

Sustainable Development of Beggars Handling Systems in Indonesia: A Case Study in Medan City

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Abstract: - The phenomenon of poverty in Indonesia has implications for social problems, such as the problem of homeless people and beggars. This study aims to examine the System for Handling Beggars in Indonesia: Case Studies in Medan City and provide strategic planning as the primary measure of sustainable development in handling beggars in Indonesia. This study uses a qualitative research methodology with a descriptive approach. Preliminary data were obtained from in-depth interviews and observations. The data and information needed were obtained directly by informants from the Medan City Government and stakeholders. Secondary data is received as processed data from authorized individuals and agencies through reports and scientific publications. Sustainable Development of Beggars Handling Systems, The Medan City Government carries out an integrated service program through monitoring, Handling, and Coaching. The beggar surveillance system is carried out to inspect and monitor beggars' operating places. Monitoring activities are not aimed at securing beggars and taking further action. Through an investigation into the handling of beggars to find out which beggars deserve to be put in a rehabilitation center returned to their families, and beggars suspected of having committed a crime. The beggar guidance system is still experiencing problems because the Medan City Government organizes no rehabilitation center. The existence of rehabilitation centers is an important thing used to accommodate beggars, and minimal infrastructure will hinder the process of empowering beggars.

Key-Words: Sustainable Development, Beggars Handling, Indonesia

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1 Introduction

Poverty is still a significant problem in Indonesia. In 2021, 10.1% of the population live below the national poverty line, [1]. In 2018, 73.9 million people, or 30% of the population, were poor or vulnerable to falling back into poverty, [2]. The causes of poverty in Indonesia are very diverse. One of the leading causes is the stability of food prices, especially rice, a staple food in Indonesia, [3]. Other factors include low income, low labor force participation, high household burden, and low enthusiasm to produce goods and services due to low commodity prices, [4], [5]. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated poverty in Indonesia,

with many people out of work and struggling to make ends meet.

The phenomenon of poverty in Indonesia has implications for social problems, such as the problem of homeless people and beggars, [6]. These problems are often encountered in various big cities in Indonesia, such as Jakarta, Medan, Surabaya, Palembang, and Batam. These problems are due to the unavailability of jobs, the lack of a sense of wanting to do business, the lack of community skills, and the existence of urbanization and unequal regional development. Homeless people and beggars present new societal problems, such as theft and other crimes. So, this problem must be adequately resolved not to harm the community.

The phenomenon of poverty evident in society is that we often encounter homeless people and beggars roaming public places, residential areas, and other strategic places that allow them to carry out their activities. Homeless people and beggars are common, particularly in big cities in Indonesia. Of course, this needs to get the attention of various parties for intensive handling because it is a social problem. According to, [7], the causes of the emergence of homeless people and beggars can come from the individual (internal) or outside the individual (external). Internally because of poverty, age, low education, low skills, lack of parental consent, and the mental attitude of everyone. Meanwhile, externally, due to hydrological conditions, agriculture, infrastructure, access to information, business capital, and situations that are still primitive in urban society, as well as the lack of handling of homeless people and beggars in the city.

Medan City is a Metropolitan City in Indonesia; until now, there have been many social problems, especially the problem of homeless people and beggars. It is a concern of the government and society to be able to deal with homeless people and beggars. The Regional Regulation of Medan City prohibiting homeless people and beggars, which is implemented in handling homeless people and beggars, alleviates poverty problems that often occur in Medan City. Poverty is when a person or group does not have access to or basic needs for a decent life, such as food, clean water, clothing, housing, education, and health services. A lack of income or assets, vulnerability to natural disasters or conflict, and social or economic discrimination usually cause poverty. Poverty can affect physical and mental health, education, career prospects, social, and decent life in general. Therefore, poverty alleviation is one of the most significant challenges for society and governments worldwide, [8].

