

Social Action of Street Children to Sustain Their Life in Pati Regency

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Abstract

The number of street children in Pati Regency is always increasing every year. The existence of street children who choose to live free from parental supervision, make them have to work every day in order to survive. This study aims to analyze the social actions of street children to survive in Pati Regency. The focus of this research includes the type of street children's work, work patterns, income amount, and experience during being street children. This research uses qualitative approach. The results showed that street children in Pati Regency chose singing on the streets as their main profession. They sing on 8 – 10 hours in groups or by themselves. Average amount of income Rp 75,000.00 every day. The experience felt by street children is having the freedom to determine life, getting hit by a vehicle while working, and is considered a public bully. The findings of this study are that all actions performed by street children for survival can be categorized into Max Weber's social action theory. The benefits of this research findings can be used as reference for the preparation of strategic steps for the Government in solving the problem of street children.

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INTRODUCTION

Street children are children who spend most of their time on the streets. The UN explains that street children are children who spend most of their time on the streets for work, play, or other activities. Street children live on the streets for being dumped or dumped from families who are unable to bear the burden because of the poverty and destruction of their families (Jamaludin, 2015). Street children who choose to live apart from their parents must have a strategy to survive.

Research on survival strategies conducted by Sunarjan (2017) explained that survival efforts can be done through IMAO (Improvise, Modify, Adapt, and Overcome). This strategy is done by the Social Service of Salt and Yeast Society, Semarang, and applied to urban poor communities to live in the Brintik Hill Graveyard, Semarang. Improvisation is done to examine the various efforts that can be done by the target community. Modify is done by giving learning aid to the children of poor families. Adapt referred to in the research is the ability of poor communities to adapt to the conditions that have been created by Social Services. Overcome is done by working together with other foundations so that problems that arise can be resolved so that poverty circle in urban poor communities to live in the Brintik Hill Graveyard can be decided.

Research by Lubis (2016), Yuniarti (2012), and Suhartini (2009) on street children's strategy in survival focused on jobs chosen by street children. The job is to be singers, hawkers, newspaper sellers, and scavengers. In general, where they do their activities is in the red light crossroads of the city's main roads, tourist attractions, and shopping areas. The phenomenon of street children today is not only happening in metropolitan cities only. But also has spread in small towns like Pati Regency. Tukirin as Staff of Social Rehabilitation Service of Social Service of Pati Regency stated that the cause of increasing street children in Pati Regency has many factors, one of them is social gap. In addition, a number of practical factors that also play a role include the pressure of

parents, the high level of child frustration, lack of attention from the family, and the desire to try new things. Initially street children do not jump in and just plunge in the streets. They usually experience a gradual learning process.

Suyanto (2013) describes the process of a child taking to the streets, that is, they first run from home, a day to a week back, then run again for two weeks or three months, until finally actually run off for a year and two years. Once on the streets of the second stage process that must pass by street children is initiation. Usually for new street children they will become the object of more mature street children. Their relatively good items will be forcibly taken. In addition, they will also be beaten by fellow street children who have already lived on the streets.

The analysis in this study refers to Max Weber's theory of social action. Weber's view of acting rationally is acting on the knowledge of the forces that influence one's behavior (Ritzer, 2014). The four types of social action in Max Weber's theory are *Zweckrational* (instrumental rational action), *wertrational* (value-oriented rationale), affective actions and traditional actions. *Zweckrational* deals with purpose, *wertrational* with regard to values, affective actions intersect with emotions, and traditional actions relate to a habit that has become a shared and shared value system. The four types will be used to analyze the results of this study.

Based on the facts that have been presented, this study aims to analyze the social actions of street children in maintaining life in Pati Regency. Social action can be seen from the type of work, work patterns, amount of income, and experience during a street child.

METHODS

This research uses qualitative approach. This research was conducted in Pati Regency, Central Java Province. Selection of Pati Regency as the location of research because street children phenomenon increase in fluctuation in the last 5 years. The main data source in this research is the result of interview with 5 street children as main informant and reality experienced in the field,

such as when street children gather and work on the street. The focus of this research are: (1) job type, (2) work pattern, (3) amount of income, and (4) experience during being street child. Informant determination technique in this research is snowball sampling. The use of snowball sampling because researchers do not know much about the study population. Researchers only know a few informants who can be key informant, then ask them to show others who can be used as informants next. Data collection techniques were conducted through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation studies. Technique examination of data validity in this research use triangulation technique of source, triangulation method, and triangulation theory. Triangulation of source is to do data comparing by one informant with another informant. Triangulation method is to check data by comparing the result of interview, observation, and documentation study. While triangulation theory that is study result of research is based on Max Weber social action theory.

