Evaluating the Poor Standards Implementation in Sorong City

Evi Mufrihah Zain¹, Indri Handayani², Rais Dera Pua Rawi³

¹²³Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong, Sorong, Indonesia
*Corresponding author: Evi Mufrihah Zain
*Corresponding author: zevimufrihah@um-sorong.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine the results of the assessment of poor standards by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Sorong City. This research uses a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. The population in this study consisted of BPS Sorong City staff and Sorong City residents who came from slums. The sampling technique uses purposive sampling with the criteria of BPS Sorong City employees who are qualified to collect information on poor people and community leaders who have information (data). Data collection techniques use observation, interviews, literature review and documentation with data collection, data reduction and data presentation. Data analysis techniques use source triangulation. The results show that BPS’s poverty criteria standard is considered less effective as a guideline for determining poor people. Because they use the same criteria from year to year and do not pay attention to a long time, moreover the criteria also apply to all of Indonesia, with BPS ignoring the different characteristics of poverty in each region in Indonesia.

Keywords: Poverty standard, resident expenditure, basic food demand, Sorong city, central statistics agency

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1. Introduction

Poverty in Indonesia is caused by various factors such as low education, low access to health services, low access to clean water, low access to electricity, and low to energy consumption (Ahmad & Aminu Zubairu, 2022; Asrol & Ahmad, 2018). Article 2 of the Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation Number 51 of 1999, Concerning Organizing Statistics specifies that the Central Bureau of Statistics is in charge of fundamental statistics. BPS has been providing poverty data and information at the district/city level since 2002 (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2022). BPS employs the idea of the capacity to fulfill basic needs (basic needs approach) to quantify poverty. Poverty is defined as an economic incapacity to cover basic food and non-food demands as evaluated on the expenditure side. Poverty occurs for various reasons, including weather shock (Azzarri & Signorelli, 2020), gender issues (Komatsu et al., 2018), pandemic (Laborde et al., 2021), etc. As a result, the poor are inhabitants whose average monthly per capita spending is less than the poverty line (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023). Poverty is classified as having two components: (1) at the macro level (such as Mussida & Sciulli, 2022; Nieuwenhuis et al., 2020) and (2) at the micro level (such as Brewer & Gardiner, 2020; Ogutu & Qaim, 2019a). At the macro level, researchers discuss income, but at the micro level, we discuss households (the price of staple products). Macroeconomics, according to Anwar et al., (2019), is a science that measures inflation, price levels, economic growth, and national
income. According to Samuelson & William D. Nordhaus, (2015), microeconomics is the study of people, families, and enterprises making economic decisions.

The BPS poverty concept's merits include faster data availability, a mission focus on macroeconomics, and surveys that are easily comprehended by the general public (see Hill, 2020, 2021). The disadvantages are that the poverty rate is too low, the poverty data is too generic, the mission strategy ignores the income side, and the mission aims are geographical (Isda et al., 2021). The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) calculation concept includes 14 criteria based on households on the micro side and 5 criteria based on the level of income calculated per population economically considered as an inability to meet basic needs on the macro side—ingredients for food and non-food (measured from the spending side) (Maulana et al., 2019; Praptiwi et al., 2021). This can be seen in terms of macro and micro indicators of gross domestic product (GDP), where macro indicators are determined based on national income, which describes the state of the economy each year, and micro indicators are determined based on domestic consumer spending, both of which are significant and not economically significant. According to the graphic above, the reason BPS utilizes 14 microdata criteria and 5 microdata criteria is that the category of poverty is appealing since it is formed from micro and macro definitions. The Indonesian poverty line is found in practically every section of the country, including Sorong, West Papua. This is shown by the number of impoverished people displayed in Table 1, based on the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) using micro and macro indicators for the City of Sorong.

### Table 1. The Total amount and percentage of poor people in Sorong City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Population of Sorong City</th>
<th>Population of the Poor</th>
<th>Percentage of poor population</th>
<th>Line of poverty (Rp/Capital/Month)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>239,815</td>
<td>42,190</td>
<td>17.78%</td>
<td>657,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>247,084</td>
<td>38,880</td>
<td>15.35%</td>
<td>668,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>254,294</td>
<td>39,020</td>
<td>15.45%</td>
<td>725,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>261,426</td>
<td>38,910</td>
<td>14.99%</td>
<td>765,183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BPS Sorong city 2021

According to Table 1, the number of poor people in Sorong City was 17.78% or 42,190 people in 2017, reduced by 15.35% or 38,880 people in 2018, climbed by 15.45% or 39,020 people in 2019, and declined by 14.99% or 38,910 people in 2020.

