

POVERTY RELATIONS TO TRADE PRACTICES OF LOWER CLASS WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF PROSTITUTION

**(Case Study on Commercial Sex Workers in Bongas Village
Bongan District, Indramayu Regency)**

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Abstract

Human trafficking can be categorized as transnational organized crime. The problem of human trafficking is very complex. Efforts to prevent and overcome trafficking victims must be carried out in an integrated manner. This study aims to explore: 1) the processes and ways in which women are entangled in the practice of covert prostitution 2) social networks those are formed in the practice of covert prostitution, and 3) the factors that encourage women to become entangled in the practice of covert prostitution. The research uses a qualitative method. Research data sources are the Bongas Village Government, women are entangled in the practice of covert prostitution, and activist at the Yayasan Bunga Bangsa. The locus of this study is located at Bongas Village, Sub District of Bongas, Indramayu District, West Java Province. The selection of this locus is because there are women who are trapped in covert prostitution and Bongas Kusuma Foundation engaged in community empowerment and development. The results of the study show as follows: 1) the way to ensnare women into covert prostitutes is to provide high income offers, 2) the social network formed in the case of trafficking in women who were used as prostitutes in the form of partial social networks and social networks of interests, and 3) The background factors that cause women to become victims of trafficking are factor of economic poverty, factor of limited employment opportunities, factor of the low level of education, factor of family problems, and factor of early marriage that have an impact on divorce

Keywords:

Human trafficking, covert prostitution, social network

INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in human beings (human trafficking) is an organized crime that is often committed by organizations across national borders and is a form of slavery that occurred long before the modern era. Human trafficking is an extraordinary, organized, and transnational crime, so that it can be categorized as a transnational organized crime (TOC) (Eddyono, 2005: 2-3). In Indonesia, men, women and children are victims of human trafficking with the aim of labor exploitation and sexual exploitation, exploitation as beggars and forced criminals for the benefit of recruiters and traffickers who can damage the lives of victims and their families. them (International Organization for Migration (IOM) Indonesia, 2019).

In Indonesia, the problem of human trafficking is very complex, so efforts to prevent and deal with victims of trafficking must be carried out in an integrated manner. Several factors driving the occurrence of human trafficking include poverty, a strong urge to live a materialistic lifestyle, the inability of the existing education system and society to keep children from dropping out of school and continuing to a higher level as well as village and sub-district officers who assist in falsifying KTPs (Eddyono , 2005: 6).

Based on the 2018 Report of the Indonesian National Police Criminal Investigation Agency (Bareskrim, POLRI), Indonesia is not only a sending or receiving country, but also a transit country for those who are to be trafficked to other countries. Victims of Human Trafficking (Human Trafficking) experienced by many women

and children. Female victims make up 70 percent of the 297 victims, with details of 190 adult female victims and 18 female children, while the remaining male and male victims (Report on the Task Force for the Prevention and Handling of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, 2018).

The form of the Indonesian government's commitment to the problem of human trafficking can be seen in the issuance of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Trafficking in Persons (International Organization for Migration (IOM) Indonesia, 2019).

Judging from the destination area, Human Trafficking is divided into 2 categories, namely internal trafficking (domestic) or international trafficking (overseas), usually victims from villages are brought to big cities or trade between countries which eventually experience exploitation abroad. The number of cases of human trafficking in Indonesia in 2019 was 318 cases and increased to 400 cases in 2020. Data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) records the number of victims of human trafficking where 80% are exploited sexually. ("Data and Facts on Trafficking in Persons in Indonesia" kompaspedia.kompas.id, accessed June 2, 2022).

Human Trafficking is a form of crime that most victims are not aware of. In Bongas Village, Bongas District, Indramayu Regency, West Java, this mode of human trafficking often hides behind the economic and financial difficulties of the people of Bongas Village by offering the jobs they need and making victims not have the opportunity to be critical of the jobs offered

because they are pressured to only think about how to get on with life. The condition of the people in Bongas Village, Bongas District, Indramayu Regency, which is not good economically, makes the community have a high orientation towards financial life. This situation encourages the people of Bongas Village, especially the lower class, to take various ways to fulfill their daily needs. They are very at risk of mired in social conditions in the form of human trafficking. The drive to live decently at any cost weakens them psychically. Especially if it is experienced by teenagers and children, the image of an established life makes them less able to realize the dangers behind the human trafficking case (Ike Herdiana, 2016).

