Life Survival Strategies of Women in Urban Poor Households

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Abstract. Pekanbaru as the capital of Riau Province is one of the rapidly progressing cities. However, the city still has the problem of urban poverty. Although the poverty rate of Pekanbaru City is relatively low, poverty is a complex development problem. Meranti Pandak, as one of the sub-districts in Rumbai Pesisir District, is also still experiencing the problem of urban poverty. Natural conditions of Siak Riverbanks often experience flooding due to environmental damage. To survive, the inhabitants of the region must be able to adapt. Women in poor households have a large role, both in terms of economic and social resilience. This study adds to the repertoire of thoughts for analyzing the role of women in survival in urban poor households. The purpose of this study was to analyze the characteristics of the poor in Meranti Pandak Sub-district, Rumbai Pesisir District, the role of women in poor households in the Life Survival Strategy, and the trend of gender equality in economic activity in poor households. The results show that the role of women in survival strategies in poor households is through debt and sufficiency, regulating the structure of consumption/dietary patterns, developing the economy/subsistence production, relying on government and generous assistance (especially during floods during the rainy season), and trade in the micro-scale informal sector. With regard to gender equality in urban poor households, the poorer the household, the wider the inequality and the smaller the role of women in family economic control.

Keywords: Women, Poor, Urban, Survival Strategy

1 Background

Poverty is one of the urban socio-economic problems. Although the number of poor people in urban areas is less than in rural areas, the problem of urban poverty is much more complex. Poor people in the city are relatively more difficult to live when compared to the poor in rural areas because the main source of fulfilling their needs is money. In rural areas, with little money people can eat with the results of natural resource management.

Poverty is a multidimensional problem, where poverty is not only measured by income, but also includes the vulnerability and vulnerability of people or groups of people, both men and women, to become poor, and limited access of the poor in determining public policies that have an impact on their lives. Therefore, solving the problem of poverty needs to be based on understanding the voices of the poor themselves and the recognition, fulfillment and

protection of their basic rights, namely social, economic and political rights (Bappenas in Kornita, 2014).

Meranti Pandak Sub-district (In Indonesian: kelurahan) which is part of Rumbai Pesisir District (In Indonesian: kecamatan) has an area that is not too large (2.5% of the total area of Rumbai Pesisir) or 3.88 km2 of 157.33 km2, with a population of 12,940 people and a population density of 3,335 per km2. The female population is 6,974 people (more than the male population) with a sex ratio of 86. For the poor people in Meranti Pandak Sub-district who live on the banks of the Siak River. The unfavorable economic conditions became worse when the flood came, causing repeated suffering. Crowded houses and impermanent construction conditions with improvised materials, limited supply of clean water, and inadequate disposal of waste and garbage.

As an area that always experiences flooding, Meranti Pandak floods twice a year. This flood is because the area is close to the Siak River. Poor families are under great pressure from these impacts and need to adapt in order to survive. The resilience of the poor, especially women in poor families, is not a simple matter. This study focuses on the role of women in urban poor households in survival. Both economic and social resilience. The study also examines the role of women in the family economy in urban poor households in the perspective of gender equality.

2 Literature Review

2.1 The Concept of Poverty

Munkner in Sugihardjanto (2001) states that poverty can be viewed from a mechanical point of view as a low level of income. Furthermore, poverty can also be seen as deprivation in the sense of low or inadequate access to resources or because living in a natural environment that is getting worse or damaged, and the inability to meet basic needs. He further said that poverty can also be seen from a mental or cultural perspective, namely as a feeling of isolation, loss of direction, hopelessness, apathy and a passive attitude towards suffering.

Prayitno (1993) states that poverty is generally measured by income level and can basically be divided into absolute poverty and relative poverty. A person is said to be absolute poor if the income level is lower than the absolute poverty line or in other words the amount of income is not sufficient to meet the minimum needs reflected by the absolute poverty line. Absolute poverty is generally compared to relative poverty. Relative poverty is a state of comparison between income groups in society, namely between groups that are not poor because they have a higher income level than the poverty line and groups of people who are relatively richer. By using a measure of income, this situation is known as income distribution inequality. This inequality can also reflect inequality between population groups, between economic sectors and inequality between regions.

