Understanding and Addressing Poverty in Malang City: A Qualitative Content Analysis of Socioeconomic Factors and Policy Implications

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Abstract

The phenomenon raised in this research is that poverty is a serious challenge in Malang City, although the level is decreasing. The government focuses on updating welfare data and strengthening education. Factors such as low minimum wages and school dropout rates influence poverty. The study of these factors is important for effective poverty reduction policies in Malang City. This research aims to understand and overcome poverty in Malang City effectively and sustainably. The research method used is qualitative content analysis study by collecting data in the form of content analysis, documentation, and interviews and electronic newspapers in Malang City with the aim of obtaining written or printed information in the mass media. The results obtained from this research activity show that although the percentage of poverty is stable, the absolute number of poor people in Malang City continues to increase from year to year. The upward trend in the poverty line is not always consistent with the percentage of poor people, which highlights the complexity of the social and economic challenges faced by the people of Malang City.

Article Info

1. Introduction

Poverty is a major problem faced by many countries throughout the world, especially in developing countries. This refers to a situation where a person is unable to fulfill their basic needs such as food, clothing, health and shelter (Hardinandar, 2019). The poverty level is also an important indicator in evaluating the success of a region's development from a social and economic perspective (Oktaviana et al., 2021).

Poverty is a serious challenge faced by various countries throughout the world, with a significant impact on the social and economic aspects of society. Malang City, one of the cities in East Java, Indonesia, showed a proud achievement by ranking second as the region with the lowest poverty rate in its region. Reducing poverty rates is also the main focus of the Malang City Government, which is demonstrated by setting an ambitious target by 2024 to reduce poverty rates. Currently, around 4.37 percent of the total population of around 840 thousand residents of Malang City live in poor conditions. In an effort to achieve this target, the Malang City Government has designed a series of strategic programs involving various regional instruments, including updating social welfare data and strengthening the education sector. Apart from that, several factors influence poverty in East Java, such as minimum wages, people's quality of life, economic growth, and unemployment. Prayoga et al., (2021) states that poverty is caused by several factors, including inadequate minimum wages, poor people's living standards, and increasing unemployment rates every year without additional job opportunities.

Updating social welfare data aims to identify precisely targeted residents who need assistance, while strengthening the education sector is carried out through various programs, such as disbursing Regional School Operational Assistance (Bosda) funds and scholarship programs, to reduce school dropout rates. Thus, it is hoped that these steps can make a significant contribution in overcoming the problem of poverty in Malang City. The phenomenon of reducing poverty rates that occurs in Malang City is an interesting object of study to be studied further in the context of development and poverty reduction at the local level. By understanding the dynamics, challenges and strategies implemented by the Malang City Government, it can provide valuable insight for similar efforts in other regions and for national policies in dealing with poverty problems. Economic growth is not focused on the problem of poverty, but is used for other purposes such as transportation, infrastructure and housing so that there is no impact of economic growth on poverty in East Java (Priseptian & Primandhana, 2022).

Analysis of factors that influence poverty has a crucial role in understanding the dynamics of poverty in a region. In the context of Malang City, research on these factors becomes increasingly important considering Malang City's achievements in reducing poverty levels. By paying attention to various related economic, social and public policy variables, this analysis aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the condition of poverty in Malang City and to explore strategies that can be implemented to more effectively overcome this problem. Therefore, this research aims to investigate what factors contribute to poverty in Malang City, as well as to identify policies and steps that can be taken to improve community welfare and reduce poverty levels significantly.

Through a holistic and targeted approach implemented by the Malang City Government, it is hoped that this research can make a real contribution to efforts to improve community welfare, eradicate poverty, and promote sustainable development at the local level. Thus, a deep understanding of the phenomenon of poverty in Malang City is important in informing effective and sustainable policies in dealing with this complex socio-economic problem. In this context, research on poverty rates in Malang City becomes relevant and important to carry out. This research will discuss further the factors that influence poverty levels, the effectiveness of policies and programs that have been implemented, as well as the challenges faced in achieving the goal of reducing poverty in Malang City. Thus, it is hoped that this research can provide deeper insight and policy recommendations that can support efforts to reduce poverty in Malang City.

