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The Factors Contributing to the Social Inequality among the Community of Ranto Panyang Timur, West Aceh

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Abstract

Social processes that result in social migration often result in various social problems, such as disintegration between residents and immigrants. With the research context of the village of Ranto Panyang Timur Aceh Barat District, this research has the purpose to describe the phenomena of inequality suffered by the fishermen community who are relocated to a new village after the tsunami earth-quack disaster and describing the factors influencing the inequality and discrimination. Applying the descriptive qualitative method this study found that the process of social inequality in the coastal fishermen community at Ranto Panyang Timur Village proceed since they came to that village, and the forms of the inequality are neglect and discrimination in the context of social inequality between the indigenous residents and the fisherman who were relocated at Ranto Panyang Timur Village. West Aceh Regency were the least committed Keuchik's, unresponsive village officials, and unfair treatment by the village.

Proses sosial yang mengakibatkan terjadinya migrasi sosial seringkali menimbulkan berbagai permasalahan sosial, seperti disintegrasi antara penduduk lokal dengan pendatang. Dengan konteks penelitian di Desa Ranto Panyang Timur Kabupaten Aceh Barat, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan fenomena ketidakadilan yang dialami oleh komunitas nelayan yang direlokasi ke desa baru setelah terjadinya bencana tsunami serta mendeskripsikan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi ketidakadilan dan diskriminasi tersebut. Dengan menerapkan metode deskriptif kualitatif penelitian ini menemukan bahwa ketimpangan sosial pada masyarakat nelayan pesisir di Desa Ranto Panyang Timur berlangsung sejak mereka datang ke desa tersebut, dan bentuk ketidak-setaraan tersebut adalah pengabaian dan diskriminasi dalam konteks perlakuan dan pelayanan sosial dari *Keuchik* (kepala desa) dan aparaturnya. Faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi ketimpangan sosial antara penduduk asli dengan nelayan yang direlokasi di desa Ranto Panyang Timur Kabupaten Aceh Barat adalah kurangnya komitmen Keuchik, aparat desa yang tidak tanggap, dan perlakuan tidak adil oleh masyarakat aparat desa dalam hal pelayanan, dan memberikan bantuan kepada masyarakat yang direlokasi di Desa Ranto Panyang Timur.

Keywords: social inequality; coastal communities; fisherman; relocation

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Introduction

A social being who lives and socializes in daily life, either directly or indirectly, must have experienced various kinds of social problems. Particularly in the life of people with different cultures, with their origins and ways of interaction will lead to negative prejudice between the people that were relocated to the village with the local indigenous residents (Agusyanto 2014; Borgatti, Everett, and Johnson 2018). Every person has a wide variety of backgrounds. different ways of thinking, behavior, actions, cultures, as well character. In its development, people will experience various indications of social inequality which are influenced by various factors; might be from outside of their community or within their community itself (Azwar 2014). For example, the injustice factor by the village officials in carrying out their duties.

Referring to the case of fishermen community which is relocated to Ranto Panyang Timur Village, it was assumed that they experienced some social disparities and equalities (Maifizar, Sopar, and Yulianda 2021). This social disparity occurred because the people who were relocated to Ranto Panyang Timur Village did not receive the same treatment and service from *Keuchik* (the head of the village) and his official staff. On another side this trigger social unrest with Keuchik and its officials that sometimes the people who were relocated to this village done something bad by violating the rules and norms that apply in the village of Ranto Panyang Timur, such as bad manners, land seizing, and dispute, conflicts between neighbors and less democratic politics. However, seen from another point of view, the reason the community wants to remove *Keuchik* and its officials from their roles and positions is that they act unfairly and abusing their power. They should treat every people in the community either person who were

relocated and the local indigenous residents as in the same level and fairness because they are all living in the same village of *Gampong*¹ Ranto Panyang Timur, West Aceh District.