When examined from the time pattern, poverty in one area can be classified as persistent poverty, namely poverty that has been chronic or hereditary. Areas like this are generally areas that are critical of their natural resources, or are isolated areas. The second pattern is cyclical poverty, namely poverty that follows the pattern of the overall economic cycle. The third pattern is seasonal poverty, namely seasonal poverty as is often found in the case of fishermen and food crop farming. The fourth pattern is accidental poverty, namely poverty due to natural

disasters or the impact of a certain policy that causes a decrease in the level of welfare of a society (Kartasasmita, 1996).

The World Bank distinguishes three dimensions of poverty, namely (1) multidimensional poverty, meaning that because human needs vary, poverty also has many aspects. Viewed from the general policy of poverty covering primary aspects in the form of being poor in assets, socio-political organization and knowledge and skills; secondary aspect in the form of poor social networks of financial and information sources. These dimensions of poverty manifest themselves in the form of malnutrition, unhealthy water and housing and poor health care and poor education, (2) these aspects of poverty are interrelated, either directly or indirectly. This means that progress or setbacks in one aspect can affect progress or setbacks in other aspects, (3) that the poor are human beings, both individually and collectively. We often hear the words rural poverty (in Indonesian: kemiskinan pedesaan), urban poverty (in Indonesian: kemiskinan perkotaan) and so on, but this does not mean that villages or cities that has need of achievement or progress experience poverty, rather the people or residents are suffering from poverty. In other words, the poor are the people, residents or humans.

According to Mukherjee and Carriere (2002) poverty is a condition where people experience various threats to be able to live decently. These include insufficient consumption, vulnerability, low education, inadequate basic health services. The infrastructure that can provide daily needs is minimal and there is a lack of opportunities to participate in social and political life as fellow human beings.

The characteristics of poverty are (Supriatna, 2000):
a. The poor generally do not have their own factors of production (land), even if they do have a limited amount, so that their ability to obtain an opinion is very limited.
b. Not having the possibility to obtain production assets with their own strength, including the difficulty of obtaining credit that is in accordance with the livelihood pattern of the rural people making it difficult to develop.
c. The level of education is generally low, so the knowledge and skills possessed are inadequate. This is because they run out of time to earn a living and do not have time to study. Their children cannot finish school, because they have to help their parents to earn extra.
d. Many of them live in isolated areas, so they do not have access to socio-economic facilities and information.
e. Absence or lack of alternative livelihoods other than what they can do.
f. The socio-cultural environment does not encourage them to excel and advance in life.

From some of the definitions above, if understood more deeply, the notion of poverty can in an economic sense be a symptom that exists in areas of the poor population associated with low income. Where income according to the BPS definition is remuneration from production factors received by each member of the household or resident, including wages/salaries, income from rent, ownership of capital and others. Meanwhile, social poverty is attached to the person of the poor, such as their way of life and behavior. Poverty is usually described as a lack of income to meet basic living needs such as food, shelter, clothing, etc.

In addition, the concept of poverty according to Hamid (2000) broadly is:
a. Relative Poverty, which looks at poverty from the percentage of income received by lower income layers. Those who are at the bottom of the national income stratification are considered poor.
b. Absolute Poverty, that is seen from the extent to which the income level of the poor is unable to meet their basic needs, namely clothing, food, housing, health and education. The ability to buy basic needs is equivalent to its purchasing power (value for money).

Those who cannot afford certain basic needs according to minimum standards are considered to be below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, Wahyono (1993) suggests that poverty is grouped into three categories, namely:

a. Structural poverty is a situation where the phenomenon of poverty is caused by a structure that impels society to progress as a whole.

b. Natural poverty is a situation where the phenomenon of poverty is caused by poor natural resources that support the community.

c. Relative poverty is a poverty situation which refers to a comparative situation between an individual, group or society with another individual or with other communities.

