



## Economic Behavior of Coastal Communities (Cultural Poverty Study of Fishing Communities in Pasar Belakang Village, Sibolga City District, 2024)

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine how the socio-economic behavior of fishing communities contributes to cultural poverty. This research was conducted in Pasar Belakang Village, Sibolga City District. This type of research is descriptive with a qualitative approach. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with predetermined parties using purposive sampling techniques, as well as direct observation in the field. Secondary data were obtained from data collection through documents and literature related to the research topic. The results of this study indicate that the socio-economic behavior of coastal communities in the study of cultural poverty of fishing communities is seen in three main systems: the family and kinship system, the mutual cooperation and mutual assistance system, and the belief system in the lives of fishermen when fishing at sea. Therefore, with the existence of these three systems, coastal communities, especially fishermen, can influence their social and economic behavior during the process of going to sea. Work as fishermen has a significant contribution to the economic life and welfare of fishing families. Even though the fishermen have a low level of education, after working as fishermen they have been able to send their children to university level, seen from the health aspect, the fishermen are already aware of health and seek treatment at proper health facilities such as community health centers and hospitals, in terms of housing conditions, on average, fishermen already have their own houses.

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### 1. Introduction

The problem of poverty in coastal communities is still a serious problem in Indonesia. (Rumangun, 2022), (Putra, Suri, Saputra, Manalu, & Banjarnahor, 2023) Traditional fishermen living in coastal areas generally occupy the lowest stratum of the socioeconomic structure. They face income uncertainty due to the lean season, market exploitation, and limited access to capital and technology. (Abdul Aziz & Mohammad Rana, 2018), (Susilawati, 2012).

In Pasar Belakang Village, Sibolga City District, the majority of residents earn their living as traditional fishermen. The poverty they face is not only caused by structural factors, such as unfavorable government policies, but also cultural factors such as a consumerist lifestyle, work culture, and traditional beliefs. (Ginting, 2022), (Rozi, 2024) This condition leads to inherited poverty, or cultural

poverty. Based on this phenomenon, this study aims to determine how the socioeconomic behavior of fishing communities contributes to cultural poverty in Pasar Belakang Village.(Kasim, 2022),(Triadiyatma, 2016).

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Research Design

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. The research location is Pasar Belakang Village, Sibolga City District.(Siregar, 2023),(Aprilia, 2022)Research informants were selected using purposive sampling, consisting of owner-operated fishermen, laboring fishermen, fishermen's wives, community leaders, religious leaders, and village officials. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observation, and document review. Data analysis was carried out through data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Data validity was strengthened by triangulation of sources, methods, and theories.(Susanto & Jailani, 2023),(SUDARIYANTO, 2024).

### 2.2 Population and Sample

The population in this study was all fishermen living in Pasar Belakang Village, Sibolga City District. The sample was taken using a purposive sampling technique, namely only respondents who met the research criteria.(Sukabumi, 2022).

### 2.3 Data Collection Techniques and Instrument Development

Data were collected through: A questionnaire designed based on research indicators. Interviews with selected informants. The research instrument was a questionnaire that had undergone validity and reliability testing. Direct observation of the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community.(Utomo & Firdaus, 2019),(Heryati & Mappigau, 2023).

### 2.4 Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was conducted in two stages: Univariate analysis: conducted to observe the frequency distribution and percentage of each research variable. Bivariate analysis: conducted to determine the relationship between two variables (independent and dependent) using the chi-square statistical test.(Sari & Sholihah'Atiqoh, 2020),(Silviani & Absari, 2020).

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Respondent Characteristics

The respondents in this study were fishermen living in Pasar Belakang Village, Sibolga City District. Respondent characteristics were determined by their education level and average monthly income..

Table 1.  
Respondents' Education Level

Level of education	Number of people)	Percentage (%)
No school	8	16
Elementary School	21	42
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	15	30
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	6	12
Total	50	100

Based on Table 1, the majority of respondents (42%) had an elementary school education, while only 12% had a high school education. This indicates that the education level of fishermen is still relatively low.

Income Category (Rp)	NumberPer (OJurmanlagh)pers	Setatase(%%)
< 1,000,000	5	10
1,000,000 – 1,500,000	18	36
1,500,000 – 2,000,000	17	34
2,000,000 – 2,500,000	10	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Table 2 shows that most fishermen earn between Rp1,000,000 and Rp2,000,000 per month. Only 10% earn less than Rp1,000,000, and 20% earn between Rp2,000,000 and Rp2,500,000.

#### 4. Conclusion

The socio-economic behavior of fishermen in Pasar Belakang is influenced by kinship systems, mutual cooperation, and traditional beliefs. This cultural system strengthens solidarity, but also reinforces dependency and limits economic adaptation. Low education, uncertain income, and consumptive behavior exacerbate cultural poverty. Empowerment interventions through education, training, access to capital, and sustainable marine resource management are essential to breaking the cycle of cultural poverty.

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