Based on the description above, after the earthquake and Tsunami disaster in Aceh on December 26, 2004, village Ranto Panyang Timur was one of the villages that received housing aid program from Bank Indonesia specifically for fishermen who lost their homes due to the disaster who came from several coastal villages in the Meureubo subdistrict administration area. West Aceh district. Therefore, the authors are interested in looking deeper into the factors that influence the occurrence of social disparities in this coastal fisherman community between the people who were relocated with the local indigenous residents at Ranto Panyang Timur Village, West Aceh Regency. The approach used is a descriptive method with a qualitative approach (Obermeyer 1997). According to Nazir (2003) the descriptive method is a method of examining the status of a human group, an object, system intellection, or a class of events in the present. Meanwhile, according to research using qualitative methods is a research method used to examine the conditions of natural objects, which means the researcher is the key instrument (Moleong 2011).

The purpose of this research is to provide a description on the phenomena of inequality suffered by the fishermen community who are relocated to a new village after the tsunami earthquack disaster. This research also describes the factors influencing the inequality and discrimination. These questions based on the assumption that there is an inequality and discrimination suffered by the fishermen com-

 $^{^{1}\} Gampong$ is the Acehnese term that referred to village.

munity, and the discrimination effected by some factors within the village.

Social inequality is defined as inequality or inequality in access to or to use available resources (Manza and Sauder 2009). Resources can be in the form of primary needs, such as education, health, housing, business, and work opportunities, can be secondary needs, such as means of business development, means of fighting for human rights, means of political channels, fulfillment of career development, and so on. According to Badruzaman (2018), social inequality is a social imbalance in society that makes a very striking difference. Social inequality can be caused by inhibitor factors that prevent a person to utilize the available opportunity (Badruzzaman 2018; Jetten and Peters 2019). Two factors can obstruct social inequality, namely, first, factors that come from within a person itself, the low quality of human resources due to low levels of education, low health literacy, and the culture of poverty socio-cultural barriers. Social inequality can arise as a result of the cultural values held by a group of people themselves. As a result, broad values, such as apathy, tend to leave everything to fate, have no efforts and no strive, and have no future life foresight. In Lewis's explanation, this type of social inequality arises because the community is trapped in a culture of poverty. Second, factors beyond capability. This can happen because of bureaucracy or official regulations, that can limit someone to have access to the opportunities. Therefore, social inequality does not occur because someone is lazy to work or does not have the ability because of the limitations, but because there are obstacles or because of structural pressures (Lewis 2016).

The conflict theory view that the major source of social change is pressure and a conflict within the society itself. This conflict creating social change. As happens in a capitalist society, a conflict between the people who own and control the means of production and the workers will create social change (Nurdin 2017; Poloma 1979). According to Karl Marx, the ideal social change is towards a socialist society. Max Weber said that society's transformation never happens because of a single factor. Weber acknowledges the importance of social conflict in transforming society, but Karl Marx linking a social change to the process of material production, Weber emphasizes the elements of ideas and beliefs that also drive social change (Istigomah 2019). There is an assumption that conflicts occur due to problems of inequality and injustice which arise as social, cultural, and economic problems. What is described in this theory is very related to what happened in this coastal fisherman community at Ranto Panyang Timur Village, West Aceh Regency. The initial problem of the conflict between the Community and Keuchik and its officials was caused by factors of inequality and injustice as well as the social and power disparities imposed by the village officials to the village community.

The study of Syawie (2011) explains that social inequality is a gap that occurs and it is characterized by the existence of unequal opportunities and benefits for different social positions within a status or community group. Social inequality can be observed from the unequal opportunities and opportunities or expectations and reality obtained by one person with another. Social inequality usually has a structure or layer that occur in the midst of people's social life which is motivated by various reasons that are the driving force. It is bias due to power factors, interest factors or previous conflict factors (Syawie 2011). For more details, an example of social inequality that can be seen is the social gap that occurs between people who

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live in luxurious or luxurious housing complexes with various living facilities and people who live outside complexes that are more heterogeneous and far from the luxury of life. In such a situation, the condition is very real, there is a striking and clear difference, it is like the opening of a big gap between the rich and the poor or between the ruler and the ruled or it can also be between people who live in luxury and those who do not live in luxury and lack or between indigenous people and people. migrant communities or relocation even though they live close to each other or live in one government village.

