

# Factors That Cause Someone to Become A Beggar in Traffic Lights of Sultan Agung Street, Way Halim Sub-District

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**Abstract:** This study aims to describe the factors that cause someone to beg at the traffic lights of Sultan Agung Street, Way Halim Sub-District, Bandar Lampung City in 2019. The research method uses qualitative research methods. The data collection techniques in this study are observation and in-depth interviews.

The results of this study concluded that the main factor that causes a person to become a beggar at the Sultan Agung Traffic Lights in Way Halim sub-district was poverty. Another factor that causes someone to become a beggar was the low level of education and hereditary habit factors, as well as the laziness feeling to work. For beggars, begging was a way or reaction to be able to survive in life.

**Keywords:** Beggars, Begging Factors, Poverty.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Humans as economic beings want to reach a sufficient life and be able to fulfill all the necessities of life. Not a single human being who wants to live in poverty. Poverty will directly impact on the difficulty of fulfilling human needs which include primary, secondary and tertiary needs. Besides poverty can indirectly reduce human quality, because of the inability to pay for education. So that some person may only get the low level of education that results to low mindset and skills as soft skills needed to get a job and get an income used to fulfill their life needs.

One of the human instincts is to do various ways in order to survive. Any condition experienced by humans is not a reason to always try to fulfill the necessities of life. Many poor people always try and keep working in order to fulfill their life. However some poor people without skills and job choose a solution for getting income by asking for the mercy of others by begging or they are called as beggars. Based on data collected from the Central Statistics Bureau, in 2015 there were 97 beggars in Bandar Lampung.

Based on the author's preliminary observations, many beggars are seen in the center of the crowd such as at traffic lights, markets, worship places such as mosques, churches and others. Bandar Lampung city is the capital of Lampung Province which become the center of the economy and center of government in Lampung Province, so it becomes a good location for beggars to carry out their actions. One of the locations targeted by beggars is around a traffic light. One of the traffic lights in Bandar Lampung city that does not escape

from beggars is the traffic light area on Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district, Bandar Lampung City. Every day beggars are seen in the traffic light starting from children to the elderly people.

All activities carried out by humans must be motivated by certain causes. There are push factors and pull factors that make people act and decide what activities to do. This also applies to beggars in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district who decide to become beggars. Starting from children to the elderly who do begging activities in the area. Therefore the authors are interested in conducting a study on the factors that cause begging in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district.

Starting from the above problems, the researcher intends to conduct a research with the title "Factors that cause someone to become a beggar in Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district, Bandar Lampung City. This study aims to describe the factors that cause someone to become a beggar at the traffic lights of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district, Bandar Lampung City. In addition, the results of this study are expected to become input for the society and related institutions in overcoming the problems of beggars on Sultan Agung street, Way Halim.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used is qualitative research methods. The qualitative method according to Sugiyono (2014: 9) is a research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism, used to examine the conditions of natural objects, (as the opposite is experiment) where the researcher is the key instrument, the data collection technique is done by triangulation (combined), analysis the data is inductive/qualitative, and the results of qualitative research emphasize meaning rather than generalization. The place of this research is in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district. Researchers choose this research place because it is one of the places where there are many people passing by vehicles and beggars can be found in this place. The informants in this study are beggars in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district.

The data collection technique in this research is in-depth interview technique. This in-depth interview is used to explore data on the factors that cause beggars to do their activity in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district. In addition, researchers also use observation techniques. observations are made in order to find out the actual situation related to the research. Data analysis in this study is carried out at the time data collection took place and after completing data collection within a certain period. At the time of the interview, the researcher had conducted an analysis of the answers being interviewed. If the researcher find that the answer is not satisfaction after the analysis, the researcher will continue the question again, until a certain stage, the credible data is obtained.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on research that had been conducted in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district, Bandar Lampung City, there were several factors that cause a person to become a beggar including poverty, laziness to work, low levels of education, lack of skills that can be used to earn income and heredity habit. The following was a table of the factors that cause someone to become a beggar.

Tabel 1. Factors That Cause Someone to Become a Beggar in the Traffic Light Area of Sultan Agung street.

No	Informant Name	Factors That Cause Someone to Become a Beggar			
		Poverty	Heredity Habit	Low Level of Education	Laziness
1	Watiyem (68)	√		√	
2	Sri (60)	√		√	
3	Suratmi (66)	√		√	
4	Putri (8)	√	√		
5	Ahmad (19)	√		√	√
6	Mentari (10)	√	√		

Source. Research Results

Based on table 1, it could be seen that the main factor for someone to become a beggar was poverty. The poverty they experience made them take shortcuts to get money easily by begging. Apart from poverty, low level of education, heredity habit, and laziness were also factors in someone deciding to become a beggar.

