# Local Community Economic Independence in The Ex-Prostitution Area: The Effect of Dolly Closure

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Abstract. This paper seeks to explore the economic independence of local community affected by the closure of Dolly prostitution Surabaya. This paper employed qualitative design with case study approach. It took ten people who own and manage Small and Medium Enterprises as the research subject purposively. They were involved since they are the local community around Dolly and affected by the closure of the prostitution. This research was conducted between June and July 2019. The data were obtained through observation, in-depth interview, and documentation. The data were analyzed by employing Miles and Huberman model consisting of three steps: data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusion or verification. The results of the research confirm that most of the local community around Dolly which were affected by the closure of the prostitution indicate an economic independence seen from: (1) the initiative of the local community in developing their business, (2) the satisfaction of the local community from the business they manage after the prostitution closure, (3) the willingness and intention to develop the business, and (4) the beliefs of the local community in developing the business even without the support from the local government. However, this study also confirms that the problem-solving of the local community remains insufficient. Most of them still rely on the government, particularly for the issues of marketing and business place. Thus, as much as 20% of the informants were afraid of the changing of city mayor would impact their business.

Key words: economic independence, affected community, prostitution closure

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# INTRODUCTION

Prostitution is a debatable topic that is discussed because its existence raises pros and cons in society. On the one hand, prostitution has implications for morality, religion and other social values, but on the other hand prostitution is able to provide economic income for those involved in this activity (Sigiyono et al., 2015), (Artosa, 2018). In some countries, prostitution is still considered a legitimate livelihood (Richardson et al., 2009). According to the Intelligence Center (Daulay, 2018) of the 100 independent countries studied showed that most countries legalized prostitution. However, there are still some countries where the government does not legalize prostitution, such as in (Richardson et al., 2009). Prostitution is prohibited and dissolved by the government.

According to the Ministry of Social Affairs data, there are 100 red-light districts in Indonesia with a total number of commercial sex workers of 56,000 (Nurany et al., 2020). In 2019, the government seeks to reduce the number of prostitutes operating. Data in 2014 reported that there was prostitution in 19 provinces in Indonesia. East Java is the province with the highest number of commercial sex workers and prostitution; 7,793 sex workers and the highest

number of prostitutes with 53 places spread across 16 districts/cities (Nurany et al., 2020). Surabaya City is the second metropolitan city after the capital city of Jakarta which has the largest prostitution in Indonesia and even in the Southeast Asia (Dewi et al., 2018).

Gang Dolly is a very well-known and rapidly growing place of prostitution in the Surabaya area (Pradanie et al., 2020). In 2014, a total of 318 guesthouses, cafes and massage parlors operated in the Gang Dolly area and as many as 1449 prostitutes offered prostitution services (Candraningrum, 2020). Therefore there was a prostitution transaction between prostitutes and visitors through intermediaries of pimps in the complex. In addition to prostitution transactions, several other economic transactions occur in the area such as laundry businesses, home rental for guesthouses or cafes, parking services, food and beverage businesses, and even drugs businesses (Nurany et al., 2020). Therefore the business of prostitution is a linking chain that does not only involve commercial sex workers and pimps, but the entire community around them (Mbaiwa, 2005). According to Kompas daily calculations (Faizal, 2014) in a day the money that rotates in this region reaches Rp. 300 million to Rp. 500 million (\$ 25,000 - \$ 42,000). The money is mostly enjoyed by street vendors around the location, taxi drivers and motorcycle taxi drivers. The sex workers earn Rp. 10 million - Rp. 13 million per month (\$ 850 - \$ 1,100) (Faizal, 2014). According to the findings of Andriyani & Mar'iyah (2019) the money flowing in Dolly for one night reached Rp. 1 billion. Therefore, prostitutes, pimps and Dolly's community object to the closure of Dolly's prostitution.

