

Fulfillment of basic needs "CartMan" as poverty phenomenon in Bandung City

Siti Sofa Fauzia Syah¹ and Siti Anah Kunyati^{1*}

¹Langlangbuana University, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: sitianahkunyati@unla.ac.id

KEYWORDS

basic needs
cartman
poverty

ABSTRACT The Cartman is a phenomenon of poverty. They work as scavengers to fulfill basic needs daily in Bandung. Basic needs can never be fully met. Cartman makes a living by scavenging rubbish and sleeping in shop windows, and their children take turns sleeping in the cart. The aims of this research are 1) to find out the fulfillment of the basic needs of Cartman, 2) to find out how Cartman fulfills their basic needs, and 3) to find out Cartman's daily activities. The research method used in this research is phenomenology. Data collection techniques are done through observation, interviews, and documentation studies. The data analysis technique used is qualitative. The sampling technique used was non-probability with an accidental sampling technique with ten informants. This research shows that basic needs have not been met, such as housing and education, food, clothing, and aspects of meeting clean water and sanitation needs. The activities of the Cartman are only focused on looking for second-hand goods to meet their basic needs, surviving to meet their family's needs, and hoping to get help from the community. The activity of looking for used goods starts from waking up, and the working hours of the Cartman vary.

© The Author(s) 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The "Cartman" phenomenon is one of the phenomena of extreme poverty currently occurring, especially in big cities in Indonesia, including Bandung, and it is difficult to imagine how they can survive with carts. They cannot depend on the government for their fate, and expecting help from the middle class is also impossible, considering that urban life tends to be highly individualistic. One way to survive is simply by trying with their abilities. They come to the city without skills, so many rarely find decent work. One example is that Cartman can only scavenge with minimal income. They only have enough to eat from scavenging but cannot get other needs such as clothing and shelter. They are forced to scavenge to meet their daily needs, and they have to live in carts, which are used as a means of scavenging because they do not have a place to live and cannot rent a place to live, even a very simple one.

Poverty is one of the main problems in economic development and is the center of attention for any country, including Indonesia (Safrita et.al, 2021; Sari, 2022; Wandita et.al, 2022). Poverty has always been a significant problem that requires special attention from governments in various countries, including Indonesia. Poverty is a problem that exists in all parts of the world and harms economic growth (Kamaludin, 2023). Several factors of poverty can potentially influence economic growth, population, and unemployment (Sabana & Wulandari, 2023), as well as the human development index and its influence on poverty in Bandung City.

In fulfilling the need for a place to rest and as a home, Cartman is often seen at specific points on the road. Apart from that, they require you to have a specific location as a residence measuring 2m x 1m, even if only temporarily, such as in a shop window, market, park or terminal. Activities for bathing or defecating are generally carried out in public toilets. Likewise, when it comes to fulfilling other basic needs, Cartman has limitations in getting them well. This condition can be understood as a result of the prevailing poverty situation and difficulty finding work in the city.

Based on this background, several main problems in the research can be identified: How do you fulfill the basic needs of Cartman in Bandung? How does Cartman meet basic needs in the city of Bandung? What are the daily activities carried out by Cartman in Bandung?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Poverty Concept

Poverty can be connoted as the inability to work individually, in groups or families (Efendi et.al, 2019), so this condition is vulnerable to other social problems (Rowley et.al, 2021). According to (Zhang, 2017), poverty is the inability to meet minimum living standards.

2.2 The characteristics of poverty

according to (Edemekong et.al, 2024) are the inability to meet basic needs, inability to work due to illness, physical or mental disability, inability to function socially, low human resources, vulnerability to shocks both individual

and mass, lack of access to employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods, lack of access to other basic needs (such as health, etc.), there is no guarantee of the future and are not involved in activities in society.

2.3 Factors Causing Poverty

According to (Henning, 2017; Sun et.al, 2022), poverty that has been chronic or hereditary, Cultural Poverty, and poverty due to cultural factors such as laziness, lack of discipline, waste, apathy, and structural poverty. Poverty is due to the impact of a particular policy, which causes a decline in social welfare.

2.4 Cartman Concept

According to (Ghofur, 2009), Cartman considers that their previous formal and non-formal jobs did not provide economic benefits, especially to meet their household needs. Cartman always moves from place to place using their carts to transport scavenged goods and as a place to rest at night. Usually, Cartman carries all their family members along with their cart, where all furniture is stored.