Previous studies have examined the implications for policy, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of beggars and people with low incomes in Abakaliki, Nigeria, [9]. A different study examined the feelings and livelihoods of street beggars in urban areas in Central Tanzania, particularly in Dodoma and Singida Townships, [10]. Another study focused on better understanding the experience of begging in public spaces, exploring the psychological and social factors associated with street begging, [11]. This field experiment examined the relationship between self-awareness, violation of personal space, and helping behavior in the context of a beggar asking for alms, [12]. Finally, this literature review comes from an exploratory study on begging with disabilities in Ethiopia. The study addresses the

social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities, poverty reduction, and social protection, [13].

A previous study conducted in Indonesia on the street begging handling system in Medan City found that the current approach has yet to be practical, [14]. Another study conducted in 2022 found that there are still differences in social rehabilitation services for homeless people and beggars in Indonesia, [15]. A study conducted in Semarang City aimed to analyze the welfare problems of Indonesian society, especially in Semarang City. The city faces many problems handling vagrants and beggars, [16]. A study conducted in 2020 aimed to identify variations in the characteristics and spatial distribution of beggars in Sanglah, Denpasar City, and found that beggars in this area were divided into Muslims and Hindus, and the paths of beggars differed in the places of worship visited, [17].

Overall, the previous literature only shows beggars with different feelings, experiences, behaviors, and rehabilitation services. This study differs from previous studies by aiming to examine the Beggar Handling System in Medan City and provide strategic planning as a critical step of sustainable development in handling beggars. Through the Social Service Office of Medan City, the Medan City Government has made various efforts to deal with vagrants and beggars based on Medan City Regional Regulation No. 5/2015 on Poverty Alleviation. However, there are still challenges in providing sustainable access to protection for people experiencing homelessness and beggars in Medan City, [18]. This research is expected to benefit the handling of beggars in various parts of the world, especially in Indonesia. This research explains the development of a sustainable beggar handling system initiated by the Medan City Government with an integrated service program through monitoring, handling, and coaching.

2 Literature Review

2.1 Poverty Phenomena

Poverty is a phenomenon that has existed throughout human history and has changed in significance over time, [19]. A lack of access to basic needs such as food, water, shelter, and healthcare characterizes it. Poverty can also lead to poor health, low education or skills, and an inability or unwillingness to work. In many industrialized countries, particular demographic groups are

vulnerable to long-term poverty, such as those living in city ghettos or regions bypassed by industry. Poverty erodes economic and social rights such as the right to health, adequate housing, food, and safe water, and the right to education, [20]. The cycle of poverty is a phenomenon where low-income families become impoverished for at least three generations, [21].

There are several literature reviews on poverty phenomena. One study systematically organizes relative poverty research from three aspects: connotation, identification method, and resolution mechanism, [22]. Another review examines the consequences of poverty on economic decision-making and the psychological aspects of poverty, [23]. A qualitative case study of people in poverty in a rural district in Eastern Zambia explores poverty as a social phenomenon, [24]. Another review essay argues that poverty is a widespread global phenomenon with pervasive effects, [25]. Finally, a literature review on urban poverty from a sociological perspective describes the phenomenon of poverty in urban areas, [26].

2.2 Beggars and Homeless

Beggars and homeless people are essential to society and often go unnoticed. Previous studies have shown the situation of beggars, homeless people, and refugees, [27]. Studies have shown that begging is a hopeful occupation for people experiencing homelessness and a means of survival. However, the scope of analysis of begging among people without housing is limited, and most of it is shown as a minor aspect of homelessness, [28]. Money given to beggars is likely to be spent on drugs or alcohol, and giving directly to shelters is a better way to help people without homes, [29]. Hyderabad is the subject of research on beggars, and the study shows that beggars denote a situation where a person cannot support himself, [30]. A literature review on disabled beggars in Ethiopia shows that they face many challenges, including discrimination, social exclusion, and poverty, [13]. Understanding the root causes of begging and homelessness is vital to tackling this problem effectively. The literature on beggars and the homeless highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that includes the provision of shelter, education, and employment opportunities to help them become self-sufficient. It is crucial to recognize the dignity of beggars and homeless people and provide them with the support they need to lead better lives.

