

# THE PHENOMENON THAT CAUSES CHILDREN TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AT THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION LEVELS OF HARJOSARI LOR VILLAGE, ADIWERNA DISTRICT, TEGAL REGENCY

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## Abstract

The problems studied in this study are what are the causes of children dropping out of school at the junior and senior high school education levels, what efforts are made in overcoming school dropouts, precisely in Harjosari Lor Village Rw 01,02, 03, 04, 05, 06 Adiwerna District, Tegal Regency. This study uses qualitative research methods and descriptive design.

Keywords: School Dropouts.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

According to the Father of Education Indonesia or Ki Hajar Dewantara, education is an effort to explore the growth of moral education (inner strength and character) of the mind, as well as the body of children. According to him, the purpose of education itself is divided into three, namely forming a refined ethics, increasing brain intelligence, and obtaining physical health. Broadly speaking, education is a demand that teachers plan to give to students, which is a part of life. Educational planning is the obligation of the government and all communities, the success of education is also very related to harmonious or harmonious efforts. Education is an important thing for society and the state, therefore education is a facility to support human resources for the completion of development in the economic, cultural, and other fields (Nurul Fajariyah, 2018).

In fact, the state requires every citizen to be educated, Hasbullah states below: the importance of education is an unavoidable need, in essence it is a right for every citizen. Education is also prioritized for children. Rights and obligations can be fulfilled if they cooperate with their parents, educational institutions and the government (Hasbullah, 2009).

According to Gunawan in Rosidah, dropping out of school is the identity of students who cannot complete school to the end or cannot continue to the next level. Meanwhile, according to Mc Millen and Whitener in Idris, school dropouts are students who cannot complete their education to the end or cannot complete their education before the end of time (Riswan dkk, 2022).

In 2022/2023, the total number of students who drop out of school in Indonesia has increased. The Dropout Rate (APS) in all education reached 76,834 people, with the total number at the junior high school level reaching 13,716 people, the high school level reaching 10,091 people, while at the vocational school level reaching 12,404 people. According to the Center for Data and Information Technology of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Education Statistics and Indicators, the number of children who drop out of school among men is greater than that of women reaching 15.29% (Abdul Hakim et al., 2023).

Children dropping out of school is a phenomenon that occurs a lot in education circles. Harjosari Lor Village is a village located in Adiwerna District, Tegal Regency. This village has easy access to education, but there are many problems about school dropouts. Most of the school dropouts in Harjosari Lor Village are teenagers aged 12-21 years (junior high and high school levels). This problem of dropping out of school can hinder human development, because it will unintentionally cause a burden on society and will affect the welfare of the community. The results of the survey on February 20, 2024, show that the number of people in the field of education in Harjosari Lor Village, there is an increase in the population who cannot complete education at the elementary, junior high and high school levels, namely in 2017-2020. In 2017, there were 46 children who dropped out of school, while in 2020 there were 67 children who dropped out of school.

The problem of children dropping out of school at the junior high and high school education levels is caused by various factors. Therefore, the researcher wants to observe, explore, study, and examine

what are the factors that cause children to drop out of school and the efforts of parents and the government to overcome school dropouts in Harjosari Lor Village, Adiwerna District, Tegal Regency.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

The approach used by the researcher is a qualitative approach. The aim is to understand in depth about school dropouts at the junior high and high school education levels. This research is flexible, which will lead to Sugiyono's research (2011, p. 15). Researchers will go directly to the field and socialize with the community, because in fact the problems that occur in this research are very fundamental. Therefore, this study requires accurate field data. It is very important for researchers to use qualitative research, so that the data obtained and produced can solve the problem of school dropouts in more detail and real. Qualitative research is a very appropriate approach to answer this problem.

## **3 RESULTS**

The results of the research that have been obtained regarding the factors that cause children to drop out of school at the junior and senior high school education levels and the efforts of parents and the government in overcoming children who drop out of school at the junior and senior high school education levels in Harjosari Lor Village, Adiwerna District, Tegal Regency. Obtained from the results of observation and interviews.

