

## Poverty in Perspective of Christian Faith by Congregation Moriah Towuntu Southeast Minahasa of Regency

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### ABSTRACT

Indonesia is a developing country with a large population and still faces the complex problem of poverty. In Southeast Minahasa Regency, North Sulawesi Province, the poverty rate ranks eighth highest, and this issue is influenced not only by economic factors but also by cultural patterns, lifestyle, and spirituality. This research aims to explore the causes of poverty within the Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa (GMIM) Moriah Towuntu using a qualitative exploratory approach. Data were collected through a snowball sampling technique involving ten families who received social assistance. The results reveal three main causes of poverty: early-age marriage, inherited poverty culture from parents, and laziness. Moreover, from the perspective of Christian faith, poverty is understood as a consequence of structural sin and the family's weak spirituality in practicing Christian values. The inheritance of spiritual values is seen as a key to social transformation, where changes in culture, lifestyle, and spiritual orientation can lead to freedom from poverty. The Church is expected to actively serve as an agent of transformation, guiding its members from poverty toward an abundant life in Christ.

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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a developing country with large population be found problem proverty. Proverty are problem complex with influenced many factors, unavoidable because problem of continue (Septian & Dinar, 2023).

In Indonesian have statistics Indonesia or Central Bureua of Statistics as Public Policy Institution, non ministrial government measuring poverty with used concept of basic needs approach, it means inability from economic aspect to fulfill basic needs.

Nomina of poverty population in Indonesian in March 2023, amount 25,90 million people (9,36 %), and in March 2024 amount 25,22 million people (9,03%) amount reduce 0,68 million people compared with in March 2023 (Suryawasita, 1987). According to Central Bureau of Statistic North Sulawesi Province, amount poor people in 2022 specifically for Southeast Minahasa of Regency amount 12.610 people, in 2023 amount 12.700 million people, this data showed have improvement amount 90 people, in 2024, amount 12.590 people, reduce 110 people and have the top 8 ranked in North Sulawesi Province. Amount population in Southeast Minahasa Tenggara in 2024 are 120,440 million people in March.

Based on research result from Kula, 2023 about factors of the reason poverty in Southeast Minahasa of Regency with quantitative method with sampling from 12 (twelve) subdistrict, finding of the reason are economic, employment of minimum, shopping patterns want to spend money (not want to save money) (Kula, 2023). According with Tamponggangoy, 2021 years about analyzed factors influence from poverty in Southeast Minahasa of Regency with quantitative method are human resources not want to save money, not used land with good and not agriculture management with good too, lots lands empty (Tamponggangoy, 2021).

The research result from Kula and Tamponggangoy approve that poverty increased because the people have not ability to fulfill basic need until human resources low, and then productive low finished income low to. From The research result should have comprehensive solution for decline poverty.

According to Marjoko Idris (2007) for solution to problem poverty empty are poor people changed become good human resources with perspective religion as new perspective. Insight religion with new perspective from Christian that poverty happened because inequality structure sociality so that solution as attention especially to poor people weak with Love of Jesus Christ (Gultom, 2020).

In relationship with poor people, gospel of Luke famous "gospel of poor poverty", Gospel of social to Love of God to poor people is core to proclamation of gospel (Woodington, 2020). God loves all people, especially poor of people and weak (Harold, 2018). Result analyzed of textual showed that reflection all reality related with poverty, mainly used knife of surgery *Theology of liberation*, have conclusion that poverty, especially structural poverty is fruit from social sin. Social sin as individual sin who awake all situation become one structure of massif. This analyzed recommended to need will individual repentance and communal for destroyed the sin and decline the poverty (Sekius, 2022). According researcher have agenda to working in effort decline poverty, because decline poverty not responsibility from government but with follower of the Jesus Christ.

## LITERATUR REVIEW

### Definition of Poverty

Poor is something a destitution and suffering, have no assets and lack all aspect. Term of poverty usually used to description the people have income can't need basic are eat, clothes and home (Sukamto, 2020). Poor is the people who income only to help live (Sitorus, 2004). To discuss by concept poverty not regardless from long of debate about definition, indicator and all problem regardless with problem poverty until poverty as not sure and multi-dimensional (Mukhtar, 2003).

Based on Constitution number 24, 2004 poverty is situation social economic from individual and group who not regardless basic rights to maintain and develop live

dignified, some body it said poor if always feel suffering, feel lack, malnutrition, bad health, letter blind, bad environment/seedy, income of minimum, the margins.

Understanding of poverty from Constitution explained as one situation social, need basic not fulfilled in the days, difficult achieve of the eat, malnutrition, water not health, unemployment, service public not good and transformation is not goods

### **Dimention of Poverty**

Dimensions of poverty nature complex, because the expert make classification in 3 (three) type of poverty (Harniati, 2010) are:

1. Natur of Poverty is reasoned by human resources and nature resources is low
2. Cultural of Poverty is related with attitude individual and group in social in public, not have effort or repair the live so that, this poverty reasoned by system in tradition poverty of public. For example, in system inheritance cause the land and the day become small and finished.
3. Structural of Poverty in direct or not reasoned by institutional or structure social in in public.