Based on the brief explanation above, economic and financial conditions are one of the factors that link poverty as a cause of the practice of human trafficking. Poverty makes individuals easily trapped in a circle of human trafficking, one of which is in the world of prostitution. In general, poverty is defined as a condition of inability of income to meet basic needs so that it is less able to guarantee survival (Suryawati, 2004: 122). The ability of income to meet basic needs based on certain price standards is low so that it does not guarantee the fulfillment of quality of life standards in general. Based on this understanding, poverty is generally defined as a condition of income inability to meet basic needs and other needs that can guarantee the fulfillment of quality of life standards.

In addition to the fact that there are women who are forced and entangled in human trafficking to prostitute themselves, there are also women who consciously prostitute themselves to improve their standard of living and have high hopes for [Type here]

this type of work. However, it should also be remembered that self-prostitution awareness is also driven by the lack of other options to do a better job. Monzini (2005) quotes from Phongpaicit, Piriyanngsan, and Trerat, that one of the factors for women's entry into the sex industry is their own volition to improve living conditions. Surtees (2003) also found 3 (three) factors that push women to become commercial sex workers, namely debt bondage through parents or guardians who get paid, coercion and fraud, and voluntary or self-choice.

Based on the explanation above, this research was structured to describe the relationship between poverty and the practice of trafficking lower-class women into prostitution in Bongas Village, Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java.

METHOD

The type of research used in this research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. The type of sampling used by researchers in this study is non-probability sampling, because not everyone in this research study can be used as a sample in this study. This is because the samples were selected based on non-random considerations and each sample was determined based on the criteria formulated by the researcher. While the withdrawal sampling technique in selecting informants in this study used a purposive sampling technique. According to Alston and Bowles, purposive sampling is purposive sampling in which the sample is selected to provide insight into certain issues related to the area studied (1998: 93).

RESEARCH RESULT

Based on the results of the study, there are several factors that cause women in Indramayu to be ensnared in the practice of prostitution, where these factors are closely related for economic reasons. Here are these factors:

a. Economic Poverty Factor

Economic poverty is the biggest problem experienced by most people in Indonesia. Based on Law no. 24 of 2004, poverty is a socio-economic condition of a person or group of people whose basic rights are not fulfilled to maintain and develop a dignified life. The basic needs that are the rights of a person or group of people include the need for food, health, education, employment, housing, clean water, land, natural resources, the environment, a sense of security from treatment or threats of violence, and the right to participate in organizing social life. and politics. It is not easy to talk about poverty because poverty does not just appear without a cause. Not only internal individual factors, such as stupidity or laziness, are the causative factors, but there are many factors outside the individual that cause a person to become poor, such as limited natural resources, unavailability of jobs, natural disasters, or other things.

Poverty can be experienced by everyone. However, using a gender perspective, poverty can be caused by different things for men and women, providing different implications and experiences for men and women. For women, poverty creates vulnerability to various exploitations. Poverty is a factor in the occurrence of the practice of trafficking in women and is also a factor

in entangling a person, especially women, in the practice of trafficking in women. This is reinforced by the opinion of Davis (2003) who collected several studies in Indonesia on trafficking in women, that poverty is the cause of women being trapped in the practice of trafficking in women, although this indicator is not the only factor. Then, Monzini's research (2005) shows that poverty and the urgent situation in their places of origin encourage women to be trapped in the practice of trafficking in women. Through this research it was also found that poverty is one of the driving forces for women to become easily entangled in the practice of trafficking in women because of their pressing desire to improve the standard of living for themselves and their families..

b. Factors Limited Employment

Girls born into disadvantaged families make it difficult for them to gain access to various life resources. The researcher did not intend to introduce a gender bias between boys and girls. Boys can also experience the same difficulties, but girls will experience a higher level of difficulty because Indonesia still has a very thick patriarchal ideology so that boys have more choices or opportunities to obtain life resources than girls. Woman. The same thing happened to the community around where TW lived. Girls do not have the opportunity to gain access to the economy, because almost all jobs are owned by men. Although initially women also worked, it seems that there has been a shift in the role of women,

that women are then pushed into a corner only as wives who only do household chores.