### **3.1 Causes of children dropping out of school at the junior high and high school education levels?**

Judging from the results of the study, there are several factors that cause children to drop out of school, namely internal factors and external factors. According to Janeman Jahezkiel Lanawaang & Romi Mesra internal factors that come from within children who experience school dropouts and external factors that come from outside the child who experiences school dropouts. According to Wells, the causes of dropping out of school are based on internal factors such as laziness to go to school, low attitude towards school, low knowledge attitude, frequent skipping school, pregnancy, bad relationships with friends, the influence of other friends who drop out of school, disabilities and low self-confidence.

"I dropped out of school because I was lazy, at first I couldn't speak United Kingdom, so if there was an United Kingdom lesson, I rarely left, I also often played with children who dropped out of school, so I was carried away (Anggi, 19/05/2024)".

"I often get dizzy if I receive lessons, so I am lazy if I want to go to school, I also don't have a vehicle for school (Nur, 20/05/2024)".

"Since my mom died, I like to play with friends who are no longer in school, until late at night and wake up in the afternoon. My father also doesn't care if I don't go to school (Rizqi, 19/05/2024)".

Factors sourced from the economy are one of the main factors causing children to drop out of school, because economic conditions that do not meet their needs, will definitely not be able to finance their children's education so they are forced to drop out of school to earn a living or work (Janeman et al., 2023).

"Because of the cost of my mother, then my sister also has a lot of three children if I go to school I won't be able to do it, especially if I go to school at a private school (MTS) to eat just mediocre food, let alone to pay for school (Zahi, 20/05/2024)".

"So I was told to enter a pesantren, but I rarely visited, I rarely sent money, so I was confused about eating (Danu, 19/05/2024)".

Factors originate from associations such as bad influences from peers that result in low academic achievement, playing without punctuality, staying up late at night, waking up late at night (Janeman et al., 2023).

"The reason I dropped out of school was because I went with my friends who didn't go to school, and I also lacked attention from my parents because of work (Ari, 19/05/2024)".

### 3.2 What efforts are made to overcome school dropouts at the junior high and high school levels?

From the results of research that has been obtained regarding the efforts of parents and the government in overcoming school dropouts obtained from the results of observations and interviews.

#### 3.2.1 Parents' efforts to overcome school dropouts

Parents have an important role to play in overcoming school dropouts, with open communication between parents and children and strong support. Therefore, it is very important to listen and understand their child's feelings towards learning. Aspects of coaching are also urgently needed for efforts to overcome teenagers dropping out of school, such as religion, morals, and manners (Ailsyah, 2023).

"I often advise you but the wayward child may lose his mother's figure, his mother used to be the one who really educated. If I do, I will ask for work from my own child (Gapluk, 20/05/2024)".

"I always tell my children to continue school, if they don't want to, let's just change schools (Minil, 20/05/2024)".

Efforts to overcome school dropouts can be taken by raising parents' awareness of the importance of their children's education, providing encouragement and assistance to children in learning (Ranti, 2019).

"One of the parents' efforts is to persuade and try several times so that my child continues to go to school because the exam is coming soon, it's a pity if I leave, and I am trying to make up for the shortage at the cottage. For example, if you don't want one of you to change schools (Slamet, 19/05/2024)".

"I have tried to be an mba, but my child is very difficult to go to school, difficult to manage, maybe because he is often spoiled. But until now I am still trying to go to school again (Vice, 19/05/2024)".

The contribution of parents in overcoming school dropouts is very good, namely by providing advice and efforts for school, in this case in addition to parental attention. Family economic problems that cause parents to be unable to pay for school and their children's needs. So that parents are more busy looking for money for their livelihood. Parents also underestimate education, so they think more about the economy than their children's education.

#### 3.2.2 Government efforts to overcome school dropouts

The Central and Regional Governments have the responsibility to send their children to school, this is in accordance with Chapter VI Article 37 of the Tegal Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2016, which reads "The Regional Government, families, and parents are obliged to provide the widest possible opportunity for children to obtain education". Article 40 of the Tegal Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2016, reads "Children who have advantages are given the opportunity and convenience to obtain special education". The success of a country depends on the progress of its education level, in Indonesia itself there are various problems related to education, for example dropping out of school.