This three of dimensions showed that the reasoned of poverty not single, maybe the situation nature not give profit to repair the economic because from factor the human, for example showed the poverty from structure an institution in public (Zulkifli, 2022).

### **Poverty According Holy Bible**

The Holy Bible of Old Testament explained the reason of poverty are (Gultom, 2018) :

- a. Poverty consequence from laziness (Proverbs. 6:9-11, 24:30-34, 19:15), drunkenness, foolishness and greediness (Proverbs. 23:20-21, 21:17, 13:18, 28:19). It means lazy people want spend time in the bed, not work and finishing poverty.
- b. Poverty become from unfaithful for God (Leviticus 26;14-46, Deuteronomy 28 :15-68), become situation on the people unfaithful for God are when the people gardening and not fruitful, all the hard work is in vain, and the ground becomes try, hard and did not give results.

The description above in can summarized that the reason human become poor from to oneself human, group and public, not upholding justice. According to Viktorahadi at al., 2021, explained that the Holy Bible of Old Testament describe situation oppression in Israel from other nations and Israel become poor people (Viktorahadi et al., 2021).

In *ptochos* Matthew. 5:3 describe pure the people of poverty and understanding that poverty make they are miserable and to give the live only to God, believe to God, they are nothing di world and to approve to God, where they are only belief and resigned to God. Saying in Mattew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Heaven of Kingdom “. Thay the poor in spirit make theirs meek, open mind to God and depend of live to God.

Understanding of heart poor is they are knowing only with Jesus Christ can help their problem. When they saying who mourn or sad. They become grace to other people and not revenge. When they are feeling not fear they are only hope to Jesus Christ because al a long no fear the Kingdom of heaven no yet come.

## PERSPECTIVE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

The word faith from verb is save, peaceful, secure. In The Old Testament is hold firm. The word come from type definition are hold resolute the promise for someone, because the promise is unwavering of strong until agreed, trusted. if someone is Jesus Christ, definition of faith is Jesus Christ considered unwavering, strong, the people believe to promise of the Jesus Christ, and should agree that Jesus Christ Strong and feasible to hold.

The Old of Testament give understanding to God is agreed not with mind but with all personality and all life to promise of God which has been given for the people through the word and work of God. Someone has faith with that manner so they live believe for the promise of God. According understanding from faith in the New Testament, faith is agreed with all personality and the manner of live style believe for God in Jesus Christ who has reconciled the man from all sins with death of Jesus Christ, when the people believe about Jesus Christ must have faith death of Jesus Christ in their live. This faith become strong in live for the people who believe for Jesus Christ forgive sins. From describe, faith is as human hand to give grace from God, until Faith is way for salvation (Habakkuk 2:4, Rm 1 :17, Galatians 3 :11 dan Hebrews10:38) (Hadiwijono, 2001).

In generally the core from initiative from God to give the people salvation. Jesus Christ said, "I have paid the debt of humanity" I have carried human burdens". Jesus Christ already bring grace from God, this is bringing understanding and said "O, how rich are the resources and wisdom of God! really unexplored decision, the way of God is unfathomable" (Soedarmo, 2001).

According word Greece, word in is "rooted" or lean neck to, so that in situation. In Jesus Christ is live have rooted in Jesus Christ, and live have lean neck to Jesus Christ in all situation. The way of salvation according to God's will are to salvation the people from all sins and God want the people have rooted for Jesus Christ, learn neck to Jesus Christ all situation so the people cat salvation because humans united wit Jesus Christ (Hadiwijono, 2001).

## METHOD

This Research is exploration with purpose for delve about the main of cause poverty and what matter influence been happen poverty (Creswell, 2003). Population from this research be composed 10 (ten) family of Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu, Southeast Minahasa of Regency. Type of tacking sampling of technique *snowball sampling*.

The purpose special this research are describing what the reason from poverty in Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu, Southeast Minahasa of Regency. Analyzed who perspective Christian of Faith Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu, Southeast Minahasa of Regency against poverty.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Basic of Datta Informan

Nu.	Informan/Aid Recipients	Gender	Marriageable Age	Highest Degree
1.	NB /PKH	F/ 42	Married at the age of 16	Junior High School

2.	NS / BLT	F/53	Married at the age of 16	Elementary School
3.	LL / BLT	M/55	Married at the age of 16	Elementary School
4.	YM / HR	F/75	Married at the age of 16	Elementary School
5.	RA / HR	F/35	Married at the age of 16	Elementary School
6.	OF / BLT	F/60	Married at the age of 22	Junior High School
7.	JJ / BLT	F/43	Married at the age of 21	Junior High School
8.	JY / PKH	M/55	Married at the age of 25	Elementary School
9.	AH / PKH	F/53	Married at the age of 25	Elementary School
10.	AS / PKH	F/60	Married at the age of 18	Elementary School

Source processed by researcher 2025

Ker : HR = House Renovation

## Discussion

### Factors of the Reason Poverty in Christian Faith Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu

The main reason from poverty in Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu can explained with research proposition. First researcher analysis what the main reason poverty from Christian Faith Perspective and the result can category are :

#### 1. *Early-age Marriage*

The result from analyzed of the research description have 6 (six) informant early-age marriage. This condition become of cause poverty, where mentally unprepared of informant on household, informant can do it and lack. Early-age marriage is married under 19 years, according constitution marriage informal if male and family age under 19 years. Poverty cycle appear if marriage age 15-16 years, not established to have decent work. Some people the marriage want to can decline burden household, so in fact, precisely increase burden of household.

