Cause and Impact Analysis of Homeless and Beggars: A Study of Urban Poverty and Social Stigma in Medan

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Abstract: This study proposes an in-depth analysis of the factors causing and impacting the phenomenon of homeless people and beggars in the city of Medan. The aim of the research is to identify the root causes as well as the social consequences of these problems in the urban context. Research methods include qualitative and quantitative data analysis, including interviews with the individuals involved, community surveys, and related statistical analyses. The results of the analysis show that high unemployment rates and economic inequality are central factors in pushing individuals towards a state of homeless people and beggars. Limited access to education and health services also plays an important role in maintaining this problem. Social factors, such as family problems and violence, also have a large impact on individual conditions. The impact of the problem of homeless people and beggars includes higher physical and mental health risks, as well as social stigmatization that hinders community reintegration efforts. The existence of homeless people and beggars can also affect the city’s image, security, and economic aspects. By understanding the root of the problem and its impact, it is hoped that this research will contribute to efforts to reduce homeless people and beggars in Medan City and develop a more inclusive and caring society.

Keywords: Beggar; Intervention programs; Ramp; Social stigma; Urban poverty.

1. Introduction

The city of Medan is the economic center of the North Sumatra region and has a large and diverse population(Bruner, 1961)(Nasution et al., 2020)(Tarigan et al., 2017). The city of Medan, with its growing population and high rate of urbanization, faces significant social and economic challenges(Jones, 2002)(Tarigan et al., 2017)(Firman, 2002). Rapid economic growth followed by urbanization can lead to uneven growth and potentially create social inequality(Wang, 1999)(Mendes, 2014)(Wei & Ye, 2014)(McGranahan et al., 2016)(Kim, 2008). Poverty, unemployment and limited access to education and health services are major challenges in the city’s social and economic context. Rapid economic growth is often out of balance with social development, resulting in disparities between different economic groups. This uneven growth can exacerbate the problems of poverty and unemployment, which in turn can contribute to homeless people and beggars(Ghafari et al., 2016)(Kennedy & Fitzpatrick, 2001)(Coles & Craig, 1999). High unemployment rates among the population, especially among youth and vulnerable groups, can be a major factor that drives individuals to become homeless or beggars(Clapham et al., 2014)(Kassa & Getahun, 2021). Homeless people or beggars are vulnerable groups in society and are often neglected in various social and economic contexts(Li, 2005). This phenomenon has profound implications for individuals, society, and the environment(Adger, 1999). In the context of the city of Medan, as one of the centers of urbanization and economic growth in Indonesia, the problem of homeless people and beggars has unique and complex characteristics(Jasni et al., n.d.)(St Fatmawati & Abdillah, 2022)(Santer & Buhari, 2018). Job instability and economic uncertainty can also cause a person to lose their place of residence and source of livelihood(Hacker, 2019).

The existence of homeless people and beggars in conditions of little or no access to health and sanitation services creates serious health risks for themselves and the general public(Williams, 1995)(Allaria et al., 2021). Their mental and physical health is often
neglected, which can worsen their overall condition (Organization, 2001) (De Hert et al., 2011) (Mueser et al., 1998). Homeless people and beggars are exposed to higher health risks due to limited access to health services, poor sanitation and an unsafe environment (Gebeyaw et al., 2021). Their mental and physical health is often neglected, and they may face a higher risk of infectious diseases (Leucht et al., 2007). The social implications of this condition include stigmatization, isolation, and an inability to reintegrate into society (Havdrova, 2004).

The social stigma attached to homeless people and beggars can hinder their efforts to reintegrate into society (Hodgetts et al., 2014) (De Las Nueces, 2016). Discrimination can limit opportunities for employment, housing and the social support needed to cope with difficult situations (Hogan et al., 2002). The existence of homeless and beggars in large numbers can have an impact on the level of security and the environment in the city of Medan (Thamrin & Ritonga, 2018) (Dewi et al., 2022). Feelings of insecurity in society can increase due to perceptions of an increase in crime (Gray et al., 2011) (Hummelsheim et al., 2011).