A person is said to be absolutely poor if his income level is below the poverty line or his income is not sufficient to meet the minimum needs, including food, clothing, health, housing, and education needed to live and work. This concept is intended to determine the minimum level of income that is sufficient to ensure survival (Todaro, 2000). In addition to absolute poverty, there are also concepts of cultural poverty and relative poverty. Cultural poverty is caused by an understanding of the attitudes, habits of life and culture of a person or society that feels sufficient and does not lack. In general, this group is not easy to participate in development and tends not to try to improve their standard of living despite efforts from outsiders to help. While relative poverty is the income of a person who is already above the poverty line, but is still relatively lower than the income of the community, then the person or family is still in a poor condition (Sumodiningrat, 1997).

Sugihardjono (2001) states that poverty is caused by different causal factors and dimensions, depending on whether the poor live in rural or urban areas, or whether they live in large family structures, or small families. It is very difficult to clearly distinguish between the problems, symptoms and causes of poverty. Whichever classification of factors into these categories depends, among other things, on our perspective on poverty. If low resources and unfavorable trading conditions are seen as the main causes of poverty, then increasing productivity, access to markets, reasonable prices for products produced by the poor are appropriate steps in eradicating poverty. However, if the poor condition of the natural environment is seen as a crucial cause of widespread poverty, then wiser use of natural resources and access to information, education, training and guidance, then human resource development becomes the only way to create sustainable development.

Sayogyo as quoted by Arsyad (2002), suggests that the poverty line is determined by using per capita rice consumption. For rural areas, it is determined at 240 kg per capita per year, in urban areas it is 360 kg per capita per year classified as very poor, while those classified as poor if the consumption of rice per capita per year is 320 kg in rural areas and 480 kg for urban areas. To find the consumption value, the total population expenditure is equivalent or calculated based on the price of rice at the time of the study.

2.2 Survival Strategy

The concept of strategy in the social sciences is primarily concerned with the way people deal with difficult situations and challenges. Although the response they can take to new forms depends on history and geographic location, the reality is that individuals can find ways to face challenges in order to survive (Treefland in Ibrahim, 2005). According to Benet (Ahimsa, 1995) household strategies are patterns formed by various adjustments planned by humans to solve problems using existing resources. Efforts are made to meet the minimum requirements for solving their problems.

This study wants to see a life survival strategy, because poor families in this research area are not only sufficient to meet the minimum level needs, but they also use social relationships to develop in their environment in addition to meeting basic needs.

3 Research Method

The population of this research is the entire poor population, amounting to 633 people, especially women in Meranti Pandak Sub-District. The sample is determined by quota, namely 50 poor people with female gender from the female population in this village which is assumed to have represented the population as a whole.

Sources of data collected directly from the respondents through the survey method. Data collection from respondents was done by interview technique with respondents using a list of questions or questionnaires. Interviews were conducted with 50 women who are poor people in the study area, in addition, detailed in-depth interviews were also conducted to obtain more in-depth information. Supporting data in the form of secondary data were collected from agencies related to this research, including the Regency Government, BPS, other agencies and the results of official publications.

To provide clear boundaries for this research, several operational definitions are made:

a. Education is the length of formal education taken or completed by the informant, namely not completing elementary school, graduating from elementary school, graduating from junior high school, graduating from high school, graduating from college and graduating from college, measured by years of schooling.

b. Health is a condition that is free from disease, which in this study only looked at the health condition of the respondents in the last year.

c. Income is the average income per capita of family members produced by all family members per month in meeting family needs, which is measured in rupiah.

d. Employment is the type of respondent's business at the time of the study to maintain survival consisting of traders, craftsmen, washers, coolies, casual laborers, fishermen, etc.

e. A survival strategy is a method used by a group of people to maintain survival in conditions of poverty.

f. Poor is a state of complete deprivation, lack of education, lack of skills, and lack of capital.

To achieve the first objective of the study, all poor families selected as respondents are sorted and the frequency is obtained from each respondent and the percentage is calculated. From these results analyzed qualitatively. To achieve the second goal, the data analysis process to be carried out is descriptive qualitative, in accordance with the steps of data analysis proposed by Moleong (1994) as follows: 1. Examining all available data from various sources, 2. Data reduction carried out by making abstractions, 3. Arranging data into units, 4. Categorizing data while coding, 5. Conducting data validity checks, and 6. Data interpretation. For this reason, the collected data (primary and secondary data) obtained are organized and compiled, after being arranged, interpretation and discussion of the data found is carried out.

