

The Effect of Public Facilities on the Quality of Life in the Simarito Slum in Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the Influence of Public Facilities on the Quality of Life in the Simarito Slum in Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City. Qualitative research methods aim to understand social phenomena from the perspective of the individuals involved and focus on the context and meaning behind their experiences. In this study, interviews can be conducted with local residents to understand their experiences regarding public facilities and their impact on quality of life. The qualitative research method described above aims to understand the influence of public facilities on the quality of life of people in the Simarito slum. Research results Overall, public facilities have a crucial role in improving the quality of life of the community in the Simarito Slum Area. While the challenges in their provision and maintenance are quite complex, collaborative efforts between governments, communities, and other stakeholders can lead to significant improvements. This research shows that to achieve a sustainable improvement in the quality of life of the community, it is important to integrate the community's perspective in every stage of planning and maintenance of public facilities.

Keywords: Public Facilities, Quality of Life and Simarito Slum

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1. INTRODUCTION

Slum areas in Indonesia are a big challenge in urban development, including in the city of Pematang Siantar. One of the areas that still faces the problem of slums is Simarito Village, West Siantar District. This condition is reflected in the lack of access to adequate public facilities, such as clean water, sanitation, road infrastructure, and health facilities. Public facilities have an important role in creating a livable environment and improving the quality of life of residents in slums. In the Simarito area, various problems still occur such as limited access to clean water, poor drainage systems, and inadequate infrastructure. This condition affects the health, education level, security, and social welfare of the community. The existing problems require serious attention, because without the improvement of public facilities, the quality of life of people in slums will not experience significant changes. Seeing the importance of improving public facilities, this study aims to examine how existing public facilities, or their shortcomings, affect the quality of life of people in the Simarito slum. By understanding the influence of public facilities, targeted improvement efforts can be planned to improve the quality of life of the people in this region.

Pematang Siantar City, especially in Simarito Village, West Siantar District, is inseparable from the significant slum problems. One of the factors that greatly affects the quality of life of people in this region is the availability and condition of public facilities. Public facilities such as clean water, sanitation, road infrastructure, health facilities, and education have a crucial role in determining the quality of life. In the Simarito slum area, various obstacles are often encountered, such as limited access to clean water, inadequate sanitation systems, and poor road infrastructure. This condition has a direct impact on various aspects of people's lives, including health, education, security, and economic welfare. The phenomenon of unavailability or limited public facilities in the Simarito slum area creates a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break. People living in this area often have difficulty accessing basic services that should be their rights as citizens. The impact is not only felt in the short term, but also sustainable from one generation to the next. Therefore, it is very important to understand how public facilities, or lack thereof, affect the quality of life in the Simarito slums, as a first step in formulating the right solution.

The number or quality of the population can be a potential or development burden for a country (Pancasasti & Khaerunnisa, 2018). The increase in population has led to the development of settlements accompanied by less controlled management, especially in urban areas. Settlements are built with low environmental quality and tend to be less integrated, directed, planned, and lack of attention to the completeness of basic facilities and infrastructure, such as waste management systems, clean water, sanitation, and rainwater drains. The health of the residential environment is one of the indicators to determine the level of community welfare in the socio-economic field (Adeline, 2020). According to Tang et al (2017), settlements not only meet the basic needs of humans and their lives, but also to establish a harmonious relationship between humans and ecosystems where there is a compatibility between society and the economy. Settlement development aims to support development in the social, economic, and cultural fields. Therefore, the role of settlements is very important to make residents the main element in development and support the sustainable development process (Rustianto, 2021).

In Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City, the phenomenon of slum areas has become a real problem that affects the daily life of the local community. Many residents live in neighborhoods with poor infrastructure, inadequate sanitation, and limited access to other public facilities. Public facilities that are supposed to support a decent life, in many cases, are minimal or not available at all in this area. This condition greatly affects the quality of life of the community, both in terms of health, education, security, and economic welfare. Limited access to public facilities creates various social and economic problems. For example, limited access to clean water and poor sanitation can increase the risk of infectious diseases, while the lack of road infrastructure makes it difficult for people to move to work, go to school, and access health services. All these problems worsen the quality of life of people in slums and keep them in a cycle of poverty. In this context, research on the influence of public facilities on the quality of life in the Simarito slum area is very important to be conducted. By understanding the extent to which public facilities affect the well-being of the population, we can formulate concrete measures to improve their living conditions and promote sustainable development in the region.