2. Methods

In this research, the qualitative method of content analysis is used as an approach to investigate the factors that influence poverty in Malang City. Content analysis, which is an in-depth discussion of the content of written or printed information in mass media, as well as an in-depth examination of official documents, police reports and related statistical data to identify patterns, themes and trends that are relevant to the phenomenon of poverty. This research will involve systematic steps in collecting, coding and analyzing qualitative data, to gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of the poverty problem in Malang City.

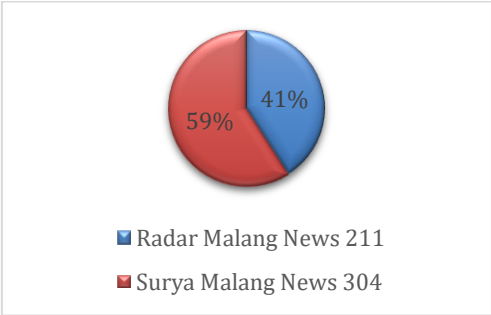## 3. Results and Discussion
Results

Figure 1. content analysis methods from two main news sources in Malang City, namely Radar Malang and Surya Malang

Based on research results using qualitative content analysis methods from two main news sources in Malang City, namely Radar Malang and Surya Malang, it was revealed that the problem of poverty in the city is a deep and complex issue. From this research, it can be concluded that poverty in Malang City is not just a statistical number, but is also a reflection of the various social and economic challenges faced by its people. From the news source Radar Malang, it appears that poverty in Malang City faces significant challenges, with several individuals and families marginalized from access to education, health and decent work. The data presented in the article illustrates that poverty is not an isolated problem, but is interrelated with other factors such as low education, minimal work skills, and lack of access to social assistance programs. Meanwhile, based on content analysis of news published by Surya Malang, it appears that the problem of poverty in Malang City covers various dimensions, ranging from weak economic conditions to growing inequality in society. This article highlights the importance of government intervention in assisting vulnerable groups, as well as encouraging local economic empowerment efforts to reduce existing social disparities.

From these two news sources, it can be concluded that poverty in Malang City is not a problem that can be solved instantly, but requires joint efforts from various parties, including the government, non-governmental organizations and the community itself. Concrete steps are needed, such as increasing access to education and skills training, developing infrastructure that supports economic growth, and policies that support vulnerable groups. Only with strong cooperation and commitment can poverty in Malang City be reduced significantly to create a more inclusive and sustainable society.

It can be seen based on poverty data in Malang City from 2018-2022, where the data shows very interesting numbers to discuss

Table 1. poverty data in Malang City from 2018-2022

Year	Line of poverty	Residents of Malang City	
		Number of Souls	%
2018	507.144	35.490	4,10%
2019	543.966	35.390	4,07%
2020	554.791	38.770	4,44%
2021	570.238	40.620	4,62%
2022	609.612	38.560	4,37%

Based on poverty data in Malang City from 2018 to 2022, there are several research points that can be concluded:

1. Poverty Line Rising Trend:
   It can be seen from Table 1 that the poverty line in Malang City has increased gradually from 2018 to 2022. In 2018, the poverty line reached 507,144 people, increasing to 609,612 people in 2022. This indicates that the number of people living below the poverty line in The city of Malang continues to grow from time to time.
2. Stable Percentage of Poor Population:
   Even though there has been an increase in the number of people below the poverty line, the percentage of poor people is relatively stable in the 2018-2022 period. The percentage of poor people ranged from 4.07% to 4.62% during that period. This shows that although the number of poor people is increasing, overall population growth in Malang City is also going hand in hand, keeping the poverty level in a similar range.
3. Changes in the Percentage of Poor Population Are Not Consistent with the Poverty Line:
   Even though the poverty line continues to rise, the percentage of poor people does not always follow the same pattern. For example, in 2020, even though the poverty line rose, the percentage of poor people fell to 4.44% from 4.07% in the previous year. This shows that there are other factors that influence the percentage of poor people apart from the absolute number below the poverty line.
4. Increase in Malang City Population:
   During the same period, it can be seen that the population of Malang City has also increased significantly, from 35,490 people in 2018 to 38,560 people in 2022. This