4 Result and Discussion

4.1 Characteristics of the Poor in Meranti Pandak Sub-district

The results of this study describe certain characteristics or conditions of the poor population in the research location based on the results of primary data. From this, the characteristics of the poor in Meranti Pandak Village were analyzed from 2 (two) points of view, namely socio-demographic characteristics and household economic characteristics of respondents. Socio-demographic characteristics consist of age, gender and marital status as well as education level. While the economic characteristics in terms of type of work, income, and number of dependents.

Respondent's Age

The age of the head of the poor family in Meranti Pandak Sub-district with the lowest range at 19 years old, and the highest at 65 years old. The age range of family heads in Meranti Pandak Village can be seen in table 1 below:

Table 1. Age Distribution of Respondents

No	Age Group (Years)	Number of Respondents (KK)	Percentage (%)
1	19 – 25	10	20,00
2	26 – 32	6	12,00
3	33 – 39	8	16,00
4	40 – 46	12	24,00
5	47 – 53	7	14,00
6	53 – 58	4	8,00
7	59 – 65	3	6,00
	Total	50	100.00

Table 1 shows that the head of the family in Meranti Pandak Sub-district is a population of productive age. With this productive age, it means that they have strong enough energy, so that most of the work they do is work that requires energy, for example as laborers, traders, fishermen, and others. This is related to the level of education, so the poor in this area do more jobs that rely on their energy because of the relatively high level of education and very high competition in urban life. Thus, the head of the family hopes that by doing this work they will be able to meet the needs of their family and in carrying out the fulfillment of household needs, the role of women in the family also determines by participating in earning a living.

Gender and Marital Status

Based on the 50 respondents in the study area, 29 were male and 11 females. To find out more clearly about this, it is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Gender Distribution of the Respondents Head of Household/Head of Family

No	Sex	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Male	32	64,00
2	Female	18	36,00
Total		50	100,00

Furthermore, based on marital status, it can be explained in the following table:

Table 3. Distribution of the Respondents by Marital Status

No	Marital Status	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Married	35	70,00
2	Divorced/Single Parent	15	30,00
	Total	50	100,00

The distribution of respondents based on their marital status is mostly (70%) married. This is easy to understand because the unit of observation is the Head of the Family. Those who are single parents are widows/widowers by 30%. As a poor family, those with single parent status will certainly make the household economy more difficult, because they have to earn a living and take care of the household at the same time.

Level of Education

The characteristics of poor families are usually characterized by relatively low education, because there is a kind of vicious circle. Low education, low employment, low income, low ability to finance education and so on. The comprehensive educational condition of the respondents is as presented in the following table.

Table 4. Distribution of Respondents by Education Level

No	Educational Level	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Not Schooled	5	10,00
2	Did Not Graduate Elementary (in Indonesian: *Sekolah Dasar/SD*)	8	16,00
3	Graduated Elementary	12	24,00
4	Graduated Middle School (in Indonesian: *Sekolah Lanjutan Tingkat Pertama/SLTP*)	9	18,00
5	Did Not Graduate High School (in Indonesian: *Sekolah Lanjutan Tingkat Atas/SLTA*)	6	12,00
6	Graduated High School	10	20,00
	Total	40	100,00

From the table above, it can be seen that 62% of respondents in Meranti Pandak Sub-district have low education (junior high school and below), in fact there are 10% of respondents who do not go to school at all. Meanwhile, respondents who received education until they finished high school were 32%.

Occupation

The occupation of the respondents at the time this research was conducted showed that all of the respondents worked in the informal sector (100%). their work is not permanent and the income is relatively uncertain (vulnerable). Most of the respondents' occupations in Meranti Pandak Sub-district are laborers, fishermen, and traders.

This is because only these jobs are relatively available because most of the respondents do not have skills and have low education and also the natural conditions that are on the river coast making it difficult to find other alternative livelihoods. Those who work as fishermen usually look for fish in the Siak River.