Public facilities are an important part of people's lives, especially in supporting social and economic welfare. The availability and quality of adequate public facilities greatly determine the quality of life of a community. In slum areas, such as those in Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City, the lack of public facilities has become a serious problem that has a bad impact on the daily lives of residents. The Simarito slum area faces various problems related to inadequate basic infrastructure. Public facilities such as clean water, sanitation, roads, transportation, health facilities, and education are very limited and far from decent standards. This condition worsens the quality of life of the population there, the majority of whom come from the lower economic class. The unavailability of adequate public facilities in the Simarito slums creates a variety of social and economic problems, including health problems, low levels of education, and limited access to economic opportunities. The problem of public facilities in this slum area is crucial because it not only has a direct impact on people's daily lives, but also affects their ability to get out of the cycle of poverty. Therefore, an in-depth study of the influence of public facilities on the quality of life of the community in the Simarito slum area is needed to be able to formulate the right solution to improve these conditions.

The lack of public facilities in the Simarito slum area causes various negative impacts, such as increased risk of disease, limited access to educational opportunities, low economic productivity, and limited community mobility. This problem not only worsens daily living conditions, but also deepens social disparities and prolongs the cycle of poverty. The settlement problem is one of the main problems that is quite serious because it is feared that this problem will cause fatal pockets of poverty and become a trigger for the emergence of various other social problems that may occur beyond the control of the government in handling it. Slums are a problem in Indonesia that is deeply rooted and not easy to overcome. Many slums occur in urban areas where urban areas have almost all facilities to improve the standard and quality of life of their people, but it is also undeniable that in urban areas there are still groups of people who live in conditions that are not in accordance with a decent standard of living and make them all lacking in meeting their daily needs (Khotimah et al., 2014). One of the triggers for the emergence of this slum is due to the high population growth both through the birth process and the rapid movement of people without being balanced by the addition of appropriate city facilities. Urban areas seem to be a very strong magnet for urban people who move only to pit their fate in the city. However, due to the lack of skills possessed, some urban residents will have difficulty getting a job so

that unemployment occurs which then causes urban residents to live on illegal and unsuitable land, making this problem the cause of the emergence of slums in urban areas (Basir, 2012).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The context of research on the influence of public facilities on the quality of life in slums such as Simarito, Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City, generally discusses basic theories related to the concept of quality of life, public facilities, and their relationship in improving the welfare of people in slums. Here are some important points that can be raised, based on the views of experts:

Quality of Life

According to the WHO (World Health Organization), quality of life is an individual's perception of their position in life, related to goals, expectations, standards, and concerns. Quality of life is affected by several aspects, including physical health, psychological condition, level of independence, social relationships, and the environment. The quality of life approach according to Schalock (2014) includes eight dimensions: emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, social inclusion, physical health, material well-being, personal development, individual rights, and interpersonal relationships. In the context of slums, dimensions such as physical health and material well-being are very relevant, especially related to access to public facilities.

Public Facilities

David Harvey (2013) in "Social Justice and the City" states that access to proper public facilities is an important element in realizing social justice in cities. Public facilities include basic infrastructure such as roads, clean water, sanitation, schools, and health services. According to UN-Habitat, adequate public facilities are key to improving living conditions in slums, as they support the health, education, and economy of the community. Davis (2016) also emphasizes that slums often lack access to basic public services, resulting in continued poverty and limiting the social mobility of their populations.

The Influence of Public Facilities on Quality of Life

A study by Nunan and Satterthwaite (2011) shows that good public facilities in slum environments can significantly improve the quality of life of residents. For example, access to clean water and sanitation can reduce the rate of infectious diseases, improve public health, and extend life expectancy. Meanwhile, adequate education and health facilities can increase economic opportunities and improve overall welfare. Harris (2015) emphasized that good management of public facilities in slums, such as the provision of clean water, sanitation, and access to electricity, can reduce economic vulnerability and increase citizens' social participation.

METHOD APPROACH

A qualitative research method used to explore the influence of public facilities on the quality of life in the Simarito slum area, Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City. Qualitative research methods aim to understand social phenomena from the perspective of the individuals involved and focus on the context and meaning behind their experiences.