2.3 Sustainable Development in Poverty Alleviation

Sustainable development is a fundamental approach to poverty alleviation. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a key goal of eradicating extreme poverty for everyone by 2030, [31]. Poverty alleviation has been a cornerstone of development strategies for decades, but a new paradigm rooted in sustainable development may be the answer, [32]. The research perspectives, methods, and subject integration of studies on poverty reduction have significantly been developed with the advance of practice in the 21st century, [33]. Rural development and agricultural productivity growth are crucial for poverty reduction, [34]. Poverty alleviation through environmental protection, strengthening livelihood strategies, and community resilience are essential approaches to sustainable development, [35].

3 Method

This research uses a qualitative research methodology with a descriptive approach. This method uses statements to describe events experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perceptions, interests, motives, and behavior, to understand them better. Qualitative descriptive research is a problem formulation that guides research to explore or discover social conditions that will be carried out thoroughly, [36]. This research focuses on the Sustainable Development of the Beggar Handling System in Indonesia: A Case Study in Medan City. This research aims to explore the experiences and perspectives of beggars, explore social and economic factors, gain insights into countermeasures, and identify barriers and challenges in handling beggars in Medan City.

Furthermore, this research will elaborate on how the Medan City Government launched the establishment of a sustainable handling system with an integrated service program through monitoring, handling, and development. In-depth interviews and observations generated primary data. Important data and information were obtained from informants, 20 beggars, the Medan City Government, and NGOs concerned about and understanding the problem of begging in Medan City. Secondary data was also needed to complement the data collection results for the empirical study. Secondary data was obtained from authorized individuals and institutions through scientific papers, reports, and publications. The previously collected data and information were

carefully controlled to produce the information needed for the study results, [37].

4 Results

The city of Medan has quite complex problems related to beggars. Medan City Beggars are easy to find in city corners and crowded centers. The Medan City Government, through the Civil Service Police Unit, claims that most beggars who carry out begging activities in Medan City are primarily residents of Medan City. On several occasions, the Civil Service Police Unit found beggars carrying out begging by "cheating." Beggars' activities in Medan today do not only arise due to economic pressure alone. Several findings in the field show that the significant income from begging activities makes many people choose to begin in Medan City rather than pursue other business sectors.

Not infrequently, many beggars aim to attract society's sympathy so that they want to give money to themselves—findings of cash Rp. 37,00,000.00 is one of the many begging phenomena found in Medan. In field observation activities, researchers found older women who carried out begging activities with the knowledge of their relatives. His begging activities were carried out at one of the significant worship locations in Medan City. In a day, the beggar earns Rp. 50,000. Up to Rp. 75,000. per typical day, and this number will increase when religious holidays arrive.

Research observations also found groups of children who carried out begging activities at shopping locations in the Simpang Limun area. Astir (not his real name) is a child forced to live with his two younger brothers after his parents divorced. Astir lives by renting a house in the Student Street area, Medan City. Astir does his begging after coming home from school. He did this begging activity to make a living and pay for school for himself and his two younger siblings. Astir and his two younger siblings could earn Rp in one begging activity Rp. 40,000.00 to Rp. 100,000.00. If the visitors to the shopping area are crowded (usually when religious holidays arrive), Astir's and his two younger siblings' income will increase.

Beggars who operate in Medan City are only partially beggars domiciled in Medan City. Many urbanites from various areas outside Medan City choose to beg in Medan City because they consider the income from begging in Medan City quite promising. Asiani is one of the many beggars who come to Medan to pray. Coming from Deli Serdang Regency, Asiani's grandmother walked through the residents' housing around Jalan Jamin Ginting,

Padang Bulan Village, Medan City. At her vulnerable age, Asiani's grandmother had to beg to help her children meet the family's needs. Asiani's grandmother carried out her begging activities from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM. According to Asiani's grandmother, the income she gets from praying in the city of Medan is quite good. He earned Rp. 20,000. Up to Rp. 50,000.