The Surabaya City Government with ethical, social and juridical considerations must close the prostitution. Because the negative impact of the Gang Dolly prostitution occurs mostly in children (Pujhana & Lestari, 2021). Gang Dolly Prostitution provides limited space for children to play and interact, because at certain times children are limited to going out of the house so they are not exposed to prostitution transactions (Wicaksono et al., 2020). In addition, according to the Surabaya City Government the practice of prostitution in the Gang Dolly has an impact on social problems, including: (1) trafficking; (2) drugs abuse; (3) alcohol abuse; (4) rape/sexual abuse towards children; (5) domestic violence; (3) fraud, embezzlement, mugging; (7) spread of HIV/AIDS (Wismayanti, 2017).

The juridical basis for closing gang Dolly prostitution is the Surabaya City Regulation number 6 of 2013 which confirms that the government prohibits immoral acts and uses a building as an immoral practice in Surabaya (Andriyani, 2017).

The closure was also based on Law Number 32 of 2004 which was later renewed in Law Number 23 of 2014 which states: "Surabaya city government has the right and authority to regulate self-government in addition to nine matters handled by the center". The law is also supported by the Circular of East Java Governor Number 460/16474/031/2010 dated 30 November 2010 concerning the prevention and control of prostitution and the woman trafficking. In the circular letter the Governor of East Java ordered the mayor or regent to close all prostitution (Amalia, 2018).

There are reasons for the closure of prostitution in Surabay. First, the location of prostitution that exist around the local community. Second, the regional regulations which strictly prohibit human trafficking. Third, the social impact of children living around prostitution (Ati et al., 2020). Consequently, on June 18, 2014 the Surabaya City Government officially closed Gang Dolly prostitution (Roosinda & Rachman, 2021). Primarily, it aimed at protecting children from the negative influence of prostitution activities in Gang Dolly. In addition, it intended to humanize the commercial sex workers in Gang Dolly as well as the local community by providing an

alternative profession (Budiraharso, 2014); (Gea, 2002).

Every government policy is expected to be accepted by all elements of society, but there are some policies opposed by some people when their interests and rights are not accommodated (Hendriquez, Ace, E., dan Hartati, Lisa, 2016), including the Gang Dolly prostitution closure policy. According to Daulay (2018) there are three forms of opposition, namely open, symbolic, and confidential. The opposition was understandable because the closure of Dolly prostitution had a major impact on the economic and social conditions of the local community, especially in the local community in Putat Jaya. The Surabaya City Government requested contributions from many stakeholders including academics to revitalize the social and economic conditions of the community after the closure.

Some efforts to empower affected communities from the closure of Gang Dolly prostitution have been carried out to improve the economy and the social conditions of the people (Azhar, 2021). The Surabaya City Government has purchased several guesthouses in Dolly that have been converted into handicraft production houses and plan to make the former prostitution area one of the largest centers of MSMEs in Surabaya. This is seen from the potential of the Dolly area because there is a densely populated area so that there are no difficulties in terms of human resources.

The Surabaya City Government also provides initial capital for them on average Rp. 5,000,000/person. In addition, the government also provides entrepreneurship skills training involving various related agencies, assists the marketing both within Surabaya and outside Surabaya, provides stands at malls, and engages them in exhibition (Anita, 2015); (Alifuddin, 2017).