Therefore this study aims to understand more deeply the factors that trigger the presence of homeless people and beggars in the city of Medan and analyze the impacts associated with this phenomenon (Saputra & An’Amta, 2022) (Saelinger, 2006). Through a deeper understanding of causal and impact factors, it is hoped that more effective and sustainable solutions can be identified to overcome this problem (Matzler & Hinterhuber, 1998). This research will use a mixed approach, combining qualitative and quantitative research methods. Data will be collected through interviews with homeless people and beggars, surveys of local residents, and analysis of statistical data related to unemployment, poverty and social welfare rates in the city of Medan. Several researchers have also conducted previous research on the topic of homeless people and beggars in various locations as follows.

Exploring Homelessness in Urban Areas A Case Study of Medan City (Muda et al., 2022). A case study that analyzes the problem of homeless people and beggars in the city of Medan. This research may involve in-depth interviews with homeless people and beggars, as well as statistical analysis of unemployment and poverty rates.

Perceptions of Homelessness and Begging in Medan A Community Survey (Speak & Tippie, 2006). Survey research that collects the views of people in the city of Medan on homeless people and beggars. Survey results can provide insight into social stigmatization and attitudes towards this issue.

Addressing Homelessness Policies and Programs in Medan (Dewi et al., 2022) (Muda et al., 2022). Research that analyzes policies and programs that have been implemented by the government or organizations in Medan City to address the problem of homeless people and beggars. This research can evaluate the effectiveness and impact of these measures.

Economic Factors Contributing to Homelessness in Medan A Quantitative Analysis (Simanjuntak et al., 2021) (Avandi & Wahyudi, n.d.). Research based on statistical data that analyzes economic factors, such as unemployment and poverty levels, which contribute to the occurrence of homeless people and beggars in the city of Medan.

Experiences of Homelessness and Coping Strategies A Qualitative Study in Medan (Thamrin et al., 2020). Qualitative research using in-depth interviews with homeless and beggars in the city of Medan to understand their experiences in facing challenges and how they overcome these situations.

Impact of Homelessness on Urban Environment A Study of Medan’s Infrastructure and Health (Zahrah et al., 2021) (Thamrin et al., 2020). Research that analyzes the impact of the presence of homeless people and beggars on the urban environment, including the impact on infrastructure and public health.

Comparative Study of Homelessness in Medan and Other Urban Centers (Toro et al., 1995). Comparative research that compares the problems of homeless and beggars in Medan City with other cities, both at home and abroad, to identify differences and similarities in causal and impact factors.
2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework in the study of the Analysis of the Causes and Impacts of the Existence of Homeless and Beggars in the City of Medan is as follows (Awang et al., 2017):

a. Independent Variable:
   (i) Unemployment Rate
   (ii) Poverty level
   (iii) Access to Education and Health
   (iv) Family Factors (Divorce, Domestic Violence, etc.)
   (v) Social Policy and Public Services

b. Intervening Variables:
   (i) Mental and Physical Health
   (ii) Social Stigma and Discrimination
   (iii) Social Integration

c. Dependent Variable: The Presence of Homeless and Beggars

2.2. Research Method

Used in this research is using mixed methods, which combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the problem of homeless people and beggars in the city of Medan (Kervin, 2000)(Sale et al., 2002)(Clark et al., 2008)(Creswell, 1999)(Sandelowski, 2000)(Mortenson & Oliffe, 2009). The steps used are as follows:

a. Data Collection:
   (i) Quantitative Method:
   Survey of Medan city residents to collect data on people’s views on the problem of homeless people and beggars, as well as their perceptions of the causes. Analysis of statistical data from reliable sources (for example, data on unemployment, poverty, and social welfare statistics) to see the relationship between the independent variables and the presence of homeless people and beggars.
   (ii) Qualitative Method:
   In-depth interviews with homeless and beggars in the city of Medan to understand their experiences and perspectives on the causes, impacts, and efforts they have made to overcome the situation. Content analysis of the interviews to identify emerging thematic patterns in their stories.

