

CHARACTERISTICS AND POTENTIAL OF THE EXTREME POOR IN THE MENTAWAI ISLANDS REGENCY, WEST SUMATRA PROVINCE

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Abstract: This study aims to determine the characteristics and potential of the extreme poor as a first step in the preparation of policies to accelerate extreme poverty alleviation in the Mentawai Islands Regency of West Sumatra province. Using descriptive qualitative research method on 24,748 extreme poor people in P3KE data, it is known that; low welfare status, 63 per cent unemployed, working in the agricultural sector, not all received poverty programme assistance, male-dominated household head, productive age, many school-age children, low education level, utilising wells and rainwater, non-electricity source of lighting and using public BAB facilities.

Keywords: Poverty, extreme poverty, P3KE variables, policy model, acceleration of extreme poverty elimination.

J.E.L. Classification: I320, I310, I380, I390

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Introduction

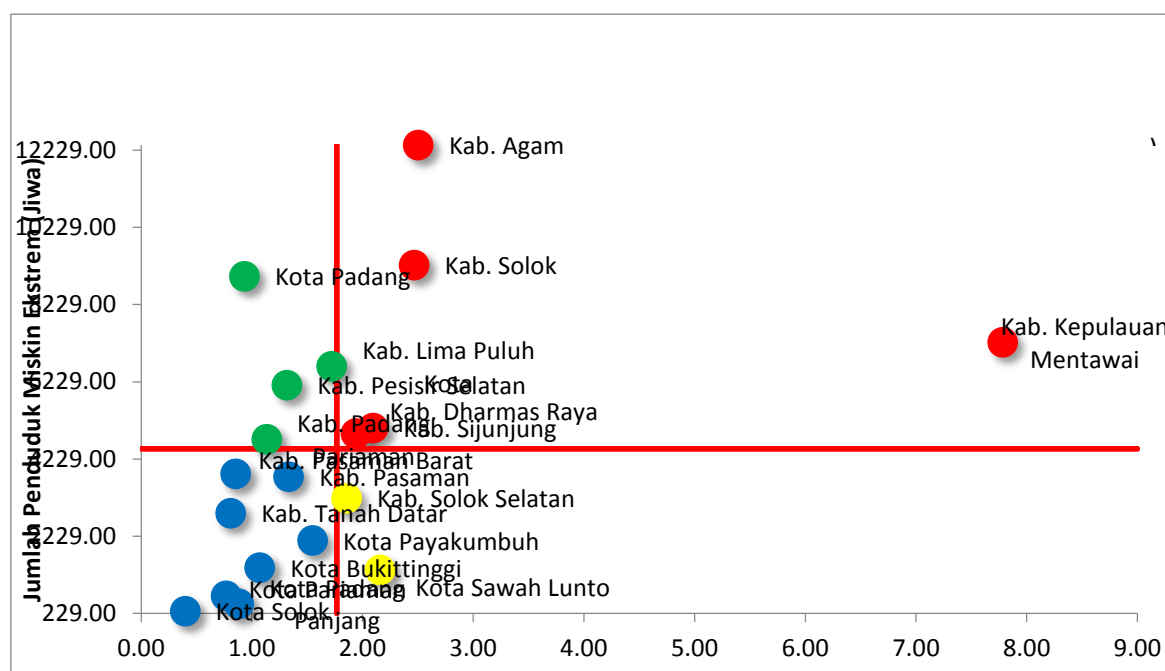
Mentawai Islands Regency is one of the regions located on the outermost side of the western region of the Republic of Indonesia. The district is located in West Sumatra Province with an area of 6,033.76 km², with a population of 89,401 people and a density of 14 people/km² spread over 99 islands. In recent years, the district has been listed as a 3T (Outermost, Disadvantaged and Frontier) region.

Based on Presidential Regulation Number 63 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Underdeveloped Regions for 2020-2024, Mentawai Islands Regency is designated as the only underdeveloped region in West Sumatra Province along with 61 other regions in Indonesia. One of the indicators assessed in determining the status of underdeveloped regions is the economy of the people in this area which is less developed than other regions..

The poorly developed economy is one of the causes of the high poverty rate in Mentawai Islands Regency. Over the last few decades, Mentawai Islands Regency has had the highest poverty rate in West Sumatra Province. Mentawai Islands Regency is also the only region in West Sumatra designated by the central government as a priority area for extreme poverty alleviation along with 211 other districts/cities in Indonesia. The Mentawai Islands Regency poverty rate of 14.35 per cent far exceeds the West Sumatra poverty rate of 6.28 per cent and the Indonesian poverty rate of 9.78 per cent. When compared to Indonesia's extreme poverty rate of 3.85 per cent, the Mentawai Islands Regency's extreme poverty rate is much higher at 7.78 per cent with an extreme poor population of 7.25 thousand people. This figure is even far above the average extreme poverty rate of West Sumatra province, which is 1.56 per cent (Statistics, 2020).

In Figure 1, it can be seen that the extreme poverty rate of the Mentawai Islands Regency is the highest when compared to other city districts in the province of West Sumatra.

Figure 1: Number of Extremely Poor People in Regency/City of West Sumatra Province (percentage)



Source : Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022 (2022)

Maximum government efforts are needed to reduce the level of extreme poverty in the Mentawai Islands Regency so that people can get out of poverty. The change of PERPRES 15/2010 to INPRES NUMBER 4 YEAR 2022 on poverty reduction efforts shows that poverty alleviation is an urgent thing to do. The change in measurement from poverty to extreme poverty shows the government's high effort in resolving poverty.

