WOMEN IN POVERTY; A CASE STUDY ON DAYAK MALI ETHNIC OF WEST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

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Abstract: This paper tells about Dayak Mali women, who live poor in rural West Kalimantan. They farmed with traditional knowledge. Nomaden field still exists as traditional life of farming. A method used in this paper is descriptive with the case study approach. A case study conducted in Cowet village district Sanggau, West Kalimantan. The data collections by observation, in-depth interview and literature study. The data used was primary data and secondary data which derived from relevant literature. This research result indicates that Dayak Mali women have still life in poverty. The marginalization of Dayak Mali women in development of human resources. Local tradition shaped patriarkhi is barrier for Dayak Mali women got out of poverty situation today.

Keywords: Dayak Mali, Women, Poverty

I. Introduction

The poverty in Indonesia was central issues when Orde Baru government exists. Poverty as an impact of globalization. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) defines globalization as the increasing integration of economies around the world, particularly through trade and financial flows. The term sometimes also refers to the movement of people (labor) and knowledge (technology) across international borders (Granter 2009). It is clear that globalization seems like expansion of capitalism; which means globalization is product of capitalism.

This research is about poverty on Dayak Mali women. The narrative of human and environment was split into two: some are classified as men and the others are as women. Then two groups between men and women has refers to masculine and feminine over the heteronotmative culture (Butler 1999). The narrative of patriarkhi still attached in daily life of Dayak community (Maunati 2004).

Based on the results of research Rudie (in King & Wilder 2003) about Malay women in Kelantan, revealed that women are losing control over the process of total commodity revenue and money. That’s means happened marginalization against women. The concept of marginalization was introduced by Robert Park in 1928 through his essay titled ‘Human Migration and the Marginal Man’ (Dennis 2005). Furthermore, Dennis stated that marginalization was due to the position in relation between dominant and no dominant.

For Dayak Mali women, nature is a source of breath that matters as source of life, where they could seek some food for their children’s and families. In his work titled Le Féminisme ou la mort, Françoise d’Eaubonne was first figure rise of term ecofeminism, expressing a view that direct relationship both oppression against women and oppression against nature (Tong 1998). Women keep the nature to daily necessities their offspring, if there was activity that break the nature its same meaning oppression against women life.

The studies on gender inequalities are not a new discussion. This field topic study about Dayak Mali women on poverty. According to Statistic Agency Center (BPS) 401,51 thousand of people living below poverty line in West Kalimantan. The Poverty was more involve in rural areas.

According to data of multidimensional poverty in West Kalimantan on 2014 show that 2.060.569 people living below poverty line, which from 4,40 million people population (Budiantoro 2014). It is means about 40,2% of the population in West Kalimantan still below poverty line. The distribution of poor peoples mostly in rural areas as many as 1.726.992 peoples.

Niko (2015) revealed that Dayak Mali women in Cowet village, after graduating in elementary school they are works in the cities, then return to the village for married in a young age. After marriage, a man is determinant in the household policies. Dayak Mali women are still left behind in term of education, only 1 of 10 young people in Cowet village able to continuing their education in colleges (Niko 2016). They are men; just men can go to colleges.

II. Method

Approach in this research is qualitative research. The reason of election the qualitative research is qualitative studies can analyses in holistic this research, both the problems in general and specific. This study located in Cowet village, sub-district Balai, and district Sanggau West Kalimantan. The reason of selection location in this village is 95% of population in Cowet village is Dayak Mali ethnic, which majority their income in agricultural sector. The data used in this research was
primary data and secondary data. Primary data obtained from interview and observation in field. Secondary data obtained from books, scientific journals and others in accordance with topic in this research.

III. Result and Discussion

The issue of poverty cannot be separated from women issue who living in rural areas. Poverty is a instrument of the main oppression on helplessness of women in rural area. They not have chance to complete their education. The quality of human resources is also limited by more oppressive dimension such as economic, political, and cultural. Poverty is the source of helplessness of women, who not endure to recover.

The Dayak Mali ethnic has living along the rural in sub-district Balai, district Sanggau West Kalimantan. In this case study, I am living together in Cowet village for more one month.

Early morning Dayak Mali women awake before the crow of a rooster. They drew of water, prepared food for husband and their kids before they went to the wood for work. They went to the field and plantation before sunrise. They are bugged the rubber trees, then they go to the wood to find the twigs for take away home. The twigs used for cooking.

Dayak Mali women came from the wood before noon. They prepared lunch for their family, and then take cleaning the household furnish. When the middle of the day they using time to relax, they tell stories with each other, after this they go to the field again. They came home before afternoon, then prepared dinner for their families. So every day continues in the same activity. It is also be an example to their kids to work help their parents.

Poverty on Dayak Mali women in Desa Cowet is similar with happen to women in rural areas in Indonesia. Even it is various parts in the world. Those are essential to mentioned due to social values and cultural in Indonesia.

IV. Conclusions

Control of man is still lasting on Dayak Mali community. It is evidence that patriarchi has still growth in the culture of Dayak Mali community. This case implicates on the interposition of women in subordinate position. While one of the targets SDGs in the point five is gender equality and women empowerment. Nowadays, poor women at the local level has marginalized in development, there were not involved in shaping policy.

I concluded that enforcement on women rights are nothing. Even they do not mention it as a double burden, but it is a duty of women as a wife. Their social lives will stereotyped if did not work in fields.

Poor condition of Dayak Mali women forces them to surrender live in poverty cycle, so they did not get the access to good education. Economic condition became the classical reason, which just like nothing solution. When the poverty is considering by culture, do not look again as disparities and injustice against women in villages. It is clearly that the gap and injustice came to almost the women in rural areas.

However it was reserved the existence of different group disposition of production. The power of capitalism operates through the development of cultural which prejudices developed by outside parties. Thus, the poverty as a culture introduced by members of the community, so they do not realize that there are structural system which purposeful impoverish them.

In public, the women poverty is always associated in the participation of women on decision making. It has happened to Dayak Mali women in Cowet village such as privatization of agriculture, marginalization of women in structure of social and economic. Other problems were found in this study is the fields development do not favors to the women.

One of indicators to contributor impact the poverty in Dayak Mali women is education. Education level is an important indicator to be social capital for women in an effort to achieve a better livelihood. In fact, the level of education on Dayak Mali women in Cowet village is still low. The impact of the low level education on Dayak Mali women is lack of knowledge and skill to creating a better life.

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References


