POVERTY ANALYSIS OF AGRARIAN COMMUNITIES IN PERANGIAN VILLAGE: CASE STUDY OF FACTORS AFFECTING AND POVERTY MITIGATION EFFORTS

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ABSTRACT

The research focuses on the factors that influence poverty and mitigation efforts that can be made to reduce the poverty level in this village. Through a comprehensive analysis, this research will identify strategies and policies that can be implemented to improve the welfare of rural communities. This study aims to fill the gap in knowledge about the poverty of an agrarian society in the village. The research method used is a qualitative method with a case study approach. Data were obtained through observation, interviews, and analysis of documents related to poverty and socio-economic conditions in the Perangian Village. Using a case study approach, this research will analyze the factors that significantly influence the level of poverty in the village. The research respondents were from agrarian communities in poor conditions in Perangian Village. The results of this study indicate: (1) several factors affect the poverty level in the Perangian Village. These factors include low levels of education, limited access to resources and technology, low quality of infrastructure, and lack of decent job opportunities. (2) mitigation efforts undertaken to reduce poverty. First, it is necessary to increase access to education for rural communities to have better skills and knowledge to face economic challenges. Second, it is necessary to strengthen infrastructure, including transportation and access to electricity, to improve village connectivity with other regions. Third, training programs and capital assistance are needed to encourage the development of micro and small businesses in villages. Finally, it is important to build cooperation between the government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in implementing poverty alleviation programs.

Keywords: Poverty; agrarian; mitigation; welfare

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an agricultural country with a large land area and diverse biodiversity. This is very possible to make Indonesia the largest agricultural country in the world. In an agrarian country like Indonesia, agriculture has an important contribution both to the economy and to meeting the basic needs of society, especially with the increasing population which means that the need for food is also increasing (Belton & Fang, 2022). In addition, there is an additional role for the agricultural sector, namely increasing the welfare of the people, most of whom are now below the poverty line (Astuti, 2018).

The progress of agriculture in Indonesia is inseparable from the role of farmers who have adequate knowledge and technology, namely none other than young people who have the enthusiasm and aspirations to develop this highly potential agricultural sector. The role of youth is urgently needed in revitalizing the agricultural and agribusiness sectors, which have recently experienced a decline. The upper middle class often underestimates agriculture, farmers are considered dirty jobs and synonymous with poverty (Andri, 2016). Suppose it is managed properly and with good management. In that case, agriculture may be the only support for the people's economy that is able to improve welfare. Farmers may wear a tie and be on an equal footing with entrepreneurs in the non-agricultural sector. The agricultural sector, which is so important that it is useful for meeting national food needs, is now becoming less attractive. Therefore, the youth are responsible for reviving this sector so that it becomes a mainstay in improving the economy and improving people's welfare, so that this nation becomes a strong and prosperous nation.

One of the districts in South Sulawesi that still has many existing farmers is Enrekang District. It is located in the north of South Sulawesi Province, clearing land yearly for agriculture. Enrekang Regency has enormous agricultural potential. This shows that Enrekang Regency has high economic activity in terms of agriculture. In the agricultural sector, it appears that agricultural activities in this district are growing rapidly with the support of natural resources. Agriculture has great potential in Enrekang, where around 65% or around 107.16 km² of the Enrekang Regency area is agricultural land (Enrekang Regency Strategic Plan 2019). The agricultural sector has proven to be a leading sector, and this sector is also the largest contributor to the total GRDP (Gross Regional Domestic Product) for Enrekang Regency.

Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang Regency is an agrarian village whose majority of the population depends on the agricultural sector as the main source of livelihood. However, despite having considerable agricultural potential, this village still faces significant poverty problems. The high level of poverty in the Perangian Village can

have a broad negative impact on social, economic, and community development as a whole.

This study aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of the poverty experienced by an agrarian community in the Perangian Village. Using a case study approach, this research will identify the factors that contribute to the village's high poverty level. These factors may include low agricultural productivity, limited access to markets and agricultural technology, low quality of human resources, and lack of supporting infrastructure. Apart from that, this research will also analyze the mitigation efforts that have been made to reduce the poverty rate in the Perangian Village. These mitigation efforts can be in the form of government programs, social activities, or local community initiatives. This analysis will provide insight into the effectiveness of the mitigation efforts that have been carried out as well as identification of deficiencies and challenges faced in overcoming poverty.