The high level of extreme poverty in the Mentawai Islands district requires a more in-depth study that starts from the roots of poverty through the introduction of the profile, characteristics and potential of the extreme poor themselves. Many previous researchers have studied the poverty profile of the community. However, the studies mostly discuss the profile of the poor based on social and economic characteristics, such as education, health, household income, education of the head of household, (Geda et al., 2001) in Kenya, (Rural et al., n.d.) in Brazil, (Gweshengwe & Hassan, 2020) in China and (Pratama, 2015) in Indonesia. However, no one has discussed how the characteristics of extreme poverty are based on the P3KE variable according to INPRES Number 4 year 2022.

Based on this, this research was conducted with the aim of knowing how the characteristics and potential of the extreme poor in the Mentawai Islands Regency through the use of P3KE variable data.

Literature Review

Concept and Definition of Extreme Poverty

According to the United Nation (1996), extreme poverty is a condition of inability to fulfil basic needs, namely food, clean drinking water, proper sanitation, health, shelter, education, and access to information, which is not only limited to income, but also access to social services (Bappenas, 2022). According to the World Bank, the extreme poor are those who fulfil their daily needs with no more than USD 1.9 PPP (Purchasing Power Parity). Purchasing

Power Parity is a unit of price that has been adjusted so that the value of currencies in different countries can be compared with one another.

The elimination of extreme poverty is one of the indicators of Goal 1 viz: No Poverty in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As poverty eradication is one of the main goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda, appropriate measures and strategies are needed to help accelerate the achievement of this goal (Alkire et al., 2017).

The elimination of extreme poverty is outlined in Presidential Instruction Number 4 of 2022 concerning the Acceleration of the Elimination of Extreme Poverty. To realise this, the Coordinating Ministry for PMK released P3KE data (Targeting the Acceleration of the Elimination of Extreme Poverty) which is data by name by address of residents who are in extreme poverty conditions. Through Kemenko PMK Number 30 of 2022 concerning the Determination of Sources and Types of Data in Efforts to Accelerate the Elimination of Extreme Poverty, local governments are expected to refer to this data as a database for beneficiaries of poverty reduction programmes in the regions. (KEMENKO, 2022)

There are two categories of data in P3KE, namely family and individual categories. The family category contains, among others, data on housing conditions, lighting sanitation, cooking fuel, drinking water sources, occupation of the head of the family. P3KE variables are 14 data variables issued by the updating of the Indonesian Family Database (Family Data Collection, National Population and Family Planning Agency / PK-BKKBN 2021) in each updating area (RT / Hamlet / RW) and each level of administrative area (village / kelurahan, sub-district, district / city, province and centre). The data is stored in an electronic file and has been validated by Dukcapil and has a welfare status (decile), which is called P3KE variable data. P3KE data is data by name by address of residents who are in extreme poverty conditions. P3KE data is intended to complement the Integrated Social Welfare Data and improve the accuracy of poverty programme targeting,

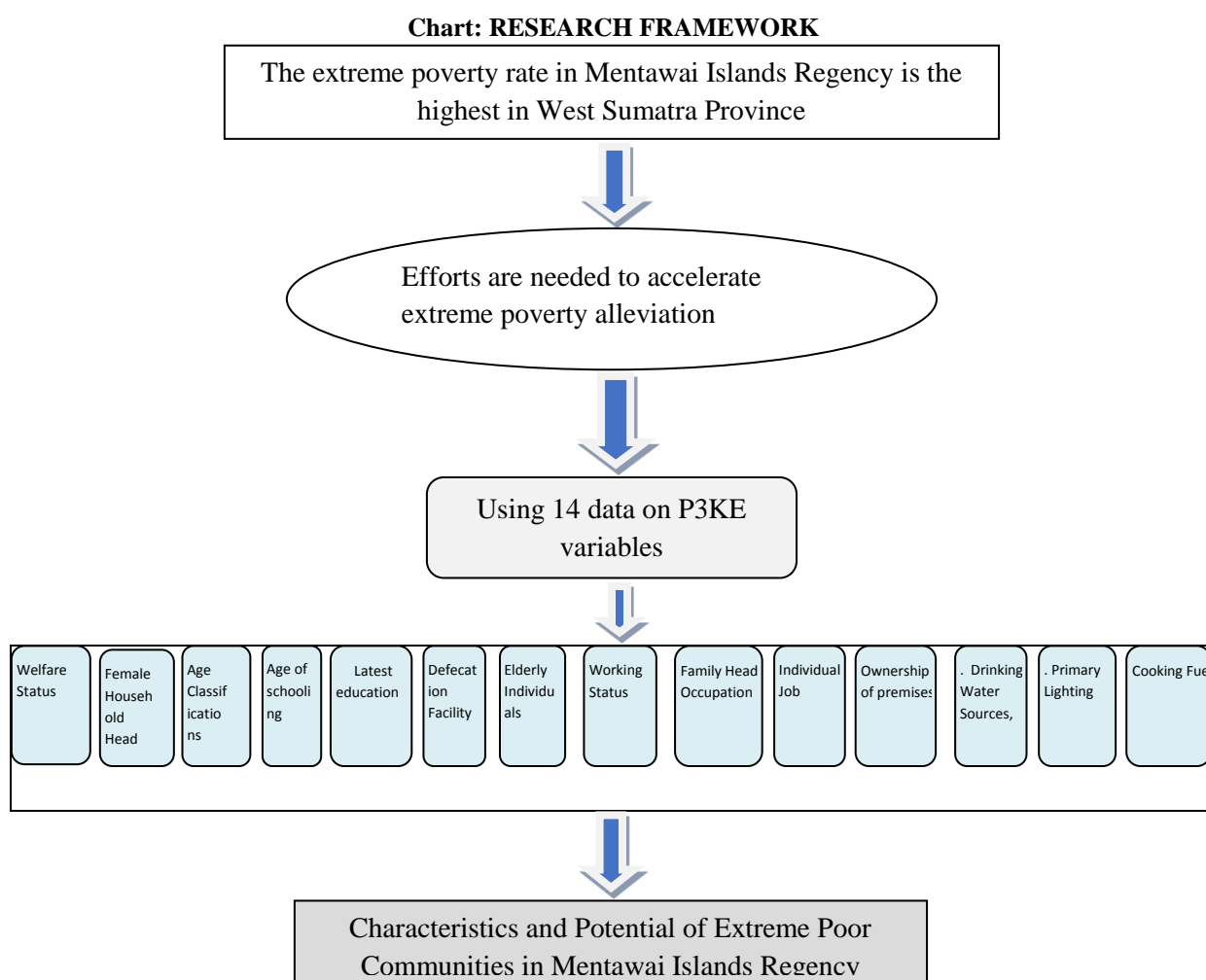
especially to reach extreme poor families who have not received the programme or what is called the exclusion error.