Generally speaking, social inequality can be classified into several types of inequality, namely: 1) Socio-economic disparities, related to the level of community income that affects the process of people's lives in their daily social interactions. If the income level of the community is less or low, it will affect social symptoms that will appear as an impact, including symptoms of poverty, destitution, unemployment or the ignorance of children due to parents being unable to continue their children's education to a good or higher level of education. 2) The socio-cultural gap, this gap is closely related to the culture of an area, whether it is local culture or foreign culture originating from outside the region. In essence, socio-cultural disparities can result in various social phenomena, such as imitation culture or imitation processes that are not good or not in accordance with social values that exist in people's lives, fights or children's delinquency, and so on. 3) social gap in the natural environment, this gap is related to the condition of the natural environment and public health. Social inequality in the natural environment will result in natural disasters. environmental pollution, disease, and so on.

On the other hand, social inequality can also be in the form of social jealousy where the emergence of social class is due to various differences in people's social life such as differences in opportunity or treatment in legal, educational, ideological, political, economic, social, and so on aspects that can affect social bonds. between people in their lives. Social jealousy can also be interpreted as a feeling of doubt or displeasure towards something that is desired or seen for no apparent reason caused by the person's social status being higher than himself, resulting in jealousy.

The people that were relocated to this coastal fisherman community at Ranto Panyang Timur Village are people who come from several villages within the administrative area of the Meureubo subdistrict who work as fishermen. The number of houses and family households in this fishermen village is around 75 families, same as the number of houses. This housing of this fishermen village is an aid for fishermen who were hit and affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Aceh on December 26, 2004. For more details, the data in Tabel 1 showed the data of the residents who live in this fishermen village.

Based on the data in Tabel 1, it is shown that not all people who live in this fishermen village are fishermen who come from the village in the Meureubo District area but some from Johan Pahlawan District, West Aceh Regency. Initially, the status of the people who relocated to this coastal fisherman village still holds as the resident of their original village and district, but after receiving a house from house aid program, they moved and changed their status to become the residents of Ranto Panyang Timur Village, who were equipped with Identity Card (KTP) and Family Household Card (KK).

No	Originally from	Household
1	Meureubo, District of Meureubo	27
2	Ujong Drien, District of Meureubo	17
3	Langung, District of Meureubo	5
4	Rantau Panyang Timur, District of Meureubo	5
5	Rantau Panyang Barat, District of Meureubo	5
6	Ujong Tanjong, District of Meureubo	5
7	Padang Seurahet/Panggong, District of Johan Pahlawan	11
	Total	75

Table 1 Data of Coastal Fisherman Village

Source: Ranto Panyang Village Data

The occurrence of conflict in a community indicates that the area will experience various kinds of social inequalities in every aspect of social life, happen in a fast or a slow process, along with the pattern of people's social lives that follow. In social life, we face various kinds of social problems, including social disparities in society itself, because there is no static but dynamic society. After all, there is always a social fluctuation in a dynamic society. Social inequality that occurs as a result of long-drawn problems has both positive and negative impacts on the community itself (Fargomeli 2014).

Part of the social inequality includes the social conflicts that occur in these fishermen communities between the people that were relocated and the local original resident with the village officials, Ranto Panyang Timur Village. In reality, social inequality that happens will have an impact on the community around these social gaps, and this can be an opportunity for the community to carry out conflict processes in the social structure in people's lives. The expected life is a different life expectation in everyday life, before, during, and after the social inequality occurs, and then getting a better life than before. The social inequality that occurs in the middle of society will have an impact on the life of the community itself, those who take advantage to create conflicts, and those who use this social inequality to create various new interests in the community. The people of Ranto Panyang Timur Village are one of the villages that were impacted by the social inequality caused by the social gap between the resident and the village officials.

