The characteristics of ethnics people at the banks of musi river in palembang

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Abstract. The objective of this research is to observe the ethnics people at the banks of Musi River (River Side) Palembang. The writer used qualitative method. The respondents of this research is 397 people living at the River Side of Musi in Palembang. The technique of data collection in this research is interviewing and site observation. Then, the data is qualitatively learnt and selected using certain stage i.e. data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusion, and verification. The results of this research is that the ethnics of people living at the banks of Musi River consist of Malaya (Melayu), Arab, Java, and Sulawesi. The dominant people living at the River Side of Musi is from Malaya. The reasons why they live there (River Side of Musi) is that the majority is based on their parents heritage and heredity. Another reason is the cost of or hiring living houses is relatively cheap. Their levels of education are relatively low : and consequently, they are unable to live in other places.

1. Introduction

River (River side) is an area border firstly accepting outsiders’ effects. So that it is an opened and dangerous area of changes [9]. Palembang is one of the cities crossed through musi river. The river and the streams spread through in the middle of cities, hilir and hulu areas. Musi River is as a means of transportation from hulu to hilir, accordingly, there are a lot of people living at River Side of Musi. River Side areas are usually marginal ones because they live in prohibited areas [2]. In most large cities of developing countries, rapid urbanization has created many problems concerning the uncontrolled development of informal settlements. Some urban migrants select riverbanks for their settlements because these areas are accessible with very low costs and are strategically located to areas that can support their economic activities [13]. Never the less, Musi River is still used in all sectors so far, such as, Agriculture, keep fishing, transportation, industry, forestry, gardening, and house keeping in which all are related to water ecosystem [8]. Musi River is so meaningful for people’s lives, especially for daily - life needs that they prefer living at the River Side areas. They have their own customs, cultures, ethnics, religion, language and social (culture). Living culture on the river banks has become part of the history of this city. The currently rapid population overcrowds the settlements in the river bank. [11]. Ethnics is the entirety of social life unity in accordance with the roots and cultural identity, such as language [4]. Ethnics group has predecessors and ancestors, experience or past coherence, similar group identity. There are 5 factors of similarity, such as : (1) Relation Ship, (2) Religion, (3) Language, (4) Location (where people live), and (5) Physical Appearance, (6) Beside,
ethnics member have physical characteristics (5). The existence of ethnics community in Palembang is from the merchants visiting and stay in this city so far at River Side of Musi.

Most of the locations situated along Musi River could be categorized as a densely populated location why divergent kinds of public troublesome [9]. Highly populated ares at the River Side, the fluctuative levels of economy and the people’s awareness of environment. Densely populated areas causes rapidity at the river side and rapidity can cause low quality of life and high levels of poverty. It could be bad effects and cause a lot of victims for certain diseases due to bad quality of environment. In order to identify people’s characteristics at Musi River Side, it is badly needed to anticipate negative effects due to different locations, economic factor, and people's awareness about the dangers living at the banks of Musi River. So Far, there has not any kinds of research of ethnics people living at the banks of Musi River. Therefore, in writer's view points, it is important to do this research.

The objective of this research is to explore certain ethnics living in each area of Musi River Sides, to collect data and information about why they live and survive there, their levels of education and their economic levels (conditions).

2. Methods

The method used in this research is qualitative. Technique of data collection is site observation and entire interview to the people living at the banks of Musi River. There are 17,993 people (family). And were taken 397 people (family) as respondents spread through the river. The informant is from the one living at the bank of river. The technique of sampling is by using purposive sampling. These two groups of sampling serve as the ones who give high validity and reliability information. This research is conducted along Musi River Sides in Palembang (figure 1).

![Figure 1. Administrative Map of Palembang](image_url)

The data of interview is then analyzed qualitatively using data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusion and verification. In order to have high credibility result, the writer used
triangulation method. This method is used by conducting crosscheck different informants between information from entire interview, field observation and the result of interview data is used by questionnaire.

3. Results and Discussion

In this research, ethnics characteristics living at the banks of Musi River were analyzed in terms of 3 variables, i.e. earning, income, and education. Tables 1, 2, and 3 present characteristics data of social, ekonomic people living at the bank of Musi River.

| Table 1. Kinds of occupations the people living at the bank of Musi River in 2019. |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Occupation       | Number           | Percentage       |
| Labour           | 238              | 60%              |
| Merchants        | 35               | 9%               |
| Private Employee | 96               | 24%              |
| Public Servant   | 4                | 1%               |
| Goods (Stuff)    | 22               | 5.5%             |
| Unemployment     | 2                | 0.5%             |
| Total            | 397              | 100%             |

Source: The Result of survey in 2019

| Table 2. Levels of income the people living at the bank of Musi River in 2019. |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Level of Income  | Number           | Percentage       |
| Low              | 324              | 83%              |
| Middle           | 56               | 13%              |
| High             | 17               | 4%               |
| Total            | 397              | 100%             |

