

**ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL AND STRUCTURAL POVERTY IN URBAN
(CASE STUDY IN SEMANGGI VILLAGE)**

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Article history

Received : 6 March 2023

Revised : 24 March 2023

Accepted : 27 March 2023

Keywords

Individual Poverty;

Structural Poverty;

Urban Area

JEL classification

I32, O15, R23

This article aims to identify several individual and structural factors that are thought to be explanations for the phenomenon of urban poverty. This study uses mixed research methods, namely by combining quantitative and qualitative research. Based on a household census conducted in the two poorest and richest RTs in the poorest RW in Semanggi Sub-District, this research found that first, individual poverty occurs due to low levels of education which have an impact on low-paid jobs, early marriage and a tendency to have more children. Second, structural poverty occurs as a result of illegal residence status which results in limited access to available public services. Moreover, the social safety net programs in the form of Raskin and Raskinda, for example, are distributed equally among all residents, as a result the target households do not really benefit from the program.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty as one of the complicated problems faced by developing countries is a multidimensional problem that has many aspects. When viewed from public policy, poverty includes primary aspects in the form of poor assets, socio-political organization, and knowledge and skills; and secondary aspects in the form of poor social networks, financial and information sources (Arsyad, 2010). Indonesia as a developing country with the fourth largest population in the world, which is 249,865,631 people in 2013 (Devi et al., 2016). As province with the third largest population in Indonesia, which is 32,382,657 people, Central Java is a region that is at risk of poverty problems. Based on Badan Pusat Statistik (2015), from 35 regencies/cities in this province, there were thirty areas with percentage of poor people above the double-digit level, fifteen of which had percentage of poor people above the provincial figure. Wonosobo, Purbalingga and Rembang districts are the areas with largest percentage of poor people more than twenty percent.

Three of the six administrative urban areas in Central Java, namely Surakarta, Magelang, and Tegal have a percentage of poor people who are still at the double-digit level, although they do not exceed the provincial figure. Among the three cities, Surakarta had the highest percentage of poor people from 2010 to 2012. In fact, if we look at the HDI values over the same time frame, Surakarta has the highest HDI scores in Central Java Province. This shows that actual quality Surakarta City's human resources is better when compared to other regions in Central Java Province, including Semarang City and Salatiga City as areas with the lowest percentage of poor people. The high quality of city's human resources should show that many of its residents have experienced an improved quality of life and are living in much better conditions compared to other areas (Hidayat et al., 2020; Kasnelly & Urban villagesiah, 2021). However, looking from above it seems there is missing link between quality of human resources and problem of poverty in this city. On this basis, the authors are interested in conducting an assessment of the problem of poverty with case studies in the city of Surakarta.

Narayan et al. (1999) uses five approaches explain the concept of poverty, namely poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon; lack of fulfillment of material well-being; weakness of opinion, strength, and independence; lack of access to basic infrastructure, and; no asset ownership. Bradshaw (2005) defines poverty as non-fulfillment basic needs, such as food, shelter, health care and security. Smith (1776), in his writings "The Wealth of Nations" said poverty as "the inability to purchase necessities required by nature or custom". To measure absolute poverty, Smith uses a measure of the needs that a person naturally requires such as food, boards, and clothing. Meanwhile, relative poverty is measured by the needs that a person needs in habits or customs (Davis & Sanchez-Martinez, 2014).

As a multidimensional problem, the causes of poverty cannot only be explained in one dimension. Adherents of neoclassical economic theory who use individualism methodologies tend to see individual factors as the cause of poverty (Von-Braun & Gatzweiler, 2014). Beeghley (1988) argues that to understand why there is so much poverty, the level of analysis must shift from individual factors to social structural factors. This is because the structural variables are different from the variables that affect individuals. According to Beeghley (1988) structural variables produce high levels of poverty by limiting the choices available to individuals. Thus, individual and structural factors can provide complementary information.

Herrnstein & Murray (1996) examine how low intelligence levels are at the root of many social problems in America, Rouse (2007) examines the relationship between the number of school years completed and a person's annual income. Related to the problem of poverty as the core of social problems, Herrnstein & Murray (1996) used a comparison of the correlation between poverty with intelligence variables and parents' socio-economic status variables among white children in America, both boys and girls. The results showed that those whose parents were chronically unemployed, worked only the menial jobs, and did not go past the ninth grade in school, but were of average intelligence, had a nearly 90 percent chance of escaping poverty by their early 30s. Conversely, those born into middle-class families but have an IQ below the average have a greater risk of poverty.