2.5 Factors Causing the Emergence of Cartman

Schuts distinguishes two motifs in order to and because of motifs, namely: 1) Economic Motive, with characteristics: loss of job; no employment land; unable to pay rent; want to live apart from family, and generous assistance (Vaalavuo & Sirniö, 2022; Rowley et.ak, 2021). 2) Big City Rantau Motif has characteristics such as trying luck, finding a job, visiting the center of civilization in the city, family influence, and land of birth (Koçak et.al, 2021). 3) Family/hereditary motif, with characteristics: scavenger parents; the Cartman's parents; familiar with life on the road, and used to be a beggar. 4) Environmental Motif has characteristics such as friends/surroundings using carts, loss of goods (Shah & Asghar, 2023), grouping with other Cartman, and the place to hang out must be cleaned quickly.

2.6 Concept of Basic Human Needs

According to (Adekunle & Kajumba, 2021) Hidayat & Uliyah (2015:6), humans as holistic creatures are whole or whole creatures in which there are biological, psychological, social and spiritual elements. Aspects of basic needs (basic human needs), namely needs that are very important for human survival, both regarding individual consumption needs (food, housing, clothing), as well as specific social service needs (drinking water, sanitation, transportation, health and education). In this study, (Radwan & Alftan, 1978) stated that without reducing the concept of basic needs, the minimum needs of an individual or household are food, clothing, housing, health, education, water and sanitation, transportation and participation.

3. METHOD

This research method uses a phenomenological method with qualitative data analysis techniques. In carrying out this research, the unit of analysis used was the widespread Cartman in the Bandung City area. Researchers used Cartman who lived in carts daily, alone or with their families to determine informants. Phenomenological research emphasizes how informants tell stories about events they have experienced and interpret life as a cart person because

they have experienced it. This research uses an accidental sampling technique (accidental sampling), where the researcher meets a cart person when travelling through the city of Bandung. Then, this person is used as an informant, and engagement is built with good relationships until the respondent builds trust to tell meaningfully what they experience daily. As a Cartman, that is, until data saturation from the 10th informant. This research uses two data sources, namely primary data sources, namely collecting data directly from Cartman and secondary data sources, data obtained from various information sources, such as the internet and books. At the same time, the data collection techniques used are Observation, going directly to see the condition of the location and the activities of the Cartman; interviews by collecting data through direct conversations between researchers and informants and documentation studies, using research documents from the internet.

For this research to be accountable, the researcher checked the data's validity using data collection and source triangulation 1) Data Collection Triangulation, obtaining data from observations, interviews and documentation with Cartman. 2) Source triangulation is checking data on people related to Cartman, such as collectors or recipients of used goods.

4. RESULT & DISCUSSION

4.1 Results

Based on research conducted on ten Cartman informants, results were obtained regarding how to fulfill the basic needs of Cartman in Bandung City.

4.1.1 Fulfillment of Basic Needs for Food and Clothing

Below is a table that illustrates the frequency of food Cartman eats in a day, as follows:

Table 1. Frequency of Meals Per Day for Cartman Per Day Meal Frequency Per Day Amount Percentage

Meal Frequency Per Day	Amount	Percentage
1x	2	20%
2x	3	30%
3x	5	50%
Total	10	100%

Based on the Table 1, the most of the people in the cart eat twice a day. This shows that Cartman's basic food needs are fulfilled, and the food consumed by Cartman is essentially nutritionally inadequate. The most important thing for them is that they eat something filling. Fulfilling another basic need is clothing. Fulfillment of clothing needs can be seen in Table 2:

Table 2. Frequency of Changing Clothes and Number of Clothes Owned by Cartman

Change clothes for every activity	Amount	Percentage
1 Day Change	6	60%
2 Days Change	4	40%
Total	10	100%

Most of the Cartman change their clothes every day. This shows that the basic clothing needs of Cartman have been fulfilled because most Cartman changes their clothes daily. After all, the clothes used that day are dirty and smell bad because of sweat. They are dirty because they often carry, choose, and sort used items. The number of clothes that Cartman owns varies greatly; some have three pairs of clothes, four pairs of clothes, and more than four pairs of clothes. The meaning of clothing for Cartman is significant because the clothing is used to protect themselves, and what is essential is that they are dressed; even though the shape and the quality of the clothing are not good, it is the result of gifts from other people, and for them, it is considered enough.

4.1.2 Fulfillment of Basic Housing Needs

Cartman live in carts; they do not have a house or the ability to rent a house. This shows that Cartman's basic housing needs have not been met. The Cartman have difficulty finding a decent house, so they live in a cart measuring 2 m x 1 m, which is used as a house for their residence. Cartman has a need and great hopes for a place to live, even though it does not have to be good/decent, rather than living on the side of the road, on an overhang and taking turns entering the cart with their children.

