



Leave No One Behind" Slogan On Street Children Empowerment By The Save Street Children Sidoarjo Community

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Abstract

Keywords:

Leave No One Behind, Street Children Empowerment, Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS)

This study aims to analyze the role of Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS) in accelerating the Leave No One Behind Slogan through the street child empowerment program in Sidoarjo. Different from previous research, this study integrates the Leave No One Behind slogan within the framework of human development as a key conceptual approach. The research uses qualitative methods with a case study approach, as well as data collection techniques through in-depth interviews and direct observation. The results of the study show that SSCS actually implements the Leave No One Behind slogan by providing access to education and skills training for street children. These programs not only focus on meeting basic needs, but also encourage individual capacity building within the framework of human development. These findings confirm that the role of SSCS is aligned with the commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.

Abstrak

Kata kunci:

Jangan Tinggalkan Orang Tinggal, Pemberdayaan Anak Jalanan, Selamatkan Anak Jalanan Sidoarjo (SSCS)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS) dalam percepatan slogan Leave No One Behind melalui program pemberdayaan anak jalanan di Sidoarjo. Berbeda dengan penelitian sebelumnya, penelitian ini mengintegrasikan slogan Leave No One Behind dalam kerangka pembangunan manusia sebagai pendekatan konseptual utama. Penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus, dan teknik pengumpulan data melalui wawancara mendalam dan observasi langsung. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa SSCS telah dengan jelas menerapkan slogan Leave No One Behind dengan memberikan akses pendidikan dan pelatihan keterampilan bagi anak-anak jalanan. Program-program ini tidak hanya fokus pada pemenuhan kebutuhan dasar, tetapi juga mendorong peningkatan kapasitas individu dalam kerangka pembangunan manusia. Pertemuan ini menegaskan bahwa peran SSCS selaras dengan komitmen terhadap pembangunan inklusif dan berkelanjutan.

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INTRODUCTION

In a world that is increasingly complex and accelerating in all kinds of fields, life is getting a lot easier, and equality seems to be a real thing not only in the imagination, as if living in two faces of the world. What is unavoidable is that human density is also increasing, creating many gaps between one another. Sidoarjo is one of the districts with a large population, and is known as an industrial city (Antonius Purwanto, 2021). Sidoarjo is located directly adjacent to the metropolis of Surabaya, where there are layers of society that require special attention, including street children. The number of street children in Sidoarjo is quite large, it can be seen from the number of street buskers who are still underage (Taufik, 2021)

. They live a life that is not like the life of ordinary children, they have to work to support the economic needs of the family from a very early age, many of them sell newspapers at red lights, busking and so on. They take on various professions without having to consider the risks, as long as they are able to earn rupiah. This is certainly very sad and needs more attention from the surrounding parties.

In the disadvantaged conditions experienced by these marginalized children, there is a glimmer of hope for them to support higher quality education. In 2015, a humanitarian-based social community initiated by youth in Sidoarjo was established, namely *Save Street Children Sidoarjo* (SSCS). This social community was initiated by Sidoarjo youth who started from a sense of empathy for the condition of Sidoarjo street children. It was established on May 24, 2015, with most of the movers being the youth of Sidoarjo Regency, who care about the surrounding social conditions and are expected to have good ideas to pay more attention to the surrounding conditions. The birth of SSCS was marked by the realization of the autonomous and independent *Save Street Child Sidoarjo* community bureaucracy which was fortified by 4 young Sidoarjo youths with the spirit of initial struggle. Until now, there are more than 100 members who actively and passively take part in implementing the *Save Street Child Sidoarjo* activity program (Rt et al., n.d.). The basic purpose of SSCS was formed based on the spirit of concern for vulnerable people, namely children, which is packaged in concrete actions, the form of this activity will encourage equality and not left behind, because humans have the right to get equality and no one is left behind.

Speaking of being, the actions of SSCS are aligned with the global agenda, the SDGs, whose main vision is "*Leave No One Behind*." In the SDGs agenda that prioritizes *Leave No One Behind*, it becomes a new hope for vulnerable people who are in an increasingly complex development. In the context of this research, street children are one of the vulnerable groups. In an effort to achieve the *Leave No One Behind* slogan, SSCS implements 2 SDGs points, namely quality education and partnerships to achieve goals (*THE 17 GOALS*, n.d.). In this case, SSCS involves young people to implement human development based on empowering street children.

