



Volume 6 (1) (2023): 10-17

## **The Indonesian Journal of Social Studies**

Available at <https://journal.unesa.ac.id/index.php/jpips/index>

# **From Beggar to Entrepreneur: The Beggar Phenomenon in Pasuruan District**

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### **Abstrak**

Pengemis merupakan sebuah profesi yang menguntungkan bagi sebagian masyarakat di Kabupaten Pasuruan. Mengemis dilakukan untuk mendapatkan penghasilan dengan mudah tanpa harus melengkapi banyak persyaratan. Tulisan ini mengkaji tentang sisi lain pengemis sebagai suatu pekerjaan, bukan dilakukan karena himpitan ekonomi. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan desain penelitian fenomenologi. Data dikumpulkan menggunakan observasi, wawancara dan dokumentasi pada seorang pengemis di Kabupaten Pasuruan. Data yang terkumpul dianalisis dengan menggunakan perspektif fenomenologi Edmund Husserl. Kajian ini dilakukan untuk mengungkap fenomena sisi lain seorang pengemis yang berusaha dari nol hingga menjadi seorang wirausaha yang sukses di Kabupaten Pasuruan. Kajian ini akan disumbangkan kepada dinas sosial sebagai upaya pemberdayaan pengemis. Hasil kajian ini mengungkapkan 1) awal mula menjadi pengemis, 2) strategi pengemis dalam mengatur keuangan hingga sukses.

**Kata Kunci :** Pengemis, Wirausaha, Kabupaten Pasuruan, Fenomenologi

### **Abstract**

*Beggar is a profitable profession for some people in Pasuruan District. Begging is done to earn easily without having to complete many requirements. This paper examines the other side of beggars as a job, not because of the economic squeeze. This study uses a qualitative approach with a phenomenological research design. Data were collected using observation, interviews and documentation on a beggar in Pasuruan District. The collected data were analyzed using the phenomenological perspective of Edmund Husserl. This study was conducted to reveal the phenomenon of the other side of a beggar who tried from scratch to become a successful entrepreneur in Pasuruan District. This study will be donated to the social service as an effort to empower beggars. The results of this study reveal 1) the beginning of being a beggar, 2) the strategy of beggars in managing finances to success.*

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**Keywords :** Beggar, Entrepreneur, Pasuruan District, Phenomenology

**How to Cite:** Amaliya, N., dosen 1 & 2. (2023). From Beggar to Enterpreneur : The Beggar Phenomenon in Pasuruan District. *The Indonesian Journal of Social Studies*,

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e-ISSN 2615-5966 (Online)

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## INTRODUCTION

Begging is a practice of asking others for money, food, clothing without expecting a reply or refund and the item [1],[2],[3],[4]. Begging is an alternative activity to earn free money from others [5]. Begging is a pretense to attract sympathy in order to gain mercy [6],[7].

Beggars in social life tend to be interpreted as failures of the welfare state [8]. Begging is considered a problem, and a threat to the social order [9]. There is also the notion of begging as a cultural practice of a country [10]. Begging symbolizes an aesthetic of poverty [11], [12]. Poverty is a global problem that occurs in developing countries [13]. One of the causes of poverty is economic growth and unemployment [14]. One of the beggar factors is poverty and high economic needs [15]. Poverty is a condition in which people cannot meet their basic needs [16]. Poverty is a picture of a lack of adequate income and wealth [17],[18].

The phenomenon of begging exists not only in developing countries, as many people think, but also in developed countries, where begging becomes a highly visible activity [2],[19]. In Bangkok begging is a common activity in the general public [20]. Begging is also a serious problem for Nigerians as it is seen as a global problem [2]. And begging as an activity that affects tourist satisfaction in the country of China [7]. In Iran a street beggar is a homeless man who generally asks for money on public streets, markets and stations [21]. In Indonesia begging is a common phenomenon in society [22].

Begging behavior is mostly practiced by an old and homeless person [23]. Begging activities, can be categorized by appearance and technique or the way they beg [1], [24]. Based on the appearance is categorized as follows; professional beggars, begging on the grounds of age and those who volunteer to enter the beggar class [1],[2],[3]. Based on begging techniques, they are also categorized as follows: Passive Beggars, this type involves people sitting or standing in one place with a song or container asking for

donations. Active Beggars, this type of beggar moves from place to place by asking for money from those around him and, Aggressive beggars, this technique is the one used to ask by using harsh words and intimidation [1],[25],[26].

In big countries such as the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have adopted potential solutions to answer the needs of street beggars. These countries use a granting scheme called DGS (Diverted Giving Scheme) [27]. DGS is an institutional response designed to motivate people to donate money in the form of donation charity boxes rather than directly to street beggars. This method is considered more ethical and efficient than giving directly to individual beggars who really need it. In addition, DGS Beggars can be diverted so that they are no longer on the streets.

It seems that begging is made a profitable profession [5]. There are some who use children to beg and serve as livelihoods [28]. Beggars in the global perspective are an activity of self-enrichment, the assumption of begging by lowering turns into a profitable activity as a profession [29]. Income from begging has to do with everyday judgment, and begging can earn substantial wealth, begging serves as the same manifest as working in general, that is, to generate income [4].

This is the same as the story of the journey life of a beggar who is in Pasuruan District, begging is used as an activity and even a job to get more benefits, so as to prosper family members with a decent life.