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. According to Bogdan and Biklen (2017), qualitative research aims to describe and understand individual experiences and views in certain contexts. In this context, the research aims to explore people's experiences related to public facilities and how they affect their quality of life.

Data collection in qualitative research can be done in several ways, including: In-depth Interviews According to Kvale (2016), in-depth interviews are techniques used to dig up information from informants by asking questions openly. In this study, interviews can be conducted with local residents to understand their experiences regarding public facilities and their impact on quality of life. Participatory Observation: Researchers can make direct observations at the research site to see the condition of public facilities and community interaction. According to Spradley (2018), participatory observation allows researchers to engage in the social context being studied and understand the meaning of the observed behavior. Researchers can record road conditions, access to clean water, and existing health facilities.

After the data is collected, data analysis is carried out with a qualitative approach. Analysis techniques that can be used include: Thematic Analysis According to Braun and Clarke (2016), thematic analysis is a method used to identify, analyze, and report patterns or themes that emerge from data. Researchers will read interview transcripts and observation notes to find key themes related to public facilities and quality of life. Narrative Analysis : This method focuses on how an individual's story or narrative reflects their experiences. Narrative analysis helps researchers understand the meanings

constructed by individuals through their experiences. In this context, researchers can explore residents' narratives about their experiences related to public facilities.

The qualitative research method described above aims to understand the influence of public facilities on the quality of life of people in the Simarito slum. Using in-depth interviews, participatory observations, and focused group discussions, researchers can explore community experiences and perspectives related to public facilities, as well as analyze the data thematically to gain a deeper understanding.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The influence of these public facilities on the quality of life of the people in the area

The results of the study on the influence of public facilities on the quality of life in the Simarito slum area, Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City. The discussion will include an analysis of the data that has been collected, an understanding of the main themes that have emerged, and the relationship between public facilities and the quality of life of the people in the area.

Access to Public Facilities From the results of interviews and group discussions, it was found that access to public facilities in the Simarito area was very limited. The majority of residents complained about the lack of adequate supply of clean water and sanitation. Most of the residents use water sources from borewells whose quality is not guaranteed, while access to public toilets is also very limited. **The Impact of Public Facilities on Quality of Life** The results of the analysis show that adequate public facilities have a positive effect on the quality of life of the community. **Health** : Residents who have access to clean water and good sanitation report better health conditions and lower rates of infectious diseases. On the contrary, the lack of access to these facilities leads to high rates of illness, especially diarrhea and respiratory infections. **Education** Access to education in this region is also influenced by the availability of public facilities. Some families living in slum neighborhoods find it difficult to access proper schools, which has an impact on children's education levels. The schools that are available often do not have adequate facilities. **Economic** : Residents who do not have adequate access to public facilities also experience difficulties in improving their standard of living. Interviews with several informants revealed that limited facilities hinder their chances of doing business, due to uncertainty in access to basic services.

Based on data analysis, there are several main themes that arise related to the influence of public facilities on the quality of life **Connectivity between Public Facilities and Health** Public facilities such as sanitation and clean water have a great influence on people's physical health. Good health is one of the main indicators of quality of life. **Limited Access to Education** The lack of educational facilities affects the quality of life of children and future generations. This shows the importance of the role of education in improving the quality of life. **Quality of Life Affected by an Unsuitable Environment**, characterized by a lack of infrastructure, negatively impacts the social and economic well-being of the population. This research involves collecting data through surveys and interviews in the Simarito Slum Area. From the results of a survey conducted by several respondents who are local residents, several important results were found related to public facilities and the quality of life of the community:

1. **Type of Public Facility:** Clean Water Only 40% of respondents have direct access to clean water, while the rest use alternative water sources that are not guaranteed quality. Sanitation About 30% of households have access to proper toilets, while others use public toilets or have no sanitation facilities at all. Transportation 60% of respondents reported difficulties in accessing adequate public transportation, thus impacting their mobility. There is only one small park accessible to residents, and it is not well maintained.
2. **Quality of Life:** Health 55% of respondents reported experiencing health problems, such as diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections, which were linked to poor sanitation and lack of access to clean water. Education Children in the region often experience limited education, with 70% of respondents stating that access to decent schools is a major challenge. Average household income is below the poverty line, with 65% of respondents relying on precarious informal jobs.