With an in-depth understanding of the factors that influence poverty and the mitigation efforts that have been carried out in the Perangian Village, it is hoped that this research can provide concrete policy recommendations and strategies that can help reduce poverty levels and improve the welfare of the agrarian community in the village (Fatmasari, 2016). This research is also expected to contribute new knowledge in the context of poverty analysis in an agrarian society, especially in the Perangian Village. This research is expected to provide a better understanding of the factors that influence poverty in the Perangian Village and provide relevant policy recommendations to reduce poverty in the village.

This study aims to fill the gap in knowledge about the poverty of an agrarian society in the Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang Regency (Hakim & A. Kinseng, 2015). Although many studies have been conducted on poverty in various regions, there is still a lack of understanding of the factors that influence poverty and the mitigation efforts that can be undertaken, especially in an agrarian village such as Enrekang District. With this phenomenon, it is crucial to discuss poverty in an agrarian society; poverty in the life of an agrarian society has become a social problem that has not been resolved to date.

2. METHODS

This study used a qualitative approach, producing descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior in the form of an in-depth understanding of the factors that influence poverty and the mitigation efforts carried out in Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang Regency. Research methods that can be used include in-depth interviews with farmers and relevant stakeholders, participatory observation, and analysis of documents related to poverty reduction policies and

programs. As a representative case, the case study approach will focus on an in-depth analysis of Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang. Primary and secondary data can be collected through interviews with farmers, village government, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors.

Data can also be obtained through direct observation in the field and documentation studies. This descriptive research aims to make systematic, factual and accurate descriptions, drawings or drawings regarding the facts, characteristics and relationships between the phenomena investigated. Data collection through observation, interviews, and documentation studies. Observations were made to obtain data related to the poverty analysis of an agrarian society in the Perangian Village, Baraka sub-district, the researcher prepared a field diary to describe chronological events. The collected data can be analyzed descriptively and thematically. Descriptive analysis involves organizing and interpreting data in the form of narratives, tables or graphs that can provide a clear picture of the factors that influence poverty and mitigation efforts. Thematic analysis involves identifying and extracting key themes emerging from the data, such as economic, social, and policy factors that influence poverty and mitigation efforts.

To increase the validity and reliability of research, it is important to triangulate data by combining various data sources, such as interviews, observations, and documents. This will help strengthen research findings and reduce bias. This research also requires Gap Analysis influencing poverty and mitigation efforts, gap analysis is also important. In this case, a comparison is made between the actual situation of the agrarian society in the Perangian Village with the expected ideal conditions. This helps identify gaps or discrepancies that need to be addressed to reduce poverty so that this research is expected to produce policy recommendations and poverty mitigation strategies that are specific and can be implemented. This recommendation must be based on an in-depth analysis of the factors that influence poverty and the experience of existing mitigation efforts in the Perangian Village.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study show that the Factors Affecting Poverty of Agrarian Communities in Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang Regency, where low agricultural productivity is the main factor affecting poverty in Perangian Village. One of the causes of low agricultural productivity is limited access to modern agricultural technology. Perangian Village may face challenges in acquiring and utilizing more efficient and innovative agricultural technologies. This could include access to modern farming equipment, better cultivation techniques, efficient irrigation systems or information technology for farm management. This limited access can limit village agricultural potential and hinder increased production and productivity.

In addition, the lack of education and training is also a contributing factor to low agricultural productivity. Farmers in the Perangian Village lack the necessary knowledge and skills to implement more effective modern farming practices. Training related to farming techniques, business management, using fertilizers and pesticides, or managing farm finances can help farmers improve their skills and knowledge. Thus, education and training can significantly increase agricultural productivity and reduce poverty rates in the Perangian Village. In this context, a policy recommendation that might result from this research is to increase farmers' access to modern agricultural technologies by providing better farming tools and training in their use. In addition, it is also important to increase access to relevant education and training for farmers to develop the skills needed to increase agricultural productivity. In this way, farmers in Perangian Village will be able to optimize their agricultural potential, increase income, and reduce poverty.

In addition to low agricultural productivity, research also shows that other factors affect poverty in the Perangian Village: the imbalance in the distribution of agricultural resources, low access to markets, and lack of agricultural supporting infrastructure. These three factors significantly impact the welfare of the agrarian community in the village. An imbalance in the distribution of agricultural resources can occur when there is a gap in the control and utilization of agricultural resources, such as land and irrigation water, among farmers in Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang Regency. Factors such as differences in socio-economic status, unequal land ownership, or access to limited agricultural resources can contribute to this imbalance. As a result, some farmers may have more limited access to essential agricultural resources for increasing their productivity and income.