RESEARCH METHODE

This research is a policy research by utilising various sources as a basis for formulating policies. By using descriptive qualitative research methods, it is necessary to recognise and process secondary data. This research was conducted in Mentawai Islands Regency. Mentawai Islands Regency consists of 4 large islands, namely Siberut Island, Sipora Island, North Pagai Island and South Pagai Island, and 10 sub-districts namely South Pagai Sub-district, North Pagai Sub-district, West Siberut Sub-district, South West Siberut Sub-district, South Siberut Sub-district, North Siberut Sub-district, Central Siberut Sub-district, Sikapap Sub-district, North

Sipora Sub-district and South Sipora Sub-district with a total of 43 villages.

The data used is secondary data derived from P3KE variable data. P3KE data includes data on 1. Welfare Status, 2. Female Head of Household, 3. Age Classification, 4. School age 5. Last education, 6. Defecation Facilities, 7. Elderly Individuals, 8. Working Status, 9. Employment of the Head of the Family, 10. Individual Occupation, 11. Ownership of premises, 12. Source of Drinking Water, 13. Main lighting, 14. Cooking Fuel (Bappenas, 2022). Based on P3KE data in the Mentawai Islands district there are 24,748 people registered, although not all of them are included as beneficiaries of poverty programmes. The research framework that will be carried out can be seen in the chart below.



RESEARCH RESULTS

A. Overview of Extreme Poverty in Mentawai Islands Regency

This section will then provide an overview of the poverty rate in Mentawai Islands Regency, including the poverty rate over the last few periods, the number of poor people, the depth and severity of poverty, and the number and level of extreme poverty using data sourced from BPS publications..

Poverty Rate of Mentawai Islands Regency

The poverty rate in Mentawai Islands Regency in 2022 was 13.97 per cent with 13.74 thousand poor people. This figure has decreased when compared to 2021, which was 14.84 per cent or 14.31 thousand people. The BPS publication shows that the poverty rate in the Mentawai Islands Regency from 2005 to 2022 has shown a downward trend, although there was an increase in 2021 which can be understood as the impact of the covid pandemic (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2022).

Figure 2. Poverty Level in Mentawai Islands Regency 2015-2022

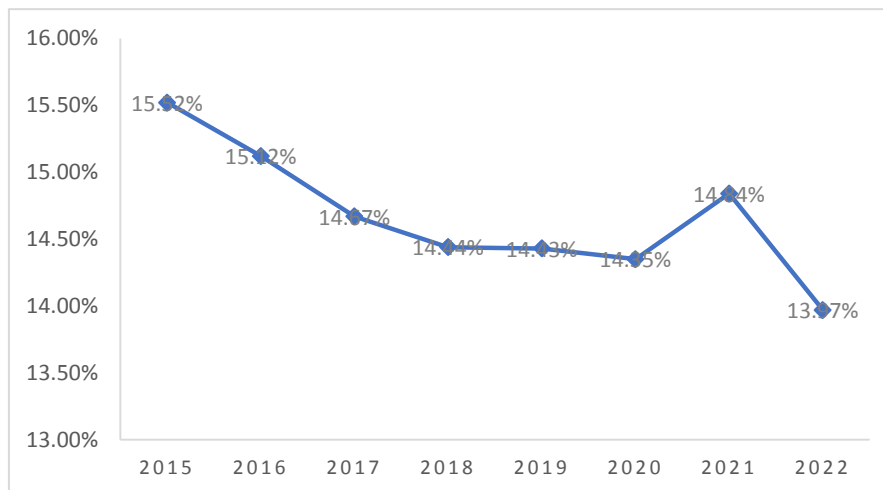
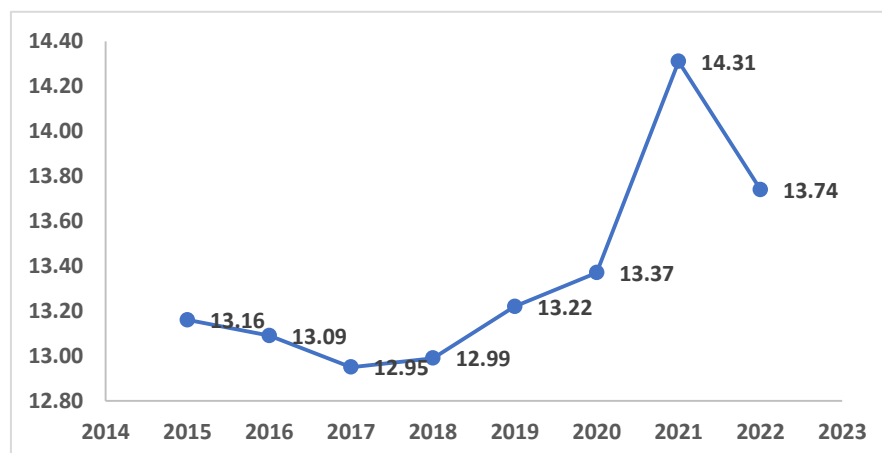


Figure 1 shows that the poverty rate in 2005 was 15.52 per cent. This figure continues to show a consistent decline until it reaches 13.97 per cent in 2022. Although there is a decline in the poverty rate in the Mentawai Islands Regency, it can be observed that the process of decline is slow. This indicates that various poverty alleviation programmes in the Mentawai Islands Regency need to be reviewed in order to increase their effectiveness..