Up to now there have been around 42 groups of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), they are: Puja Dodol (Food), Puja Clean (Dishes Soap), Canting (Batik Tulis), Surya Jarak Arum (Batik Tulis), Warna Ayu (Kain Iket), Punten (Pecel). Puia Cemerlang (Soap), Berlian (Food), Kamboja Putih (Food), Dully Kikis (Cookies), Karpuja (Food), Puja Mandiri (Nugget), Mentari Jaya (Cookies), Puja Kriuk (Food), TBM Kawan Kami (Fried Onions, Cookies), Cahaya Kremes (Food), Mekarsari (Cookies), Puja Eco (Food), Dampak 1 (Noodle), Dampak 2 (Rawon), Dampak 3 (Cheese Banana), Dampak 4 (Crispy Mushroom), Pita Dolly (ribbon embroidery), Delta S (Soap), Puja Melati (Sandal's sewing), Puja Pelangi (Batik Iket), Puja Bar (Batik Tulis), Samijali (Samiler Chips), KUB Mampu Jaya (Footwear), Bandeng Presto (Bandeng Fish), Inokam (Seaweed Beverages), Crem Western (Fashion Style), Aneka Rasa (Bandeng and Beverages), Simo (Chocolate Cake), Bang Jarwo (*Tempe*), Snack Buni (Juices Beverage), Cool Yes (instant traditional beverage), Santura (Tuna Spices), Puja (Salted egg), Orumy (seaweed porridge and beverages), Cak Mimin (sweet *rujak*), dan Alpujabar (*Batik Tulis*) (Handoyo et al., 2020).

The development of SMEs in former Dolly prostitution reflects that the City Government's empowerment program to the communities affected by the closure of prostitution was successful. This was confirmed by the findings of Sudarmo (2018) who found that the empowerment program for the local residents around Gang Dolly affected by the closure of prostitution seemed to succeed. However, the program is still redundant because it depends entirely on the policies made by the current city mayor. Therefore, their future is still at risk when there is a change of city mayor. This concern will not occur if they have economic independence.

Spencer (Muttaqin, 2016); (Field, 2001) mentions that the characteristics of independence are: (1) able to take the initiative; (2) able to overcome problems; (3) full of perseverance; (4) obtain satisfaction from their business. While Lindzery and Aronson: (1) relatively rarely ask for the protection of others; (2) show initiative and strive for achievement; (3) showing self-confidence; (4) always want to stand out (Rofiq, Romdin A., 2005). This study aims to describe the economic independence of the people affected by the closure of Dolly Surabaya prostitution.

Even though there is a change in the mayor of Surabaya, if the community has economic independence, then their business will continue to grow and not depend on the Surabaya City Government anymore. Conversely, if they continue to rely on the Surabaya City Government, both the skills, the market, and the place of business, then the sustainability of their business will be threatened when there is a change of mayor and regulations.

# **METHODS**

This paper employed qualitative approach with a case study design. Case study is employed to observe comprehensively certain phenomena. According to Syaodih (2011) case study is a study conducted on a unitary system in the form of programs, activities, events or groups of individuals bound by a certain place, time or bond. This research is directed to collect data, take meaning, and gain understanding from cases, in this context is an economic

independence of local community within exprostitution area in Dolly.

Ten people who run and manage MSME were taken as informants purposively. The informants are a native of the Dolly region affected by the closure of Dolly prostitution. Data was collected in June to July 2019 using observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Data were analyzed using interactive models Miles, M.B, Huberman, A.M, dan Saldana (2014) with three steps: First, condensation of data, second, presenting data, and third, drawing conclusions or verification. Data condensation refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### **Informant's Characteristics**

**Table 1.** Informant's Characteristics

Tubic II	Position	Characterist	Year UKM
	_		
	in	ъ.	was found-
<b>~</b> .	MSME	Previous	ed, initia-
Busi-	and The	Occupa-	tion, Busi-
ness	Number	tion and	ness &
	of Busi-	Income	Income
	ness		(Rp./month
	Member		)
Tempe	Chief	Selling	2014 self-
Bang	15	coffee	initiated
Jarwo	mem-	and	Tempe or
	bers	snacks	processed
		around	food from
		the guest-	tempe
		house (8	32.000.000,
		years)	-
		5.000.000	
Kawan	Chief	Daily	2016
Kami	5 mem-	good	Food (ca-
	bers	store	tering),
		around	fried on-
		Dolly	ions, and
		5.500.000	cookies.
			3.500.000,-
Orumy	Member	Pimps for	2016, self-
_	5, 2 ex-	7 years	initiated
	pimps	4.500.000	Seaweed
	- *	,-	beverages
			and por-
			ridge
			5.000.000,-
Pujaa	Chief	Security	12 Juli
Ü	40	of Dolly	2016 self-
	mem-	2.000.000	initiated
	bers		Salted egg