Demographic characteristics also play an important role in determining family welfare. Demographic characteristics such as giving birth out of wedlock, families with large numbers of children, and having children at a young age are closely related to an increased risk of poverty (Maynard, 1998). This is because early marriage is usually followed by child-rearing activities at a young age, increasing the number of children at a young age, the tendency to leave school and not finish their education, participate less in the workforce, receive lower wages, and higher dependency tourban villagess public assistance and services (Dahl, 2010; Khaerani, 2019; Maynard, 1998; Singh & Samara, 1996).

Much of the current poverty literature suggests that the economic system is structured in such a way that the poor are increasingly underdeveloped regardless of their abilities and competencies (Bradshaw, 2005). According to economists, for a free market economy to function effectively there is a certain percentage of workers who must be out of work, which is then known as the natural rate of unemployment. The existence of conditions of full employment for example, will hamper the ability of employers to attract and employ workers, especially in sectors that have low wages (Rank, 2010). As a result of the natural rate of unemployment, there is a systemic level of unemployment in the economy. In addition to the economic system, according to Bradshaw (2005) there is a barrier that appears along with the political system and limits the interests and participation of the poor. Many recent studies have confirmed the relationship between wealth and power which is shown by the low involvement of the poor in political discussions, more vulnerable interests in the political process, and exclusion in various dimensions.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses descriptive qualitative research. The selection of research locations was carried out in three stages. First, determine the poorest urban villages in the city of Surakarta. The selection of the poorest urban villages was based on the Decree of the Mayor of Surakarta Number: 471.1/62-F/1/2014 concerning Determination of the Number of Poor Population in the City of Surakarta in the Middle of 2014. In this decree the researchers selected three urban villages with the highest number of targeted households (RTS). The results obtained were three of the poorest urban villages, namely Kadipiro Village in Banjarsari District, Semanggi Village in Pasar Kliwon District, and Mojosongo Village in Jebres District. Then elimination was carried out based on the results of observations in the three regions. The elimination process left Semanggi Village as the selected village. Second, choosing the poorest RW in Semanggi Village based on data on beneficiaries of the Surakarta City Government Raskinda Program for 2016. The poorest RW is the RW with the largest number of Raskinda beneficiaries. This process determines RW I as the selected RW. Third, choose the poorest RT and the richest RT in the selected RW using the same data. The poorest RT is the RT with the largest number of Raskinda beneficiaries, namely RT 001. Meanwhile, the richest RT is the RT with the least number of Raskinda beneficiaries, namely RT 003. This study uses primary data obtained directly from informants at the research locations. To obtain the necessary data, this research uses the method of household survey and in depth interview.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Individual Factors Causing Poverty

a. Educational Background

Based on a household survey conducted in RT 001, it was found that out of 261 residents in this RT, 25 people (9.58 percent) had not yet attended school, 64 people (24.52 percent) were currently at school, and 172 people (65.90 percent) are no longer in school. Meanwhile, based on a survey in RT 003, it was found that out of 144 residents in this RT, 21 people (14.58 percent) had not yet attended school, 20 people (13.89 percent) were currently at school, and 103 (71.53 percent) had no status school again.

Figure 1 on the next page shows the percentage of residents based on the highest degree that was completed from 236 residents of RT 001 and 123 residents of RT 003 with the status of being in school and not in school anymore. Based on figure 1, it can be seen that in general the level of education in RT 003 is slightly better when compared to RT 001. This is shown by the percentage of residents graduating from secondary and higher secondary education in RT 003 which is slightly larger when compared to RT 001. However, this does not rule out the possibility that in the future the level of education in RT 001 will be better compared to RT 003 considering the percentage of the total population who are currently in school in RT is larger when compared to RT 003.

