Is it possible to eradicate poverty in the fishermen village?
Nurul L. Hasanuddin, Novesty Noor, Happy R. Santosa
Laboratory for Housing and Human Settlement, Department of Architecture, ITS
nurullestari84@gmail.com
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ABSTRACT

Indonesia is one of the countries with the longest coastline in the world and an archipelago with abundant marine wealth. Policy development and management of coastal and marine areas should be able to contribute to the welfare of fishermen and able to improve their livelihoods. However, most of the fishermen in Indonesia are still under the poverty line. The National Committee of Indonesian Fishermen Organisation (KPNNI) in 2009 states that approximately 90% of fishermen in Indonesia live in poverty. This study aims to describe the conditions and problems faced by fishermen and evaluate government policies and programs related to improving the welfare of fishermen and eradicating poverty. This study applies qualitative research methods and case studies. The study area is a fishing settlement located in the Blimbing Village, Paciran district, Lamongan, East Java. Data collection using interviews, observations method and secondary survey (literature study).

In this study, the first step is to elaborate and describe the conditions and problems faced by fishermen in the study area. The next step is to evaluate the implementation of development policies and programs to determine whether the policies and programs can help solve the problems faced by the fishermen or not. The result shows that poverty is still a major problem faced by the fishermen in the study area. Poverty is evident in economic life of the fisherman and their housing condition. Basically, the problems faced by the fishermen can be classified into two general problems, namely (1) the problems encountered related to socio-economic life of fishermen and (2) the problems related to the physical condition of housing/settlement area. In terms of socio-economic sustainability of the profession as a fisherman, the problems faced include low income, limited capital and fishing equipment, low education level and lack of skill and technology. While in terms of physical condition of the fishermen settlement area, the problems faced include lack of basic services, lack of water supply and inadequate sanitation, poorly maintained environmental conditions as well as conditions of fisherman housing that looks slum and unhealthy. In an effort to improve the welfare of the fishermen and poverty eradication, local governments have established some policies and development programs. Our study shows that the implementation of the policies and programs has not been able to overcome the problems faced by fishermen and not been able to eradicate fisherman poverty. Government assistance given to fishermen are often not effective and not appropriate with the needs of the fishermen.

Keywords: Fisherman, poverty eradication, settlement, problems, policy

1. Introduction

Fishermen are groups of people who relied heavily on sea condition (Kusnadi, 2007). According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2008, the poor in Indonesia reached 34.96 million of people and 63.47% of them are people who live in coastal and rural areas.
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The National Committee of Indonesian Fishermen Organisation (KPNNI) of 2009 states that approximately 90% of fishermen in Indonesia live in poverty. The data shows that the development and management of coastal areas has not contributed to the welfare of fishermen.

Conditions of fishing communities or the coastal communities in the various regions in Indonesia are generally characterized by the presence of several characteristics, such as poverty, social and cultural backwardness, low quality of human resources because most people only primary school or have not completed primary school, lack of function from the presence of Enterprise Group (KUB), Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), or the capacity of civil society organizations (Kusnadi, 2007).

Satria (2009) argues that poverty, unequal social structures, environmental degradation and lack of basic infrastructure are some of problems faced by the fishermen. It was also stated by Dahuri (1996), that the conditions and problems commonly experienced by fishermen are as follows: isolated coastal village, basic services facilities including physical infrastructure is still limited, poorly maintained environmental conditions, which that does not meet the requirements of health standard, low income people, because the technology does not support large scale fishing, limited fishing equipment ownership, equity issues because of the scarcity of financial institutions, education and knowledge of people is generally low. Based on several theories and opinions, it can be concluded that the main problems are commonly experienced by communities / villages in particular coastal fishing communities is poverty. Poverty can be seen clearly from the description of the economic and environmental conditions of the settlement. This study aims to describe the conditions and problems faced by the fishermen and evaluate government policies and programs related to improving the welfare of fishermen and poverty eradication. This study used qualitative research methods and case study. The study area was a fishing settlement located in the Blimbing Village, Paciran district, Lamongan, East Java. Data collection applied interviews, observations and secondary survey (literature study).

2. Material and methods

This study applies qualitative research methods and case studies. The study area is a fishing settlement located in the Blimbing Village, Paciran district, Lamongan, East Java. Data collection using interviews, observations method and secondary survey (literature study).

Blimbing village located in Paciran district, Lamongan. The total area amounts to 2,503 km². Blimbing urban village located close to the North Coast of East Java. Blimbing Village is one of the fishing villages, the average of the community working as fishermen rely on ocean resources. Blimbing Urban Village has 4 hamlets, and 68 RT 12 RW, is the largest village in Paciran district. Blimbing Village is the region with the largest population in the District Paciran, in 2013 the population is 16,745 people (Blimbing Village Profile 2013). Village boundaries are as follows (see Figure 1):

North: Java Sea
South: Village District Dadapan Solokuro
East: Village District Kandangsemanagkon Paciran
West: Village District Brondong Brondong
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Figure 1: Image showing the map of study area
(Source: Lamongankab.go.id, Google Map)

3. Result and conclusion

3.1 Result

Before entering the discussion of the problems encountered in the study area, it needs to elaborate several theories and opinions on the issues which are common in coastal communities in Indonesia. As for some of the opinion can be seen in the following Table 1.

