

## Sociological Review of Factors Causing the Increase of Street Children in Makassar City

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### Abstract

Cities that are considered promising by rural communities to seek a better welfare life force them to look for space to fulfill their needs. Public places then become an alternative for them in making a living such as in shopping places, flyovers, and at road intersections. Makassar as one of the metropolitan cities is also inseparable from economic problems and social problems such as the existence of street children. This research was conducted using an in-depth interview method conducted to informants who the author considers capable of providing data and information related to the causes of the increase in the number of street children in Makassar city. The theory used is the theory of space production. The increase in the number of street children in Makassar City is caused by three factors, namely urban development factors. the second factor is urbanization carried out by rural communities to obtain a more decent life, and the third factor is the exploitation behavior carried out by individuals and families of these street children.

*Keywords: Street children; political sociology; urban development*

### A. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a complex problem that is influenced by various interrelated factors, including: income levels, health, education, access to goods and services, location, geography, gender, and environmental conditions[6]. Poverty is also considered a form of development problem caused by the negative impact of unbalanced economic growth, which widens the income gap between communities and the income gap between regions [4].

Development is a process of change towards a better direction to achieve a desired goal. With this development, it is expected to have a positive effect on the Indonesian population, one of which is to achieve prosperity[3]. The rapid development of the city then becomes a factor that causes many changes ranging from land use patterns to changes in diverse cultural systems that make the emergence of inequality between the urban community itself. Starting from economic inequality to the difficulty of the poor to gain access to fulfill their daily needs.

The phenomenon of urbanization causes the growth of urban areas, which will affect the physical structure of the city, not only for large cities but also for small cities. Urbanization produces changes, both constructive and descriptive, which depend on a variety of factors, including the carrying capacity of the city, especially the physical and economic carrying capacity, the quality of the urbanites, especially in terms of education and entrepreneurial skills, as well as local

government policies and national policies regarding urban planning and rural arrangements. urban development produces important changes in the distribution of regional income. This can be seen in the decline of agriculture and the increase of industry as well as the steady contribution of the service sector. Such rapid changes in the structural situation have an impact on the social and spatial organization of the community[1].

Forcing them to look for space to fulfill their needs. Public places then become an alternative for them to earn a living such as in shopping malls, flyovers, and at road intersections. The poverty that afflicts people in urban areas results in various things, one of which is the increase in the number of street children. This comes from the lack of awareness of parents to send their children to school. Poor marginalized people who cannot achieve education due to the high costs that must be paid, limited income and high needs make marginalized people desperate to meet the needs of children's education[1].

Levebre sees that the formation of space always implies interrelationships formed from various parties involved. Because these parties have their own interests and always try to realize their interests at any cost. Lefebvre's own thinking, especially regarding urban sociology, is located in the context of post-war development that devastated western countries, especially France. These countries did not want to wallow too long in their destruction and defeat during the war. For this reason, massive development was carried out not only to reorganize people's lives, but also to boost the economy[8].

Makassar as one of the metropolitan cities is also inseparable from economic problems and social problems such as the existence of street children. The high level of needs both clothing and food that cannot be fulfilled by the family due to the low income earned is the main reason for children to take to the streets to carry out economic activities such as begging and selling tissue. As a result of the amount of time spent by street children on the street, their life order is formed from the conditions they face. In their daily lives, street children always try to form their own groups that they consider as family.

The conditions faced by street children tend to be marginalized, vulnerable and exploitative. The marginalization referred to here is because street children have jobs that have unclear prospects, are less valued and so on. Vulnerable because they work in an environment that is vulnerable both from a social and health perspective. Exploitative is meant because street children have a low bargaining position. The impact of marginalized life makes street children vulnerable to exposure to delinquency that is contrary to the values and norms that exist in society. So that it resulted in a shift in goals that initially they went down the street to help the family economy shifted to them looking for money to fulfill the interests of getting drunk, such as using their money to buy glue or liquor to get drunk[7].

## **B. METHOD**

This research was conducted in Makassar City. The approach used in this

research is descriptive qualitative research. This approach was chosen to adjust to the objectives of this study where the research objectives are expected to be able to describe, explain and describe the phenomenon of the causes of the increasing number of street children in Makassar City. The techniques used in collecting data are through.

## **C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. City Development**

City is an area where there is or becomes a concentration of population with its activities and is a place of population concentration and the center of economic activity (such as industry, trade and services). The rapid development of the city then becomes a factor that causes many changes ranging from land use patterns to changes in diverse cultural systems that make the emergence of inequality between the urban community itself. Starting from economic inequality to the difficulty of the poor to gain access to fulfill their daily needs.