The data reveal the Central Statistics Agency's (BPS) concept of poverty is not as efficient for calculating the number of poor people in Sorong City because it does not correspond to the idea of poverty in Sorong City. The reality on the ground demonstrates that this principle is difficult to implement since each geographical circumstance in each place is unique. According to Hasanudin et al., (2021), the results of the Batam City Central Statistics Agency (BPS) work in recording the poor in Galang District have not been maximized because the apparatus handling enumeration and data collection at the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) only rely on information from local RT members or community leaders who are considered knowledgeable, so data collection is not on target. This study differs from the findings of Jainuddin et al., (2018), who discovered that data from government agencies that give poverty criteria, such as the BPS and BKKBN, can provide information on ideal and targeted poor families for poverty reduction.

### 2. Methods

Rukin (2019) qualitative descriptive research employs key informant and supplementary informant interviews. The main informants in this study were chosen at random, which means they were chosen without any specific considerations. This study's informants included RT/RW 002/003 Remu Utara employees, BPS workers, and village leaders. The collected data was evaluated to create a descriptive description of the subject of this study. In this study, data analysis consists of three steps: data gathering, data reduction, data presentation, and data verification. All data is picked at the data reduction step by simplifying and deleting extraneous data based on the study subject.
Furthermore, the research topic presents limited data. The last stage is to go over the data and generate conclusions based on the researcher’s interpretation of the data. Each stage of the process is carried out to ensure data validity by reviewing all available information from various sources in the field as well as personal papers, official letters, photos, photographs, and so on, using the interview technique supplemented by documentation studies. Verification is accomplished performed utilizing triangulation procedures, which include comparing one data source to another.

3. Results

As explained by Hasibuan (2017), human resource management is a science and an art that governs the connections and duties of the workforce so that they are active and efficient in assisting the organization, employees, and communities in achieving their goals. As a result, inadequate human resources can harm corporate performance and lead to poverty for those who are unable to manage their human resources efficiently.

**Poverty**

Poverty is always related to inequality and vulnerability, according to Haughton & Khandker, (2012), since those who are not considered poor may become poor at any time when faced with challenges such as the economic crisis and dropping agricultural prices. Vulnerability is an important aspect of well-being since it determines human behavior in terms of investment, production patterns, suitable methods, and perceptions of one’s circumstances. According to Nurwati (2008), poverty is a societal problem that continues to persist in people’s lives. Poverty is a very old and long-standing problem, much like the human age itself, and the fundamental part of the problem is tied to various forms or characteristics of human life.

Housing conditions and aspects that support housing, such as kinds of flooring, walls, roofs, lights, water sources, types of fuel for cooking, sanitation, and so on, are one of the features of impoverished homes (Faturochman & Molo, 1994). Mission measures are a strong tool for policymakers to concentrate on the poor’s living situations (Sukmawati et al., 2022).

**Economic Perspectives on Poverty**

Poverty may be evaluated economically by the degree of scarcity of resources to fulfill necessities and increase the group’s well-being. Poverty is represented by the absence of social network structures and possibilities to boost productivity (Amelia & Rindayati, 2012). According to Wiguna, (2013), poverty is a condition in which a person is unable to fulfill all of his basic needs, such as health, a decent standard of living, freedom, self-respect, and a sense of respect for others, as well as the country’s bleak future.

**Poverty according to the Central Bureau of Statistics**

Poverty is defined as the inability to satisfy basic food and non-food needs based on spending. The impoverished are residents whose average monthly per capita spending is less than the poverty level. BPS employs the notion of satisfying basic requirements (basic needs approach) to quantify poverty. As the main standard for poverty on a local level, Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Sorong (2015) presents a particular formulation, namely:

1. The floor area of a residential building is less than 8m² per person.
2. The type of floor of the residence is made of dirt/bamboo/cheap wood.
3. Types of walls made of low-quality bamboo/thatch/wood/unplastered walls.
4. Do not have defecation facilities or share with other households.
5. Household lighting sources do not use electricity.
6. The source of drinking water comes from unprotected wells/springs/rivers/rainwater.
7. The fuel for daily cooking is firewood/charcoal/kerosene.
8. Only consume meat/milk/chicken once a week.
9. Only buy one new set of clothes a year.
10. Only able to eat once/twice a day.
11. Unable to pay for medical expenses at the Public health center /polyclinic.
12. The sources of income for the head of the household are farmers with a land area of 500m², farm laborers, fishermen, construction laborers, plantation laborers, and/or other jobs with an income of less than IDR 600,000 per month.
13. Highest education of the head of household: not attending school, not completing primary school/graduating primary school.
14. Do not have savings/goods that are easy to sell with a minimum of Rp. 500,000, - such as motorcycles on credit, non-credit, gold, livestock, motor boats, or other capital goods