Table 5. Distribution of Respondents by Main Occupation

No	Main Occupation	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Fisherman	13	26,00
2	Traders/open kiosks/stalls	12	24,00

3	Construction Workers/Laundryers/Transport Workers, etc.	18	36,00
4	School Keeper/Pedicab Driver/Parker Lot Attendant	7	14,00
	Total	50	100,00

The main occupation of the largest respondent is Labor, this can be understood because the location of the poor is in urban areas which are quite busy and are developing rapidly, which requires a lot of labor in their economic activities. Most of the poor people who live in Meranti Pandak Sub-district are immigrants who come from outside the city of Pekanbaru.

Income

The level of income earned affects the level and pattern of consumption. The lower the level of income, the more the number of needs that cannot be met. The following shows the total income of respondents in Meranti Pandak Sub-district. Most of the income levels are still below IDR 1,000,000. With current conditions, the income level is mostly allocated to meet family needs so that respondents are unable to set aside their income for saving. The source of poverty is due to low income and this is also experienced by the poor in Meranti Pandak Sub-district.

Table 6. Distribution of Respondents Income and Number of Respondents Family Dependents

No	Income Level	Number	Average Dependents
1	Rp500.000,00 – Rp750.000,00	18	4
2	>Rp750.000,00 – Rp1.000.000,00	13	5
3	>Rp1.000.000,00 – Rp1.250.000,00	10	5
4	>Rp1.250.000,00 – Rp1.500.000,00	7	6
5	>Rp1.500.000,00 – Rp1.750.000,00	1	5
6	>Rp1.750.000,00 – Rp2.000.000,00	1	4
	Total/Average dependents	50	4,76 = 5 orang

With a poverty line limit of IDR 479,944 per capita per month, with an average number of family dependents of 5 (five) people per KK, the largest household income of IDR 2,000,000.00 is still below the poverty line. The number of respondents' children is between 3 to 10 people, where the highest number of children is 10 people, and the lowest is 3 people. The largest number of respondents' children are between 4 to 5 people. This condition shows that the number of children who are dependents of the head of the family is quite large. This will make the burden of meeting the needs of the respondent's family quite heavy, and also the large number of family members will also affect spending.

With the heavy burden of needs that must be met and the large amount of expenses that must be borne by a family, they will do any work as long as it does not violate the rules that apply in society, so that there is a balance between expenditure and income. Actually, the larger the number of children, it means that more and more workers are available for the family, but in the village where the research is located, the respondent's children only help with food needs by helping their parents as fishermen, parking attendants, or selling mobile newspapers.

However, according to respondents, they are not too dependent on their children, if they can fulfill their needs through the work their parents do, they do not ask their children to help meet their food needs.

4.2 The Role of Women in Survival Strategies

Based on the results of the study, the survival strategy of subsistence respondents (money) is the survival strategy that is mostly carried out by respondents through borrowing neighbors, borrowing relatives, and looking for additional work. Based on the mode of survival strategy carried out by the respondents, most of them still revolve around the strategy of "closing the hole, digging a hole", so that in a chain it will create a vicious circle. Survival strategies such as: looking for additional work, and the role of women/mothers working, as well as encouraging children to work (who have entered working age) are alternatives that are more productive in nature.

In addition to subsistence strategies to survive, there are survival strategies against the situation and environmental conditions encountered, such as strategies for dealing with natural conditions (floods during the rainy season). In this case, the efforts and roles of women, especially mothers, play a very important role by trying to meet the needs of their families as much as possible (as sufficient as possible).

Subsistence/Money Survival Strategies

The survival strategy used by respondents in dealing with financial problems is by taking debt to their closest family or neighbors.

Table 7. Distribution of Respondents by Subsistence Strategy (Money)

No	The Form of the Strategy Used	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Be Indebted	32	64,00
2.	Sufficient	28	36,00
	Total	50	100,00

From Table 7 it can be concluded that the most common survival strategy used by respondents is debt and the others are sufficient. The reason the respondents chose to be satisfied is because they feel powerless to pay their debts if they owe an uncertain income, so they prefer to fulfill their needs sufficiently by growing vegetables and looking for fish which are directly consumed by themselves.