			and any
			food from
			salted egg
			2.500.000,-
Batik	Chief	Laundry	2019, self-
Tulis	9 mem-	business	initiated
Jarak	bers	and cloth	Batik tulis
Arum		store	35.000.000,
		7.000.000	_
Cak	Chief/	Factory	2017, self-
Mimin	owner	employee	initiated
	5 mem-	and Rujak	Sweet rujak
	bers	seller	seasoning
		7.000.000	70.000.000,
			-
Al-	Chief	Food Stall	2014 self-
pujabar	1 mem-	(Snack) in	initiated
	bers6	Dolly	Batik tulis
	employ-	Karaoke	2.500.000,-
	ee	5.000.000	
KUB	Chief	Clothing	Oktober
Матри	18	business	2015 self-
Jaya	mem-	for the	initiated
	bers	Sex	Sepatu dan
		Workers	alaskaki
		around	12.000.000,
		Dolly	_
		4.000.000	
Bamego	Chief	Beauty	September
r	2 mem-	parlor	2018 self-
(Bawan	bers	employee	initiated
g Me-		2.000.000	5.000.000,-
rah		,-	
Goreng			
)			
Arif	Chief	Fringe	2015 self-
Sablon	30	parking	initiated
	mem-	operator	5.000.000,-
	bers	2.500.000	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

According to Table 1, it can be explained as follows:

- a) Based on the occupation background of the informants, the entire informants were impacted by the closure of Dolly prostitution
- b) Based on the establishment of MSME, the entire informants initiated their business independently without any assistance from the external stakeholders (including local government of Surabaya). It further signifies an economic independence.
- c) Based on the income, 80% of the informants obtain higher profit recently rather than before (when Dolly prostitution still operated). While the rest of informants as many as 20%, still

obtain lower profit. It further signifies that social empowerment program is successfull in improving local community of Dolly.

# **Local Government Support and Business Satisfaction**

**Table 2**. Local Government Support and Business Satisfaction

Satisfaction					
Governm	ent Suppor			Satis-	
Intial	Training	Market-	Other	fication	
Capital		ing			
(Rp.)					
5.000.0	-	Order	Grind-	Satisfied	
00,-		demand	ing	and will-	
,		and	machine	ing to	
		Exhibi-	and 300	improve	
		tion	kilo-	more	
		tion	grams	more	
			soybean		
5.000.0	De-	Order	-	Not yet	
		demand	-	Not yet	
00,-	perindag PT Bo-				
		and			
	gasari	Exhibi-			
<b>7</b> 000 0	0.00	tion	999	0 1 2 1	
5.000.0	Office	New	SCG	Satisfied	
00,-	of In-	market	Maga-	and will-	
	dustry	channel	zine	ing to	
			(Publi-	improve	
			cation)	more	
5.000.0	Office	Promo-	SCG	Satisfied	
00,-	of In-	tion	Maga-	and will-	
	dustry		zine	ing to	
			(Publi-	improve	
			cation)	more	
10.000.	Office	Exhibi-	Finan-	Satisfied	
000,-	of In-	tion and	cial	and will-	
	dustry	selling	capital	ing to	
	J	place	from	improve	
			Office	more	
			of In-		
			dustry		
5.000.0	Office	Exhibi-	Place	Satisfied	
00,-	of In-		for sell-	and will-	
00,-	dustry	uon	ing	ing to	
	ausu y		mg	improve	
				•	
5,000,0	Office	Online		more Not Vot	
5.000.0	Office	Online	-	Not Yet	
00,-	of So-	ma-			
	cial	rekting			
	Affair	and			
	and	exhibi-			
	Office	tion			
	of In-				
	dustry				
			-		