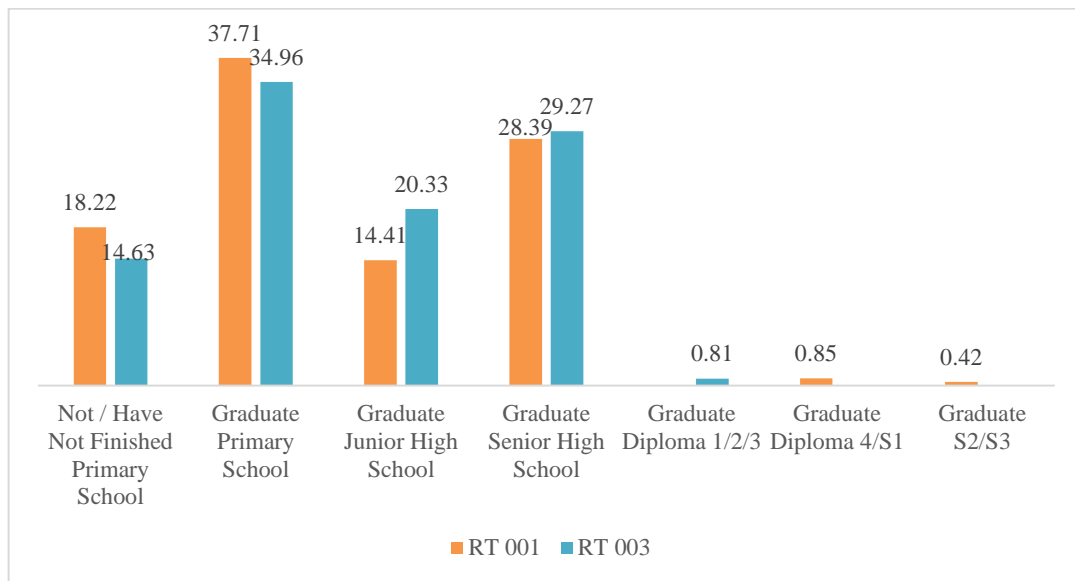


Figure 1. Percentage of the total population who are currently in school and no longer in school, based on the highest certificate held
Source: Processed data, 2021

Based on Figure 2 below, it can be seen that of the 236 residents with schooling and non-schooling status in RT 001, 27.12 percent were currently at school. Meanwhile, of the 132 residents who were at school and no longer attending school in RT 003, only 16.26 percent were currently at school. In contrast, those who are active at home and work are more found in RT 003.

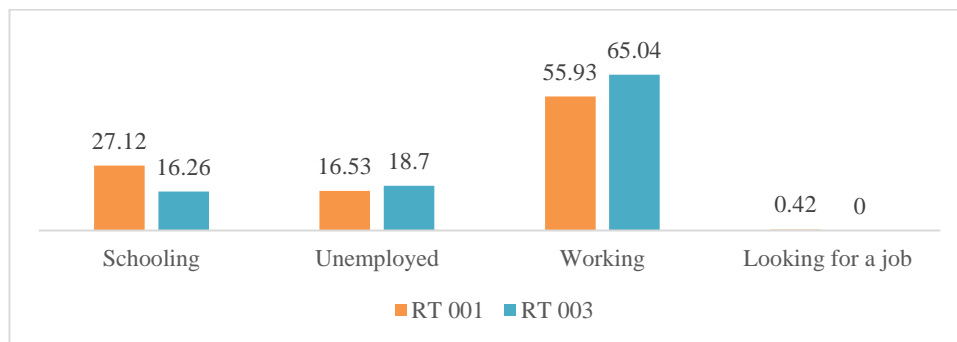


Figure 2. Percentage of the Total Population with Currently Schooling Status and No More Schooling based on Daily Activities
Source: Processed data, 2021

As previously explained, the level of education is closely related to the type of work a person does. The low level of public education means that the types of work carried out are concentrated in the trade sector and the manufacturing sector. In general, there are not too many differences in the types of work in these two regions, it's just that the types of work in RT 001 are more varied than in RT 003. Details regarding the types of work of residents in the two study locations can be seen in Figure 3 on the next page.