Furthermore, when viewed spatially, Mentawai Islands Regency has the highest poverty rate in West Sumatra province. It is the only district with a poverty rate that exceeds 10 per cent over the last few decades. Other districts/cities in West Sumatra have been able to achieve poverty rates that are below the national poverty rate.

Although the poverty rate in Mentawai Islands Regency has decreased in percentage value, the number of poor people has shown an increasing trend over the last decade or so. The number of poor people in 2015 was 13.16 thousand people. This figure decreased slowly until 2018 when it reached 12.95 thousand poor people.

Figure 3. Number of Poor People in Mentawai Islands Regency 2015-2022 Periode



Source : Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022

After this period, the data shows that the number of poor people in Mentawai Islands Regency continued to increase. A very sharp spike occurred in 2021 with a total of 14.31 thousand poor people. This is understandable, one of which is the impact of the covid-19 pandemic. In 2022, once the economy entered the recovery phase, the number of poor people began to decrease by 570 people from 14.31 thousand to 13.74 thousand.. Although the number of poor people in 2022 has decreased, the number is still higher than the number of poor people in the period before the covid pandemic.

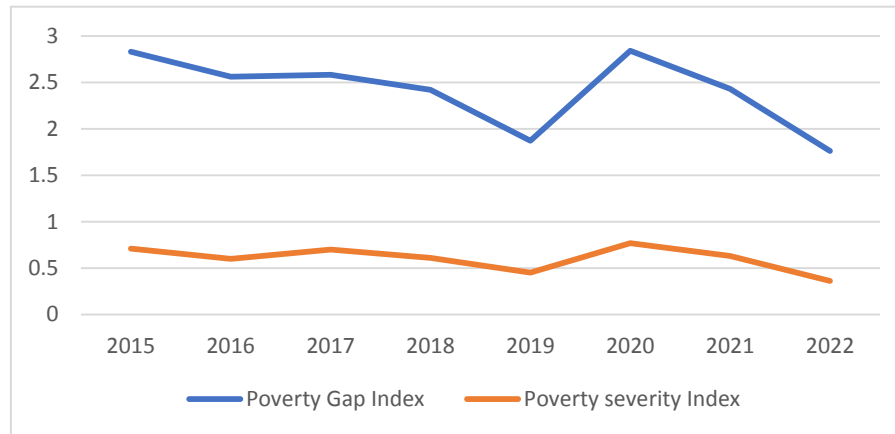
Index of Poverty Depth and Severity

The Poverty Depth Index is a measure of the average gap between the expenditure of each poor person and the poverty line. A higher index number means that the average expenditure of the population is further away from the poverty line. In other words, a high index number indicates that the poor are getting poorer as a result of their per capita expenditure being further away from the poverty line. Conversely, a lower index number indicates an increase in the welfare of the poor.

The Poverty Severity Index is a commonly used indicator to provide an overview of the distribution of expenditure among the poor. A higher index number shows that the inequality of expenditure among the poor is also higher. This means that the poorer the poorest population, the higher the index number, and the reverse..

The depth and severity of poverty need to be analysed periodically, because a decrease in the poverty rate is not always followed by a decrease in the depth and severity of poverty. Therefore, the poverty depth and severity index needs to be analysed over time to determine whether or not a reduction in poverty is followed by an increase in the welfare of the poor.

Figure 4. Poverty Depth and Severity Levels in the Mentawai Islands Regency for the 2015-2022 Period



Source : Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022

Based on data from 2015 to 2022, the poverty depth and severity index in Mentawai Islands Regency shows a downward trend. The poverty depth index in 2015 was 2.83 and decreased to 1.87 in 2019. However, along with the decline in community welfare due to the covid pandemic, this figure increased again in 2020 exceeding the value in 2015. Furthermore, along with the recovery of covid, in 2022, the achievement of the poverty depth index rate decreased again to 1.76. This indicates an improvement in the welfare of the poor as per capita expenditure continues to move closer to the poverty line.

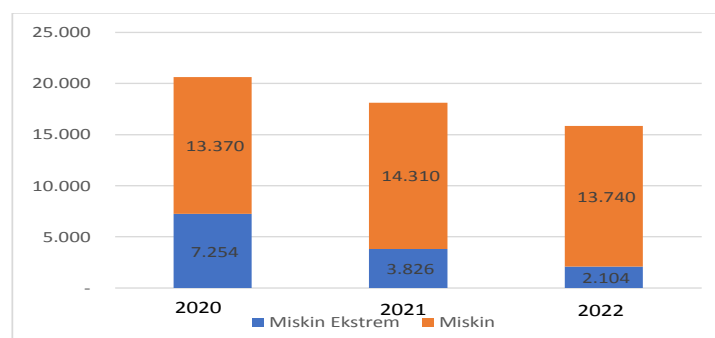
In line with that, the Poverty Severity Index in the Mentawai Islands Regency also shows the same trend as the poverty depth index, which continues to decline, although the process of decline is slow. The Poverty Severity Index in 2015 was 0.71. This figure continued to decline until 2019, which was at 0.45. Furthermore, during the outbreak of the covid pandemic, this figure increased again by 0.32 points to 0.77. Furthermore, entering the recovery period after the covid pandemic, the severity of poverty in the Mentawai Islands Regency improved again with an index value of 0.63 in 2021 and 0.36 in 2022. This condition illustrates the decrease in expenditure inequality among the poor in the Mentawai Islands Regency.