According to the 2005 Population Socio-Economic Data Collection (PSE05) poverty indicators can be defined as very poor, poor, and near-poor households as follows:
1. Not poor, are those whose spending per person per month is more than Rp. 350,610.
2. Almost non-poor with monthly expenses per head between IDR 280,488 to IDR 350,610, or around IDR 9,350 to IDR 11,687 per person per day. The number reached 27.12 million people.
3. Almost poor with monthly expenses per head ranging from IDR 233,740 to IDR 280,488, or around IDR 7,780 to IDR 9,350 per person per day. The number reached 30.02 million people.
4. Poor with expenses per person per month per head of between IDR 233,740 and below or around IDR 7,780 and below per person per day. The number reaches 31 million people.
5. Very poor (chronic) there is no criterion of how much expenditure per person per day. It is not known exactly how many there are. However, it is estimated that around 15 million people.

Many challenges have appeared in order to improve the performance of poverty standards and the government’s performance in the data collection process according to the standards provided. Jainuddin et al., (2018) conducted research on poor criterion information systems, Zulfaira, (2012) conducted research on the application of poor standards in Pekanbaru, and Hasanudin et al., (2021) conducted research on the performance of BPS in setting poor standards in Batam city. This is the first research in Sorong City, West Papua, to evaluate the application of standards for the poor.

Poverty is one of the most serious issues in Indonesia, both historically and currently, because the fight against poverty remains unsolved. Furthermore, the Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on raising the poverty rate. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in reduced labor supply, stimulus, reduced income, increased costs of doing business in each sector (including disruption of the production network in each sector), consumption recovery as society changes consumer preferences for each item, susceptibility to disease, and susceptibility to changes in economic conditions (Kurniasih, 2020).

People from north Remu RT/RW 002/003, BPS personel, and Village Cheif Office staff served as informants for this study. In general, the 7 (seven) informants interviews were designed to acquire information on the 14 poverty criteria as a reference for deserving social assistance as a comparison material for the quality of the data to combine narratives with funders and decision-makers. This in-depth interview is intended to provide answers to research questions submitted by researchers.

Table 2. exhibits a description of the data gathered in field data collecting through interviews, observation, and recording, which are connected to facts that occur in the field relating to the Central Bureau of Statistics poverty standard.
### Table 2: Research Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Poverty Standard</th>
<th>Finding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The floor area of a residential building is less than 8m$^2$ per person?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>are Not included</strong> in the category of poor criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The type of floor of the residence is made of dirt/bamboo/cheap wood?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>meet</strong> the poverty criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Do not have defecation facilities or share with other households?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 meet the poverty criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Household lighting sources do not use electricity?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>are Not included</strong> in the category of poor criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The source of drinking water comes from unprotected wells/ springs/ rivers/ rainwater?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>are Not included</strong> in the category of poor criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>The fuel for daily cooking is firewood/ charcoal/ kerosene?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>are Not included</strong> in the category of poor criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Only consume meat/ milk/ chicken once a week?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 meet the poverty criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Only buy one new set of clothes a year?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 meet the poverty criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Only able to eat once/ twice a day?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 meet the poverty criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Unable to pay for medical expenses at the Public health center / polyclinic?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>are Not included</strong> in the category of poor criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>The sources of income for the head of the household are farmers with a land area of 500m$^2$, farm laborers, fishermen, construction laborers, plantation laborers, and/or other jobs with an income of less than IDR 600,000 per month?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>are Not included</strong> in the category of poor criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Highest education of the head of household: not attending school, not completing primary school/graduating primary school?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 <strong>are Not included</strong> in the category of poor criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Do not have savings/goods that are easy to sell with a minimum of Rp. 500,000, - such as motorcycles on credit, non-credit, gold, livestock, motor boats, or other capital goods?</td>
<td>Residents of Remu Utara Village RT/RW 002/003 meet the poverty criterion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Discussion

Discussion of these findings revealed that the fourteen criteria used as standard guidelines for the standard for the poverty-stricken used by the Central Bureau of Statistics are no longer effective, given that development policies and economic growth have been successful, so the criteria for the poverty-stricken must be adjusted. The findings of this study map the responses of the informants. Seven criteria do not fulfill the standards, whereas seven match the requirements of bad criteria. To reduce the occurrence of these issues, data must be updated. As a kind of accountability to the
government (Business, 2020; Mechkova et al., 2019), it is envisaged that the central and regional governments would need a system that is integrated, responsive, and real in offering solutions (Bakker et al., 2018; Jannah & Fanida, 2020).