According to UNICEF, Children in humanitarian settings are particularly vulnerable. During armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies, children may be forced to flee their homes, some separated from their families and exposed to exploitation and abuse along the way. They are at risk of injury and death and for girls in particular, the threat of gender-based violence is heightened. Children experience harmful forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. It happens in every country, and in the places where children should be most protected such as their homes, schools and communities (Mohamed, n.d.) . Based on international standards, children are categorized as under 18 years of age, at which age children are often victims of violence, both verbal and non-verbal violence (Marzuki, 2016). There needs to be a movement from the community in the protection of children who are more intense, in the context of global development which is now being carried out by UN member states, they are starting to pay attention to vulnerable groups, one of which is children, through the *Leave No One Behind* slogan, many *stakeholders* are starting to be moved to participate in the success of the global agenda. Therefore, this research is expected to be able to enrich the insights and literature of the *Leave No One Behind* slogan in the concept of human development towards empowering street children. In addition, this research is also expected to be able to provide recommendations for companies through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and other social communities in forming policies or human empowerment programs that are more inclusive, especially in access to quality education.

METHODS

This research uses qualitative research methods, using a case study approach to analyze the role of SSCS as an NGO that implements the SDGs Slogan "*Leave No One Behind*" in efforts to empower street children. That way, the role of SSCS in implementing the LNOB Slogan can be clearly described using qualitative research methods. Then in data collection techniques to support and strengthen this research, the author uses interview techniques and direct observation in the field.

The first interview was conducted through an online meeting via the WhatsApp platform with the resource person, namely the *Founder of Save Street Child Sidoarjo*. This first interview discussed the basics related to SSCS. In the second interview stage, it was conducted directly by arranging time for a meeting with the Founder of SSCS directly at the *Save Street Child Sidoarjo Secretariat*. At this stage, the second interview was conducted to ensure that the data and the researcher's summary could be confirmed validly by the resource person. The last data collection technique is that researchers use direct field observations at Sidoarjo Square, to directly examine the form of SSCS work programs for fostered children.

The various stages of data collection carried out by researchers aim provide a comprehensive explanation of the object being studied, namely *Save Street Child Sidoarjo (SSCS)* by evaluating it using the concept of human development. In addition, thorough observations were also made to find out the role of SSCS in implementing the *Leave No One Behind* slogan.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Amidst the hustle and bustle of Sidoarjo district, there are many little-known life stories. One of them is the story of street children who are forced to live in various limitations, both in access to education and access to health. In fact, they are far from safe to live in enjoyment. According to data from the Sidoarjo Regency Social Service in 2023, 215 street children were recorded in Sidoarjo Regency (Masfufah & Agustina, 2023). This proves that there are still many disadvantaged people who do not have proper access to social life. But for some of these street children, there has been a ray of hope since the formation of a social community that focuses on non-formal education services in Sidoarjo, namely Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS).

Based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers with Dwi Prasetyo, as the Founder of Save Street Children Sidoarjo stated that this social community has been established since May 24, 2015 as a form of empathy for the condition of street children in Sidoarjo.

Sidoarjo who have limited access to proper education. Through this organization, the founders of SSCS have a strong intention to provide alternatives to adequate access to education for street children. This is implemented by forming educational programs that are needed according to the conditions of street children, in order to open up hope for a brighter future life.

"If asked what is the main reason I initiated this organization, yes because I see the limited condition of Sidoarjo street children in accessing education which is very alarming. And I think there needs to be real help and concrete steps taken by the community to support free and proper education to encourage the improvement of quality human resources for this nation," said Dwi Prasetyo, as the Founder of *Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS)*.

According to Prasetyo, if this underdeveloped condition is allowed to continue, it will bring big problems in the future such as deepening social inequality. Therefore, *Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS)* makes various efforts by building educational programs for street children, so that they have access to more appropriate education. **First**, the Merdeka Class Program, which is an initiative program established by SSCS in an effort to provide access to alternative education for street children in Sidoarjo. This program is carried out by providing learning such as how to read and provide explanations related to social science subjects, which include information about the names of countries and their flags. This program is packaged as a learning activity that is carried out while playing, so that the fostered children still feel happy and without pressure. This proves that the learning process carried out by *Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS)* is applied through a creative and innovative approach and is adapted to the world of children. The learning methods used in this program include reading, drawing, coloring and storytelling activities which end with educational games such as questions and answers. **Second**, the *Anak Merdeka Scholarship Program*, which is in the form of providing assistance to facilitate educational needs which is carried out periodically twice a year. This program is provided in the form of material assistance, such as the provision of educational infrastructure, both stationery and uniforms for street children. The funds used in facilitating the *Anak Merdeka Scholarship program* come from an open donation system, which is opening an open fundraising program for the wider community who want to help. This proves that SSCS does not only provide educational facilities to street children, but also builds a sense of social solidarity of the wider community towards the vulnerable.