Extreme Poverty Level in Mentawai Islands Regency

Extreme poverty is a condition where people are unable to fulfil their primary needs, such as food, clean water, sanitation, health, shelter, education, and limited access to information and social services. The difference between poverty and extreme poverty can be explained by the amount of per capita expenditure. Where people who are in extreme poverty only have a maximum expenditure of IDR 322,170 per month. Meanwhile, the amount of expenditure at the non-extreme poverty level reaches Rp472,525 per month..

The Mentawai Islands Regency is the only district/city in West Sumatra Province designated by the central government as a priority area for extreme poverty for 2021-2024, along with 211 other district/cities spread across 25 provinces in Indonesia. The determination of this priority area is carried out using indicators of the percentage and number of extreme poor people in each district/city..

**Figure 5. Number of Poor and Extremely Poor People
In Mentawai Islands Regency in 2020-2022**



Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (2022)

Based on BPS data, extreme poverty in Mentawai Islands Regency in 2022 was 2.35 per cent or 2,104 people. This figure has decreased by 1,722 people when compared to the achievements in 2021 with the portion of the extreme poor population being 3.97 per cent or 3,826 people. Furthermore, if traced further, the extreme poverty rate in Mentawai Islands Regency over the past 3 years has experienced a significant decline, where the number of extreme poor people in 2020 was 7,254 people or around 7.79 per cent of the total population. Thus it can be concluded that from 2020 to 2022 there has been a reduction in the number of people in the extreme poverty category by 70.1 per cent or 5,150 people.

Although in the last 3 years there has been a decrease in extreme poverty in the Mentawai Islands Regency, various strategic programmes to alleviate extreme poverty need to continue to be promoted in order to achieve the extreme poverty target of 0 per cent by 2024.

B. CHARACTERISTICS AND POTENTIAL OF EXTREME POOR IN MENTAWAI ISLANDS DISTRICT BASED ON P3KE DATA.

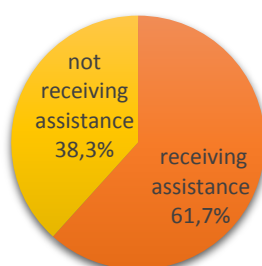
The characteristics and potential of the extreme poor in Mentawai Islands district based on 14 P#KE variable data can be seen in the following description.

Welfare Status

To find out the welfare status of the extreme poor, it can be seen through the indicators of BPNT recipients, BPUM recipients, BST recipients, PKH recipients, SEMBAKO recipients provided by the government. If the community receives at least 1 assistance then it is categorised as a recipient of poverty program assistance, and if they do not receive any assistance at all then they are categorised as not receiving poverty program assistance.

Based on P3KE data, 61.7 per cent of the extreme poor receive assistance from government poverty programmes, while the remaining 38.3 per cent do not receive assistance. This needs attention from the local government so that all the extreme poor can receive assistance from poverty alleviation programmes.

Figure 6. Welfare Status of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency

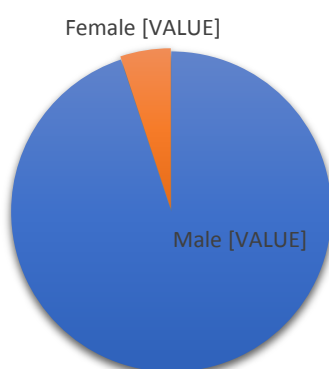


Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Female Household Heads

Overall the head of household in Mentawai Islands Regency is male, only around 5.1 per cent of household heads are female.

Figure 7. Head of Household of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency



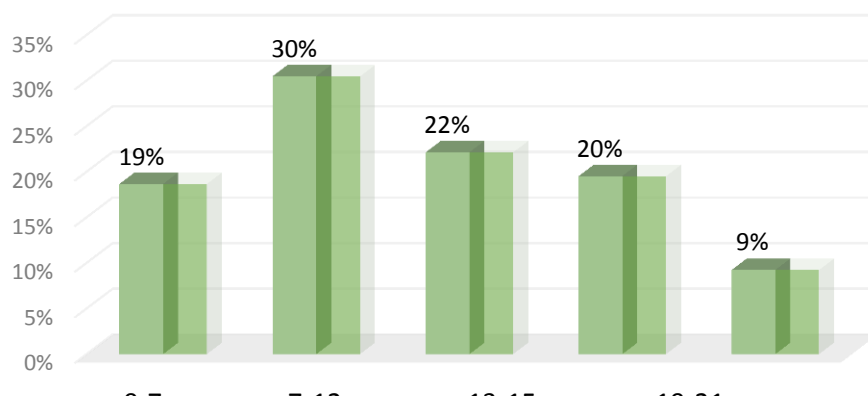
Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Age Classification

Based on age classification, the extreme poor of Mentawai Islands Regency are of productive age, with around 50 per cent aged between 13 and 50 years old. The age of school children is high, where elementary school age (7-12 years old) is 30 per cent, junior high school

age (SMP) is 22 per cent and senior high school age is 20 per cent. The large number of productive age groups is basically a potential for the region if utilised in increasing regional economic growth.