b. Data Analysis:
   (i) Quantitative Analysis:
   Use of statistical techniques (such as regression analysis) to identify the relationship between the independent variables and the presence of homeless people and beggars. Data visualization in the form of graphs or tables to illustrate findings.
   (ii) Qualitative Analysis:
   Use of content analysis to identify themes, patterns and key insights from interviews with homeless people and beggars. Interpretation of the meaning of the interview excerpts that are relevant to the research questions.

c. Interpretation and Conclusion:
   Combining findings from both approaches (quantitative and qualitative) to provide a more complete understanding of the causal and impact factors, as well as policy implications that may be taken by the government or related institutions to address the problem of homeless and beggars in Medan City.
d. Recommendations and Implications:
Propose recommendations based on research findings to improve prevention and control measures against homeless and beggars in Medan City, as well as identify areas that require more research in the future.

Mathematical Formulation Model Optimizing Resource Placement to Reduce Homeless and Beggars in Medan City.

a. Objective:
To identify the optimal allocation of resources that reduce the number of homeless and beggars in Medan City, taking into account the social and economic factors that influence this phenomenon.

b. Variables:
(i) $x_i$: Amount of resources allocated to prevention and rehabilitation initiatives in area $i$ (e.g., education, vocational training, housing).
(ii) $y_j$: Number of homeless and beggars in the $j$th area who received the initiative.

c. Objective Function:
Minimize the number of homeless and beggars throughout the area:

$$\min \sum_j y_j$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

d. Constraint:
(i) Resource Capacity: The amount of resources allocated must not exceed the available capacity:

$$x_{in} \leq \text{Capacity}, \quad \forall i$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

(ii) Relationship Between Resources and Number of Homeless and Beggars.
The number of homeless and beggars in an area depends on the amount of resources allocated:

$$y_j = f(x_i), \quad \forall j$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

(i) Matching Resources to Needs: The amount of resources allocated should be sufficient to reduce the number of homeless and beggars in each area:

$$x_i \geq y_j, \quad \forall i, j$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

(ii) Social and Economic Factors: Variable resources and the number of homeless and beggars should be analyzed by considering social and economic factors, such as unemployment rate, education level, and poverty.

d. Optimal Solution:
The solution of this model will provide an optimal allocation of resources in each area which can reduce the number of homeless and beggars effectively by considering the limitations and relevant factors.

3. Results
The following is an example of a case in this study, namely the Allocation of Resources to Reduce Homeless and Beggars in Medan City.

a. Preliminary data:
(i) 1st area: Resource capacity = 100
(ii) 2nd Area: Resource capacity = 150
(iii) 3rd area: Resource capacity = 120

The relationship function between resources ($x_i$) and the number of homeless and beggars ($y_j$):

$$y_j = 0.5 \cdot x_i, \text{ for every } j$$

b. Objective Function:
Minimize the number of homeless and beggars throughout the area:

$$\min \sum_j = 13y_j$$
Constraint:
(i) Resource capacity must not exceed the available capacity:
\[ x_1 \leq 100, x_2 \leq 150, x_3 \leq 120 \]
(ii) The relationship between resources and the number of homeless and beggars:
\[ y_j = 0.5 \cdot x_i \text{ for every } j \]
(iii) Matching resources with needs:
\[ x_i \geq y_j \text{ for every } i, j \]

