

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Poverty is an individual who is not enough to meet his needs. The definition of poverty itself has a broad meaning and significance. Thus, the definition of poverty cannot be interpreted in a narrow scope and only one aspect. Viewed from the economic aspect, poverty is the occurrence of a weak gap between purchasing power and the will to meet his basic needs (Rini & Sugiharti, 2016).

Poverty that occurs in an individual, of course, has a cause. The causes of poverty are gender discrimination, low skills, limited job vacancies, low education, low health, etc. It is this cause that interferes with a person's productivity which makes them poor. According to (Nopriansyah et al., 2015), poverty is a problem that occurs due to factors related to one another, namely education, health, domicile, gender, and environmental conditions.

Poverty also occurs in households. Poverty in the household occurs because the head of the household cannot provide for his family. This is caused by several factors, including: the number of members in the family, gender differences in the head of the household, the employment status of the head of the household, and the education of the head of the household. According to (Rini & Sugiharti, 2016), states that household poverty can be determined by factors including demographics (for example, number of household members, age distribution, dependency ratio, and gender of the head of the household), economy (for example, employment status, hours worked, and property ownership), and social factors (for example, health and nutritional status, education, and place of residence).

There are male household heads and female household heads. Heads of households headed by women are more likely to be poor than heads of households headed by men. This is because, the income earned is different between women and men. Although households headed by men are also poor, households headed

by women are more vulnerable to poverty. According to (Javed & Asif, 2011) states that women as heads of households are at risk of poverty compared to men as heads of households, because women as heads of households have many dependents, and are likely to have many children. Also, Todaro explained that women have limited access to decent work in the formal sector and limited access to education.

1.2. Problem Identifications

Poverty is a never ending problem, even though various programs have been implemented to overcome poverty. Poverty occurs in almost all parts of the country, especially developing countries. Indonesia is one of the developing countries, and of course it still faces the problem of poverty. The problem of poverty does not only occur in economic conditions, but from various sectors such as politics, social and culture. Indonesia has carried out various alternative ways and programs from the central government and local governments to reduce the problem of poverty (Wulandari, 2016).

The following table shows provincial poverty data in Indonesia:

Table 1. 1 Percentage of Poor Population (PO)The 10 highest provinces in Indonesia

Province	Percentage of Poor Population (P0) by Province and Area (Urban and Rural)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Papua	27,76	27,43	26,55	26,8	27,38
Papua Barat	23,12	22,66	21,51	21,7	21,82
Nusa Tenggara Timur	21,38	21,03	20,62	21,21	20,44
Maluku	18,29	17,85	17,65	17,99	16,3
Aceh	15,92	15,68	15,01	15,43	15,53
Gorontalo	17,14	15,83	15,31	15,59	15,41
Bengkulu	15,59	15,41	14,91	15,3	14,43
Nusa Tenggara Barat	15,05	14,63	13,88	14,23	13,83
Sumatera Selatan	13,10	12,82	12,56	12,98	12,79
Sulawesi Tengah	14,22	13,69	13,18	13,06	12,18

Source: Statistics Indonesia, January 2022

Based on table 1.1 above, it shows that poverty in each province from 2017 to 2021 has increased and decreased every year. The highest percentage of poor people in the Indonesian province is Papua Province at 27.38% in 2021. After that, West Papua is the largest poor population after Papua at 21.82% in 2021. East Nusa Tenggara includes the most poor population after Papua and West Papua at 20.44% in 2021.

Table 1. 2 Percentage of Poor Population (PO) The 10 lowest provinces in Indonesia

Province	Percentage of Poor Population (PO) by Province and Area (Urban and Rural)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kalimantan Selatan	4,7	4,65	4,47	4,83	4,56
Kep. Bangka Belitung	5,3	4,77	4,5	4,89	4,67
DKI Jakarta	3,78	3,55	3,42	4,69	4,67
Bali	4,14	3,91	3,61	4,45	4,72
Kalimantan Tengah	5,26	5,1	4,81	5,26	5,16
KEP. Riau	6,13	5,83	5,8	6,13	5,75
Sumatera Barat	6,75	6,55	6,29	6,56	6,04
Kalimantan Timur	6,08	6,06	5,91	6,64	6,27
Maluku Utara	6,44	6,62	6,91	6,97	6,38
Banten	5,59	5,25	4,94	6,63	6,5
INDONESIA	10,12	9,66	9,22	10,19	9,71