This condition keeps happening representative hereditary one generation and then formed structural of poverty. For 2 (two) informant is the parent marriage at the age 16, an than the child to marriage at the age of 14, and then the grandchild marriage at the age of 14, this is fact where condition representative hereditary one generation and formed Structural of poverty. This situation made the people miserable and lack and destitute make the pople become poverty.

#### 2. *Hereditary of Culture Parent's*

The result from analyzed of the research describe that condition lack from parent started for father to lack of live, when live not have assets because finished shared for children. It is 9 (nine) of informant describe that informant live full lack when live with for father, and not have assets. Found in parent have life style not have asset and no diligent in worship, not active in church, until this culture hereditary from parent to children and then become poverty.

This condition keeps happening the children not enthusiastic about worship because the children looking the parents do it. This meaning when the children do not like to worship because looking the parents do not like to. Hereditary of culture from parents make the children do not like to worship and do not like to believe to Jesus Christ. This situation made the poor people live in poverty problem.

### 3. *Laziness*

Lazy is not like to work or make something to do, this condition some people avoid the job to should to do. This became sign lack discipline, always procrastination and idleness. The main cause lazy is not have ability to arrange the good. Not factor genetic but factor personality. Lazy of long become character and become bad stigma because other people do not believe if your work certain you can have responsibility. General the people lazy because the not like the job and, harm yourself, in failure.

According result research from Ambarita, et all (2024), describe that church and public make together to achieve justice of and shared prosperity. The bible teaching that hard work, solidarity, and have love for together can decline poverty. This solution to decline poverty is increase work of ethos in the live. Christiani expected to found work of ethic as diligent and be patient, as in the Proverb 10:4 that hard work not about to fulfil material need but divine call from God to arrange this live responsibility.

This condition keeps happening when the people lazy, not like to work hard, just like to happy with situation full lack, nothing and only stay make the people become poor people until problem poverty.

## FINDINGS

### Poverty in Perspective of Christian Faith

This perspective make inspire to fight for Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu go out from this condition social and economic pressure. According perspective Christian of faith, every people hold on and believe to God and to do word of God. This perspective Christian Faith give love of grace and make perspective to Jesus Christ as way of salvation (Hebrew 10:38 and Gal 3 :11 Ro 1 :17). Work of salvation from Jesus Christ are obedience, peacefulness and redemption, every individual should obedience, peacefulness for Jesus Christ.

For achieve decline poverty every individual Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu should obedience for word of God through read the diligent of Holy Bible, always pray, peace, go to church. Leviticus 26:3-4a “ *If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the filed their fruit*” clause 6 “*I Will grant peace in the land and you will down and no one will make you afraid, I will you remove savage beasts from the land and the sword will not pass through your country* “. Clause 13a “*I am The LORD, your God*”, the LORD who took you out from Land of Mesir so that You do not slave.

Missiology of Reflection describe that Christian Evangelical Church Minahasa Moriah Towuntu should have ability to get out the poor people to abundance live in Jesus Christ. When the people live with parent with full lack and limitation, actually the parent have culture life style not diligent to worship, nor active in activities of

church. This culture from parent heritage for children and the the children not like to worship, not like in activity in church to.

This condition keeps happening the children not believe for Jesus Christ, do not believe Jesus Christ come to paid the all sins and bring out to live abundance, and finished they are made perspective Christian of faith low and not hope.

In Holy Bible describe that heritage is important concept about heritage material and spiritual. Heritage of material about property, house and riches to give for children. Heritage of spiritual about value, trust, character from parents to children. From two type the heritage, heritage to spiritual is very important, because when the children have understanding about value, trust and character in Jesus Christ, and so the children have life good adequate, maybe can work hard, like to worship and to fulfill about the material, like us property, house at all.

This is made attention for the Christian Evangelical Church Minahasa in Moriah Towuntu to make perspective Christian of Faith in Jesus Christ to make live joy of abundance, glory and happiness.

## CONCLUSION

Factors the main cause of poverty in Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu are early-age marriage (marriage of under age of 19), heritage of cultural from parents is not good, laziness/ minimum of work ethic. Form perspective Christian of faith are Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa Moriah Towuntu should have strong to bring the poor people go out from problem poverty to enter abundance or galore, through repentance by not early-age marriage, the parents pass down or heriditage good of culture for children and improve work ethic.

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