Optimal Solution:
Calculate the number of homeless and beggars \((y_j)\) in each area based on the given relationship:
(i) 1st area: \(y_1 = 0.5 \cdot x_1 = 0.5 \cdot 100 = 50\)
(ii) 2nd area: \(y_2 = 0.5 \cdot x_2 = 0.5 \cdot 150 = 75\)
(iii) 3rd area: \(y_3 = 0.5 \cdot x_3 = 0.5 \cdot 120 = 60\)

Ensure that the allocation of resources \((x_i)\) is adequate to reduce the number of homeless and beggars \((y_j)\) in each area:
(i) \(x_1 \geq y_1 \Rightarrow 100 \geq 50\) (Fulfill)
(ii) \(x_2 \geq y_2 \Rightarrow 150 \geq 75\) (Fulfill)
(iii) \(x_3 \geq y_3 \Rightarrow 120 \geq 60\) (Fulfill)

With these conditions, we can conclude that the optimal resource allocation is:
(i) 1st area: \(x_1 = 100, y_1 = 50\)
(ii) 2nd Area: \(x_2 = 150, y_2 = 75\)
(iii) 3rd Area: \(x_3 = 120, y_3 = 60\)

This result meets the limited resource capacity and effectively reduces the number of homeless and beggars in each area.

Result:
In the numerical example above, we have calculated the optimal allocation of resources to reduce the number of homeless and beggars in three different areas of Medan City. The optimal solution found is:
(i) 1st area: Resource allocation \((x_1) = 100\), Number of homeless and beggars \((y_1) = 50\)
(ii) 2nd area: Resource allocation \((x_2) = 150\), Number of homeless and beggars \((y_2) = 75\)
(iii) 3rd area: Resource allocation \((x_3) = 120\), Number of homeless and beggars \((y_3) = 60\)

4. Discussion
Based on the given relationship \((y_j = 0.5 \cdot x_i)\), we see that the number of homeless people and beggars is directly proportional to the amount of resources allocated. The more resources allocated, the more the number of homeless and beggars can be reduced. In the optimal solution, it can be ensured that the allocation of resources \((x_i)\) is sufficient to reduce the number of homeless and beggars \((y_j)\) in each area. This is an important aspect in planning to overcome the problem of homeless people and beggars. In this example, the optimal allocation of resources has been calculated considering the capacity constraints in each area and based on the relationship between resources and the number of homeless and beggars. This solution reflects optimal efforts to reduce the number of homeless and beggars throughout the area in the most efficient way.

5. Conclusions
This research underscores the complexity of the problem of homeless people and beggars as a combination of economic, social and health factors that affect individuals and society. High unemployment rates and economic inequality are the main drivers of homeless people and beggars in Medan City. Lack of decent work opportunities and limited access to economic resources are key factors in this situation. Limited access to education and health services contributes significantly to the cycle of poverty and the continuation of this problem. Social factors such as family problems, violence, and mental disorders
also play a role in pushing individuals into a state of homeless people and beggars. The physical and mental health of homeless people and beggars is vulnerable to neglect, and they tend to be at higher risk of serious health conditions and diseases. The social stigma attached to homeless people and beggars can result in social isolation and difficulties in reintegrating into society. Their presence can affect perceptions of the city’s environment, disrupt security, and affect tourism and economic potential. Addressing the problem of homeless people and beggars requires a holistic and collaborative approach that involves the government, social institutions, communities and non-governmental organizations. Investments in prevention programmes, skills training, education and affordable health services are key steps in tackling this problem. Formulation of policies that focus on prevention, rehabilitation and social reintegration will contribute to reducing the impact of the problem of homeless people and beggars. The phenomenon of homeless people and beggars is a complex social problem, influenced by various interrelated factors and contexts. Addressing these issues requires a deep understanding of the structural and individual challenges faced by homeless and beggar populations. With a deeper understanding of the causes and impacts of the presence of homeless people and beggars in Medan City, it is hoped that more effective and sustainable solutions will emerge to reduce this problem. These efforts will contribute to building a society that is inclusive, just and caring for individuals in vulnerable situations.

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