

## **Factors Cause the Children Drop Out of School in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency, the Province of Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia**



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**ABSTRACT:** This research aims to describe and analyze the factors cause children to drop out of school in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency of Southeast Sulawesi Province. The method used in this research is a qualitative case study with an ethnographic approach. The results of the study showed that the factors cause the children drop out of school in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency of Southeast Sulawesi Province consist of five factors, they are: (1) The weakness of family's economy for dropping out of school, (2) The lack of parental attention to children's education, (3) The lack of children's interest in in education, (4) The children miss-selecting in choosing friends, and (5) The children are involved in earning a living.

**KEYWORDS:** Children, drop out of school, Tanailandu village

### **INTRODUCTION**

Article 31 Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia says that every citizen has the right to education, and Paragraph (2) reads that every citizen is obliged to attend basic education and the government is obliged to finance it. Children as citizens are superior seeds, in continuing the baton of leadership in the future, it is appropriate to get education according to the child's age. In 2020 UNICEF reported that 938 Indonesian children dropped out of school aged 7-18 years. In terms of the event, 88% were still in school, 11% had dropped out before the pandemic, and 1% of children who had dropped out of school were affected by the pandemic. Meanwhile, 1% or 938 of them drop out of school due to the crush of poverty (mediaindonesia.com). Dropping out of school is a situation where a child cannot complete his studies at school, both at the elementary, junior high and high school levels, due to several factors such as an underprivileged economy, the environment, and his own will and so on (Setiawan, 2015: 10).

Regional Education Balance In 2019 Southeast Sulawesi Province recorded 33,268 elementary school dropouts, 28,652 junior high school dropouts, 15,953 high school dropouts, and 25,357 vocational school dropouts. Central Buton in 2018 there were 118 elementary school dropouts, 15 junior high school students, 57 high school students and 17 vocational high school students. One year later, in 2019, 110 elementary school dropouts in Buton Tengah, 60 junior high school dropouts, 68 high school dropouts and 20 vocational school dropouts. This number will continue to increase from year to year if anticipatory efforts for school dropouts are not immediately addressed, it will further decline and expand to various problems for dropout children and will get worse after the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020.

One area that has cases of children prone to dropping out of school in Southeast Sulawesi Province is Buton Tengah Regency, especially in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency of Southeast Sulawesi Province. In this village, several school children are in an isolated hamlet, namely Kaudani Hamlet, which is in an isolated area from the government center of Tanailandu Village. Data for 2021 noted that Tanailandu Village with a total population of 1294 people consisted of 334 Heads of Families (KK) and those living in Kaudani Hamlet totaled 46 families with a total population of 220 people (MDGs village data for Tanailandu Village 2021). Based on the annual report in 2022, PKH Desa Tanilandu HR assistants in the Family Hope Program assistance financing component recorded 160 elementary school children and 40 of them dropped out

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of school. Most of the children who drop out of school when they drop out of school have not had the opportunity to get assistance from the government, so it is true that stakeholders (the elite) argue that they will pay attention, side with the common people in providing selfless assistance (Poule Freire, 2013: 151).

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

The location of this research was carried out in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency of Southeast Sulawesi Province. There are many cases of children dropping out of school in this village. The method used in this research is a qualitative case study with an ethnographic approach. Data collection in this study was carried out by involved observation, open and in-depth interviews, documentation studies, and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with selected informants. The data obtained was analyzed by reducing data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Factors Cause the Children to drop out of School in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency**

In fulfilling the rights of children as citizens to receive educational services, State administrators are required to carry out with full responsibility and strive for equal distribution of education throughout the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) without discrimination. However, based on the 2019 Regional Education Balance of Southeast Sulawesi Province, there were 33,268 elementary school dropouts, 28,652 junior high school dropouts, 15,953 high school dropouts, and 25,357 vocational school dropouts. In Central Buton in 2018, there were 118 elementary school dropouts, 15 junior high school students, 57 high school students, and 17 vocational high school students. One year later, in 2019, 110 elementary school dropouts in Buton Tengah, 60 junior high school dropouts, 68 high school dropouts, and 20 vocational school dropouts.