This is when viewed from the opinion of Coralie and White (1987), the type of strategy based on the socioeconomic status of the household used by the poor in the study area is a survival strategy, namely a strategy to meet the needs of life at a minimum level in order to survive.

Survival Strategy by Changing Consumption Structure

In this strategy the role of women in poor households is very influential. Because in principle the women who manage household finances (both as wives and single parents). The form of changes in consumption carried out is by reducing non-food consumption items or buying consumption materials at lower prices. The reduction was made for expenses, clothing, household appliances and other non-food needs.

The consumption structure is also changed when the prices of materials for consumption needs increase, so respondents tend to choose those with lower prices in the hope of obtaining the same quantity to fulfill their consumption needs. In addition, reducing food and non-food consumption is also a strategy in surviving the urban poor.

Table 8. Distribution of Respondents by Changing Consumption Stucture Strategy

No	The Form of the Strategy Used	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Reducing non-food consumption	28	56,00
2.	Choose the cheaper one	15	30,00
3.	Reduce consumption	7	14,00
	Total	50	100,00

Table 8 shows the pattern of food consumption with a balanced nutritional structure is still a concept and has not been implemented in urban poor households in Meranti Pandak village. According to Markum (2009), the urban poor face various problems such as lack of healthy food because they are limited in buying basic commodities which result in malnutrition, limited clothing, not having a permanent place to live, uninhabitable place to live, not having money for treatment, difficult to access quality education, vulnerable to crime, and discrimination in the legal process.

Survival Strategy Related to Natural Conditions (Flood in the Rainy Season)

Floods in Meranti Pandak Sub-district have regularly occurred every year, according to respondents, when the rainy season arrives, floods will hit the area, and usually it starts in September, October, and peaks in November and December to January every year. In this condition they cannot make a living by trading or fishing in the river. This is due to natural conditions and continuous rain. When the rainy season arrives, the residents in Meranti Pandak will have their access to go out of their usual activities from their area due to flooded roads and difficult to pass. Thus, during the rainy season they must be prepared to face the arrival of these natural conditions.

Respondents generally have a way or strategy to survive in the event of a flood by expecting government and generous assistance. According to Suyanto (2013), there are three ways that poor households can use in dealing with times of crisis, namely: 1) They can tie their belts tighter by eating only once a day and even switching to lower quality food, 2) Using alternative subsistence, meaning self-reliant includes activities to replace the use of 3kg LPG gas with firewood and leftover wood found, work as a handyman, casual laborer, or by migrating to get a job, asking for help from relatives and friends, or taking advantage of a relationship with his protector (patron). and labor (clients).

Poor families who are respondents in Meranti Pandak Sub-district carry out strategies to maintain their survival related to this natural condition, especially with finance/subsistence. The method or strategy used by the respondent in dealing with financial or subsistence problems is by way of debt, and the strategy used in dealing with the natural environment is by the respondent staying at home/on land by not earning a living and not leaving their residential area during the season hoping for assistance. government, private sector and donors.

In principle, households are faced with a basic problem, namely how to meet basic needs. Basic needs are essential needs that as far as possible must be met by a family in order to live properly (Muntiyah and Sukamdi, 1997). In order to survive, food and health are top priorities (Chambers, 1993). The poor seem to prioritize the continuity of food supplies and sources of income, or in other words, a decent and secure life. They tend to propose activities that can provide a source of income.

One of the basic problems that the urban poor must face is how they can survive and survive in the midst of urban society and economic conditions that place high economic and social pressures on their lives. Poverty is a serious problem in the process of regional

economic development. The problem of poverty must be seen as a serious problem by the government because it has a very serious impact on the community. The government should place the problem of poverty as a priority in the development plan.
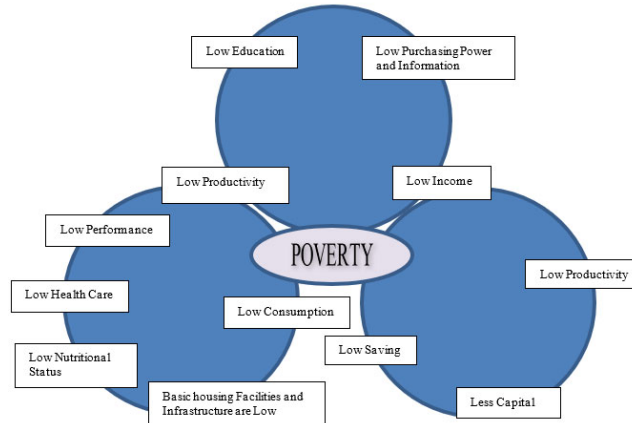