The main reason why someone becoming a beggar was because of economic factors, or you could say poverty. Someone must fulfill their primary daily needs so that they were able to do everything including begging. As did 60-year-old mother named Sri (a pseudonym) to fulfill her primary needs after her husband passed away, she do begging in order to fulfill all her economic needs while in the limited finances situations.

The following was Mrs Sri's explanation:

*"I'm already old, I want to work but what kind of available job for me in this old age. My energy also limit in this age. I'm poor but need something to eat. When my husband was alive,*

*it was still quite good. My husband worked as a scavenger and he could buy food for one day. Now my husband has passed away and I've tried to be like my husband but unfortunately after one month, i'm not strong enough to do it. I got hurt on my leg after walking to do that job. The result of income was also not much because I could not stand the long way. Then i tried to beg and i got a decent amount of money, finally i become a beggar until now.*

Based on Mrs Sri's explanation, the purpose of begging was to fulfill her primary needs in order to continue her life. The statement conveyed by Mrs Sri could be drawn to an outline that the factor that cause them for becoming a beggar was poverty. The poverty they experience caused problems in fulfilling their primary needs so they choose to beg so they could fulfill their primary needs and survive.

The above explanation was in line with a statement from Irawan (2013:6) expressed in his book entitled Undercover Beggars that most homeless people and beggars were poor people who were powerless in facing sustainable economic problems. Economic problems that have been acute have resulted in people living in an economic crisis of their life so that being homeless and beggars was a way for them to survive.

Poverty was the most reason why they becoming beggars in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district. The limited amount of money they have was one factor for begging, so that they could produce money for fulfilling their daily needs. This was in line with a research article written by Riki, et al (2016,13) which states that "Money was one of the very influential motivations for beggars to beg".

In general, beggars were those who cannot work or were no longer productive because of various obstacles, disabilities or because they were old. Indeed, many of those who beg were old people and those with physical disabilities such as paralysis. However, not a few of those who become beggars were physically fit, young, even small children were begging. Even though there were still many ways besides begging for getting income. They can still work properly to earn money and work that was more lawful and more acceptable to society.

The informant named Ahmad (19 years old) was actually still able to find other jobs to earn money. But he decided to beg by coloring his body with silver body paint. He dyed their bodies in search of generous sympathy for them to earn money. He was carrying a cardboard box while standing at the traffic light. Even though his productive age was actually able to find better jobs to make money. A feeling of laziness at work that makes him doing this.

The following was the explanation from Ahmad:

*"What can i do when i neither have a certificate nor skills. i just able to lift things. i once worked as a sand labores, i took sand from the car but i was tired and the money was not*

*much, it didn't appropriate to what i have done. I thought that instead of being tired for becoming a labores then it was better to be a beggar like this. Without feeling too tired but i could get money ”.*

From the above statement, there were two factors that caused Ahmad to become a beggar, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors that motivate Ahmad to become a beggar were feelings of laziness in himself, lack of education and skills, and lack of confidence in trying to earn money by working. Meanwhile, external factors that also influenced Ahmad to become a beggar were being pressured by circumstances to fulfill his primary needs and failing to get a job.

The feeling of laziness and tired at work expressed by Ahmad was almost the same as what was written by Irawan (2013:6) in his book, Irawan wrote that the behavior and habit of begging in order to get money without effort tends to make some people lazy and wonder for having a good life with less efforts.

This hereditary habit was carried out by beggars due to family factors, namely parents, children, brothers and sisters who also work as beggars. Someone become a beggar because they were imitating their closest person who do the same thing. This happened to one of the beggar families, namely the Putri's family (pseudonym) who was 8 years old. She begged herself in the traffic light area of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim Sub-district, while her mother went around to the residential areas closed to her begging area. She was promised something by her mother, which was pocket money when she begged. So that Putri was happy to do that because she will get a reward in the form of pocket money.

On that basis, a child will obey what parents say and see the habits of their parents. As the following statement from Putri:

*"I was told by my parents. My mother also went around asking for money from house to house. I also rarely get money for snacks so i was willing to become a beggar as my mother said"*

There was a phrase that say "the fruit does not fall far from the tree" which means that the character of the child will depend on the character inherited by their parents. This was what happened to Putri, who was asked by her parents to beg. The profession of Putri's parents as beggars was also a motivating factor for her to not hesitate to go to the streets and become a beggar. This was the same as what Irawan (2013:6) wrote in his book. Irawan wrote that one of the factors why someone being a beggar was because they were asked by their parents. Usually this reason was found in beggars who were still children. They work because they were asked by their parents and in such cases child exploitation takes place.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation of the research results, the main factor that cause someone to become a beggar in the traffic light of Sultan Agung street, Way Halim sub-district was poverty. Apart from poverty, there were other factors that cause a person to become a beggar. These factors were the low level of education and hereditary habit factors, as well as feeling lazy to work. For beggars, begging was a way or reaction to be able to survive in life.

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