The cause of the social disparity between the resident and the village officials is due to the lack of justice and discrimination towards the people that were relocated there by Keuchik and its official. On the other hand, to make the situation intently worsen, some people who were relocated there started doing various kinds of behavior that violate the rules or norms that apply in Ranto Panyang Timur Village. This kind of behavior happening since the relocation programs at Ranto Panyang Timur Village. This habit is less favored by the village officials. Such as bad manners, livestock disputes, family disputes, nondemocratic politics, irritability, fights between residents, and some even moved out and rented out their houses to others without the knowledge of the village officials. This is in accordance with the opinion of that every human being must experience a conflict in their life. Conflict can be

about social values, social norms, behavior patterns, attitudes, behavior, social organization, the structure of social institutions, social strata in society, power authority, social interactions, and others (Soekanto and Sulistyowati 2017).

Moreover, the informant explained that the occurrence of social inequality in the community of the fishermen' housing at Gampong Ranto Panyang Timur was caused by differences in treatment between the local community and the relocation community, especially in terms of socio-political inequality, economic inequality, and jealousy gaps. Social inequality in the community of fishermen at Gampong Ranto Panyang Timur in terms of social inequality usually begins with the unequal service of government-related affairs between the people in the village of Rantao Panyang Timur, for example in managing the administration of the citizens' government. Then, the economic gap is also an aspect that is no less important to be conveyed because economic inequality occurs in the housing community of the fishermen's complex at gampong Ranto Panyang Timur, there are still village officials in providing opportunities to receive services or other assistance from the village government. This also occurs in the social inequality of jealousy caused by envy or dissatisfaction with the fishing complex housing community towards the village apparatus which is motivated by differences in status, differences in opportunities and also differences in treatment or services received so far are not acceptable.

Social Disparities Between Village Residents and Village Officials

The results from the meeting and discussion related to this social disparity at these fishermen communities in Ranto Panyang Timur Village with its village officials is described that the people who were relocated to this village endure limited support, attention and helps in terms of village development including when they need any help, attention, and support from the village officials. Since they were relocated from their original villages such as from Ujong Drien, Meureubo Village, Langung Village, and Ujong Tanjong Village, initially they did not have village officials such as village chief (Keuchik), gradually these needs were met as time goes by, even though they need the support from the village officials in providing a paper of residential administration, and other documents. The irregularities to these people by the village officials are such as the delay in providing the administration of the residents, the lack of health access and health services for residents, no street lighting at night and poorly functioning sports facilities and other services. It was further explained that this social disparity occurs because the village officials are not fair, village officials giving more priority and services and assistance to the local indigenous residents than to the people who were relocated there, resulting from high tensions between them. Thus, it can be said that the people who were relocated to this coastal fisherman community experience social disparities that occur in daily life. The proof of this social inequality is indicated by a gaffe and discriminatory treatment towards the people that were relocated to Ranto Panyang Timur Village by the village officials. Social inequality in society is a process of change that has led to various changes in the social life of society (Coccia 2021).

In social life, social disparities often occur and are encountered in all aspects of life, including in society itself, because there is no static society. Changes that occur due to long-drawn social disparities are constructive in the sense that there will be positive impacts in the future for society as well as having negative impacts on society. Part of the social gap includes changes in society after the change of the village officials because of the end of the tenure of Keuchik, especially in this fishermen communities at Ranto Panyang Timur Village. The people that were relocated to this coastal fisherman village at Ranto Panyang Timur Village experience various kinds of social inequalities in daily life, gaps that occur in communities that used to be cohesiveness or intimacy between the people that were relocated with the local indigenous residents experiencing little obstacles in daily interactions. However, after the replacement of Keuchik, the community slowly experiences more various kinds of social disparities in all structures of life, especially social behavior and services and social arrangements in the residential community life, this is because the security conditions after the change of *Keuchik* is not conducive, which increase the intensity level of social inequality between the people who were relocated with the local indigenous residents that deliberately violating the law or social norms and values that exist in social life. One of the social disparities in the social conflicts between the people who were relocated and the village officials. On the other hand, to trigger social inequality more intensively with the local indigenous residents and village officials, there are people from the relocation that done various kinds of behavior that violate the rules or norms that are less favored by the local indigenous residents such as bad manners, fights between residents, non-democratic politics, irritability, and lack and poor interaction with the local indigenous residents of Ranto Panyang Timur Village. In such conditions, it is actually necessary to cooperate between community leaders and community members (Coccia 2021). The importance of this collaboration is to establish cohesiveness within a community (Folger, Poole, and Stutman 2021).