Source: Statistics Indonesia, January 2022

Based on table 1.2, it shows the percentage of poor people in the 10 lowest provinces in Indonesia. The lowest percentage of poor people in Indonesia is in South Kalimantan Province at 4.56% in 2021. Meanwhile, West Sumatra is ranked seventh in the lowest percentage of poor people in the 10 lowest provinces in Indonesia. The percentage of poor people in Indonesia experienced a high increase in 2020 by 10.19%.

Poverty is a condition of individuals who are unable to meet basic needs such as clothing, food, and housing. Poverty occurs in many households. This is indicated by the head of the family who cannot meet the needs of clothing, food, and housing for his family members. Especially households headed by women, are vulnerable to the risk of poverty. Women are very vulnerable to poverty, due to various factors. One of the factors is discrimination in employment. Thus, women earn less than men. That's why women are vulnerable to poverty. Poverty in women generally occurs because of the low productivity status of the workforce and the marital status of women as heads of households (Nisak & Sugiharti, 2020).

Table 1. 3 Percentage of Female Heads of Household by Province, 2017-2021

Province	Female Head of Household				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aceh	20,09	20,41	19,84	21,30	19,22
Nusa Tenggara Barat	22,77	22,52	21,99	22,61	18,94
Sulawesi Selatan	19,16	19,70	19,91	20,32	17,55
DI Yogyakarta	18,50	19,61	20,37	19,99	17,38
DKI Jakarta	16,54	16,92	17,44	17,01	17,26
Nusa Tenggara Timur	17,41	18,18	18,29	18,70	16,77
Sumatera Utara	16,21	16,97	17,23	17,32	16,34
Sumatera Barat	17,46	16,24	17,48	17,34	15,99
Jawa Timur	17,97	17,63	17,36	18,33	15,82
Jawa Tengah	16,54	16,67	16,84	17,49	15,49

Source: Statistics Indonesia, 2022

Based on table 1.3 above, it shows the highest percentage of female heads of household in 10 provinces in Indonesia. In 2021, Aceh was ranked first for households headed by women as much as 19.22%. West Nusa Tenggara ranks second for female-headed households with 18.94%. South Sulawesi ranks third

for female-headed households as much as 17.55%. Meanwhile, West Sumatra, ranked eighth as much as 15.99% in 2021.

Poverty is very vulnerable to households headed by women, although poverty also occurs in households headed by men. According to (Wulandari, 2016), households with a female head of family are more at risk of being poor than households with a male family head. Based on data from table 1.2, West Sumatra is ranked third for households headed by women. Thus, female-headed households contribute to poverty in West Sumatra. The problem of poverty in West Sumatra is unavoidable, this is shown in the number of households whose family heads are economically unable to meet the living needs of their family members, because the income earned is less and the family needs are many (Putri et al., 2019). The women's economy tends to decline, because working women earn small incomes, some even do not work. In addition, the number of members in the family is also a factor of poverty in the household. The more the number of family members, the more dependents the head of the family will pay for. According to (Wulandari, 2016), households with more than 4 family members have a higher risk of being poor than only 4 family members.

Poverty in West Sumatra has decreased and increased every year. Place of residence is one of the factors that affect poverty. There are 2 categories of residence, namely urban and rural. In rural areas more people are poor. This is due to unstable rural economic growth, and more human resources moving to urban areas in search of better jobs than in rural areas. The following is data on the number of rural and urban poor people in West Sumatra:

Table 1. 4 Poverty Percentage by Region of Sumatera Barat

Urban Rural Classification	Poverty Percentage by Region of Sumatera Barat (Percent)			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Urban	4.99	4.71	5.22	4.83
Rural	7.90	7.69	7.83	7.23
Urban and Rural	6.55	6.29	6.56	6.04

Source: Statistics of Sumatera Barat Province, 2022

Based on table 1.4, the percentage of poverty in West Sumatra is mostly in rural areas. Poverty from year to year has decreased and increased. In urban areas, poverty rose quite high in 2020 by 5.22%, and decreased from 2020 to 2021 by 0.39%. In rural areas, poverty has decreased substantially from 2020 to 2021 by 0.6%, and the highest in 2018 was 7.90%. In West Sumatra, the highest poverty percentage in 2020 was 6.56%.