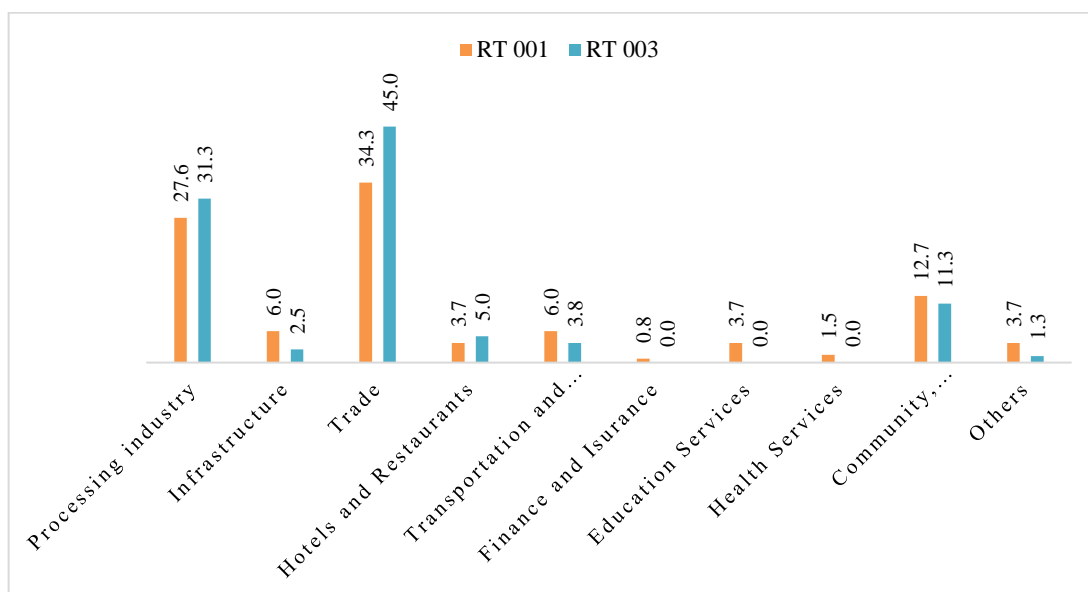


Figure 3. Population by Type of Occupation
Source: Processed data, 2021

Following up on these findings, the researcher conducted in-depth interviews with several residents to find various reasons why so many of them were not highly educated. Economic reasons, namely not having the funds to continue their education, are the main reason why most of the population does not continue their education to a higher level. Apart from economic factors, another reason that made some of the interviewees decide to quit school was the skeptical view of whether higher education would get them a better job. This view may arise from the surrounding environment, where not many people who have higher education get jobs that are far better than those who only graduated from elementary school or did not go to school at all. This then has an impact on the emergence of a feeling of laziness to finish and continue school to a higher level.

b. Demographic Conditions

Through field observations and the results of the household census, the researchers found that in some households with the most apprehensive conditions, there was a tendency to have children at a relatively young age, and to have large families. The age of the mother when giving birth to her first child can be calculated from the difference between the age of the mother and the age of her first child. These mothers generally have their first child at the age of 16 to 18 years. Whereas large family itself is generally a consequence arising from marriage or childbearing at a young age.

Through in-depth interviews with women who married at a young age, all of them stated that they had worked for several years since they were little after dropping out of school. In general, they work as laborers in factories with relatively low wages. Based on traditional economic analysis (traditional economic) stated by Dahl (2010), regarding the rationality and foresight of each individual, the decision to marry at a young age seems far more attractive than continuing to work as a factory worker. But unfortunately, this decision was not followed by careful preparation regarding what is needed to live a married life, especially when planning to have many children.

In addition, the decision to marry young is also caused by the occurrence of pregnancy due to sexual relations outside of marriage. Based on Dahl's (2010) theory of psychological analysis and economic behavior (psychological and behavioral economic) this is because adolescents often do not take into account the consequences of their current behaviors so that they are often involved in risky behaviors (risk behaviour), one of which is sexual relations outside of marriage. The decision to marry at a young age because of these psychological factors often creates regrets later because of the long-term consequences that arise, such as the emergence of obstacles to achieving success and making the desired choices.

Based on field observations and literature studies conducted, several reasons were found that underlie this risky behavior. First, children born to parents who marry at an early age have a tendency to engage in problematic behaviors such as dropping out of school and crime. Second, the lack of social control from society over these behaviors. Third, and most importantly, the low level of education. Low education does not only prevent someone from getting a better job which can make them delay the age of marriage, but also breaks the role of schools as social control institutions in correcting various bad behaviors and fostering good behaviors that are in accordance with values and norms in society when families and the environment is not able to do it.