Based on the data obtained either through observation, in-depth interviews, or documentation studies, the factors causing the occurrence of school dropouts in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency of Southeast Sulawesi Province. will be described as follows.

#### **1. Weakness of the family's economy**

Poule Freire (in Ilham Prastowo, 2020, p.3) says that families of weak children cause low awareness of education in families of children who have dropped out of school. The economic condition of families of school dropouts in Tanailandu Village is based on the World Bank standard of USD 1.9./day and if it is converted to rupiah, it is IDR 27,493, - per capita while the poverty standard based on BPSI is IDR 12,905, -/day per capita. In Tanailandu village, families of school dropouts have an average income of IDR 150.000, -/day. The average family's economic income of IDR 150,000, -/day to IDR 4,500,000, -/month. The fact is that families of children who drop out of school go out to the sea every day. 03.00 in the morning and go home at 06:00 p.m. When going to sea, fishermen have different objectives, some as fishermen catching powder and others as fishermen catching using trawls. The fishermen catch using fiber boats provided by the government and some are privately owned. In going to sea every day, fishermen must prepare a fee in the form of the price of 2 liters of gasoline of IDR 20,000, - the price of 1 pack of cigarettes is IDR 25.000, - /day and another fee of IDR 10,000, -/day to a total expenditure of IDR 55.000,-/day.

Family of children who drop out of school at sea need funds to be able to work, the indications can indirectly affect the catch they get. Catch fishermen have different catches every day. Some fishermen only get fish or only get crabs and or get fish and crabs. Fishermen who catch fish sell their catch for IDR 100,000 to IDR 200.000, -/day. Other fishermen can catch 1-3 kg of crabs every day, which are sold for IDR 75,000/kg or around IDR. 75,000, - up to IDR 225,000, - with a total income of IDR 100,000, - up to IDR 300.000, -/day.

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The struggle of parents of children dropping out of school in continuing their daily lives becomes burdensome. There is no other choice but to work as a seaweed farming laborer in order to earn rupiah coffers so that they can make ends meet. Parents of children who have dropped out of school take wages from the owner of the seaweed cultivation in the amount of IDR 1,000,-/rope.

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In a day sometimes they can get 30 ropes/day with a salary of IDR 30.000, -/day. Parents in supporting their family, have an unusual business. Especially in terms of expenses that are not small for their children who are no longer continuing their schooling. Johannes Muller (1980), poverty and institutional structure inequality are the main variables that cause people's opportunities, especially children, to get an education to be hampered (Suyanto, 2010: 357). Venessa and Eriyanti (2021) for school dropouts, fishermen found that dropouts were caused by parents who were not able to pay for their children's needs to continue their education, the helplessness of parents in sending their children to school is referred to as an act of liberation that must understand powerlessness. parents of children dropping out of school must continue to try through reflection and action to change family powerlessness to be better prepared to face economic problems that burden parents (Freire, 2013: 46). Thus, the helplessness of parents of school dropouts causes difficult and burdensome conditions, especially the family's economic conditions which are indeed completely deficient, the problem of relatively uncertain income, coupled with the cost of spending on basic needs, coupled with the irregular management of family finances and financial expenses. schoolchildren who are expensive Paule Freire (2008, p.29) refers to them as people who are thrown out of life which causes several children in the village of Tanaialndu to drop out of school.