Third, the Ramadhan Ceria Program, which is one of *Save Street Children Sidoarjo's* (SSCS) non-formal learning programs conducted every Ramadan. This activity is implemented by visiting various places of worship, such as churches or mosques as a place of learning to recognize the value of religious diversity in Indonesia, *said the founder in the interview process*. This program was formed to introduce the value of diversity and tolerance to street children. With a learning program like this, it is hoped that street children will be able to appreciate every difference that exists as an effort to shape their moral value character. **Fourth**, the Asik Picnic Program, which is an educational program carried out through an outdoor learning system. This program is implemented through educational recreational activities, by visiting historical places, such as visits to Surabaya City Parks and Museums. This picnic program was formed as an innovative teaching and learning medium in expanding the knowledge and experience of the foster children, so that they can get to know the historical process without feeling bored because they can feel a new learning atmosphere.

Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS) as a social community that actualizes concern for Sidoarjo street children, has proven several significant achievements, including in terms of improving the achievements of fostered children and public award achievements. One of the most proud public award achievements is that SSCS won an award at the Detik Jatim Award in 2024, with the category of Community Award for Leading Movers: Street Children Companion (Rinanda, 2024) . This award is a form of appreciation for *Save Street Children Sidoarjo* (SSCS) which has been dedicated to creating access to alternative education and mentoring for Sidoarjo street children.

Not stopping at public appreciation achievements, SSCS has also managed to carve out achievements for its foster children in the academic field. For example, Veby Ostaviani, a student who attends PGRI 16 Sidoarjo Junior High School, has consistently won class championships from grade 7 to grade 9. Meanwhile, the achievement also came from a foster child named Silvia, she is one of the foster children who managed to pursue education until college. Silvia won the Indonesia Smart College Card (KIPK) scholarship and is now pursuing an undergraduate degree at Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo University with an Elementary School Teacher Education study program (Rt et al., n.d.). This achievement has proven that SSCS as a social community is able to become a catalyst for street children to achieve a more decent education than before.

But in addition to its success, SSCS is also experiencing some obstacles in running its educational program. These obstacles are expressed directly by the Founder of SSCS, which include the commitment of the administrators and how to control the attitude of the children under their care. The administrators of SSCS themselves still have their own busy schedules such as focusing on work or lectures, which then becomes an obstacle for administrators to find it difficult to contribute in running every SSCS education program. In addition, the difficulty of controlling the attitude and behavior of foster children who tend to be difficult to obey is also an obstacle for SSCS in optimizing its educational programs.

The Spirit Of The *Leave No One Behind* Slogan On Street Children Empowerment by SSCS

The spirit of *Leave No One Behind* (LNOB), which is at the core of the global agenda of sustainable development (SDGs), is deeply rooted in the concept of human development. In this case, the development in question is not focused on economic growth alone but humans as subjects in the spotlight. Reviewing the context of street children empowerment carried out by Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS), the slogan of human development is the main driver for the left behind in achieving equality and escaping from underdevelopment. Amartya Sen in his book entitled "Development As A Freedom" states that "Development can be seen as process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy". The sentence means that human development is a process of expanding the real freedoms for every human being in accessing all opportunities. Which, this is used to improve the quality of life, both opportunities in education, health, economy and political freedom (Sen, 1999).

In the context of street children empowerment conducted by SSCS. Children are not considered as an object in a development but as an active subject to determine the direction of their own lives. It is said to be an active subject because one of the accesses provided, namely in the field of education, will be able to make these children become free individuals. Reading from the perspective of the concept of human development, the beginning of their freedom in becoming an independent individual begins with access to quality education that they can reach. However, the next step to becoming a fully free individual also requires access to health, economic and political freedom. In addition to education, children also need access to adequate health to become free individuals. In this case, health is an indicator that has not been realized in the SSCS program,

they only focus on the education sector without considering the health sector which is able to support a child to become a free individual. It is necessary to review/re-evaluate the SSCS program to support freedom in a child. Of course, this requires a lot of support from all stakeholders in every process.