Fig 1. The Vicious Circle of Poverty

The condition of the poor, if not addressed immediately, will become like a vicious circle. The poor will have low incomes, thus affecting the level of savings and small capital. Poor people because of low income, access to education is also low, it will affect skills and work productivity. Poor people are also low on access to health so that health conditions are also vulnerable and will affect productivity levels. The government takes part in cutting the poverty chain from various sides. Starting in terms of health, education and economics so that the vicious circle of poverty can be broken and the problem of poverty can be overcome.

Related to this, the role of women in poor households is very significant in determining to be released from the shackles of poverty. This can be understood because women as housewives and single parents in urban poor households play a role in supporting the family economy and regulating consumption patterns. In fact, it is the backbone of the family in the urban poor household.

Based on the survival strategy of poor households in Meranti Pandak Sub-district as described above, the role of women in poor households is always trying/helping in overcoming economic difficulties and getting out of poverty. The economic activities carried out by women in the study area are relatively limited. Women make efforts to overcome the economic difficulties of their households, among others, by mobilizing their strength to be able to increase household income or income by going to work, taking debt, managing finances so that they are sufficient, regulating consumption structures/patterns; manage the existing shortage conditions in the household to remain able to survive with the existing conditions.

In urban poor households, women's capacity is influenced, among other things, by their level of education and health status. In both fields, there is still a gender gap where the percentage of women with low education is more than double that of men. These data indicate that education for girls is still considered not as important as education for boys.

For the poor, education is not a top priority. And for poor women, education is becoming less of a priority. If a poor family has some education funds left, it is very likely that the limited funds will be used to finance the education of boys. In addition, female child laborers

are often needed to do domestic work (including child care) with their mothers. The problem of population poverty has long been a concern of the central and local governments. In connection with the above conditions, several things that the author can put forward as an effort to overcome the problem of poverty in the Meranti Pandak Sub-district which is a government intervention to accelerate poverty alleviation in this area are:

a. The Decent Housing Program/ Rumah Layak Huni (RLH), is a program for the poor to be able to live in houses that are considered more suitable.
b. Community Empowerment Based on the Rukun Warga/ Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Berbasis - Rukun Warga (PMB-RW), started in 2014 until now, in this program the Pekanbaru City government focuses on reaching direct infrastructure services to the community according to their needs.
c. The Savings and Loans Urban Village Economic Business/ Usaha Ekonomi Kelurahan - Simpan Pinjam (UEK-SP), is an effort to increase public access to non-bank financial institutions for poverty alleviation in the city of Pekanbaru.
d. Family Hope Program/ Program Keluara Harapan (PKH). This program is a very important cash assistance to help poor families. This social protection program aims to improve the quality of life for very poor families, by accessing certain health and education services that have been established for poor families. That way, in the future poor families in Pekanbaru will have no problem getting education and health services.
e. Activating outreach activities for the community, namely providing increased knowledge for the community related to various matters with integration between government, private and volunteer institutions (NGOs).

Related to the above explanation, the failure to achieve a decent standard of living by a person is influenced by multidimensional factors such as insufficient quality of Human Resources (HR), lack of productive opportunities and insufficient social protection. The low quality of human resources is influenced by access to education, health and other services provided by the government. Meanwhile, the lack of productive opportunities is influenced by the low ability and entrepreneurial climate, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Meanwhile, adequate social protection will protect the community from social shocks that can cause a person to fall into poverty when a disaster, illness or economic crisis occurs.