Figure 8. Age Classification of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency

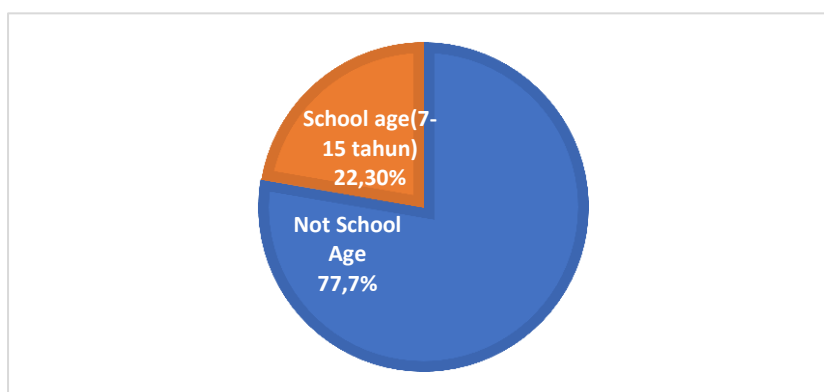


Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

School Age

The number of school-aged children between 7 and 15 years old in the Mentawai Islands district is 22.30 per cent. This shows that the age of the extreme poor is more productive, considering the elderly population is only around 4 per cent.

Figure 9. School Age Classification of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency

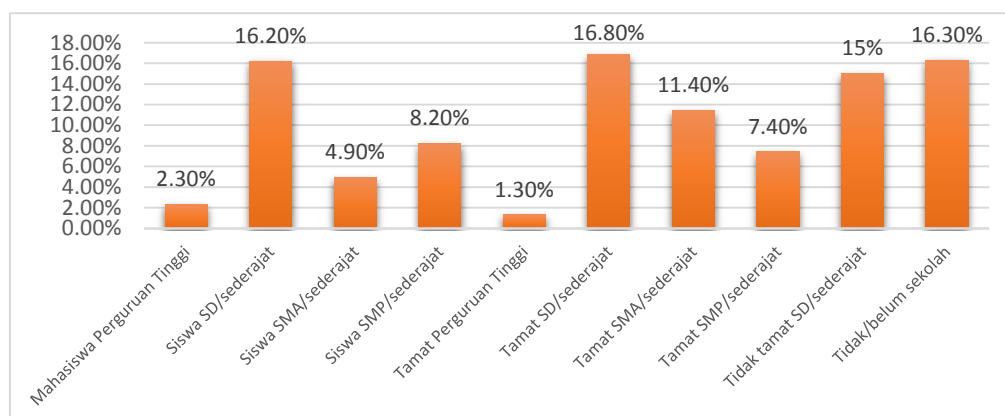


Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Last education

The level of education shows the quality of human resources in a region. The higher the quality of human resources, the higher the standard of living so that it will reduce poverty (Segoro & Pou, 2012) (Andhykha et al., 2018); (Zuhdiyaty & Kaluge, 2017); (Atalay, 2015). The education level of the extreme poor in Mentawai Islands Regency is around 32 per cent elementary school graduates. This shows that the quality of human resources of the extreme poor is low.

Figure 10. Last Education Level of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency

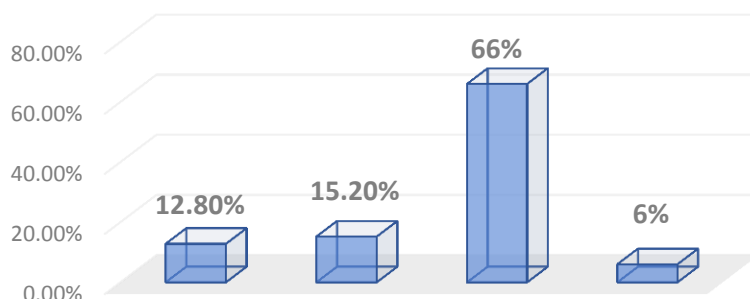


Source: Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Defecation Facilities

When viewed from the use of defecation facilities of the extreme poor in Mentawai Islands Regency, around 66 per cent have used facilities with septic tanks, the remaining 34 per cent still use public facilities, without septic tanks and others (gardens, beaches, rivers).

Figure 11. BAB Facility for the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency

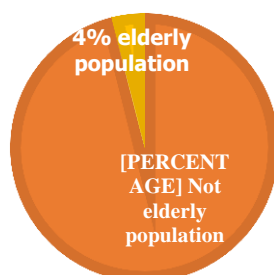


Sourcer : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Elderly Individuals

Approximately 4 per cent of the extreme poor of Mentawai Islands Regency are over 60 years old or at the age of Elderly. And the rest are people of productive age and children's age. This shows that the extreme poor have the potential to increase economic growth..

Figure 12. Elderly Individuals in Extreme Poor Communities in Mentawai Islands Regency

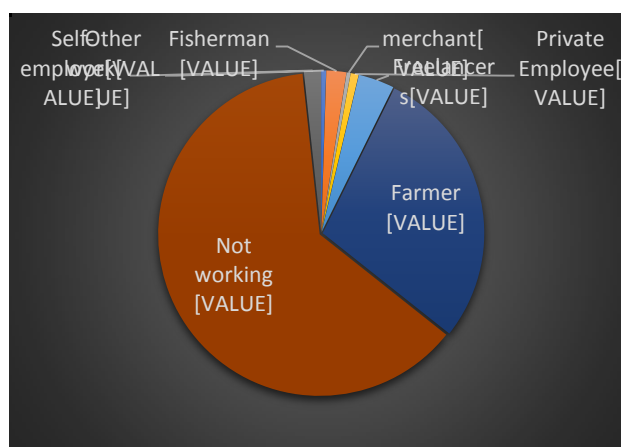


Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Employment Status and Distribution of Employment

Based on the employment status of the respondents, most of the respondents in this study did not have a job with a portion of 63 per cent. The remaining 37 per cent of respondents were farmers, casual workers, fishermen, traders, and self-employed..