Low access to the market is also an obstacle in improving the welfare of the agrarian community in the Perangian Village. Farmers may face difficulties in marketing their agricultural products to a wider market. Factors such as geographic distance, lack of access to market information, or lack of connection with potential buyers can cause the selling price of agricultural products to be low. This harmed farmers' income and contributed to the high poverty rate in the village.

In addition, the lack of infrastructure supporting agriculture is also an obstacle in the development of the agricultural sector in the Perangian Village. Inadequate infrastructure, such as damaged roads, inefficient irrigation, or limited power supplies, can limit a farmer's ability to optimize production and overcome challenges in farm management. Adequate supporting infrastructure is needed to increase production efficiency, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase accessibility to markets.

In the research conducted, it was revealed that poverty mitigation in Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang Regency had been carried out through various programs

and activities. One of the programs that has been implemented is the economic empowerment program, which aims to increase the economic independence of agrarian communities, including farmers. The economic empowerment program involves skills training and micro-enterprise development. Through skills training, farmers can increase their knowledge and skills in various aspects of agriculture, such as better cultivation techniques, business management, proper use of fertilizers and pesticides, or managing farm finances. Farmers can optimize agricultural production and increase their income by improving their skills.

In addition to skills training, this program also involves developing micro-enterprises. This can be in the form of business capital assistance, access to financing, or assistance in developing more productive and sustainable agricultural businesses. With this support, the farmers in the Perangian Village can expand their business, increase the added value of agricultural products, and increase their income. The impact of this economic empowerment program has been seen positively in increasing farmers' income. Farmers who attended skills training and received support in micro-enterprise development have been able to increase their agricultural productivity and efficiency. This has contributed to increasing farmers' income and reducing the poverty rate in the Perangian Village. With this economic empowerment program, it is hoped that the agrarian community in the Perangian Village will have a more stable and sustainable source of income. In addition, this program also has the potential to improve the welfare of the community as a whole by providing better access and opportunities for farmers to improve their standard of living. In addition, agricultural infrastructure development such as irrigation and road improvements has also been carried out to increase agricultural productivity. In addition, market access programs and partnerships with local economic institutions have helped farmers obtain better prices for their agricultural products.

The following are some policy recommendations and poverty mitigation strategies in Perangian Village, Baraka District, Enrekang District that can be submitted, which include increasing farmers' access to modern agricultural technology through training and technical assistance, as well as increasing investment in agricultural infrastructure:

1. Farmer Training Program: Established a training program for farmers in Perangian Village that provides them with knowledge and skills on modern farming techniques. This training can cover the use of modern tools, efficient management of irrigation, proper use of fertilizers and pesticides, and sustainable farming practices. By increasing the knowledge and skills of farmers, they will be able to increase their agricultural yields and reduce losses caused by controllable factors.

2. Technical Assistance: Established a technical assistance center in Perangian Village which provides expert resources in agriculture, such as agronomists, agricultural

researchers, and plant breeding officers. Farmers can consult their agricultural problems and get suggestions and solutions specific to their situation. This technical assistance may also include soil testing, plant disease monitoring, and the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to access up-to-date information on best agricultural practices.

3. Agricultural Technology Subsidy: Implement a subsidy scheme for farmers in the Perangian Village so that they can have more affordable access to modern agricultural technology. These subsidies could include purchasing better farming equipment, higher quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. By reducing the initial investment costs, farmers will be better able to adopt modern technologies that can increase the efficiency and productivity of their farms.

4. Agricultural Cooperatives: Encourage the formation of agricultural cooperatives in the Perangian Village to strengthen the bargaining position of farmers and increase their access to markets. Cooperatives can play a role in facilitating the procurement and distribution of agricultural inputs, obtaining more favorable prices through economies of scale, and providing services such as post-harvest processing and marketing of agricultural products. With the existence of cooperatives, farmers can increase their income and reduce the risk of poverty.

5. Agricultural Infrastructure: Increase investment in agricultural infrastructure in Perangian Village, such as irrigation, market access roads, storage sheds, and food processing facilities. Adequate infrastructure will help reduce agricultural product losses during harvest, increase the added value of agricultural products through processing, and facilitate access to a wider market.

In terms of market access, further efforts are needed to strengthen partnerships between farmers, business actors, and financial institutions to increase access to markets and capital. In addition, increasing farmers' access to relevant education and training is also one of the important recommendations for increasing farmers' skills and capacities.

Acknowledgment

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