In accordance with Presidential Regulation No. 15 of 2010 concerning the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction, it is stated that poverty reduction programs are activities carried out by the government, local governments, businesses and communities to improve the welfare of the poor through social assistance, community empowerment, empowerment of micro, small and medium-sized businesses. as well as other programs in order to increase economic activity. Thus, the acceleration of poverty reduction is carried out with the following strategies:

a. Reducing the burden of spending on the poor.
b. Improving the ability and income of the poor.
c. Develop and ensure the sustainability of Micro and Small Enterprises.
d. Empowerment of the poor to meet basic needs.
e. Synergize poverty reduction program policies.

4.3 Gender equality in the role of women in the family economy in poor households

Women in everyday life often perform several roles at once, where in a gender perspective, women are considered only managing the household. Nugroho (2011) suggests that the gender role of women in the wider community is to manage the household so that many women carry more and longer domestic workloads than men.

The work that women do is very diverse, ranging from taking care of children, serving husbands, doing household chores, social work in the community to working in the public sector to earn an income. Work, family, and society are thought of by women so as not to interfere with each other. These jobs are carried out alternately in time not just a day, but repeatedly for days. This work is routinely carried out by married women in general. The work that these women do every day is influenced by several factors such as the presence of a husband and number of children, family support for work, as well as status in the family.

According to Flanders in Al-Hibri (2001) working women can be divided into several categories. First, women as single women who have the advantage are not afraid to get pregnant. Second, working women who marry without having children have the advantage of being able to help their husbands work and take care of the household. Third, women have careers as mothers whose career opportunities are open and can increase their role as mothers. Based on the results of the study, the role of women in the economy of poor families is 40% to 100% in widowed mothers.

However, in intact households consisting of husband, wife, and children or other dependents, the role of men is still dominant because women are more likely to carry out domestic activities and often the income generated or the homework done is not calculated economically. This makes the condition where the poorer the household, the wider the inequality and the smaller the role of women in controlling the family economy.

5 Conclusion and Suggestions

The conclusions that can be presented in accordance with the results of the research conducted are as follows:

a. The characteristics of the poor in Meranti Pandak Sub-district are reviewed socio-demographically; classified into the category of productive age, have a low level of education where most of the respondents have junior high school education and below.

b. Characteristics of the poor in Meranti Pandak Sub-District in terms of economy; all respondents work in the informal sector (100%) and most of them are fishermen, traders, and laborers with additional jobs as parking and transport workers as well as goods becak drivers. Respondents' income ranged from Rp. 500,000 to Rp. 2,000,000.00 per household per month with an average number of dependents of 5 people per family. Related to this, with a per capita income of less than IDR 479,944.00 per month (the poverty line of Riau Province per capita per month), the respondent's income is relatively low, not even very sufficient.

c. Urban poor households in Meranti Pandak Sub-district have survival strategies, including subsistence strategies that are always used by respondents to meet basic needs, namely to fulfill their daily needs by borrowing from relatives and neighbors. Then by being satisfied with what is there. Furthermore, changing the consumption structure and regulating consumption patterns by buying necessities at lower prices with quality consequences will also be reduced. Meanwhile, with regard to survival strategies in the face of natural conditions (floods during the rainy season), respondents generally have ways or strategies to survive on land (not looking for fish in rivers) and expect government and generous assistance.

d. The role of women in the economy of poor families is 40% to 100% in widowed mothers the poorer the household, the wider the inequality and the smaller the role of women in family economic control.

The government needs to pay more attention to the conditions of the urban poor in Meranti Pandak Sub-district, Pekanbaru City, such as providing assistance funds for the provision of inadequate drainage facilities, assistance funds for increasing productive businesses, community training related to skills and developing tourist villages in Rumbai Pesisir District so that resources trained humans from Meranti Pandak Sub-district can contribute and increase their income.

The community in Meranti Pandak Sub-district must take better care of the environment and maintain cleanliness and environmental sustainability, as well as help the government cooperate to prevent flood disasters during the rainy season. Women belonging to urban poor households in the Meranti Pandak Sub-district should further increase their role in home industry-based activities and their role in tourism villages developed in Rumbai Pesisir District.

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