The management of education changed from a centralized system (centralization by the central government) to a decentralized system. Decentralization of education is the transfer of wider power and authority to the regions to make plans and make decisions in overcoming problems in the field of education (Abdul, 2001:15).

Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System concerning the importance of allocating funds for financing and development of education. In article 49 paragraph (1) that "Education funds other than educators' salaries and official education fees are allocated a minimum of 20% of the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) in the education sector and a minimum of 20% of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD). However, the mandate that clearly has a legal basis and umbrella for various reasons has not been implemented optimally, so there are still many people who cannot pursue education in school (Ahmad, 2012).

Compulsory education is the obligation of children aged seven to twelve years to obtain basic education (in order to educate the life of the nation (Great Dictionary of Indonesian Language: 2017). In Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system, it reads "Compulsory education is the minimum educational program that must be followed by Indonesia Citizens on the responsibility of the Government and Regional Governments". In the Tegal Regency Regulation No. 9 of 2012 contained in article 62 it reads "The 12 (twelve) year compulsory learning pioneer is effective no later than 3 (three) years since this Regional Regulation was promulgated".

Article 41 of the Tegal Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2016, reads (1) "The Regional Government is responsible for providing education costs or free assistance and special services for children from underprivileged families, abandoned children, and children living in remote areas", (2) "The Accountability of the Regional Government as referred to in paragraph (1) also encourages the community to play an active role". The Tegal Regency Government has also distributed assistance to overcome school dropouts, namely in the form of assistance programs to have PKH cards (Family Hope Program) such as basic necessities, PIP (Smart Indonesia Program), BLT (Direct Cash Assistance) and assistance in the form of school uniforms for underprivileged children.

After issuing a compulsory education policy and assistance programs in the field of education, the government must also socialize to all communities and adolescents as a coaching effort. It is carried out by providing an explanation of the importance and benefits of education for the community and students through the socialization process in each village. The condition of adolescents who drop out of school is also less noticed by parents and families, especially underprivileged families and parents' understanding of education can be overcome through the approach of the local village government (Mustari et al., 2022).

"One of the Village Heads' efforts in dealing with the causes of children dropping out of school among teenagers is to issue a certificate of inability, in collaboration with schools to ease the cost of school children through a certificate of inability from the village (Satriyo, 01/05/2024).

From the role of the central government and village governments, it is hoped that it can ease the economic affairs of parents of adolescent school dropouts. But in reality, the assistance has not touched all circles of the community and even many mistargets. For example, the results of the researcher's interview were only 1 informant who received assistance. Researchers also know that it will not be able to overcome 100% of school dropouts but can be a bridge to reduce school dropouts.

## **4 CONCLUSIONS**

The main factors causing children to drop out of school at the junior and senior high school education levels in Harjosari Lor Village, Adiwerna District, Tegal Regency are internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are factors from within the teenager such as laziness to go to school while external factors are factors from outside the teenager such as factors sourced from the economy (lack of income from parents, resulting in not being able to finance their children's education), factors sourced from the family (lack of attention from parents), factors sourced from association (peer association is very bad).

Parents' efforts in overcoming school dropouts at the junior and senior high school education levels in Harjosari Lor Village, Adiwerna District, Tegal Regency are very good, namely by providing advice and efforts for the school, in this case in addition to parental attention. Family economic problems that cause parents to be unable to pay for school and their children's needs. So that parents are more busy looking for money for their livelihood. Parents also underestimate education.

The efforts made by the village government to overcome school dropouts at the junior high and high school education levels are through a certificate of inability from Harjosari Lor village, from the village introduction letter, it is hoped that the school can help its underprivileged students to ease their education costs while attending school. Meanwhile, the central government provides FREE Education, assistance programs for poor students in the form of PKH, PIP, BLT and school uniform assistance.

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