Structural Factors Causing Poverty

In contrast to individual poverty which sees individual deficiencies as the cause of poverty, the concept of structural poverty emphasizes the inability of social systems and structures to provide opportunities for individuals to achieve the maximum potential they can achieve. This inability is caused by structural barriers that limit individual access to available resources so that they find it difficult to get out of poverty. To see how the access of the people in the two research areas to available resources, this study uses eight forms of public services, namely education/schools, health/medicine, housing assistance, job training, credit/financial, sanitation, legal aid, and security. /police, which ones do they have access to. The results can be seen in Figure 4.

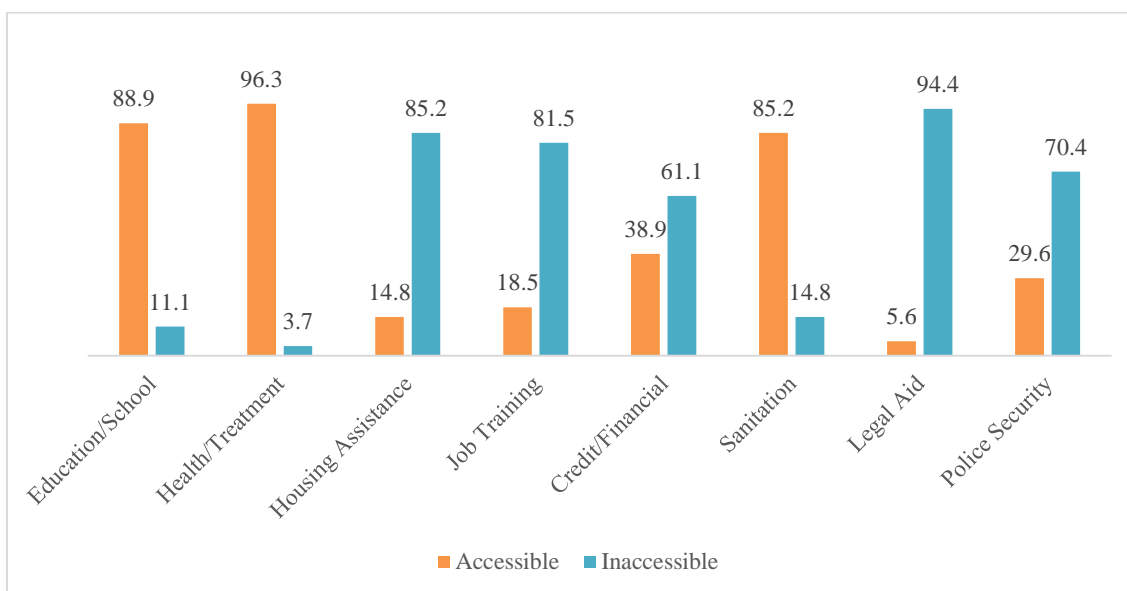


Figure 4. Percentage of Population with Access to Public Services in RT 001
Source: Processed data, 2021