The Medan City Government, through the Civil Service Police Unit, stated that the problems of commuters who work as beggars in Medan City are as disturbing as beggars who come from Medan City itself. Their existence is alarming to the community, especially the community as road users, traders, and office owners. However, public attention to the problem of beggars in Medan City still needs to be more profound. This is evident because many people still give money to beggars. Every time they carry out raids, the Civil Service Police Unit always finds various styles of begging by beggars to attract the public's sympathy and give them money when they pray. Even though the facts on the ground also found that many beggars with physical limitations carry out begging.

Table 1. Activities of raids on homeless people and beggars in Medan City in 2016-2020

No	Year	Homeless	Beggars	Total Activities
1	2016	7	6	13
2	2017	7	7	14
3	2018	8	8	16
4	2019	8	8	16
5	2020	9	8	17

Source: [14], [38]

As a metropolitan city, the problem of begging is a classic problem that is difficult to solve. The various raids carried out do not make beggars deterred by what they do. The data in Table 1 above corresponds to a previous study that found that routine raids on homeless individuals and beggars in Medan City occur an average of 15 times yearly, [14]. Previous research also found that most beggars arrested by the Civil Service Police Unit returned to begging activities after release, [39]. These beggars engage in begging activities for various reasons, such as limited abilities, limited education, no capital to open a business, and no jobs in other sectors that can provide higher income than begging. This makes many beggars feel no deterrent even though the Pamong Praja Police Unit has arrested them.

In carrying out the control, the Medan City Government must work with others. The city

government needs to be able to handle the problem of beggars in Medan City. This is due to the need for regulations that can guide the city government in independently solving the problem of beggars from upstream to downstream. In addition, the limited facilities and funds owned only support the completion of the problem of beggars partially by the city government, [40]. As we know before, beggars in Medan occur due to various motives. Not only compulsion, but beggars in Medan also carry out begging activities. Begging is considered an economic activity that can generate large profits, even though many beggars are still in their productive age. This makes many people vie to become beggars with various styles and attributes that attract public sympathy.

The Medan City Government is aware of the various modus operandi being used by beggars in Medan City today to attract people's attention, so they want to give their money. However, regardless of the mode and background that encourages beggars to carry out begging activities, begging activities are illegal in Medan. Through Regional Regulation of the City of Medan, Number 6 of 2003 concerning the Prohibition of homelessness and Begging and the Practice of Morality in the City of Medan strictly prohibits any activity that seeks to influence or cause compassion for other people which is carried out by vagrancy or begging. Even strictly in Article 1 of Medan City Regional Regulation No. 6 of 2003, the Medan City Government classifies busking activities as begging activities.

4.1 Beggar Monitoring System

The concept of integrated services is used to address the problem of beggars in Medan. Several administrative issues drive the city government to use this work system. One issue is the lack of a rehabilitation site held by the City of Medan. The Medan City Council continues to use the PMKS rehabilitation center of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (UPTD) Balai Pungai Sejahtera Binjai as a rehabilitation location for Persons with Social Welfare Problems (PMKS). As a result, before engaging in beggar-handling actions, the Civil Service Police Unit and the Medan City Social Service must first get data on the number of PMKS that the UPTD Pungai Sejahtera can accommodate.

The Civil Service Police Unit, the Medan City Social Service, and the UPTD Pungai Sejahtera collaborate with the local Police. By Article 504 of the Criminal Code (KUHP), which makes begging a crime, the Civil Service Police Unit and the Medan

City Social Service must immediately contact the Police in dealing with beggars. Supervision will be carried out to inspect and monitor the status of sites frequented by beggars for begging operations. Beggars spotted begging while under observation will be detained and transported to the Social Services office for guidance and data collecting.