5.000.0 00,-	Office of Social Affair, Office of Market and Trade and Office of Industry	Exhibi- tion	Place for sell- ing	Not yet, pursuing for product patent
5.000.0 00,-	-	Online ma- rekting and exhibi- tion	-	Not yet, intend- ing to create more varied product
5.000.0 00	Office of Social Affair, Office of Market and Trade and Office of Industry	Order demand and online market- ing	Access for li- censing	Not yet

According to Table 2, it can be explained as follows:

- a. The entire informants obtained around 5,000,000.00-10,000,000.00 by the local government of Surabaya as financial capital
- b. 80% of the informants were trained by the local government of Surabaya based on the businesses they manage. While, the rest of 20% did not obtain training support since they do not need (BJ who manages food business from tempe, and BY who manages fried onions business)
- c. The entire informants were supported by the local government of Surabaya in terms of marketing. The supports include exhibition opportunity, supply of demand, market opportunity, and online and printed media promotion.
- d. Several informants also obtained supplementary support such as 300 kilograms soybean and grinding machine for BJ; business capital and business place support from Ministry of Industry for CM business; and KUB business obtained business place support from city government.

e. Based on the business satisfaction recently, 80% of the informants have been satisfied with the business and intend to develop more. While, the rest of 20% have not been satisfied with the income they obtained and considered that they obtained better before the closure of Dolly.

# The Effort in Solving Problem, Accomplishing Better Achievement, Developing MSME, Effort to be Developed

**Table 3**. The Effort in Solving Problem, Accomplishing Better Achievement, Developing MSME, Effort to be Developed

			Belief on
Effort Tak-		MSME De-	MSME De-
en for Issues	ment	velopment	velopment
Encountered	Intention	Reason	without Gov.
			Support
Ask for	Yes	Due to tight	Sure
government		competition	
support			
Report to	Yes,	For family	Sure
the local	need to	income and	
government	learn	help the local	
support	more	community	
**	how to	•	
	develop		
	the		
	business		
Initially ask	Yes	For family	Sure
for support.		income and	
Currently		help the local	
do not ask		community	
for support			
			~ 4
	Yes	For empow-	Sure (by
Only ask for	Yes	For empowering the	` •
Only ask for support in	Yes	ering the	widening the
Only ask for support in terms of	Yes	ering the local com-	` •
Only ask for support in terms of marketing		ering the local community	widening the connection)
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a	Yes	ering the local community  To be one of	widening the
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and		ering the local community  To be one of the popular	widening the connection)
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a		ering the local community  To be one of	widening the connection)
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive		ering the local community  To be one of the popular	widening the connection)
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so		ering the local community  To be one of the popular	widening the connection)
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far	Yes	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help	Yes Yes, we	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empow-	widening the connection)
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to	Yes, we intend to	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to government	Yes, we intend to develop	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the local com-	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to government and	Yes, we intend to develop the	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to government and managed by	Yes, we intend to develop	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the local com-	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to government and managed by himself	Yes, we intend to develop the business	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the local community	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to government and managed by himself  Government	Yes, we intend to develop the business	ring the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the local community  Motivation	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to government and managed by himself  Government support, but	Yes, we intend to develop the business  Yes, until I	ering the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the local community	widening the connection)  Sure
Only ask for support in terms of marketing  Ask for a help and obtained a positive response so far  Ask for help to government and managed by himself  Government	Yes, we intend to develop the business	ring the local community  To be one of the popular Batik store  For empowering the local community  Motivation	widening the connection)  Sure

change, the support will	Surabaya signature		
be revoked	Batik		
Government support, but worry if the city mayor change, the support will be revoked	intend to develop the	ernment	Sure
Managed by himself		Flexible time in managing the business	Sure
Managed by himself	Yes, we intend to develop the business	•	Sure

According to Table 3, it can be explained as follows:

- a. 80% of the informants asked the local government for supporting their business. The local government positively responded to the demand. While the rest of 20% took over their own problem. Two informants worried about the changing of City Major would impact on the support of local government. This findings further signify a dependence of the informants.
- b. Based on the willingness to achieve, the entire informants aim at achieving higher profit and development of their business. It further signifies an independence of the informants in developing their business.
- c. Based on the motivation of developing MSME, the informants provided various responses, as follows: (1) the tight competition; (2) the responsibility to feed the family; (3) the purpose of empowering the local community after the closure of prostitution; (4) the motivation to develop; (5) the motivation to keep learning producing Batik; (6) the support of local government; and (7) the business can be managed while managing the household.
- d. Based on the informants' beliefs, all informants believed that the business will be run and developed even without the support of local government. This signifies the economic independence of the informants.

Based on the data description, in general the community around Dolly affected by the closure of prostitution has economic independence, which is reviewed from: (1) informants' initiative to develop businesses; (2) informants' satisfaction with their business because current income is much better; (3) a strong desire to develop; and (4) informants' confidence to expand its business even without government assistance (Lengkong et al., 2016); (Mara, 2018). The ability to overcome problems independently is lacking (Goger et al., 2020). They are still very dependent on the local government, especially marketing and business Informants often report to the government when they encounter problems. Thus, as much as 20% of the informants worried if the current city mayor of Surabaya is no longer has the authority, the support to their business will also be terminated (Suwanda, 2021). This is in line the findings of Sudarmo (2018) who found that the empowerment program for the local residents around Gang Dolly affected by the closure of prostitution seemed to succeed. However, the program is still redundant because it depends entirely on the policies made by the current city mayor. Therefore, their future is still at risk when there is a change of city mayor. This concern will not occur if they have economic independence.

The findings above are in line with Priambodo (Djazimah, 2004) who states conceptually that economic independence consists of five parameters, that is: (1) businesses or jobs that are managed economically; (2) a person's confidence in carrying out economic activities; (3) passionate in performing the business; (4) dare to take risks in economic activities; (5) economically free from other people/institutions.

In addition, the findings confirm that the informants were free to chose their own businesses. According to Hill and Holmbeck (Grusec & Kuczynski, 1997); (Astra & Henukh, 2021), the informants have decided their own definition of independence. They understand what path they want to take in terms of business management and how to maintain connection to the related stakeholders, such as the local government of Surabaya and consumers.

The findings of this study are also supported by the opinion of Burnadib (Mu'tadin, 2002); (Desmita, 2010) who defines independence as a condition when person has a desire to compete for progress, is able to take decisions and initiatives to overcome the problems encountered, has confidence in doing his job, and is responsible for what it does. This findings reported that the informants have a strong willingness in developing their businesses for the sake of their family. They are able to take any important decision in their businesses eventhough at first, they were supported the the local government of Surabaya.

This finding is also in line with the characteristics of independence according to Spencer (Muttaqin, 2016): (1) having initiative; (2) able to overcome problems; (3) persevering; (4) satisfied with what was achieved. In line with the opinion of Lindzery and Aronson (Rofiq, Romdin A., 2005); (Voitovska, 2019) which says that the characteristics of a person's independence: (1) shows initiative and seeks to pursue achievement; (2) showing self-confidence; (3) aiming of an outstanding result. this study did not confirm that the informants relatively ask for protection/help from others.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the data description, in general the community around Dolly affected by the closure of prostitution has economic independence, which is reviewed from: (1) informants' initiative to develop businesses; (2) informants' satisfaction with their business because current income is much better; (3) a strong desire to develop; and (4) informants' confidence to expand its business even without government assistance. However, the ability to overcome problems independently is lacking. They are still very dependent on the local government, especially marketing and business matters. Informants often report to the government when they encounter problems. Thus, as much as 20% of the informants worried if the current city mayor of Surabaya is no longer has the authority, the support to their business will also be terminated.

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