4.1.3 Fulfillment of Basic Health Needs

Cartman cannot fulfill their health needs. They do not have health facilities like BPJS, Jamkesda, or other health insurance or assistance. Most of the illnesses experienced by Cartman are dizziness, coughs and colds, fever, headaches and diarrhea. This disease is rarely experienced unless there is climate change when people usually get sick. They seem to be immune to disease. Do not experience serious/degenerative diseases. This shows that Cartman's basic health needs are not sufficiently fulfilled, and in unhealthy conditions, Cartman can overcome this in various ways to become healthy again, namely by buying medicine at stalls/shops. Cartman will try to be healthy because falling sick will affect their work activities. When sick, Cartman does not have enough energy to work, and this work requires them to walk along the road carrying a cart that is quite heavy. Meeting their children's food needs will be difficult when they do not earn a living. Fulfillment of Basic Water and Sanitation Needs shows that the Cartman's water and sanitation needs have been met. Whatever the condition of the Cartman, they will always look for and obtain water for their daily needs, such as from mosques/churches/houses of worship, public toilets and rivers. If you are on a trip looking for used goods and cannot find a toilet, then urinate and defecate in the garden. Usually, to provide clean water, they already know the place. Cartman uses water for drinking, bathing and washing. Water is not needed for cooking because they do not have a kitchen. For Cartman, water is essential for daily needs as well as the needs of other ordinary people.

4.1.4 Fulfillment of Basic Educational Needs

The following is the cartman's education.

Based on the Table 3, most people in the cart have an education up to elementary school. This shows that Cartman's educational needs have not been met. Educational needs have been fulfilled if one has received education up

Table 3. Cartman Education

Education	Amount	Percentage
Not completed in primary school	2	20%
Finished elementary school	6	60%
Finished middle school	1	10%
Finished high school	1	10%
Total	10	100%

to the high school level. The condition of the Cartman at that time was that they had no money for their education. Therefore, they did not continue their education and chose to look for work, as did their children. Some Cartman realizes that education is essential to change destiny, but because of the inability to pay school fees and various other requirements. Cartman experiences cultural and structural poverty. Because many of them do not realize what school is for because their grandmothers and grandfathers never went to school; they just gave in and accepted their fate. This is similar to what happens with the cultural poverty factor. Structural due to limited access to public services such as education, health, sanitation and housing.

4.2 Discussion

The basic needs that Cartman must meet regarding food requirements are relatively fulfilled regarding carbohydrates, while protein is still insufficient. Being full of food means buying what you can, giving from other people, and never cooking. Likewise, there is a need for sanitation water by utilizing what is available in places of worship, rivers, and public toilets. They cannot access health facilities because they do not have the requirements to use them. Likewise, access to education for Cartman, both parents and their children, cannot be due to various financial limitations they have had from generation to generation. They experience structural poverty and will pass it on from generation to generation.

Moreover, basic housing needs cannot be afforded, even for a contract or renting a house only for a place to sleep. In this way, it will be difficult for them to get out of their problems because often, the state is not present to help Cartman move up in class or improve their living conditions. The way to fulfill basic health needs, especially if you are sick, is what the Cartman does by buying medicine from a stall.

Cartman's activities begin when they wake up and then carry out their daily activities, such as going to the toilet, eating, praying, and working until returning to sleep. Each cart person has different activity times, but their job is the same: looking for used goods. The work hours carried out by Cartman vary; some start from morning to evening, and some start from evening to morning. Some even start from morning to morning and stop when they feel tired. They live to earn money that can be used to buy food that day, and sometimes, they hope to have a little extra to take care of them if they are sick and unable to work.

Cartman knows each other's Cartman and the routes and times their fellow Cartman travel so that Cartman can arrange their work time so as not to clash with other Cartman. If you have time to search for used goods with scavengers or other Cartman, you will get very little used goods.

This is their strategy for getting maximum results to meet their daily needs from the sales of used goods they collect.

Often, they survive in such living conditions because the driving factor in fulfilling the basic needs of Cartman is to survive, to fulfill family needs, to get a decent life, and to get help from the community. Their eligibility criteria are still simple, namely being able to eat and rent a house. The hope of getting assistance from the government is rarely even considered to be able to fulfill their daily lives because they rarely interact with government officials. The government is rarely present to help their lives. Their rights as citizens are seriously ignored, including providing eKTP identity and other population rights. The government is absent or does not care to help improve the living conditions of vulnerable communities. The Cartman only relies on assistance from the community or certain community care groups because they do not have high hopes of getting assistance from the government. The government informant admitted that there was a government interest in the order and beauty of the city by carrying out raids. From this, it is clear that there is a need for systemic change in the government's approach to vulnerable communities like this. There is a need for more effective and inclusive interventions to improve the quality of life of Cartman and give them better access to their fundamental rights as citizens.