Figure 13. Employment Status and Employment Distribution of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency

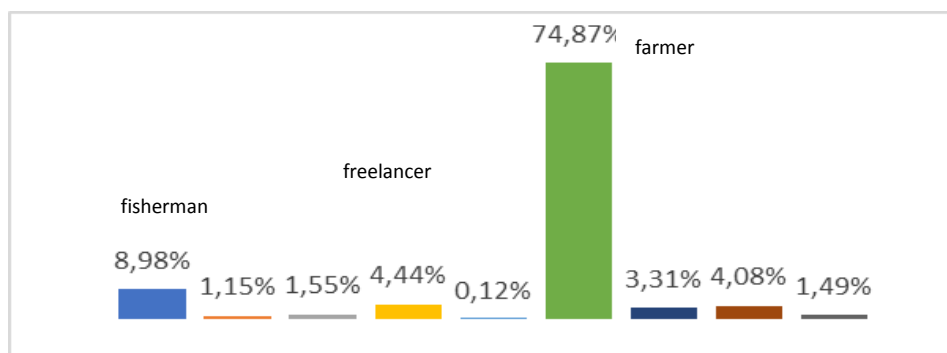


Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Job Category of Family Head

The agricultural sector as the flagship sector of Mentawai Islands Regency is the sector that absorbs the most labour. Around 75 per cent of the extreme poor families in Mentawai Islands Regency also depend on the agricultural sector. This indicates the high dependency of Mentawai Islands Regency on the agricultural sector.

Figure 14. Occupation of the Head of Family of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency



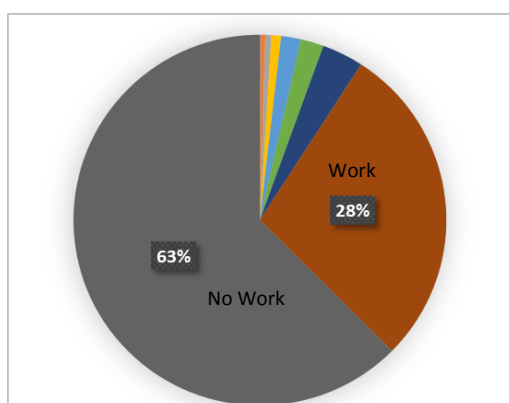
Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Referring to this fact, the development of the agricultural sector through various strategic policy frameworks needs to be formulated in such a way as to increase the multiplier effect in the economy of the Mentawai Islands Regency and accelerate the alleviation of extreme poverty.

Individual Employment

Individually, the extreme poor are more likely to be unemployed than employed. Around 63 per cent of the extreme poor do not have a job. Around 28.3 per cent have a job, with the majority being farmers, while the remaining 9 per cent are distributed among other types of work, such as freelancers, fishermen, traders and the self-employed.

Figure 15. Employment of the Extreme Poor (Individual) in Mentawai Islands Regency

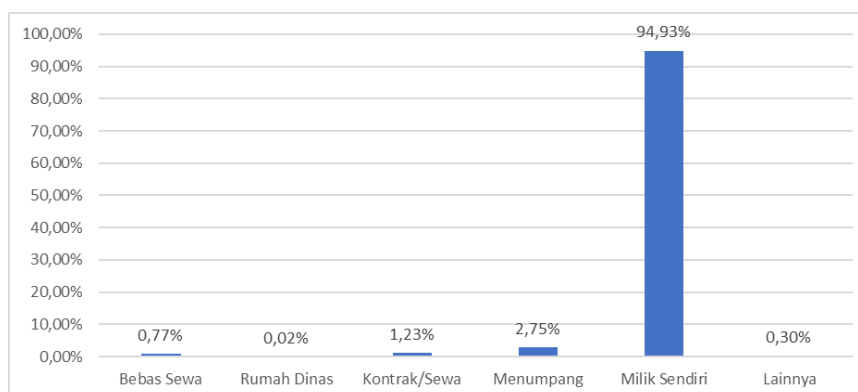


Source: Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Ownership of a Place/House (Family)

When tracing the status of home ownership, most of the people of Mentawai Islands Regency who fall into the extreme poor category basically already have a place to live and are owned by themselves, which is around 95 per cent. Only 5 per cent of them do not have their own residence and live in rented houses, family houses, and others..

Figure 16. Home Ownership of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency

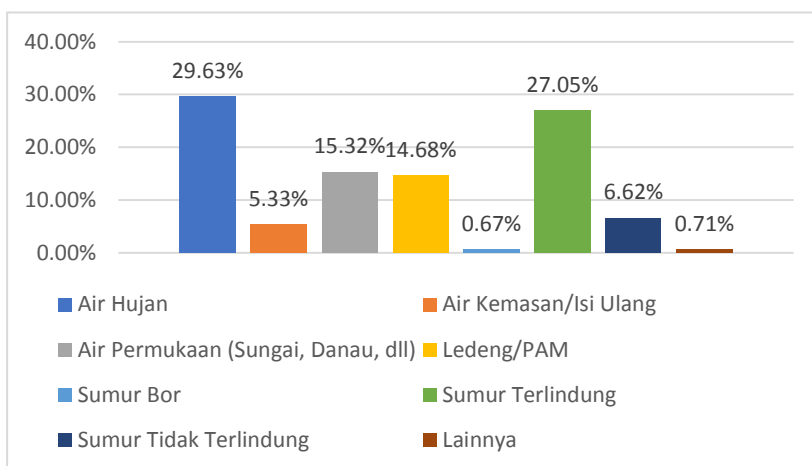


Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Source of Drinking Water

The main drinking water sources used by the extreme poor in Mentawai Islands Regency are rainwater and protected wells with the proportion of 29.63 per cent and 27.05 per cent. Furthermore, 15.32 per cent use river surface water as the main drinking water source. Only 14.68 per cent of the extreme poor in this district have access to piped water. The rest use water from unprotected wells (6.62 per cent), bottled water (5.33 per cent), and boreholes (0.67 per cent) as their main source of drinking water.