Source: The Result of survey in 2019

| Table 3. Levels of people’s education at the bank of Musi River Palembang in 2019. |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Levels of Education | Number | Percentage |
| Low               | 260          | 65%           |
| Middle            | 122          | 31%           |
| High              | 15           | 4%            |
| Total             | 397          | 100%          |

Source: The Result of survey in 2019

There has got the data from the ones living at the banks of Musi River, most of them are Malaya (Melayu), most of them are Labours, Merchants, Enterpreneurs, Public Servants, Tailors, Traditional and on line motorbikers and on line drivers. Most of Javanese people are merchants, Retirements, and enterpreneurs. Then, most of Arabian people work as Clergies and Merchants. On the other hand, people from Sulawesi work as Labours.

The density of people living at the banks of Musi River is based on the data of statistics central agency in 2017, it consists of 16 sub-regencies and from 13 sub-regencies, there 17,993 people (family) living at the banks of Musi River. Because it is too crowded, there has not got any good balance in the environment surrounding there, the results of this research is similar to the previous ones. The condition at Gandus Sub-regencies is not fullyable to facilitate physically and in terms of
environmental atmosphere despite governmental acts No. 38 year 2011 about Musi River’s existence [8]. It keeps going on because there will be more people living in there. They live there since it is their parents heritage and heredity, work in Palembang, and the cost of living is not so high in their economic capability, compared other places.

In terms of people’s income, based on Palembang regional minimum cost, it is classified that it is about Rp. 2,917.260. If the cost is below Rp. 2,900.000 it is low classification, if the cost is more than Rp. 3,000.000, it is high classification. According to this finding and data, the average of their income is in low classification. The lowest income (of Melayu people) is Rp. 400.000 and the highest is Rp. 8,000.000 the lowest income (of Javanese people) is Rp. 500.000. Arabian people’s income is Rp. 2,000.000 besides, Sulawesi ethnics people’s income is Rp. 600.000 this finding of research is in with Sastika research which stated that the average income of them is still low. It is for daily - life’s needs and they are unable to have their own residences [9].

Because of their low income, they do not really care about their environment. This finding is contrary to the previous one which stated that economic and social factor are related to environmental management at the banks of Musi River [10].

In terms of education, people at the banks of Musi River could be classified into three categories based on acts no. 20 Year 2003 about Indonesian Education System, i.e. 1. Elementary (vocational religious) school and junior high school 2. Senior High School (vocational / reli - glous), 3. and highest education (D3), S1 Degree, Master’s programs, and Doctoral program. The levels of Malaya (Melayu) people’s education is relatively low. Most of their highest level of education is elementary school, the second level is high school and the lowest is college (University) levels. Then, Javanese people’s education is low either. Most of them are in elementary levels, high levels, and the lowest is college / university. For arabian levels of education, they are good enough because most of them are in higher levels of education. The ones from Sulawesi are in low educational level. It is related to Sastika’s research finding that titely environmental characteristics of life at the banks of Musi River. It was found that their levels of education are still low [9]. due to lower education, it could impact to occupation and income. It is in accordance with Mark Blaug in Julianto and Puti, that the higher education someone has, the better his occupation and income will be [3]. The diversity of ethnics at the banks of Musi River has their own unique advantages especially for tourism objects. However, their crowded conditions cause bad impacts to the environment. Low levels of education is closely related to their occupation, income, and economy. The lower economic condition, the lower the environment will be. The raft houses are occupied by people whose jobs relate directly to the river, such as fishermen, boatmen, and floating traders. The floating traders use raft houses as stalls to sell oil and various boat. Slum dwellers of two settlements depend heavily on the river to support their daily needs such as transportation, household water needs, and livelihood. People can be seen along the river banks using boats for various activities. Small traditional boats equipped with motors are used to cross the river or navigate along the river banks, while larger boats transport commodities from production areas to city market places [11]. Pinem said that the better economic condition, the better environmental quality will be [7].

The lower economic condition it has, the lower environmental quality will be. They considered a distance that under 20 m as ideal width. Attachment to the place is also identified from the comforts of their present occupancy and neighborhood environment [11]. The stronger the bonding of the place, the more it raises the awareness of the environment. Communities tied to places are usually socio-cultural feel as part of the resident community [12]. We should find out the solutions, otherwise, there would be a lot of trouble. They keep living there because they could not afford to buy good residences to live in.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of research, it is concluded that there are three reasons why people prefer living at the bank of musi river. I-e heredity factor, parents and children and other generations until now. They are wife and husband working in palembang, and relatively low cost of living (Residence).
The result (finding) in this research is concluded that the lower their educational level they have, the worse their economic level will be. Due to this lower economic condition, they cannot afford to buy their houses, and they have got no choice to keep living in that area.

This research could also be concluded that the economic condition is still lower and they have their different occupations, such as, merchants, entreprenuers, labours, fishekman, and tailor. Their income is lower either.

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