Conflict is a normal thing in human life. Conflict is related to different perspective owing to person or group of persons (Folger et al. 2021). Conflict can be about social values, social norms, behaviour patterns, attitudes, behaviour, social organization, the structure of social institutions, social strata in society, power authority, social interactions, and others (Soekanto, 2006). This is also felt by the people that were relocated to this coastal fisherman community at Ranto Panyang Timur Village after the change of *Keuchik* there are still many social gaps in the community, one of the proofs is that Keuchik is less willing to respond to involve or to solve any problems in the village, especially for the people that were relocated to this village. If there is any kind of assistance or involvement, it was the only minor. Fisher (Kinseng 2017) revealed that one of the processes that occur is because society experiences long-drawn social inequality where people experience various kinds of social inequality processes against old values or norms, changes in services so the citizens create new values and efforts and went through various kinds of processes as well as what happened in this fishermen communities at Ranto Panyang Timur Village. Based on the ongoing social disparity between the two parties, various efforts have been made to resolve the social disparities that occur in their everyday life. One of the efforts, for example, the village community holds a forum to discuss and appointing a representative to the village officials involving the resident in providing health service facilities at Pos Yandu (village health center), providing garbage cleaning facilities services, and so on. However, because all of those efforts did

not have a good result after a long time, finally the people that were relocated to this village take their action by made their own decision that they find their health facilities and made their lighting facilities and cleaning facilities on their initiative. This is because the village officials often act discriminatively in providing services so that the people who were relocated do not abide by the provisions or decisions of the village officials.

Furthermore, the impact caused by social inequality can be positive or negative because it is not always that social inequality can bring about positive changes but can also lead to changes in the opposite direction. The social disparities in these communities after the change of Keuchik also require in socio-cultural readiness of the community to accept, support, and preserve the existence of the social system, norms, values, customs, social control, social institutions, culture, and Islamic principles in people's lives. Social and cultural readiness is an important factor in supporting the change in society. Since the change of Keuchik, there have been many social inequalities for the community itself, and many factors that have influenced the social disparities in this fishermen community at Ranto Panyang Timur Village. Based on the results of the description above regarding the process of social inequality at this fishermen village after the change of Keuchik, it can be concluded that these fishermen communities experience various kinds of long-drawn social inequality processes. As a result, lack a great sense of responsibility of the residents to their village due to the discriminatory treatment of village officials towards them.

The social gap that occurred in coastal communities relocating at Gampong Ranto Panyang Timur in terms of the gap between the village apparatus was not only caused by the change of *Keuchik*, but also due to different treatment in terms of obtaining citizen administrative services even though the village apparatus has provided the provision that every citizen who does not have a resident identity must immediately resolve it so that his administration can be served optimally. However, in general, the relocation housing community does not respond to the appeal of the gampong apparatus by considering the ownership status of their houses is not fully their own but it is limited by the time of agreement in a few years before it can be claimed as private property. The gap between the ownership status of the relocation house building as a place for fishermen to live, which is not yet clear to become private property and the unclear population status as well as residents of the Ranto Panyang Timur gampong, is the cause of this gap. As a solution, both the gampong apparatus and residents of the relocation housing complex of fishermen at Gampong Ranto Panyang Timur are both able to understand each other about the tasks carried out by the gampong apparatus with migrant residents of the fishing housing complex.

Based on the results of the description above regarding the process of social inequality at this fishermen village after the change of *Keuchik*, it can be concluded that this fishermen communities experience various kinds of long-drawn social inequality processes. As a result, lack a great sense of responsibility of the residents to their village due to the discriminatory treatment of village officials towards them.

Factors of Social Inequality of the Relocated People at the Coastal Fishermen Community at Ranto Panyang Timur Village

The social gaps that occur to the people who were relocated to the coastal fishermen

community at Ranto Panyang Timur Village greatly affect the social behavior of the resident, including their environmental aspects. Social disparities in the community after the change of *Keuchik* happens because several factors greatly influenced it, resulting in various kinds of social disparities in the life of the people who were relocated to Ranto Panyang Timur Village after the change of Keuchik. However, on the other hand, the social disparities in these coastal communities to experience a mix of cultures and affecting social inequality in community life in general, especially in this fishermen village, are very pronounced in social disparities caused by factors of unfair treatment and lack of attention by the village officials to its community.