Data analysis in this research using Spreadley model analysis techniques, including domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, comparative analysis, and cultural theme analysis. Domain analysis is done by observation and interview to source of support, such as Social Service of Pati Regency, to get the general picture

and various information but not deep about the existence of street children in Pati Regency. Taxonomic analysis to analyze the overall data collected based on predefined domains and attempt to understand specific domains according to the focus of the study. Compensial analysis is done by selecting data, which sought is not similarity but difference owned. Meanwhile, the analysis of cultural themes seeks to find a common thread that integrates the existing cross domain with the way data management is guided by Max Weber's social action theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Occupation of Street Children

The street child survival strategy in this study is related to the type of work. The work done by street children will affect the income that will be used to meet daily needs. In this study, the five informants have the same work as a street singer. Informant singing is divided in two places, traffic light in front of Sport Centre Pesantenan Pati and traffic light of South Ring Road, exactly opposite Gas Station Tanjung. Some of the informants used ukulele when singing while others were using only applause. The use of ukulele when singing perceived informant can increase income.

Table 1. Occupation of Street Children

Indicators	Types of social action of street children	Explanation
Work	Singing	Singing is done in groups/independent. Singing with ukulele
Singing	Choose a crowded place with a vehicle	Traffic Light Crossroads (South Ring Road Pati Regency), Traffic
Location	but skimpy thugs	Light Crossroads Sport Centre Pesantenan Pati

Source: Research data, 2017

The findings of this study are similar to those of Puruhita (2016), Lusk (2015), Namwata (2012) and Suyatna (2011) which illustrate that street children choose singing on the streets as their work. The informant undertook various strategies to earn more money when singing. Alda, Sandi, Sahal, and Rizki chose to sing in groups in order not too tired and make more money. While Sandi choose singing alone. The five informants claimed to choose a strategic location crowded by many vehicles. The location

is the main road Pati Regency and South Ring Road. Street children are just singing at crossroads, not entering city bus or inter-provincial bus. Because every buskers have their own territory. The five informants are aware that every human being has a sustenance from God, so they do not want to compete with other areas that can trigger street children conflict.

Work Patterns of Street Children

The survival strategy is then linked to the work pattern performed by street children. The pattern of work includes activities of street children while working and activities of street children during not working.

The five informants said they have about 8-10 hours of work every day. This is done when

the weather is clear and they feel that they are not lazy. When the weather is raining or they feel that they have not needed the money, the five informants chose not to sing. Their time is spent lounging with fellow street children or walking into the city looking for entertainment like playing games at internet cafes.

Table 2. Work Pattern of Street Children

Indicators	Types of social action of street children	Explanation
Activity when working	Singing with a span of 8 – 10 hours every day	If the informant is singing in the morning and feeling tired, they will rest. Then continued again when afternoon until evening. The five informants claimed to have no specific benchmark in starting or stopping work.
Activity when not working	Spending time with friends as entertainment	While not working, informants choose to spend time with friends of street children. Practice singing the latest songs, stroll into town for entertainment, or go to internet cafes to play games or facebook.

Source: Research data, 2017

Activities of street children who became the findings of this study the same as research from Hidayati (2012). The difference from this research is that there is no guidance from private foundations or government for street children on a regular basis. So that more street children use their spare time to find entertainment. When it is not working, the five informants choose to sit back and talk, walk to town square, or go to internet cafe. Internet cafes are the most exciting place to find entertainment. Street children are in the internet cafe to play games, upload status on facebook, open youtube to see the latest songs. The songs are then learned in order to be played while they are at work. By singing a song of great interest to the public then the income they generate will increase.

Pati district government currently does not have a shelter as a place for street children. Therefore, street children in Pati are prone to exploitation from adults around them. As well as research from Rochatun (2012) and Yuniarti (2012) which describes the forms of exploitation of street children include acts of violence when working, sexual harassment, and intimidation. Informants claimed to often confess often experience intimidation from thugs. Intimidation is done by robbing the results of singing obtained street children. Government as a stakeholder should provide guidance and protection for street children. Guidance on street children is needed so that they have the ability and skills. Such skills

can be used to open new businesses with higher incomes. Until the living standards of street children have increased. Previous research conducted by Sunarjan (2017), Banowati (2014), Handoyo (2012), Munandar (2010), shows that the government's role in guiding poverty alleviation can be done by providing social capital in the form of skills and easy access to financial institutions.

The Amount of Street Children's Income

The amount of street children's income in this study is related to the amount of money earned each day and its utilization in daily life. In the span of 8 – 10 hours every day, street children are able to make money on average Rp 75,000.00. The money that the informants get from the singing results is used to meet their daily needs. If these needs are not fulfilled, they will be indebted to other street children or rice stalls who already know them.

Money generated by street children is not necessarily used entirely to meet daily needs. But there are street children who deliberately set aside some of their income to be sent to parents. Sandi and Rizki tried to save in order to help their parents send their siblings to school. Sandi and Rizki become street children so as not to burden the parents at home. While informants claim spend the money they can to eat, buy cigarettes, and finding entertainment. The five informants

said that if they do not have money at all choose to owe to their fellow friends or people who are known rather than steal or robbing others.

Sandi and Rizki are informants who still have good relationship with family. When they

have more income, they do not forget to give to the parents. Poor family life, left to marry again by the father, and the mother who only works as a laborer, making Sandi and Rizki should help the family economy.

