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SQUATTING PROBLEMS

IN

INDONESIA

A Research Study
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A B S T R A C T

Squatter Problems in Indonesia**Moch. Badr Buldansyah**

Most of urban dwellers in developing countries have been squatting too long. This is a phenomenon also characteristic of Indonesia. Big cities like Jakarta and Surabaya attract rural people who migrate because of poverty pressure in rural areas.

The national development programs in Indonesia have resulted in extraordinary economic growth. However, at the same time, these development policies have created some social imbalances which in turn have lead to and maintained the squatter settlement problem in the cities.

This research finds that there are some policies that can be carried out in order to reduce these problems. Possible solutions are derived from both direct and indirect actions. Direct solutions should be associated with the squatters themselves, in which the policies are aimed to improve their condition, economically and socially. Finally, indirect solutions should be addressed to rural development and specifically, the control of unoccupied land. All in all, policies should be carried out both in urban areas where the problem of squatting exists and in the rural areas, being the main source of the problem.

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CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The rate of urban and population growth has rapidly increased in developing countries. Cities and towns have flourished but rural areas have been left behind. The processes of industrialization and modernization which were linked with economic development and urbanization in the West have split apart in developing countries (Hay, 1977 :104).

The conventional strategy for economic development which emphasizes economic growth in the modern-industrial sector, has led to social and economic inequalities as well as to regional imbalances. Development processes have been carried out at the expense of equity. Investments, either from local, domestic or foreign sources have been encouraged in the cities. Lipton (1988 :40) argues that resource allocation is urban biased and increases inequality. Presently, we are witnessing the exodus of rural people shifting to urban areas in most developing countries. They are forced to come to the cities by poverty pressures and the expectation of a better life in the cities and towns.

The movement is continuing and the cities are growing rapidly. Consequently, several imbalances characterize urban places.

Concentration in metropolitan areas is perhaps the most critical expression of the profound imbalances which characterize the human settlements in almost all the countries of the region. These imbalances are an inevitable consequence of concentration-dependence styles of development (Jordan, 1986 :30).

Urbanization together with industrialization which were

expected to serve a positive role in creating economic wealth, in fact have created many problems in the cities. Squalid residential areas, huge slums and sprawling shanty towns are evidence of the problems.

This study will discuss squatting problems in Indonesia. There are several reasons why I have chosen this topic :

1. Both national and urban population growth are high in Indonesia and employment, housing and other social requirements are pressing needs;
2. As a result of population growth and the development process, urbanization has become a phenomenon which swells and expands squatter colonies within the cities and towns of Indonesia, particularly in Jakarta, the capital city.
3. Many have predicted that rural-urban migration and squatting problems will become one of the most important development and demographic issues of the 1990's (Todaro, 1989 :267).

There are two other reasons. Firstly, I am Indonesian and secondly, urbanization with its squatting problems is an area of interest within the scope of Development Studies.

1.1. Objectives

The objectives of this study are to explore, assess and understand the problems of squatting in developing countries in general and in Indonesia in particular, and to examine the policies or remedies necessary to cure the problem. The study also aims to provide a contribution to the literature on urbanization.

1.2. Methodology and disciplinary areas covered

The study is based on literature and documentary research from material available at Massey University and other New Zealand libraries. It does not aim to test any hypothesis, and is limited to a descriptive and critical analysis of the subject through the application of theoretical points of view to the literature and data available.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used with inputs from development economics, geography, sociology, demography, urban anthropology, and planning.

1.3. Theoretical approaches

Three theoretical approaches will be used in this study : modernization, dependency, and the articulation of modes of production theories. Modernization theory has generally taken a positive view on the role of urbanization in the development process in developing countries while dependency theory has been far more critical. Articulation theory will be used to consider the different types of migration, temporary and permanent.

1.4. The purpose and scope of study

The study will focus on urbanization, development and migration in Indonesia with particular attention being paid to squatting problems and its policies. Therefore, the discussion of this thesis will be organized into six chapters.

Chapter one is an introductory chapter which consists of an explanation of the objectives of the study, methodology and disciplinary areas covered, theoretical approaches and the

purpose and scope of study.

Chapter two consists of a discussion of the literature regarding the process of urbanization. This chapter begins with a discussion of third world urbanization and is followed by a discussion of the theories of urbanization : modernization, dependency and the articulation of modes of production theory. The analysis then considers development and migration, urban squatting, the definition of squatter settlements, causes of urban squatting, infrastructure and services of squatting, and ends with a discussion on squatter housing, conventional public housing and self-help housing.

Chapter three will specifically focus on the nature of spatial development in Indonesia. In this chapter, the discussion will be on regional structures, uneven development and the pattern of migration in Indonesia.

Chapter four concentrates on discussing urban squatting in Indonesia. Within this chapter, the discussion will be focused on, the causes of urban squatting in Indonesia, grouping of squatters in Indonesia, characteristics of squatters in Indonesia and cities or towns which are most affected.

Chapter five will consider possible solutions for squatting problems in Indonesia. The discussion will be about the existing policies, The Kampung Improvement Program and demolition program; possible directions including direct solutions and indirect solutions. Finally, this thesis will conclude with conclusions in the form of chapter six.