Figure 17. Home Ownership of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency



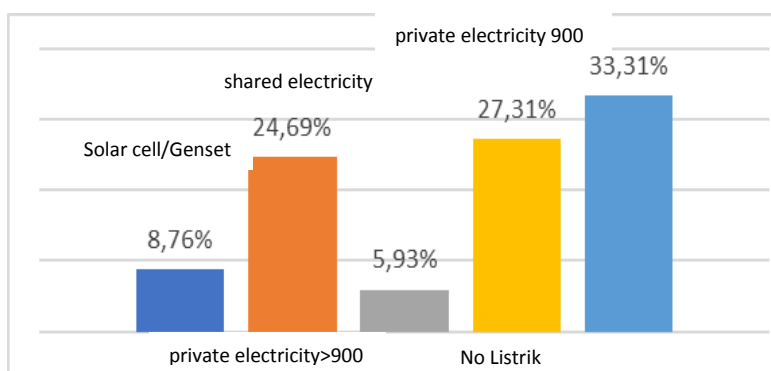
Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

The main sources of drinking water used are rainwater and protected wells with proportions of 29.63 per cent and 27.05 per cent. A further 15.32 per cent use river surface water as their main source of drinking water. Only 14.68 per cent of the extreme poor in this district have access to piped water. The rest use water from unprotected wells (6.62 per cent), bottled water (5.33 per cent), and boreholes (0.67 per cent) as their main source of drinking water.

Main Source of Lighting

The extreme poor of Mentawai Islands Regency do not have access to adequate lighting. Only 33.32 per cent of this group of people have private electricity connection with energy capacity greater than 900 watts (5.93 per cent) and less than 900 watts (27.31 per cent), and 24.69 per cent use shared electricity as the main source of lighting. Field facts also report that despite having access to electricity, its availability is often limited..

Figure 18. Source of Home Lighting of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency



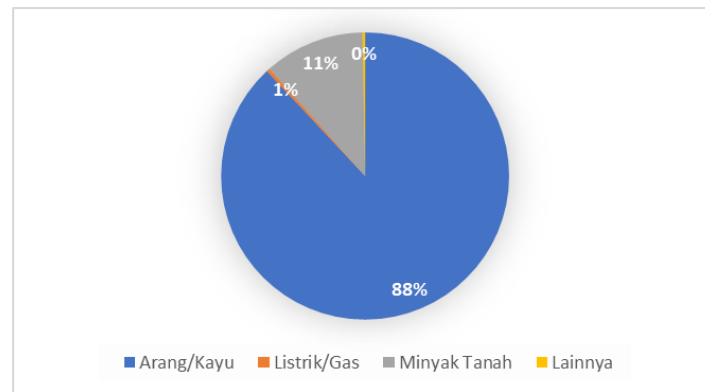
Source: Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

Furthermore, 8.76 per cent of the extreme poor in Mentawai use diesel-fuelled generators as the main lighting medium. The high price of diesel fuel in this region relative to other districts/cities in West Sumatra is also one of the obstacles in the use of genset. In addition, the geographical condition in the form of islands also makes it difficult to access the delivery of diesel fuel which causes frequent scarcity of diesel fuel supply. The remaining 33.31 per cent of the extreme poor in this area use non-electric lighting media, such as oil lamps and others.

Source of Cooking Fuel

Charcoal/wood is dominantly used as cooking fuel by the extreme poor in Mentawai Islands Regency. The vast forest and the availability of many wood sources cause the community to use this material as the main medium for cooking. Charcoal/wood is used by 88 per cent of the Mentawai extreme poor as cooking fuel. Furthermore, 11 per cent of the community use kerosene as cooking fuel. Only a small percentage use gas or electricity. This is due to the high price of gas and limited supply.

Figure 19. Cooking Fuel Source of the Extreme Poor in Mentawai Islands Regency



Source : Regional Development Planning Agency Mentawai Islands Regency, 2023. Data Processed.

CONCLUSION

The Mentawai Islands Regency is categorised as the district with the highest percentage of extreme poor people in West Sumatra Province with an extreme poverty rate of 7.78 per cent and a total population of 7.25 thousand people. This makes the Mentawai Islands Regency a top priority for the province of West Sumatra in an effort to accelerate extreme poverty alleviation to zero per cent by 2030 according to the SDGs or by 2024 according to the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN 2019-2024). One of the efforts made is by issuing a determination of data sources and types in an effort to accelerate the elimination of extreme poverty (KEMENKO, 2022). According to Bappenas (2022), there are 14 P3KE data variables as a tool to determine the condition of the extreme poor. P3KE data includes data 1. Welfare Status, 2. Female Head of Household, 3. Age Classification, 4. School age, 5. Last education, 6. Defecation Facilities, 7. Elderly Individuals, 8. Working Status, 9. Employment of the Head of Family, 10. Individual Occupation, 11. Ownership of premises, 12. Source of Drinking Water, 13. Main lighting, 14. Cooking Fuel.

The results of the study concluded that the extreme poor in the Mentawai Islands Regency have the following characteristics and potential; welfare status is still low, where there are still many extreme poor people who have not received poverty programme assistance, household heads are dominated by men, productive age, have many school-age children, low education level, many still use public defecation facilities. Based on employment status, around 63 per cent are unemployed or underemployed, and those who work are dominated by the agricultural sector. In the use of drinking water, more than 50 per cent of the extreme poor use wells and rainwater as a source of drinking water, and non-electric sources of lighting such as kerosene lamps and others due to the absence of electricity and the high cost of fuel. Likewise, in using fuel sources, many still use wood fuel.

Knowing the characteristics and potential of the extreme poor is expected to be a reference and guideline in implementing extreme poverty programmes that are appropriate to the conditions of the extreme poor in the Mentawai Islands Regency.

LITERATURE LIST

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