Table 3. The Amount of Street Children's Income

Indicators	Types of social action of street children	Explanation
Amount of income	Earn money in a day: If the weather is sunny the average income is Rp 75.000,00. If the day is crowded like the Lebaran season, income increases to Rp 100.000,00 If the day is sepi tau rainy weather all day, the income is only Rp 10.000,00	The income from the five informants was generated by singing in the span of 6 - 10 hours. If they are lazy to sing or dismiss themselves, then in a day they have no income at all.
Utilization of income	Saved, to buy food, buy cigarettes, buy other necessary necessities, and seek entertainment.	Of the five informants who set aside some of their money to save only Sandi and Rizki. Because the money they set aside will be used to send their parents at home. While other informants claimed the money earned was spent on food, cigarettes, other needs, and entertainment.

Source: Research data 2017

In a study conducted by Alimi (2011), Wahyu (2012), Chusniyah (2015), and Masrukhi (2016) indicate that the role of family is very important in supporting the fulfillment of household needs. The kinship association serves as a medium of cooperation and help-in dealing with problems facing the family.

Experience During Being a Street Child

The experience of being a street child is divided into two categories. A pleasant experience and an unpleasant experience. Street children face various situations and conditions while on the road.

Table 4. Experience During Street Children

Indicators	Types of social action of street children	Explanation
Nice experience	The five informants claimed to have a pleasant experience that makes them happy to be street children that is about friendship and solidarity.	While there are experiencing distress like being sick, then friends - fellow street children sincerely will care for until healed. If they run out of money to buy cigarettes or eat, they will share.
Unpleasant experience	Experiencing theft, almost getting hit by a vehicle, and feeling hungry for not having any money.	Sandi has an unpleasant experience of losing a lot of money when he wants to send to his Mother. Kuprit, Sahal, and Rizki have almost the same experience that is almost hit by a passing vehicle. Different from the others, Alda the only female street girl informant claimed to have an unpleasant experience when having menstrual cycles. In addition she never had no money to buy sanitary napkins. The five informants admitted to having the worst experience when they did not have money, the rainy weather all day, they were singing little result, if not singing cannot eat.

Source: Research data, 2017

Despite having many unpleasant experiences and even endanger his life, the five informants claimed to have no desire to stop being street children and return home with the family. They enjoy the freedom and happiness of being street children. They say three or five more years will think about switching professions or resume education by following the program chase package from the Government. The findings of this study are similar to the research conducted by Arsal (2015), Krisnaningrum (2017), and Fu'adah (2017), which mentions adolescent self-

interpersonal conflict where there is a desire to live by family rules, and other encouragement to be free from bridle family rules.

Implementation of Max Weber's Social Action Theory in The Street Child's Defensive Strategy

The results of the strategy of street children survival when analyzed by Max Weber's social action theory (1864-1920) have similarities. Based on the findings in the field the actions taken by street children can be categorized as social actions with the following classification.

Table 5. Implementation of Max Weber's Social Action Theory in the Street Child's Defensive Strategy

Types of social action of street children	Max weber's social action theory (1864-1920)	Explanation
Working as a street singer using ukulele	Zweckrationalitat (instrumental rationality acts).	Singing is an act done by street children to attract other people's attention in order to give money Singing in a crowded place with the goal of earning more income
Work independently/in groups by choosing crowded locations	Zweckrationalitat (instrumental rationality acts)	By mastering the latest song people will be more happy to listen to it and give more money
Practice singing the latest songs through youtube	Zweckrationalitat (instrumental rationality acts)	Street children do this to get fun without thinking about the impact
Use free time when not working to smoke, drinking, walking.	Affective action	Street children still prioritize social values.
Helping others who are experiencing distress, does not cause unrest. If they do not have money to eat, street children choose to owe rather than steal or robbing.	Wetrationalitat (rational value)	This action is done because it has existed since the time of the ancestors. For street children, going back home when Lebaran is important. Because it can stay in touch with the family.
Back home every Idul Fitri holiday	Traditional action	

Source: Research data, 2017

Based on the above table, it can be concluded that there is no gap between reality encountered in the field with Max Weber's social action theory. The field findings from this study are all actions taken by street children in survival. Thus the position of the researcher accepted the theory of social action Max Weber. Street children do various activities to sustain their lives, can be included in the category of social action because their actions are visible or invisible, outwardly or inwardly directed to others.

CONCLUSION

Street children choose to live independently far from the guardianship and protection of parents must have had their own ways in order to survive. They choose singing with a span of 8 – 10 hours each day to be able to meet daily needs. To support the performance when singing, they use the ukulele and sing new songs that people in demand. The money they make is used to buy food, drink, cigarettes, and other necessities. Many experiences likes and grief that has been felt by street children. Nevertheless until now they do not want to go back home and live with family. For the five informants, living as street children is their current terrain.

Suggestion given to related party about social action of street children in maintaining life in Pati Regency. For the family should give more

attention and affection to the child so that they feel comfortable, safe, and protected to be at home. For the people of Pati do not always look negatively to the existence of street children. For the Government of Pati Regency should immediately build a shelter house to facilitate the guidance of street children.

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