5. CONCLUSION

Fulfilling basic human needs for carts, such as food, clothing, health, water sanitation and housing, has not been met. All efforts to fulfill basic needs are by buying and being given, while the way to fulfill basic needs for housing/residence can never be fulfilled by living in a cart or sleeping in the shop window. Ways to fulfill essential water and sanitation needs are public toilets for bathing, sewers/rivers for defecation, asking for food or buying.

The activities of the Cartman are only focused on looking for used goods. Activities start from waking up and immediately rushing to shower and preparing a cart to carry around all day. All this is done because of the need to keep the lives of parents and their children moving forward.

References

- Alam, M. Q., & Alam, M. S. (2021). Financial Development, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in India: An Empirical Evidence. *ETIKONOMI*, 20(1).
- Edemekong, P. F., Bomgaars, D. L., Sukumaran, S., & Schoo, C. (2024). Activities of Daily Living. In *StatPearls*. StatPearls Publishing. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK470404/>
- Efendi, R., Indartono, S., & Sukidjo, S. (2019). The Relationship of Indonesia's Poverty Rate Based on Economic Growth, Health, and Education. *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding*, 6(2), <https://doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v6i2.704>
- Ghofur, A. (2009). *Manusia Gerobak: Kajian Mengenai Taktik-Taktik Pemulung Jatinegara Di Tengah Kemiskinan Kota*. Lembaga Penelitian SMERU.
- Gweshengwe, B., & Hassan, N. H. (2020). Defining the characteristics of poverty and their implications for poverty analysis. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 6(1), 1768669. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2020.1768669>
- Henning, M. A. (2017). Domination game: Extremal families for the 3/5-conjecture for forests. In *Discussiones Mathematicae—Graph Theory*, 37(2), pp. 369–381. <http://doi.org/10.7151/dmgt.1931>
- Kamaludin, A. S. (2023). Rural Transformation and Poverty Reduction in Rural Area. *Journal of Regional and Rural Development Planning (Jurnal Perencanaan Pembangunan Wilayah Dan Perdesaan)*, 7(1), <https://doi.org/10.29244/jp2wd.2023.7.1.1-14>
- Koçak, O., Ak, N., Erdem, S. S., Sinan, M., Younis, M. Z., & Erdoğan, A. (2021). The Role of Family Influence and Academic Satisfaction on Career Decision-Making Self-Efficacy and Happiness. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(11), 5919. <http://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18115919>
- Radwan, S., & T. Alfthan. (1978). Household Survey for Basic Needs: Some Issues. *International Labour Review*, 17(2).
- Rowley, J., Richards, N., Carduff, E., & Gott, M. (2021). The impact of poverty and deprivation at the end of life: A critical review. *Palliative Care and Social Practice*, 15, 26323524211033870. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26323524211033873>
- Sabana, A. A., & Wulandari, D. (2023). Poverty Reduction in Perspective Economic Islamic. *International Journal of Management Progress*, 5(2).
- Safrita, S., Abbas, T., & Yurina, Y. (2021). The Effect of Economic Growth and Poverty on Income Inequality in Indonesia. *Journal of Malikussaleh Public Economics*, 4(1), <https://doi.org/10.29103/jmpe.v4i1.4792>
- Sari, N. P. (2022). Analysis of Factors Affecting HDI and Poverty in Indonesia in 2021. *The Indonesian Journal of Social Studies*, 5(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.26740/ijss.v6n2.p68-78>
- Shah, S. S., & Asghar, Z. (2023). Dynamics of social influence on consumption choices: A social network representation. *Heliyon*, 9(6), e17146. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e17146>
- Sun, H., Li, X., Li, W., & Feng, J. (2022). Differences and Influencing Factors of Relative Poverty of Urban and Rural Residents in China Based on the Survey of 31 Provinces and Cities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(15), 9015. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19159015>
- Vaalavuo, M., & Sirniö, O. (2022). Jobs against poverty: A fixed-effects analysis on the link between gaining employment and exiting poverty in Europe. *European Societies*, 24(4), 431–462. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616696.2022.2088821>
- Wandita, D. T., Gunarto, T., & Ratih, A. (2022). The Effect of Economic Growth on Multidimensional Poverty. *Journal Research of Social Science, Economics, and Management*, 1(9), 1413–1421. <https://doi.org/10.59141/jrssem.v1i9.156>
- Zhang, H. (2017). The Minimum Living Standard Guarantee System and Citizenship Cultivation among the Poor in China. *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 45(4/5), 483–506.