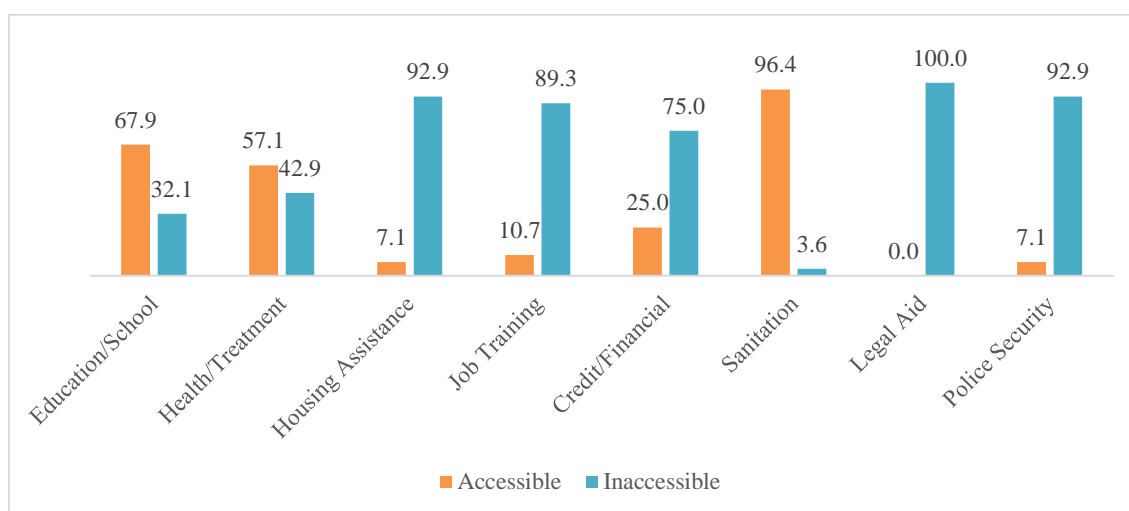


Figure 5. Percentage of population with access to public services in RT 003
Source: Processed data, 2021

By comparing Figure 4 and Figure 5 it can be seen that residents in RT 001, which is the poorest area, actually have better access in almost all areas of public services compared to residents in RT 003, which is the richest area. Services in the fields of education, health and sanitation were the most widely accessed services in the two research locations. In the sanitation sector, the large percentage of people who are able to access this service is mainly driven by the existence of a Wastewater Treatment Plant (IPAL) project that was implemented in Losari Village several years ago. It's just that not all households can be covered by the WWTP project.

Geographical reasons are the main reason why some households still do not have sewerage, especially for those who live above the embankment. In interviews with several residents of the embankment, they said that the location where they live is located somewhat apart and higher than the surrounding locations, making it difficult for the embankment area to be installed with an WWTP. Even so, they can still do bathing and washing activities in the available MCK.

For access to public services in the form of housing assistance, RT 001 is a priority for this assistance, so it is not surprising that the percentage of residents who are able to access these services is greater than RT 003. It's just that, again, those who live in the embankment area cannot receive assistance. If their services in the sanitation sector are constrained by geographic problems, in this service they are constrained by administrative problems. Occupying illegal land owned by PT. Kereta Api (Persero), those who live on the embankment do not have ownership certificates for the land and/or buildings they occupy. The certificate of ownership is the main requirement for obtaining a housing assistance program from the government. In other words, without the certificate, no matter how bad the condition of their house is, they will not be asked by the local neighborhood leader for housing assistance. This is intended so as not to complicate the eviction process which can occur at any time.

Structural obstacles can also be found in the provision of poverty alleviation program benefits, one of which is Raskin and Raskinda. In this case, there were formal obstacles regarding the practice of distributing Raskin and Raskinda which deviated far from the established guidelines. In essence, Raskin and Raskinda must be given according to the list of beneficiaries determined, based on name and address, by the government. However, in practice Raskin and Raskinda are distributed equally among all household heads in the two RTs. This was done in order to avoid social jealousy among the residents of the two RTs because not all heads of households benefited from the poverty program. In fact, this practice actually reduces the rights of program beneficiaries who may really need the assistance.

Formal obstacles can also be seen in the absence of assistance from related officials to oversee the distribution of Raskin and Raskinda. Not only these two programs, but also other programs such as job training which have been attended by several people in the research locations. The absence of relevant officials in post-job training assistance made it appear that the training did not bring any benefits to the participants and the local environment. So it's no wonder that if there is an offer of job training from the government, almost no residents are interested in taking part.

4. CONCLUSION

The individual factors that cause poverty, the low level of education in the two research locations is caused by three things: 1) economic limitations; 2) pragmatic; 3) laziness. The low level of education makes type of work concentrated in the trade & manufacturing sectors and indirectly contributes to poverty through its association with other individual factors, namely demographic conditions (marriage at young age). The structural factors of poverty, three obstacles are found that limit a person's access to public services for poverty programs: 1) geographical barriers; 2) administrative obstacles; 3) formal barriers.

Two main policy recommendations are: 1) Relocation to a better place: This recommendation appears to address the problems of individual factors such as pragmatism and laziness. By living in a better environment and supporting positive activities, a person can become more motivated to increase achievements in life, one of which is education; and 2) Government assistance in the implementation of poverty programs to the very end: This recommendation appears to reduce structural barriers that cause poverty, especially formal barriers. It aims to oversee the running of poverty programs and ensure that the benefits of these programs fall into the proper hands.

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