### **2. Lack of Parental Attention to Children's Education**

The level of education that is being pursued by children is 12 years of compulsory education based on the Minister of Education and Culture Regulation No. 80 of 2013, consisting of Elementary Schools (SD) and equivalent. Out-of-school children in Tanailandu Village are those who cannot complete the 9-year compulsory education plus 3 years of secondary school or who drop out while studying at elementary, junior high or high school. As a child with a normal human condition who is still young and is determining his identity in the future, and his soul is very unstable, so he is very easily affected by environmental influences, Kartono in Irma Rumtaning (2014, p.10). Ideally parents are responsible for the goodness of children as a human nature. However, the denial of the nature of being a parent results in the expression of parents who feel tired of taking their children to school. Denial of nature can be seen in the irresponsibility of parents, the exploitation of children in involvement in work, and as part of the path for school dropouts (Paule Freire, 2008: 11) recognition of dehumanization as nature will bring an attitude of cynicism or overall despair that awakened in the child not to go to school. The condition of parents of children dropping out of school feel tired of situations that require them to take their children to go to school, even though parents have an obligation to pay attention to the safety and progress of their children's education. As a result of the lack of attention from parents to children, children have to swim when they come home from school, not to mention having to accompany their parents when they go out to sea at night. Parents who involve their children in making a living is something that doesn't matter as long as it's normal. The world and children do not exist separately from one another, both exist in constant interaction (Poule Freire, 2013, p.22). The world environment for children in Tanailandu Village starts from the children having to get up early at 03.00 WITA in the morning and being involved in fishing and crab activities, not to mention after returning from the sea, the children immediately rush off to school. This situation is repeated and becomes a child's habit and parents are not able to control children's activities so that children are lazy to go to school.

### **3. The Lack of Children's Interest in Education**

Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 35 of 2014 concerning amendments to the Law on Child Protection Number 23 of 2002 concerning child protection Article 17 that every child who is deprived of his freedom has the right to receive humane treatment and his placement is separated from adults. Mocking fellow children can result in psychological pressure on children. Moreover, this situation is not supported by a good environment, so children will become more and more and what is sacrificed is the children's school. Poule Freire observes that the core of education is awareness (Conscientizacao). Naive Consciousness The process of conscientization is related to the culture of school dropouts. Those who drop out of school as the people of Tanailandu Village are aware of their daily activities, habits, motivations, and interests as well as various things connected to school dropouts as a system that can make them marginalized.

### **4. Children Miss-Choosing Friends in Daily Communication**

Skipping at school is done by a child starting from making friends. Friends who initially joined it became a habit and fun for children. The influence of friendship has become a connecting link for the problem of dropouts, which gradually enters the circle of dropouts. Children who skip school are lighted by the friendliness of the child's school environment, and it becomes a habit of skipping classes when school time is usually done to avoid assignments given by the teacher at school, of course, such behavior can reduce learning achievement, and as a result of low learning achievement, family influence, or influence peers, most children who drop out of school always miss lessons compared to their classmates (Marzuki in Suyanto, 2010, p.361 to 362).

Missing lessons lead to the perception of lazy learning. Thus, the strong influence of the friendship environment on children's education is very much a determinant in maintaining the sustainability of children's schools, wrong friends lead to wrong attitudes, and lazy behavior, and the desire to go to school well is reduced, the most basic effect is ultimately children decide not to continue their education.

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### 5. Involvement of Children in Earning a Living

Out-of-school children in Tanailandu Village are mostly involved in their parents' work in earning a living, especially for boys. Boys are generally involved in helping their parents find fish, and crabs and setting nets in the sea, while on land they usually become coconut climbers. In helping their parents earn a living, most of the girls are involved in working as laborers in seaweed cultivation. For children who can earn money, it is embedded in their minds that they don't have to go to school to earn money.

Earning a living for the family is the responsibility of a father in a household because he is the head of the family. Marginalized communities in education are groups of people who suffer the most from the economic crash in their daily lives (Setiawan, 2015, p.3). Some of the families of school dropouts in Tanailandu Village have become orphans so that the status of the father is replaced by a mother in the family. This problem then triggers the presence of children to help parents in earning a living.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion of this study, a conclusion can be drawn that: The factors cause children to dropout of school in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka Sub-District, Buton Tengah Regency of Southeast Sulawesi Province are as follows: (1) The weakness of family's economy; (2) The lack of parental attention to children's education; (3) The lack of children's interest in education; (4) The children miss-chooses friends in daily communication, and (5) The involvement of the children in earning a living.

Based on the conclusions above, the researchers suggest to the local government deal with school dropouts in Tanailandu Village, Mawasangka District, Central Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province to build remote classes and inclusive learning methods based on marginal education.

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