village development, ease of transportation and
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solicitation of relatives, makes many families from the village move to the city and some of them displaced, this results in their children thrown into the streets.

2. Evictions and evictions of poor families from their land/houses on the grounds of "for the sake of development", they are increasingly powerless with government macroeconomic policies that benefit more than a handful of people.
3. Education, is high school fees, discriminatory teacher behavior, and technical and bureaucratic provisions that defeat learning opportunities. The increasing number of children dropping out of school due to economic reasons has pushed some children to become job seekers and their streets have become one of the places to get money.
4. Not yet diverse elements of the government see street children as a group that needs care (welfare approach) and approaches that regard street children as trouble makers or security approaches.
5. There is a gap in the social security net system so that the social security net does not exist when families and children face difficulties.
6. The Development has sacrificed children's play spaces (fields, parks and vacant lands). The impact is very pronounced in urban slums, where children make the streets a place to play and work.

As part of a community that cares about social life, the problem of street children in Pekanbaru City needs more attention to be solved. Moreover, from Prasefya's research (2016) it was found that street children in Pekanbaru often get physical and mental exploitation which naturally requires concern from the community. The form of care given in terms of tracing the cause of children taking to the streets in Pekanbaru. Based on this background, this study will look at the dominant factors of children becoming street children in Pekanbaru City.

2. Methodology

This research is included in descriptive qualitative research. This study aims to explore the characteristics of street children. The results will be interpreted with descriptive analysis. Descriptive method is used to examine, record, analyze, and interpret the dominant factors of children becoming street children. This research was conducted in Pekanbaru City, Riau Province. The number of respondents in this study was 40 respondents with accidental sampling techniques. Data collection techniques used observation, interviews, and documentation.

3. Result and Discussion

Age is the main characteristic. This age structure is very influential on one's physical ability to do work. Age of children who are on the streets of Pekanbaru can be seen in the following table:

Table 1 : Distribution of frequency of respondents by age

Age	F	P
5 – 7	1	2,5
8 –10	13	32,5
11 – 13	18	45
14 – 16	6	15
17 – 18	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: data processed from research results

From the above table it can be seen that street children in Pekanbaru are mostly 11-13 years old. To find out the child started down on the road can be seen in the following table:

Table 2 : Distribution of frequency of respondents by age starting to fall on the streets

Since Age	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
5 – 7	14	35
8 – 10	16	40
11 – 13	8	20
14 – 16	2	5
17 – 18	0	0
Total	40	100

Source: data processed from research results

From the above table it can be seen that children begin to take to the streets in Pekanbaru, most of which start at the age of 8-10 years.

Other factors that cause children to take to the streets As seen in the table below:

Table 3: Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Factors that cause children to take to the streets

Reasons to do street activities	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
Friend	5	12,5
The economy	9	22,5
Helping parents	15	37,5
Own desire	9	22,5
Total	40	100

Source: data processed from research results

From the table above it can be seen that the economic factors that cause children to become street children. In general, these street children have poor families, in poor families, when survival is threatened, all family members including children are mobilized to meet the needs of the family but actually the role of street children parents do not play a maximum role.

Regarding the education status of street children can be seen in the following table:

Table 4: Distribution of Respondent Frequencies Based on educational status

Educational status	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
School	28	70
No school	11	27,5
Not yet in school	1	2,5
Total	15	100

In the table above it can be seen that most street children in Pekanbaru do not attend school, this is because there are no fees.

In general, street children in Pekanbaru work in the informal sector such as hawkers, buskers and newspaper sellers. For more details can be seen in the following table:

Table 5: Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Activity on the street

Activity on the streets	F	P
Peddling Newspapers or Magazines	21	52,5
Street vendor	9	22,5
Busking	10	25
Total	40	100

Source: data processed from research results

Based on the table below, it can be seen that the work that is most wrested by street children is as a newspaper seller with 50.90%.

Factors that cause a child to become a street child in Pekanbaru City, are classified into three interconnected categories, namely the initiative or encouragement of the child himself, family parenting, and family economy. These three factors have an indirect influence on the incidence of a child becoming a street child in the city of Pekanbaru.

There is an initiative or encouragement from the child himself in helping his family, where the initiative in the form of the child realizes that his poor family is one of the triggers that bring children to take to the streets. In the previous explanation stated that the trigger factor (triggering factor) of children taking to the streets is the social environment of the child which gives children the opportunity to take to the streets, where the trigger factor presents an initiative in the child to get an allowance or given to his parents. It is known that a street child in Aurahan Aur gave the results he obtained in carrying out activities on the street to his parents by 73.91%. Based on this point, a description is found that explains that there is an awareness within the child to participate or take part in reducing various family burdens through going to the streets. Simply put, children place themselves as one of the parties or supporting factors for family income.

This is then supported by the parenting category which is less significant in reducing the activity of children on the streets. Parents who lack parental care such as lack of advice given to children about the dangers of street life, the attitude of parents who normally assume the incident of children taking to the streets, as well as various kinds of violence given to the child.

The family economy also causes children to become street children. This is also supported by research by Siregar et al (2006) who found that family economic factors were the dominant factor in causing street children to emerge. They say the higher the family's economic status, the lower the tendency to make their children as street children and vice versa.

Based on the results of this study, it was found that all respondents were in the adolescent category where a total of 20 respondents (86.96%) were still in school status and most of them were still in elementary school level. This point signifies the status of children's education level in Aur District, limiting the child's opportunities to look for various employment opportunities available in their environment. As a result, the absence of certain skills in the child caused him to decide not to look for another job (90.90%). This incident then causes the child to choose other ways to take to the streets without having to be weighed down by various components such as certain skills, diploma ownership, low educational status, and others.

4. Conclusion

There are 3 kinds of the existence of street children, namely factors at the micro-level (immediate causes), factors at the level of mess (underlying causes), and factors at the macro-level (basic causes). Street children in Pekanbaru are mostly 11-13 years old.

Factors that cause a child to become a street child in Pekanbaru City, are classified into three interconnected categories, namely the initiative or encouragement of the child himself, family parenting, and family economy. These three factors have an indirect influence on the incidence of a child becoming a street child in the city of Pekanbaru.

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