Another element contributing to West Sumatra's poverty is education. The low quality of education for individuals, the greater the risk of poverty. On the other hand, the higher the quality of education for individuals, the lower the risk of poverty. Education greatly affects poverty, (Putri et al., 2019). Education for women and men is also different. Women's education is very low compared to men. This is due to educational discrimination on gender, besides that women also do not take higher education due to family economic factors that make women have to stay at home to help with housework. This also affects the education of female heads of household in the household towards poverty.

Women's education in West Sumatra is still very low. It can be seen from the majority of women's education only up to the junior high school level. To pursue further education, only a few women who continue it. The quality of education in West Sumatra is still not of good quality and is not evenly distributed both in urban and rural areas. The quality of education in urban areas is better than the quality of education in rural areas. In addition, women's participation in

education is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. According to (Putri et al., 2019), the education of women in West Sumatra who did not complete elementary school continued to increase over the past 3 years, in 2015 by 18.05% to 17.50% in 2016, and experienced a high increase of 23,23% in 2017.

Another factor that can cause poverty is the health status of the head of the household. Health status is very influential, because when the health status of the head of the household is disrupted, the work of the head of the household will be disrupted. As a result of disrupted work due to health problems, the income received will affect. If the job of the head of the household is a daily labourer, it will greatly affect his income. Thus, the head of the household will enter into poverty. According to (Astuti, 2018), the factors for the emergence of poverty are lack of quality food, lack of quality and access to health, lack of job vacancies, lack of clean water, lack of access to housing, and low land ownership.

In general, women who become heads of families live in poor conditions, due to the low level of education of women who become heads of families which results in limited employment opportunities for women (Mujahiddin et al., 2017). Women who become the head of the family in the household are very at risk for poverty. From these many factors, poverty arises in households headed by women. In West Sumatra itself, only a few have investigated the effect of women being the head of the household on poverty. Therefore, further research is needed on households headed by women. Thus, the researchers are interested in conducting a study entitled "The Female-Headed Household and Poverty in West Sumatera".

1.3. Research Question

Based on the identification of the problems above, changes in marital status for women require women to become the head of the family. A woman who is the head of the family must meet the needs of her family. There are factors that make households headed by women at greater risk of poverty, namely, education, health, employment status, number of members in the family, and place of residence (urban and rural). All of these factors will be interrelated with each

other. In the Percentage of Female Heads of Household by Province data obtained from Statistics Indonesia (BPS) for 2022, West Sumatra is ranked eighth for women who are heads of families in households in Indonesia's provinces at 15.99%. Seeing from this, the possibility of women as heads of households causes poverty in West Sumatra.

Based on these problems, the formulation of the problem in this research are:

1. Do women as heads of households affect the poverty rate in West Sumatra?
2. Do factors (gender, education level, health status, employment status, number of family members, location of residence) affect the poverty rate of households in West Sumatra?

1.4. General Research Objectives

Based on the formulation of the problem proposed, the general objectives of this research are:

1. Describe women as the head of the household affects the poverty rate in West Sumatra.
2. Describes the factors (gender, education level, health status, employment status, number of family members, location of residence) that affect the poverty rate of households in West Sumatra.

1.5. Research Advantages

Some of the benefits that can be drawn from this research include:

1. This research can tell that women who are heads of households and men who are heads of households have no effect on poverty in West Sumatra.
2. Factors that influence household poverty in West Sumatra are education level and employment status.
3. The results of this study can be used for further reference.

4. This research is expected to be a consideration for the government in formulating policies regarding the problem of poverty among household heads in West Sumatra.