## **METHOD**

This type of study is qualitative research using phenomenological design based on the perspective of Edmund Husserl [30]. This approach is used to uncover the phenomenon of the other side of a beggar who strives from scratch to become a successful entrepreneur in Pasuruan District. Data collection technique, this study uses 3 steps, namely observation, interview and documentation. Observation is used to search for life data of a beggar. Interviews are used to find information on the life of the other side of a beggar who struggles from zero to success. Documentation is used to document data from interviews and observations. The data analysis model used in this study was the Milles and Huberman interactive model [31]. This analysis model has four steps, namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation and conclusions.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Begging is a job that deliberately has to be done because of physical limitations due to the accident experienced. But with a strong determination to change the fate of a beggar to a successful entrepreneur. It can be categorized as follows 1) the beginning of being a beggar; 2) a strategy of managing income until it becomes successful.

### **A. The Beginning of Being Beggar**

Begging is a routine act that is deliberately carried out. This is due to a person's physical limitations that make it difficult to get a job. As stated by Harim 55 years old..

*"...I started begging for losing both hands in an accident I had in 1991. So I got a job.."*

From the above statement, it can be interpreted that physical limitations encourage a person to choose begging as a job. Begging can be categorized as an easy job to do and does not require special conditions or criteria that must be met such as school diplomas and physical perfection. Harim, 55, said..

*"...The easiest job is begging, because there are not many conditions that must be met such as special skills and others. Begging also does not require a diploma from high school,..."*

Besides being an easy job to do, begging is also a means of earning easy money just by making tricks so that others are sorry such as pretending to put on a pity face. Moreover, by taking advantage of the physical limitations possessed, it can easily attract the sympathy of others to give money. Like the statement below:

*"In begging, it only takes a trick so that they can pity and give me the money, for example by pretending and putting on a kasian face to be able to get the money quickly. In addition, my physical limitations can be used to attract the sympathy of many people to give money,"* said Harim, 55 years old..

But in interpreting the outlook on life, Harim, 55, has aspirations and targets for success for himself and his family. She also hopes that her children can go to school to a high level so that they can change their destiny. As Harim said as follows :

*"...actually I have a target for success, I don't just want to be a beggar. I want to be a successful entrepreneur. I also really hope that my children can go to school to a high level of S1 so that they can change their destiny and not follow in my footsteps as a beggar.."*

*"...I always try to achieve my goals as an entrepreneur so that my life is prosperous and successful. My life would be prosperous if I could provide for all the necessities of my life and that of my family without any shortcomings. I will achieve this when I have become a successful person by changing the fate of me who was originally just a beggar to become an entrepreneur.."*

To be interpreted to be successful is to have to change the fate that has been lived. Physical limitations are not a barrier to continuing to realize the ideals that have been dreamed of, even though they started as a street beggar who was pursued for almost 26 years ago..

## **B. Strategies in managing finances to success**

Precisely in 2017 Harim 55 years old has stopped being a beggar. It took a long time to realize his dream of becoming a successful entrepreneur with a well-off life. The strategy

of managing money from begging is one of the factors in realizing his dreams, as Harim said, 55 years old.

*"...There are many ways I do to realize the dream that has been expected..."*

*"...have a strategy in managing begging income money, setting aside some money for savings..."*

The strategy in managing finances obtained from begging helps to realize his dreams. Saving which means setting aside part of his income to be used as a future need..

In addition, the begging activities that 55-year-old Harim did also gave a very large profit to his life. In addition to setting aside part of his income, 55-year-old Harim also manages his finances by buying something in the form of goods. Harim, 55, said.

*"...In addition to the money from begging, I also bought something in the form of land, and rice fields..."*

The statement contains a strategy used in managing the finances it obtains from begging. By buying a land and rice field as a savings for his future. In addition to land and rice fields, Harim, 55 years old, also spends his money in the form of livestock.

*"..I also bought farm animals in the form of goats and cows, because then after I stopped being a beggar I had savings, not only money but also rice fields and farm animals..."*

Future savings are interpreted as a provision for realizing his dreams. Stop being a street beggar armed with money, rice fields and farm animals. Managing finances well can realize dreams slowly. This is stated by Harim 55 years old..

*"...now I can send my two sons to graduate school, besides that I develop a business from rice fields and livestock by hiring employees..."*

The data shows success which is interpreted as a form of realizing the dreams that have been aspired to. Can send their children to school and hire employees for their livestock business.

From the results of the study above, it can be discussed that begging is a job that is deliberately done because of the physical limitations it has. This is done as an effort to realize a dream to change fate for the better.

The study of the phenomenon of a beggar becoming a successful entrepreneur tries to fully uncover the subject's life journey with the stages and processes of his life [30].

## **CONCLUSION**

Begging is made a deliberate job, because of the physical limitations experienced by a person. Begging becomes the only option when someone has been desperately looking for

a job, of course, on the grounds of earning a lot of money by just pretending to put on a sad face and take advantage of their physical limitations. But it's different if begging is used as a stepping stone to realize dreams. Begging is used as a job to get capital for business. With their physical limitations, it does not mean that a person cannot be successful. The existence of determination and strong effort will encourage a beggar with physical limitations to be able to change his fate.

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