The city of Makassar in its development later became a world city, with various developments and economic advances ranging from infrastructure development to modern tourist attractions located in the city center. The effect of the development of development in the city of Makassar then makes people who have lived for a long time in the city of Makassar but cannot compete economically then excluded and marginalized as a result of massive development carried out by the government. This is then the beginning of the emergence of the urban poor who seek livelihoods in non-formal spaces, ranging from public transportation drivers, pedicab drivers, to scavengers. The conditions of inequality that exist in the city of Makassar create a very different distance between the people in the city of Makassar, people who have access to capital resources that rotate in urban areas tend to have decent housing and easy access to health, education and politics. The massive urban investment that materializes in the form of road construction, high-rise buildings, office areas, shopping centers, railways, and various other infrastructures turns out to be beneficial only for a group of people, but not for other groups of people.

The inequality of development in the city of Makassar makes people who do not have access to formal spaces then become victims of urban infrastructure development, as a result of infrastructure development people who have weak economic resources become victims of eviction from infrastructure development as economic support in the city of Makassar. Street children mostly come from slums in the city of Makassar, the emergence of slums shows that urban development in Makassar has experienced imbalances, in carrying out development so as to produce a very large Gap. This problem is intended by Levebre *The Production of Space* which devotes itself to a radical phenomenology to see space through a more humanist approach, where the rights to the city owned by both individuals and communities are neglected by efforts to abstract space carried out by capitalism in its various forms, as well as technocratic knowledge, especially by the state or

government.

People who escape the attention of development then utilize non-formal spaces that are not reached by the government, while the conditions of non-formal spaces utilized by the urban poor cannot support their basic needs, people who tend to use non-formal spaces are always in an inadequate condition. people who live in cities, economically experience enormous inequality, besides that the city has not been able to become a place that guarantees the welfare of the people in it. this is illustrated by the fact that there are still urban poor people who do not get better access both politically and economically. In addition, urban development in fact has an impact on the exclusion of the urban poor to the periphery so that this then makes the lives of the urban poor even further away from obtaining more adequate urban access. This condition, according to Levebre, is a phenomenon of inequality and injustice that occurs in urban society. Massive urban investments that are manifested in the form of road construction, high-rise buildings, office areas, shopping centers, railways, and various other infrastructures have only benefited a group of people, but not for other groups of people.

### **3.2 Urbanization**

Urbanization is triggered by differences in growth or inequality of facilities from development, especially between rural and urban areas. As a result, urban areas become attractive magnets for urbanites to find work.

The increasingly massive urban development in fact does not only have an impact on people who have long lived in the city of Makassar, urban development results in economic growth and faster capital turnover. This large capital turnover then makes people who are then attract people who are in the areas around the city of Makassar flock to come to the city of Makassar to find work.

This uncontrolled population then resulted in an increasing number of poor people in urban areas, which then became the cause of the increasing number of street children in the city of Makassar. the urbanization process that occurred in the city of Makassar led to an increasingly dense population which had an impact on the increasingly widespread poverty conditions. This urbanization process then makes the conditions of the people in the city of Makassar increasingly uncontrolled. This condition has then been described by Levebre that spatial development that is uneven and only concerned with the interests of capital tends to produce conflicts of interest between the community and the government, which then makes street children victims of spatial development carried out because they lose access to adequate education and health.

The problem of poverty in urban areas is increasingly complex because people in the village are competing to urbanize in order to get a better life, but in fact the villagers who urbanize to the city of Makassar do not have enough provisions to compete in obtaining economic and social accesses. Some people in the village initially came to the city to get a better job, but in reality these urbanizing villagers did not have the skills needed by companies in the city so that these

villagers then tried to get any job to survive in the city.

This condition, according to Levebre, as a result of the growth and emergence of cities and skyscrapers, creates a class dimension that has an impact on the emergence of poor people who are not educated, and do not have access so that these people are increasingly marginalized from political power so that they suffer the most, in addition to the development of new geography or the development of new areas that result in urbanization.

## **2. Exploitation Factors**

Exploitation is an act carried out by individuals or groups in excess to an object for profit, exploitation that occurs against street children is caused by poverty factors. The poverty that has plagued people in urban areas has resulted in various things, one of which is the increase in the number of street children. This comes from the lack of awareness of parents to send their children to school. Poor marginalized people who cannot achieve education due to the high costs that must be paid, limited income and high needs make marginalized people desperate to meet the needs of children's education. The rapid development of the city requires people to have individual skills in order to get a decent job, expertise in certain fields is then needed by capital to support economic development in urban areas. Meanwhile, people who do not have skills must inevitably be eliminated by the flow of urban development because they do not have the education and skills needed by capital.