In the context of human development in addition to discussing individual freedom. Amartya Sen also expressed his opinion about the Capability Approach in his book entitled "Amartya Sen's Capability Approach". In the Capability Approach according to Amartya Sen, human development must emphasize on increasing the capabilities of each individual. Which means creating real opportunities that can be utilized in living a life that they value as valuable. Therefore, the concept of human development not only emphasizes the fulfillment of basic human needs, but also provides space for freedom and opportunities for each individual to grow and develop their potential (Valle, 2020). This point indicator is almost the same as human development and freedom, but it emphasizes more on the opportunities that an individual will achieve. The capability approach is in line with the LNOB Slogan which is at the root of the SDGs, with the rule of leaving no one behind including marginalized vulnerable people, the LNOB Slogan is one of the facilities for vulnerable people to get guaranteed access to education, economy, health or political freedom. In the 17 points of the SDGs, all indicators regarding the empowerment of marginalized communities have been theoretically compiled and meet the indicators of human freedom and capability approach (Mukorrohah, 2025). However, in terms of the implementation of the LNOB Slogan, there needs to be an in-depth evaluation, because in its application it often makes the disadvantaged people as objects of development rather than active subjects in a development, for example many programs only provide assistance not in the aspect of long-term empowerment. This makes the human development slogan cannot be seen as a whole in the LNOB slogan.

In the application of the LNOB slogan which is truly to eliminate discrimination and remove backwardness, it can be seen from the SSCS community that shows its enthusiasm for reaching out to the vulnerable, the spirit of SSCS in carrying out street children empowerment programs will have a significant impact the process of human development in Sidoarjo district, perhaps the impact will not be immediately visible in the near future or in the years when it was pioneered. The generation molded by SSCS will gain real freedom as individuals in the future, because they get access to become independent human beings even if only in the education sector.

Youth Support In Human Development Through Street Children Empowerment

In its application, the younger generation has a major role in increasing human development capacity. Discussing the young generation Gen Z is one part of the young people Ryan Jenkins (2017) explains in his article "Four Generational Reasons for Being the Most Different Generation" that Generation Z has diverse expectations, preferences, and work perspectives and is considered a challenge for organizations, Generation Z is more of a global nature and influences culture and attitudes in most societies (Hartawati, 2022) . Sen's analysis, which refers to development not only about the economy but the freedom or expansion of the rights of each individual can be spearheaded by young people. Young people with their creativity and abilities that are increasingly integrated with technology will be able to expand access to health education and even the economy. In this case young people have an important role in human development.

In the SSCS community, which is attended by many young people, the acceleration or access to education is able to expand massively. Collaborative action across Youth Organizations (OKP) also shows the large number of youth who are active in human development through empowering street children. Active collaboration by youth is reflected in the LNOB slogan. This is part of the 17 sustainable development, on point 17, namely partnerships to achieve common goals (*THE 17 GOALS*, n.d.). The active role of young people in empowering street children is very evident when the teachers of SSCS independent class are young people and the managers of the donation system are also young people, this is what will be able to make the expansion of access to education more massive in disadvantaged communities. If the expansion of access to education is increasingly massive, it is certain that many individuals will gain the freedom to fulfill their own lives.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This research shows that Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS) has an active role in implementing the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) concept through empowering street children in Sidoarjo. Based on the results of observations, SSCS has provided access to non-formal education that is innovative and certainly creative through programs such as Merdeka Class, Merdeka Children Scholarship, Ramadhan Ceria, and Asik Picnic. These programs not only meet the basic needs of education but also build the individual quality of street children, in line with Amartya Sen's concept of human development which emphasizes the aspect of expanding freedom and opportunities to achieve rights in freedom of life.

The results showed that the SSCS approach succeeded in creating tangible impacts, such as increased academic achievement of fostered children (for example: Veby Ostaviani and Silvia) and public recognition through the Detik Jatim Award 2024. However, challenges such as limited funds to carry out program actions are a major highlight within the SSCS community. Conceptually, SSCS efforts are in line with the SDGs program, specifically point 4 (Quality Education) and point 17 (Partnerships to Achieve Common Goals). However, the research also highlighted the limitations of the program's scope that has not touched on the health and economic aspects, which are important to achieve full human freedom. The active role of young people in SSCS catalyzes the acceleration of inclusive development, demonstrating the potential for cross-sector collaboration to expand the program's impact.

Advice

1. For Companies through CSR Programs

It is expected that companies, through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, will be able to allocate resources and funds to support the optimization of street children empowerment. This support can be in the form of skills training, opening scholarship programs, and providing non-formal education facilities and mentoring for street children to improve their quality and independence.

2. For Save Street Children Sidoarjo (SSCS)

It is hoped that the SSCS community can maintain its non-formal education programs while developing a focus on access to health, as part of the basic needs of street children in order to support them in all their activities. In addition, SSCS is also advised to build broader and more strategic partnerships with the private sector and other social communities, as well as create specialized training for volunteers in order to increase their capacity in a more effective and targeted mentoring process for street children.

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