Limited economic access for women in their area of origin can also cause migration by women, both young and old, from villages to cities or even abroad. This condition indicates a marginalization or shift towards women economically. Since this role is dominated by men, women no longer get the opportunity to work and earn income so that women are economically poorer than men. This condition encourages poor women in villages to migrate or work in cities which are considered to have jobs.

c. Low Education Level Factors

Education is one of the basic rights that every citizen must have. This is reinforced by the statement contained in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution which reads "to educate the life of the nation". However, the reality is that education is still a fundamental problem in Indonesia. There are still many children in Indonesia, especially those in rural areas, experiencing problems in getting an education. Education is still an expensive item for the majority of the population in Indonesia. Even though public schools are free, there are still school needs that must be met. Not only that, schools with very poor conditions are easier to find than schools that look fit for use

Although low education contributes to the vulnerability of women to become victims of human trafficking, it is possible that women with higher education may also be ensnared in the practice of trafficking in persons for

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prostitution. This can be seen from Malarek's research (2004) which found that several women trapped in the international sex trade were college graduates. This means that background can be a factor in entangling a woman in trade practices that are not dominant

However, it should be remembered that the research was conducted in Europe where it is possible for women to still have the opportunity to obtain higher education or to receive free education, but the required jobs are not available (Malarek, 2004). Whereas in Indonesia the situation is different, the opportunity for women to have an education in poor rural areas is limited by costs. Education is not given free of charge by the government. In Indonesia there is also a factor of gender inequality in obtaining access to education where boys are more prioritized in obtaining education than girls, because the assumption is that women will only be housewives. According to Rosenberg (2003), women's low education level and low literacy rate also make them vulnerable to the practice of trafficking in women. However, in the cases the researchers encountered, they could still read and write, but could not continue their education to a higher level. Thus, due to their low education and lack of skills, it is difficult to get a job in the formal sector. So with these limitations they accept the available offers or become easily ensnared in exploitative practices.

d. Family Problem Factors

According to Brown (2000), family problems are also an important factor that pushes women to enter prostitution,

for example in Calcutta, India, where Bengali girls who are ensnared in trafficking of women come from families with problems such as the death of a parent or divorce. These family problems cause women and girls to feel the impact more. The findings in Brown's research (2000) strengthen the findings of researchers that family problems are also a factor in the ease with which girls or women are ensnared in trafficking of women for prostitution with the mode of selling drinks.

Problems in the family include divorce, both parents and the daughter herself, and the death of one of the parents. Divorce of parents or the death of one of the parents also results in one of the parents remarrying to someone else. This creates new problems in the family. As revealed by Brown (200) in his research in India, that women who are trapped in prostitution have experienced harsh actions from new family members such as stepparents. These findings are not much different from the findings of this study, that the presence of a new family member (stepfather) can cause new problems in the family such as neglect of child care, so that children do not feel they are getting enough attention or support from their parents..

e. Early Marriage Factors Impacting Divorce

Brown's research (2000) shows that a form of repressive treatment by society in various Asian countries in controlling women's sexuality is by practicing early marriage. This practice was carried out to prevent rape from occurring to unmarried girls. This is different from

the context of early marriage in some regions in Indonesia, even though the principle is the same, namely to control women's sexuality, the practice of early marriage in Indonesia is carried out because of certain things related to the sanctity and good name of the family. Early marriage is a cultural practice that still occurs frequently in various regions in Indonesia. This is also reinforced by the Marriage Law No. 1/1974, which stipulates that women can marry at the age of 16 or younger. Some Indonesian people believe that women reach maturity after experiencing their first menstruation and must be married as soon as possible. Another reason is parental concern about the virginity and chastity of daughters related to family honor.

Early marriage often results in divorce, due to the age of the two partners who are not ready psychologically or economically to enter married life. So it is very easy for them to take action or make decisions that are not quite right and harm one party.

Divorce is a solution for couples who are mentally and economically not ready to face problems in marriage. Divorce also has an economic impact on one of the spouses left behind, especially for women who during their marriage did not have work outside the household. As previously described in the sub-chapter on family problems, divorce sometimes creates new problems in women's lives. Usually child care is delegated to the woman and for women who do not have their own income during marriage or do not receive financial assistance from their ex-husband, husband's family or

their own family, this is likely to be a greater burden that they must bear

Therefore, the opportunity to work in Jakarta that was offered to AL was seen as a way out for AL to help herself and her children live. Brown (2000) states that prostitution in South Asia is filled by women who have children and have been divorced or just abandoned by their husbands, and do not get support from either their own families or their husbands' families. In line with Brown's findings, researchers found that women who work as prostitutes in the localization of Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java are trapped in trading practices because they are pressured by the need to support their children.