increase in population could be a contributing factor to the increase in the number of poor people, even though the percentage of poverty remains relatively stable.

Thus, the results of this research show that although the percentage of poverty is relatively stable, the absolute number of poor people in Malang City continues to increase from year to year, and this requires serious attention from related parties to overcome the problem of poverty in the city.

Discussion

Poverty is a complex social problem and requires serious attention from various parties, especially in Malang City. Based on the results of research conducted in the period from 2018 to 2022, it was revealed that although the percentage of poverty is relatively stable, the absolute number of poor people continues to increase. The data presented shows an upward trend in the poverty line from year to year, which shows that the number of individuals and families living below the poverty line is increasing. However, the percentage of poor people tends to be stable over the same time period, but this is not always consistent with changes in the poverty line itself. This research also highlights the increase in the overall population in Malang City, which is a contributing factor to the increase in the number of poor people. It is also seen that poverty in East Java Province is influenced by a number of factors, including education level, access to decent work, economic conditions, and distribution of resources and wealth (Khoirudin & Haerusman, 2023). Other research also explains poverty factors, especially in East Java, saying that analysis of the factors that influence the level of poverty on the island of Java in the 2018-2022 period shows that education, access to decent work, economic conditions, and distribution of resources and wealth are the main factors that play a role in the dynamics of poverty in the region (Maulana & Desmawan, 2023).

Therefore, the high poverty rate in Malang City indicates that there are big challenges in efforts to overcome it. Poverty is not just an economic problem, but also includes various social, educational and health aspects. Factors such as low education, minimal work skills, and lack of access to health services are the main obstacles for people in overcoming poverty. Serious and comprehensive efforts are needed from various parties to overcome this problem. One important aspect that needs to be considered in overcoming poverty is the need for effective and sustainable government intervention. The Malang City Government needs to develop more inclusive and progressive policies to overcome existing social and economic disparities. Concrete steps such as increasing access to quality education, skills training, and providing targeted social assistance can help reduce poverty levels in Malang City. Other research also describes research related to poverty in the Malang area, especially in Batu City, namely carrying out assistance, which aims to overcome the poverty rate in the city. According to Sasmito & Nawangsari, (2019), PKH facilitators not only help PKH participants in processing aid, but also provide counseling to develop individual skills, so that the implementation of PKH in poverty alleviation efforts can be successful in a sustainable manner under the management of the Batu City Government Social Service.

Apart from that, there is also a need for cooperation between the government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and society itself in efforts to overcome poverty. Local economic empowerment programs, such as the development of micro and small businesses, as well as the promotion of cooperatives and sustainable agriculture, can be an effective solution in reducing poverty levels. By involving various parties in the development process, it is hoped that a more inclusive and sustainable system can be created for all levels of Malang City society. The importance of monitoring and evaluating the success of poverty reduction programs cannot be ignored. Accurate and quality data and information is an important basis for decision making and program planning. The Malang City Government needs to carry out regular monitoring of poverty conditions and the effectiveness of the programs that have been implemented, so that necessary adjustments and improvements can be made.

It is also important to increase public awareness about the importance of overcoming poverty. Education and outreach regarding social and economic rights, as well as the importance of solidarity and concern for others, can help change people's mindset and behavior in dealing with the problem of poverty. This is also supported by research conducted by Permana et al., (2018) that the implementation of the Family Hope Program in Malang City improves the quality

of life of PKH participants through health and family education. Active participant in the program, spreading positive values. The supporters are PKH companions, active local government, and the will of the participants. However, the obstacle is the unpreparedness of the program and stakeholders. The impact can be seen from improving health status and education.