Table 1: Some opinions about the common problems that occur in the community / rural coastal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The coastal village is generally isolated</td>
<td>• Poverty</td>
<td>• Limited economic infrastructure, such as roads,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Basic services including physical infrastructure is still limited</td>
<td>• Unequal social structure,</td>
<td>infrastructure and economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Environmental conditions poorly maintained, so that does not meet the</td>
<td>• Damage to the environment</td>
<td>facilities of fishing, and social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health requirements.</td>
<td>• Lack of basic infrastructure</td>
<td>public facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water and sanitation is inadequate.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• The low quality of human</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Uninhabitable housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>resources: most people do not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Skills are generally limited to fishing so less support</td>
<td></td>
<td>have the ability to manage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diversification of activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td>natural resources to improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Low-income residents, because the technology does not support</td>
<td></td>
<td>their social welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large-scale fishing.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Limited technology capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limited equipment owned</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of access to capital and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Problems due to the scarcity of</td>
<td></td>
<td>product market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>capital financial institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of social and economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Society education and knowledge are generally low.</td>
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<td>institutions that can be</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>instruments of community</td>
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<td>development</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of commitment to</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>integrated coastal development.</td>
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</table>

Based on several theories and opinions above it can be concluded that the main problems are commonly faced by communities / villages in particular coastal fishing communities is poverty. Poverty can be seen clearly from the picture of the economic and environmental
conditions of the settlement. Basically three above opinion does not contradict even support each other. Satria (2009) suggested the general problems while Kusnadi (2007) and Dahuri (1996) suggests the problem in more detail. Furthermore, in the discussion of the issues raised in the study area will be described and analyzed based on the theory that stated by Dahuri.

3.2 Generally isolated coastal villages

The study area is located in the Blimbing village in coastal Lamongan. Reaching the study area can be done by land and sea / beach. Accessibility in and out of the study area is adequate. There is a network of roads connecting the village study area to some region in Lamongan. It may therefore be concluded that this problem is not found in the study area because the study area does not include an isolated coastal village.

3.3 Basic services including physical infrastructure is still limited

The basic services in Blimbing village include educational facilities (kindergarten, elementary, junior high and high school), health facilities (pokesdes and posyandu), as well as means of trade and services. For infrastructure in the study area include roads, drainage, electricity and telephone network. The existing infrastructure has been quite complete however, the condition is inadequate, for example, the road network. The road network in the study area, in particular the road that links between plots of houses still have not been given pavement (dirt road). Neither the drainage channels, are not sufficient. Most of the fisherman village has not completed with drainage channels. Therefore it can be concluded that the limitations of physical infrastructure are also faced by people in the study area because of the inadequate existing physical infrastructure.

3.4 Poorly maintained environmental conditions

Conditions of the settlements is less well maintained, it can be seen from the condition of the house and surrounding environment. Piles of garbage exist in some areas around the house. Besides sanitation, waste management, and the condition of household sewage is inadequate. Therefore it can be concluded that the environment and health are poorly maintained (Figure 2).

![Figure 2: Environmental conditions in the study area](image)

3.5 Clean water and sanitation is still inadequate

In general, people in the study area have access to clean water and sanitation, however are not sufficient. There are households that lack clean water and there are homes that do not have septic tank toilets. In 2012 the Government built a water treatment facility as an effort to meet the needs of clean water in the study area. The existence of this facility is quite helpful but not fully able to meet the needs of clean water. Based on this description it can be
mentioned that the clean water and inadequate sanitation are also still one of the problems faced by the people of the study area.

3.6 Housing conditions unfit for human habitation

Budihardjo (2009) suggested that a viable and healthy home should at least meet the following criteria:

1. Must meet the physiological needs; include optimal temperature in the house, lighting, protection against noise, good ventilation, as well as the availability of space for exercise and play for children.

2. Must meet the psychological needs; include guarantees "privacy" is enough, opportunity and freedom to be a normal family life, a harmonious relationship between parents and children, the fulfillment of the requirements of social manners, and so on.

3. May provide protection against the transmission of disease and contamination; include the availability of water supply that meets the requirements, the sewerage facilities, availability of facilities to store food, avoid insects or other pests that may play a role in the spread of the disease.

4. Can provide protection / prevention against the risk of an accident in the house; include robust construction, to avoid the danger of fire, the prevention of the possibility of accidental falls or other mechanical accidents.

The majority of residents in the study area is fishermen with low income. With very limited economic conditions, the condition of the house was also very simple and can even be said to be not in accordance with the terms of health standard (not habitable). Housing conditions were less well maintained and condition of high-density residential (houses attached to each other) were vulnerable in case of fire. The condition of the house was not well maintained and with high population density, did not meet the physiological and psychological needs (susceptible to noise, lack of lighting, air circulation is not good, the lack of space for children's play and the lack of adequate privacy). The residents in the study area are not able to provide protection against the transmission of disease and accidental fire hazard. Therefore, it can be concluded that the circumstances were not yet habitable. Inadequate housing is also one of the problems encountered in the study area.