Poverty Trap on Lower Class Women in the Practice of Prostitution

Based on the results of field research it is known that women who are ensnared in the practice of prostitution or Commercial Sex Workers (PSK) in Bongas Village, Bongas District, Indramayu Regency, West Java are due to pimps offering large salaries or money to women who become Commercial Sex Workers.

Offers great income

Various cases of ensnaring women to become prostitutes certainly cannot be separated from the various methods used by perpetrators or pimps in ensnaring their victims. Based on the results of field research, it is known that informants become prostitutes when someone offers them a job with a high salary but the work is not too [Type here]

hard. The perpetrators, commonly called pimps, ensnare women for prostitution by offering them high salaries. There were perpetrators who immediately explained the type of work the victim would do, but there were also those who did not tell the victim about the type of work they would do later or in other words the perpetrators tricked the women into becoming prostitutes. By offering a high salary, the informants were persuaded to accept the perpetrator's offer and finally the informant became a prostitute in Bongas Village, Bongas District, Indramayu Regency, West Java.

Referring to Talcott Parsons' Cybernetic theory, it is stated that law in people's lives is "not autonomous", because it is always influenced by several factors including economic, political, social, cultural factors including anthropology and psychology (Rahardjo, 2006). In the context that happened to research informants, they easily became victims because the perpetrators knew that they had problems in the social, economic and psychological fields. Because of that, it is necessary to find solutions and strategies for anticipation of the problems that occur with women who become prostitutes in the localization of Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java, so that not many young women, especially those who become victims of trafficking in women and are then prostituted in places of prostitution.

Social Network of Women Who Become Commercial Sex Workers (PSK)

Social networks are the relationships that are created between many individuals in a group or between a group and other groups. The relationships that occur can be in the form of formal or informal forms. In seeing

the activity of a group of individuals as a social action, that is where social network theory plays a role in the social system. Almost all problems of sociology are problems of aggregation, namely how the activities of a group of individuals can cause observable social effects.

Based on the results of field research, the researchers found a social network that was formed for cases of women who became prostitutes in the localization of Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java. The form of social network formed in the case of women who became prostitutes in Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java is a partial social network and a social network of interests. According to Barnes (1969) partial social network is a network owned by individuals limited to certain areas of life. Meanwhile, the social network of interests (interest) is a network in which the social relations that make it up are filled with interests. This network of interests is formed by meaningful relationships for specific or specific purposes.

In partial social networks, from field findings the informants became prostitutes in Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java because they made social contact with people who invited them to work because it was related to the economic and social fields. This is then why sex workers eventually build a social network with pimps. Here we can see that one of the causes of women becoming prostitutes is due to the economic and social problems faced by the victims.

Meanwhile, in the social network of interests, from the results of field findings, the informants became prostitutes because when they made social contact with people who invited them to work, it was related to work interests. . This is then why prostitutes

finally build a network with the perpetrators. Here we can see that one of the causes of women becoming prostitutes is due to the difficulty in accessing jobs. Access to employment is one example of an unresolved problem. Unemployment is one of the tough problems to solve. There is no solution that can overcome or reduce the growth in the unemployment rate which is fluctuating in nature.

In addition to the partial social network that is formed, another social network that is formed is the social network of interests. In this social network of interests, the social relations that form it contain interests. This network of interests is formed by meaningful relationships for specific or specific purposes. In this study, researchers found the fact that the occurrence of cases of women who became prostitutes in the localization of Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java was caused by an element of interest that was built between the perpetrators and women who became prostitutes. In this case the interest is in the form of work

CONCLUSION

In general, victims of trafficking in prostituted women are criminal victims and not criminals. Elements of trafficking include forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced slavery-like labour, and organ transplants. Victims of trafficking in women need protection, rehabilitation and return to their families. Based on the results of research in the field, the researchers discovered how the perpetrators worked in trapping women so they became victims of trafficking in prostituted women, namely by offering large amounts of income. Meanwhile, the social network that was formed in the case of trafficking of women

who were used as prostitutes in the localization of Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java was in the form of a partial social network and a social network of interests. Meanwhile, on the background factors that caused the informant to become a victim of trafficking in women and then prostituted into a prostitute in the localization of Bongas District, Indramayu, West Java, namely: First, the factor of economic poverty. Second, the factor of limited employment opportunities. Third, the factor of low level of education. Fourth, the factor of family problems. Fifth, early marriage factors that have an impact on divorce.

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