Monitoring activities are not primarily intended to secure beggars and take further action, such as transferring them to UPTD Pungai Sejahtera for rehabilitation. Monitoring efforts are mainly focused on providing stimulation and a deterrent effect to beggars who are apprehended so that they no longer beg in Medan. The supervision activities are outlined in Medan City Regional Regulation No. 6 of 2003 concerning Medan's Prohibition of Homeless and Begging and Moral Practices. Unfortunately, Medan City Regional Regulation No. 6 of 2003 does not specify how the relevant agencies must carry out the procedures for implementing oversight, [40].

Table 2. Number of street beggars caught in raids in 2016-2020

No	Year	Number of Beggars
1	2016	73
2	2017	65
3	2018	63
4	2019	60
5	2020	57

Source: [14], [38]

Previous research, as shown in Table 2, has revealed that the number of vagrants and beggars apprehended each year varies, with the extent of the raids influencing this. Surveillance in the field is carried out through raids led by social services. The Civil Service Police Unit, the Police, and numerous other law enforcement officers were invited to participate in this action. The exercise will begin with a meeting to select the raid's location, target, and timing. Beggars who are spotted begging on the streets will be arrested. Following the arrest, the appropriate apparatus will gather beggars captured at the social service office or other agreed-upon sites.

Raids are frequently carried out more aggressively when the public complains about beggars in their neighborhood, when religious holidays are approaching, or when events require the location to be free of begging operations. The size of Medan City, which spans 265.10 km² and is divided into 21 sub-districts, makes optimal oversight challenging. The Medan City Social Service often must wait for reports from the public and other authorities before moving to allegedly

begging areas so that surveillance actions can catch beggars as efficiently as possible. Efforts to deal with beggars through supervision will only be effective and efficient if the community participates, [41], [42].

4.2 Beggars Handling System

The city government of Medan cannot act against beggars at an early age because of the Child Protection Act. The Protection Act in question is Law Number 23 of 2002, with the consideration that the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia guarantees welfare for each of its citizens, including the protection of children's rights, which are human rights. So, the mechanism used in dealing with beggars at an early age will differ from handling beggars at an adult age. In addition, many cases in the field require special procedures for handling underage beggars. They sometimes must be sent directly to a rehabilitation center because they do not have precise demographic data while waiting for their family to pick them up.

Medan City Government, through Medan City Regional Regulation No. 6 of 2003 concerning the Prohibition of Homeless and Begging and Moral Practices in Medan City, has created a mechanism for investigating beggars caught red-handed during raids. In this investigative activity, the Social Service can find out which beggars deserve to be admitted to a rehabilitation center, sent back to their families, beggars who only collect data, and beggars who are suspected of having committed crimes handed over to the Civil Service Police. This is like if, during a raid, officers in the field found underage children begging either alone or in groups. The prevalence of beggars at an early age and elderly beggars is a social problem that the government must pay attention to. The thing that the government should pay attention to is child begging, the right of children who should get an education and a decent life, but they must make a living on the street in a way that should not be appropriate for a child, namely, to become a beggar.

4.3 Beggar Development System

Coaching is an effort made by the Medan City government to handle the problem of beggars by Medan City Regional Regulation No. 6 of 2003 concerning the Prohibition of Homeless and Begging and Moral Practices in the City of Medan; supervision and coaching activities cannot be separated from one another. However, in practice coaching activities, its implementation still has obstacles. The Medan City Government currently does not have a rehabilitation center that can be

used as a means of empowering beggars caught in raids. In Medan City, Regional Regulation No. 6 of 2003 concerning the Prohibition of Homeless and Begging and Moral Practices in the City of Medan has mandated that the implementation of coaching must be carried out in an integrated manner. Therefore, until now, the Pungai Sejahtera UPTD is still the only partner of the Medan City Government to carry out rehabilitation efforts for PMKS who were caught during raids.