4. The skills of the population is generally limited to fishing and less support diversification of activities

The fishermen just completed primary school education and some have not finished primary school, so that knowledge and skills are extremely limited. Therefore when the fishermen not work in case of bad weather, generally they are unemployed because they do not have sufficient skills to work on other activities. These conditions impact on low economic level in particular the fishermen families. This is one reason that drives women (wives of fishermen) to participate in the economic burden of the family by working. Earned income can help to sufficient needs of daily life when the head of the family (fisherman) not being at sea in a long time. Hence the limited of people skills is also a problem encountered in the study area (Figure 3 shows the fishermen and the ships).
4.1 Low-income residents, since the technology does not support a large-scale fishing

The skill and mastery of fisheries technology is also very minimal. Skills and technology used in fishing is unsophisticated and very limited capital owned. This conditions and any limitations do not support the large-scale fishing. Therefore the income of the fishermen in the study area is low and erratic.

4.2 Lack of Equipment

This problem is also encountered in the study area. The fishermen in the study area have limited and very ordinary tools. Several years ago, the central government had donated boats for the fishermen in the study area. The aid distributed to fishermen through fishermen's association in the study area, named Rukun Nelayan (RN). However, the fishermen refused it because the ship was not given accordance with the needs of the fishermen. RN stands in 1992 on the initiative of the fishermen themselves, this institution under the auspices HNSI (Indonesian Fishermen Association). RN functions as a place to accommodate the problems faced by the fishermen. RN in Blimbing village is the highest number of members in regency (consisting of more than 500 ships, one ship is consisting of 10-15 fishermen). (figure 5 shows the fishermen activities)
4.3 Capital problems due to the scarcity of financial institutions

Capital problem due to scarcity of financial institution also happened in the study area. Limited financial institutions that are able to reach the low-income community, especially fishermen became one of the obstacles faced.

4.4 Education and knowledge of society generally low

Kusnadi (2007) argued that the conditions of fishing communities or the coastal communities in various areas generally characterized by the presence of several characteristics, such as poverty, social and cultural backwardness and the poor quality of human resources (HR). The low level of education and knowledge of the society are also found in the study area. The majority of residents in the fishermen area and most of the fishermen were low levels of education and lack of skills and knowledge. They have limited employment opportunity. In addition to the problems mentioned above, there are also some problems that occur in the study area. Those problems are as follows:

1. The risks of accidents at sea. At the time of fishing, there is often a fisherman who lost in the waves, especially in the bad weather.
2. The problem of limited fuel for ships. When solar scarce, the fishermen are very difficult to meet the fuel needs, consequently forced fishermen not to sail.
3. Although in Lamongan regency many fish factories exist, that the fishermen feel that the market price of fish often unstable. The fishermen really hope the government can provide a solution to this problem.

5. Conclusion

The conditions that has been described, illustrates how the fishermen community in Blimbing village has many limitations which must be followed up, in order to prevent the rampant poverty. Question of this study can only be answered and solved by concrete actions from the government and other parties who can solve fishermen problems. The RPJMD (regional development plan) 2010-2015 of Lamongan Regency has established policies and programs to implement the mission of "promoting economic growth through increased investment, productivity mainstay sectors, and utilization of natural resources". Among the policies and programs, there are several programs that support efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the welfare of fishermen, as follows:

5.1 Increase the fish production through intensification and extension of the public waters, marine and ponds

For the implementation of this program in the study area the people was granted ship from central government.

5.2 Developing small and medium industries

The implementation of the program was to increase society skill. For example home industry: like crackers, home industry and embroidery.

5.3 Develop a superior product marketing system / flagship
For this program the government built the Fish Auction Building (TPI) and supporting facilities for superior product.

5.4 Developing tourism products and increase promotion

TPI is used as a tourist destination that wants to hunt fresh sea fish.

5.5 Expansion of employment opportunities and improving the quality and productivity of labor

There is counseling/coaching in order to increase labor productivity. In general, the poverty of coastal communities affected by unfulfillment of people’s basic rights, such as the need for food, health, education, employment, infrastructure. In addition, the lack of work opportunity, lack of access information, technology and capital, culture and lifestyle that tends to be wasteful, causing poor position getting worse. At the same time, government policy is not effective to solve poverty and far less in favor of the coastal communities as one of the stakeholders in the coastal region.

5.6 Recommendations

1. Housing conditions and environment need community awareness. This awareness can be generated through providing counseling on the importance of health through environmental sanitation through community empowerment. Moreover, facilitating community access to facilities and infrastructure as well as provide suitable fishing equipment. Such activities can be accomplished through government assistance and support by the fishing community itself.

2. For non-physical problems such as low community knowledge and education, provision of training can be done with education on technology and other areas so they can work in other fields.

6. References


