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The Phenomenon Of Community Diseases (Beggars) On The Seafront Of Padang Beach

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ABSTRACT

Community ills such as beggars on the waterfront (seaside) in Padang are a social issue that requires special attention. This research aims to determine the factors that cause the presence of beggars on Padang beaches, the factors that cause beggars to quit their profession, the life patterns of beggars on Padang beaches, and the impact that beggars have on visitors to Padang beaches. The research method used is a qualitative approach using observation, interview and documentation study techniques. The socio-economic impact that arises is the emergence of social inequality, decreased community productivity, and an increase in the government's burden in dealing with these social problems. Comprehensive efforts are needed from the government and community to overcome the phenomenon of begging on the Padang seafront, such as empowering the community's economy, increasing access to education and skills training, as well as strict law enforcement.
Keywords: *Societal ills, beggar, education, poverty*

INTRODUCTION

Taplau Padang has now become a new form of order. Since the mayor of Padang at that time (2014-2019) (Felinda, O., Zetra, A., & Rosyidi, B. 2024). H. Mahyeldi, who has now changed his status to governor of West Sumatra (2021-2024) (Deva, 2023), Taplau Padang has now turned into a halal tourist destination (Irwandi and Putri, 2022). Taplau Padang has beautiful sea views and is located in the city center (Y Candra, 2017). Not only that, Taplau Padang also has a unique culinary tourism, namely Langkitang, which is cash food in the form of a type of snail (W Waryono, et al, 2017). Apart from that, at Padang Beach there are also cars and bicycles available for rent for small children along with a playing field (EA Rahmawati, 2021). However, this destination also increases the presence of illegal parking, buskers, homeless people and beggars at tourist attractions (MA Rohmah, 2019). This certainly causes discomfort for visitors to Taplau Padang (R Gusman, 2022).

Padang, as the capital of West Sumatra province, has a long coastline and is a tourism center because of its natural beauty and cultural richness. Padang's waterfront is often a destination for local and foreign tourists who enjoy the natural scenery and enjoy regional culinary specialties. Padang beach, known as Taplau (short for tapi lauik/ Tepi Laut), is 23 km from Minangkabau International Airport, precisely from the Purus area to Muara Batang Arau. Taplau has activities to enjoy the beauty of the sea and culinary delights as well as a play area. The facilities include gazebos,

sidewalks, parking lots, trading places, children's play areas, toilets and mosques. Other supporting facilities are restaurants, hotels, cafes and food courts located on the side of the road around Taplau Padang itself which has nicknames along the beach such as Hangtuah Beach, Purus Beach, Cimpago Beach and Muaro Lasak Beach. Currently Taplau is also included in the Padang City regional development strategy plan.

Taplau Padang can provide a sense of security and comfort to tourists, so that the increase in supporting facilities and infrastructure will be visible from the number of tourists staying at the hotel. Traveling to Taplau will feel delicious if you taste the young coconut water and roasted corn. There are also langkitan and soup crackers sold around Taplau, while sitting under a tent or under a coconut tree is a pleasure for tourists. However, in Taplau Padang there is something that makes tourists restless and uncomfortable, namely the presence of beggars. A beggar is a person who earns income by begging in public places in various ways and reasons to get mercy from other people. There, the beggars are not only children but also parents and adults. Beggars are often thrown out and taken to social services. However, the number of beggars has not decreased but instead tends to increase. This causes anxiety for tourists who go there, they feel uncomfortable when approached by beggars, it even constitutes an invasion of their privacy. Begging, as a significant social problem, has become a problem in society and has given rise to differences of opinion about how to deal with it and who is responsible for them. According to this research, there are many beggars on Padang Beach, both children and parents. Indirectly, even the parents themselves order their children to beg to earn money. The authors used a qualitative approach in their research, which allows researchers to provide descriptions through in-depth interviews with research subjects. The research results show that the large number of beggar children on the shores of Padang Beach is caused by many things, including cultural factors, economic challenges, poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education. Those who earn their living by begging for mercy from others in public places are called beggars. Contributing factors include: (1) Poverty: This is the main cause of begging in many countries. People may be forced to beg because they do not have access to employment, education, or adequate housing. (2) Disability: People with physical or mental disabilities may have difficulty finding work, so they have to beg to survive. (3) Illness: Chronic or severe illness can make people unable to work and force them to beg to make ends meet. Despite the reasons, begging is a complex problem with major social and economic impacts. In an effort to combat begging, one must consider its various fundamental components. These include poverty, disability, disease, addiction, family problems, exploitation, and other social problems.

METHODS

In this study, a qualitative method is used that goes through several processes, methodologies or technical approaches used. Among them are field surveys, interviews conducted directly with MSME owners, and document studies so that the data obtained is in accordance with the facts in the field. This is also done so that researchers can gain an in-depth understanding of the role of MSMEs in the culinary industry, creative marketing strategies used by the Agee Egg Roll Trading Business, and other factors that affect the success of the egg roll business in the context of the economy and food market.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Factors Causing the Beggar's Phenomenon

Economics

One of the main driving factors for the phenomenon of beggars on the Padang seafront is the economic factor. Some residents are forced to beg because they cannot get a decent job and sufficient income. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods that have hit Padang in recent years have often exacerbated unstable economic conditions.

Social and Cultural

The tradition of giving alms to beggars has become a habit in Indonesia society. It may be a purely charitable act, but it can also make matters worse by allowing beggars to stay on the streets. According to the 2023 BPS study, there is an increase in the number of beggars who depend on people's habits to give money spontaneously.

Government Policy

In addition, inconsistent policies and law enforcement against beggars make things worse. Enforcement is usually carried out by the police and social services, but this is ineffective without the help of ongoing rehabilitation and empowerment programs. According to Hariyanti and Wirapraja (2018), an influencer is a person or figure in social media who has a large or significant number of followers, and what they convey can affect the behavior of their followers. The use of influencers as a means for marketers to promote a product by advertising directly to the target audience. The research results show that the large number of beggar children on the shores of Padang Beach is caused by many things, including cultural factors, economic challenges, poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education. Those who earn their living by begging for mercy from others in public places are called beggars. Contributing factors include: (1) Poverty: This is the main cause of begging in many countries. People may be forced to beg because they do not have access to employment, education, or adequate housing. (2) Disability: People with physical or mental disabilities may have difficulty finding work, so they have to beg to survive. (3) Illness: Chronic or severe illness can make people unable to work and force them to beg to make ends meet. Despite the reasons, begging is a complex problem with major social and economic impacts. In an effort to combat begging, one must consider its various fundamental components. These include poverty, disability, disease, addiction, family problems, exploitation, and other social problems.

CONCLUSION

Beggars, a disease of society, are a complex problem that requires a comprehensive and sustainable solution. Short-term handling depends on the enforcement of local regulations, the development of empowerment programs, increasing public awareness, and synergy between institutions. Meanwhile, long-term solutions are centered on improving education, job creation, and improving social security. A comprehensive and sustainable solution is needed for the phenomenon of beggars at Padang Beach. The main focus is the enforcement of local regulations, community empowerment, education, cooperation, and enforcement of children's rights. The long-term solution

is good education, employment, and strong social security. Public awareness: Don't give money to beggars and help them through official institutions.

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