Communities in North Remu sub-district have a building area of more than 8m², indicating that inhabitants in the North Remu sub-district do not meet the Central Statistics Agency’s poor definition. Decision-makers might use the number of family members and the amount of household furnishings as material for consideration as one of the criteria for poverty used by decision-makers. Some of people in North Remu sub-district have different floor types, which means that the residents in North Remu sub-district are still ineligible and fall into the category of poor criterion according to the Central Statistics Agency’s regulations. Community members who still live with relatives, parents, or in-laws might be considered as material for consideration by decision makers as one of the aspects in the criterion for the poor by decision makers (Aregbeshola & Khan, 2018; Khatiwada et al., 2017; Llera-Sastresa et al., 2017).

Remu Utara sub-district population is made of bamboo/rumba/low-grade wood/unplastered walls. It has not been stated that it is practicable, implying that citizens of the Remu Utara sub-district continue to fall within the Central Statistics Agency’s low criterion. As a substantial aspect for decision-makers, they might consider the fact that they often share and live with in-laws or parents who are not considered autonomous in the home setting. This is one of the study ideas for decision-makers to consider when determining poverty standards.

Most of the individuals in Remu Utara sub-district have their toilets, while some use a public/shared Toilet. Poor sanitation leads to the spread of disease and can cause negative health outcomes (Martosenjoyo et al., 2020; Njuguna, 2019). As the material for consideration, decision-makers might consider developing a more appropriate Lavatory so that residents’ privacy can be met as one of the factors for poverty by decision-makers. On average, inhabitants in the Remu Utara sub-district utilize electricity for residential lighting. This signifies that citizens of the Remu Utara sub-district do not fall into the category of poor criterion according to the Central Statistics Agency’s guidelines. Decision-makers might consider that some residents still rely on their parents and in-laws or their children as one of the criteria for poverty used by decision-makers as material for consideration (Akram et al., 2020; Frankenhuys & Nettle, 2020; Gibson & Martin, 2019).

People in the Remu Utara sub-district consume water (drinking water company) and replenish liters of water, which means that inhabitants in the Remu Utara sub-district do not meet the Central Statistics Agency’s low requirements. People in the Remu Utara sub-district utilize kerosene and gas stoves, which means that inhabitants in the Remu Utara sub-district do not fall within the Central Bureau of Statistics poverty criterion. Decision-makers might use the number of family members and the amount of household furnishings as material for consideration as one of the criteria for poverty used by decision-makers.

Residents in North Remu are classified as having inadequate criteria based on the Central Statistics Agency’s requirements since they rarely consume meat. Research shows that as low- and middle-income countries grow economically, the consumption of meat increases with available income (Baek & Chitekwe, 2019; Bosha et al., 2019; Verly-Jr et al., 2019). Residents in North Remu are unable to afford a new pair of garments, putting them in the category of poor criteria according to the Central Statistics Agency guidelines. It is often a result of factors such as low income, poor working conditions, and lack of access to basic needs such as food and healthcare (Lazar & Davenport, 2018; Nyarko & Tahiru, 2018). Being able to assist their families when they are unwell indicates that inhabitants in the North Remu sub-district do not fall into the category of impoverished criterion according to the Central Statistics Agency’s guidelines.

The highest education level for the head of the household in the Remu Utara sub-district is Senior High School and Junior High School, which means that residents in the Remu Utara sub-district do not fall under the Central Bureau of Statistics poor criteria. Research shows that the education level of the head of the household is a significant factor in determining the poverty risk and income situation of households in low income countries (Kadoya & Khan, 2020; Ogutu & Qaim,
People in the North Remu sub-district have guaranteed assets that can be sold at any time, but some cannot afford to sell because if they do, they will not redeem or buy new ones, implying that residents in the North Remu sub-district are still classified as poor by Central Agency standards. Statistics.

5. Conclusion
The implementation of the Central Bureau of Statistics poor community guidelines for the City of Sorong in the evaluation of the poverty stricken has numerous challenges. Starting with insufficient data gathering, the parameters for the 14 criteria presented were still rather low. As a result, using the BPS Kota Sorong community matrix criteria as a guide in defining community groupings is deemed less successful. Because they use the same criteria year after year and ignore the changing times, not to mention that these criteria apply throughout Indonesia, where BPS ignores the different characteristics of poverty in each region. Based on the Central Bureau of Statistics’ application of the impoverished community criterion for the City of Sorong. The researcher has three recommendations, including updating the Central Bureau of Statistics for the City of Sorong’s assessment guidelines for the poor, conducting surveys or observations in various areas designated as underprivileged, and developing human resources in order to create a just and prosperous society in terms of poverty eradication.

6. References


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