Joint efforts are needed to create a social environment that supports and allows each individual to develop their potential to the maximum. Apart from that, in overcoming poverty in Malang City, it is also important to pay attention to aspects of environmental sustainability. Sustainable economic development must be accompanied by preservation of the environment and natural resources. Environmentally friendly and sustainable development programs can help reduce negative impacts on the environment while providing economic benefits for society.

In facing the challenges of poverty, an attitude of commitment and sincerity is also needed from all relevant parties. All parties, including government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and society itself, must unite to overcome this problem. With strong cooperation and collaboration, it is hoped that better conditions can be created for the entire community of Malang City, where every individual has equal access to opportunities and a decent life. The results of the research say that the government realizes that the point is not the size but how to deal with poor people is more important. To make this happen, the Bandung City Government has prepared various programs, for example in the areas of education, employment, housing services, community participation (Nurcahya & Alexandri, 2020).

This is also told by Setiawan, (2020) where the research aims to investigate and analyze various policies that have been implemented to overcome poverty in the 4.0 era. By using a content analysis study approach, this research aims to identify strategies, programs and policy initiatives that have been implementeds by the government, institutions and related organizations in facing the challenges of poverty amidst technological developments and digital transformation. Thus, it is hoped that this research will provide deeper insight into how poverty reduction policies can adapt to the changes occurring in the 4.0 era. With research explaining that this era influenced how government policies toward poverty alleviation occurred. So in the context of Malang City, this research can be relevant because Malang City has demonstrated achievements in reducing poverty levels. However, it is important to note that the poverty rate in Malang City is still a relevant problem. With a poverty rate of 4.37 percent of the total population of around 840 thousand people, around 38 thousand people are living in poor conditions. Therefore, this research will provide a deeper understanding of how poverty reduction policies in Malang City can be updated or adapted to the dynamics and trends occurring in the 4.0 era, as well as how this can help in overcoming the problem of poverty more effectively.

In the context of Malang City, this research can make a significant contribution in formulating more effective policies in overcoming poverty problems. A deep understanding of how technological change and digital transformation can be utilized to increase the effectiveness of poverty reduction programs is needed. This research can also help the Malang City government to identify new strategies for overcoming poverty that are in line with current developments. In conclusion, research on poverty reduction policies in the 4.0 era has great relevance in the context of Malang City. Commitment and cooperation from all relevant parties is needed to create effective solutions to overcome the problem of poverty. Through a deeper understanding of the trends and dynamics that occur in the digital era, it is hoped that innovative solutions can be found that can bring positive change to the people of Malang City and reduce poverty levels significantly.

4. Conclusion

Poverty is a complex problem in Malang City, which requires serious attention from various parties. Even though the percentage of poverty is relatively stable, the absolute number of poor people continues to increase, especially in line with the increase in the overall population. Factors such as low education, minimal work skills, and lack of access to health services are the main obstacles in overcoming poverty. The importance of effective and sustainable government intervention, as well as cooperation between the government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the community itself in overcoming poverty is very important.

In the context of Malang City development planning, there is a need for more inclusive and progressive policies to overcome social and economic inequality. Concrete steps such as

increasing access to quality education, skills training and providing targeted social assistance need to be encouraged. Local economic empowerment programs, micro and small business development, as well as promotion of cooperatives and sustainable agriculture, must also be strengthened. The importance of monitoring and evaluating the success of poverty reduction programs should not be ignored, using accurate data and information for more effective decision-making.

Malang City development planning needs to strengthen inclusive government intervention, strengthen cross-sector and community collaboration, increase public awareness, and pay attention to aspects of environmental sustainability. With strong commitment and cooperation, it is hoped that Malang City can overcome the problem of poverty more effectively and bring positive changes to all levels of society.

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