Challenges faced in the provision and maintenance of public facilities in slums

The following is an analysis of the challenges faced in the provision and maintenance of public facilities in slum areas, especially in the Simarito Slum Area, Simarito Village, West Siantar District, Pematang Siantar City.

Challenges in the Provision and Maintenance of Public Facilities in Slum Areas

1. **Budget Limitations** Often, local governments have limited budgets for infrastructure development, especially in slums. The inadequate budget makes it difficult for public facility development projects to be realized. In addition, the maintenance of existing facilities is also hampered by a lack of funds, so that the facilities cannot function properly. Impact Budget constraints hamper efforts to improve and develop facilities, contributing to deteriorating conditions and low quality of life for the community.
2. **Low Community Participation Rate** Community involvement in the planning and maintenance process of public facilities is often low. People may not realize the importance of their participation or feel that their voices are not heard by decision-makers. Impact : Low community participation can lead to a gap between the needs of the community and the solutions offered by the government. This also has an impact on the sustainability of the maintenance of the facility because the community does not feel responsible for taking care of it.
3. **Poor Environmental Conditions** Slums often face environmental challenges such as pollution, flooding, and lack of green open spaces. This condition makes it difficult to provide and maintain proper public facilities. Impact Damage from natural disasters or pollution can damage existing facilities, require additional costs for repairs, and reduce the quality of life of the community.
4. **Lack of Basic Infrastructure** Many slums do not have basic infrastructure such as good roads, drainage systems, and adequate power grids. This shortcoming makes it difficult to build and maintain other public facilities. The impact of poor infrastructure can hinder public access to public facilities, as well as make it difficult to maintain these facilities.
5. **Complicated Bureaucracy and Regulations** Complicated licensing processes and convoluted bureaucracy can slow down the development of public facilities. Sometimes, existing policies and regulations do not support the needs of communities in slums. The impact of slow bureaucracy can hinder the implementation of projects and cause delays in the provision of facilities that are urgently needed by the community.
6. **Social Stigma** Slums often face social stigma, which makes it difficult to get funding and support from outsiders. Slum dwellers are often seen as powerless or unable to manage the facilities provided. The impact of this stigma can reduce attention and support from the government and private institutions, thereby worsening the condition of public facilities in the region.
7. **Human Resource Management** The lack of skilled labor to build and maintain public facilities can be a significant challenge. Many workers do not have the necessary training to perform effective maintenance. Without trained labor, the quality of facility construction and maintenance can deteriorate, causing the facility to quickly deteriorate and become unusable.

4. CONCLUSION

This study aims to analyze the influence of public facilities on the quality of life of people in the Simarito Slum Area. From the results obtained, several important points can be concluded as follows:

1. **Positive Influence of Public Facilities** The availability of public facilities such as clean water, sanitation, health services, education, and transportation has a significant positive influence on the quality of life of the community. These facilities play an important role in improving the health, education, and economic well-being of the population. **Poor Condition Facilities** Although some public facilities are available, the quality is often inadequate. Many facilities are in a damaged or unmaintained condition, which reduces their effectiveness in improving the quality of life of the community. For example, poor sanitation facilities contribute to the high rate of infectious diseases in the region.
2. **Challenges in Provision and Maintenance** The provision and maintenance of public facilities in slums faces a variety of challenges, including budget constraints, low community participation, and poor environmental conditions. These challenges hamper efforts to improve the quality of public facilities and, ultimately, the quality of life of the community. **The Role of the Community in Maintenance** The involvement of the community in the planning and maintenance of public facilities is very important. People who feel that they own and are responsible for public facilities tend to be more active in caring for and maintaining their cleanliness, thus contributing to improving the quality of life. **The Importance of Supportive Policies** A more proactive policy is needed from the government to support the development and maintenance of public facilities in slums. Policies that include funding, training, and community education can improve the condition of facilities and increase community participation.

Overall, public facilities have a crucial role in improving the quality of life of the community in the Simarito Slum Area. While the challenges in their provision and maintenance are quite complex, collaborative efforts between governments, communities, and other stakeholders can lead to significant improvements. This research shows that in order to achieve a sustainable improvement in the quality of life of the community, it is important to integrate the perspective of the community in every stage of planning and maintenance of public facilities

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