The rapid economic development in the city of Makassar makes poor people in the city of Makassar then increasingly crushed by economic factors which then forces them to employ their children to help cover the economic needs of the family. The city as a space has two sides of a very lame difference, on the one hand the city becomes a place for economic growth with the rampant development of both buildings and infrastructure. But on the other hand, this development has an impact on the marginalization of people who are unable to compete for jobs in the formal sector. This is what Levebre calls the "commodification of urban areas", which ultimately victimizes urban residents who often do not have the power to defend themselves or have a weak political position, this political position then causes the birth of the urban poor.

This weak political position then has an impact on poverty which makes street children unable to obtain proper education, this is due to the weak understanding of parents to send their children to school, so that this low level of education then makes street children not have an awareness of the rights they should get. Street children in the city of Makassar are more dominated by children under the age of ten, this age is an age where children play more, but are forced to do begging and selling activities on the streets.

The condition of street children who spend most of their time on the streets then makes them inevitably adapt to a non-ideal environment, this non-ideal environment then makes street children create their own environment which is

built from the association of fellow street children. The urban poor then utilize other spaces in urban areas such as road intersections, red lights and other crowded places to carry out economic activities such as begging and selling tissue. This economic activity is carried out by the urban poor because they see an opportunity to earn money by utilizing the mercy of people who have a better economy than them by carrying out begging and selling activities. The activities carried out by street children are then referred to by Levebre as representational space which includes how the occupants of the space or people who use it interact with each other through practices and forms of visualization in a space.

The increasingly complex poverty in the city of Makassar which is the result of urban development and the urbanization process then makes poor people in the suburbs make various efforts to get money to survive, this deprived situation then makes mental and various problems in the family, this problem then makes parents who are entangled in poverty make various efforts to get money, one of which is by telling their children to beg on the streets, this behavior then gradually becomes behavior that exploits their children. The poverty experienced by marginalized urban communities then has an impact on the exploitative behavior patterns carried out by parents to their children under the pretext of helping the family economy. The exploitation carried out by parents to their children is then increasingly widespread and widened due to changes in views which were originally only to help the economy in order to find food to become a habit and organized which then makes children an object to make money. The city as a spatial space is of course always a place for various kinds of people who have their own interests and strive to realize their interests. These different interests then become a problem that often occurs due to the clash of each interest which leads to social conflict. And the victims are the urban poor who cannot compete in obtaining economic and social access.

The rampant practice of exploiting children to carry out begging and selling activities carried out by several individuals from outside the city of Makassar is also the cause of the mushrooming number of street children so that problems related to street children are increasingly complex. the problem of street children does not only come from the poverty factor possessed by these street children but is one of the impacts of economic progress in urban areas so as to encourage people to exploit street children in order to obtain economic benefits. This is in line with what Levebre revealed in his theory which says that Lefebvre said that there would be conflict or friction between these two spaces. The space that is conceptualized abstractly to gain as much profit as possible will "collide" with the space that is used in reality as a place for people to do activities. This conflict will occur because of the different expectations and interests of the two social class groups regarding space in urban areas.

Exploitative behavior carried out by parents to their children is one of the impacts of the increasingly advanced economy in urban areas, in this case the city of Makassar, economic progress makes the mentality of the people who live around

the city of Makassar a poor mentality because many people see opportunities to gain the benefits offered by the city itself. The utilization of space that relies on the compassion of the city community makes the practice of exploitation of street children continue to occur, this is then used by the community which forms a poor mentality towards the community, so that indirectly the habit of utilizing the compassion of the city community gradually forms a poor culture towards people in the suburbs. When viewed from the concept of political sociology, one of the causes of social problems, especially poverty, is caused by cultural factors formed from the poor mentality of the community. This condition is then referred to by Levebre as Depeasantisation and tourizification or urban commodification where the city is seen as a place of exchange and profit seeking to attract tourists and for investment. This then victimizes street children who often have no power to defend themselves so that the practice of exploitation continues to occur to street children.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

The existence of street children in the city of Makassar is influenced by three factors, namely urban development, urbanization, and exploitation. Where the factors of urban development and exploitation are the dominant factors causing the increase in street children in the city of Makassar. this is then examined in Levebre's theory of space production, which describes how space is socially produced. where the rights to the city owned by individuals or groups are neglected by efforts made by the government and capitalism, resulting in the exclusion of people who do not have access to politics which results in the emergence of poor people in urban areas. which then becomes the forerunner of the existence of street children in the city of Makassar. Which then became the forerunner of the existence of street children in the city of Makassar.

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