Currently, the Pungai Sejahtera UPTD can only accommodate 600 people, with working areas covering Medan City, Langkat Regency, Binjai City, Deli Serdang Regency, and Karo Regency. This clearly cannot accommodate all the beggars from raids carried out by the relevant agencies belonging to the five regencies/cities. Therefore, the Medan City government is very selective in sending beggars from attacks to the Pungai Sejahtera UPTD so that the services provided can be maximized and on target. The existence of a rehabilitation center is an important thing that is used to accommodate beggars after the Raids. The presence of minimal rehabilitation homes will hinder the process of empowering beggars. In addition to the existence of rehabilitation centers, the lack of facilities and infrastructure is also an obstacle to empowering beggars caught in raids.

5 Discussion

The concept of sustainable development strives to combine economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Its goal is to bring prosperity and well-being to the residents of the city. Sustainable development can impact social development, poverty alleviation, and inequality. As a result, the Sustainable Development System may have ramifications for how the Medan City Government interacts with beggars, but additional research is required to investigate this topic further.

The deployment of a monitoring system for beggars has numerous consequences. On the one hand, it can aid in regulating and managing begging, which is frequently linked to homelessness and social isolation. However, this might harm society because it can lead to the categorization and stigmatization of beggars. Furthermore, the effectiveness of such a system will be determined by community involvement and project review. Before instituting any monitoring system, evaluating the underlying causes of begging, such as poverty and a lack of social safety nets, is critical. Finally, any system should strive to address the core reasons for

the appeal and aid those in need rather than simply regulating behaviors.

The repercussions of the beggar development system are numerous and diverse. While begging can be a method of life for some people in underdeveloped nations, it can also harm global society. In poor countries, a lack of appropriate planning may contribute to the predominance of begging. Furthermore, children's involvement in begging may be the outcome of poverty. Overall, the beggar development system emphasizes the importance of effective poverty reduction measures and support networks to address the underlying causes of begging and destitution.

6 Conclusion

Social problems, especially the problem of homeless people and beggars, are enough to demand the attention of the government and society to be able to deal with homeless people and beggars. Handling of homeless and beggars is a challenge for policymakers because the problems are so complex; one example is the presence of beggars operating in Medan City who are only partially beggars domiciled in Medan City. Many urbanites from various areas outside Medan City choose to beg in Medan City because they consider the income from begging in Medan City quite promising. The Medan City Government is aware of the various modus operandi used by beggars in Medan City today to attract people's attention, so they want to give their money. Sustainable Development of Beggars Handling Systems, The Medan City Government carries out an integrated service program through monitoring, Handling, and Coaching.

The beggar monitoring system is carried out to check and monitor the status of places frequently visited by beggars for begging operations. Monitoring activities are not solely aimed at securing beggars and taking further action. In addition, the system for handling beggars carries out thorough investigations to find out which beggars are eligible to be put in a rehabilitation center, returned to their families, beggars who are only recorded, and beggars who are suspected of committing criminal acts who are handed over to the Civil Service Police. The beggar guidance system is still experiencing problems because the Medan City Government organizes no rehabilitation center. The existence of a rehabilitation center is an important thing that is used to accommodate beggars after the raids. The presence of minimal rehabilitation homes will hinder the process of empowering beggars.

The limitation of this research is that it only explains how the Medan City Government carries out the system of handling beggars through an integrated service program of monitoring, handling, and coaching. Future research should look at the potential for rehabilitation by emphasizing mental and skills development for beggars. Future responses to begging aim to understand better the complex social, economic, and psychological factors that contribute to the practice of begging, as well as identify practical and ethical approaches to addressing this issue.

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Contribution of Individual Authors to the Creation of a Scientific Article (Ghostwriting Policy)

- Husni Thamrin and Hatta Ridho provided the idea, conceptualization, and framework of the research.
- Faiz Albar Nasution has implemented the concept and described the research phenomenon.
- Fajar Utama Ritonga has improved grammar in social academia.
- Izzah Dienillah Saragih organized and laid out and searched for secondary data.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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