Other factors are also influenced by several factors that greatly affect the social inequality of the local community, namely because the leadership factor of Keuchik is less committed to the community, the factor of aid distribution that did not evenly distribute and not in accordance with the needs of the community, and administrative needs so that it affects their daily lives. But on the other hand, it is also influenced by the factor that the village officials did not respond to support that were offers to the village in terms of village developments such as lighting infrastructure, health facilities, environmental hygiene facilities, the use of sports facilities for this coastal fisherman village. In this matter, the fishermen used to adress their messages and ideas to their local fishermen representative who have sympathy to their problems. Then the social inequality is also caused by the lack of communication and interaction between residents and with the village officials so that every problem in this community is not given attention. The relocated people felt that the village officials had always prioritized the local indigenous residents, so they just went silent and

does not know anything about the village development program.

This phenomenon can be seen clearly in the social life of these coastal fishermen communities. As for the factors that influence the occurrence of this social inequality, due to the factor of the village officials who is less committed to their duties, the factor of aid distribution that did not transparent and not right on target to those who have the right to receive, as well as the factor of administrative confusion that greatly affect the occurrence of social inequality in their daily lives (Ranjabar 2008). However, on the other hand, it is also influenced by factors of the village governance that are less clear and less directed in dealing with the needs of the communities for this fishermen's village. And this affects and creates social inequality among residents. As for other factors, Keuchik did not respond to supports in terms of infrastructure, cleanliness facilities, streetlight facilities, health facilities, and sports facilities, and the administration for the communities. The village officials were too partial, they did not act fairly and acts discriminatively towards the relocated people. The result of this process creates an urgent social gap in daily life at these coastal fishermen communities in Ranto Panyang Timur Village. These are factors that greatly influence the social inequality in coastal fishermen communities at Ranto Panyang Timur Village so far.

It can be revealed that the social gaps that occur in coastal communities relocating to the fishing complex housing at *Gampong* Ranto Panyang Timur are also caused by the factor of authority or power. In this case, the village officials differentiated the services and opportunities for residents of the fishermen complex housing relocation. Their consideration is based on the fact that they have not become a legal resident of *Gampong* Ranto Panyang Timur formally and administratively.

The other factor is group interest, in the one hand there are some community members living in the fishermen's housing in the Ranto Panyang Timur Village, who are still no formal status of residents of the Ranto Panyang Timur Village. This is because they still have doubts about settling and moving their status from their home villages due to mileage considerations. They work far away from their houses since most of them work as fishermen or go to sea. Also, the ownership status of the house which is not yet clear. The other factor of groups interest also appears in the lives of the people of Ranto Panyang Timur *gampong*, namely the presence of residents of housing relocations to the fishermen's complex. It will increase the burden of services and village needs, although in general they are not entirely village residents, but social responsibility in government shoulder. These problems are difficult to make possible the empowerment of such fishermen community because as in other community the empowerment processes required cooperation and networking between all parts of society (Svari, Hartoyo, and Febryano 2021) ..

Conclusion

This study shows that the process of social inequality in coastal fishing communities in Ranto Panyang Timur Village has been ongoing since they came to the village. The form of social inequality is in the form of neglect and discrimination in the context of treatment and social services obtained by the fishermen community who were relocated by *Keuchik* (village head) and their official staff. The factors that influence social inequality between the indigenous population and fishermen who are relocated in the village of Ranto Panyang Timur, Aceh Barat Regency are the lack of commitment of *Keuchik* (village head), village officials who are not responsive and caring and unfair treatment by the community. village officials in terms of service, and providing assistance to the relocated community in Ranto Panyang Timur Village.

This research has novelty because this study tries to reveal one of the marginalized communities in society, namely the fishing community who was affected by the tsunami disaster and then experienced injustice. This community has rarely received the attention of researchers. However, this study still opens up opportunities for further studies by using a different approach and a different focus.[]

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