

## Utilization of Toddlers by Their Families in the Activities of Beggars in Padang City

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### Abstract

Children are a trust from Allah SWT who must always be guarded, cared for, guided, and protected. Children are the responsibility of their parents, starting from fulfilling their physical and psychological needs, economic needs, education, environment, and behavior of a child. In reality, there are still many parents who have not fully fulfilled their responsibilities and on the contrary, there are some parents who exploit their children to be able to support their families. In fact, many parents use their children as a means to beg for the reason of meeting their family's living needs. This is done by carrying their children in their arms at crossroads, placing them on shop verandas while begging in crowded places in Padang City. Based on the above phenomenon, the author wants to examine further the use of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City, which the author has written in a scientific paper. This study aims to determine the forms, causal factors, and impacts of the use of toddlers, as well as the responses and handling patterns of the Padang City Social and Manpower Office regarding the problem of the use of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City. This study is a field research using qualitative methods in descriptive form. While the data collection technique through observation and interviews. The informants in this study were beggars who use toddlers using quato sampling techniques. Based on the results of the study obtained; first, the forms of exploitation of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City, physically, namely creating a sense of pity from others carried out by their parents by pinching and shouting at their children, while psychologically, namely taking advantage of the child's condition that looks gloomy and pitiful to support the creation of the pity atmosphere. Second, regarding the factors causing the exploitation of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City, namely economically, influenced by the environment, parents' wrong perceptions about the meaning of children, low parental education and parents do not know and understand about child exploitation. Third, the impact of the exploitation of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City, physically, namely the child's health is disturbed, psychologically, namely becoming quiet, apathetic, emotional, pitiful and gloomy views. The fourth finding in this study concerns the response and handling patterns of the Padang City Social and Manpower Office regarding the problem of the use of toddlers by families in begging activities in Padang City. The Padang City Social and Manpower Office's response was a low self-esteem, a lack of shame in begging, and the belief that begging does not actually exist if the husband is responsible for the child and family. The handling patterns include implementing preventative, repressive, and rehabilitation efforts.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Children are a trust from Allah SWT who must always be cared for or looked after, guided, and protected. This is related to the Word of Allah SWT in the Qur'an, Surah An-Nisaa, verse 9:

الله وَلِيْفُوْلُوَا قَوْلَا سَدِيْدًا وَّلِيْحُسْنَ الَّذِيْنَ لُو تَرَكَوَا مِنْ حَلْفِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّةً ضِعَافًا خَافُوَا عَلَيْهِمْ فَلْيَتَّقُوا  
(النساء : 9)

*"And let those who leave behind them weak children, for whom they fear (for their welfare), fear Allah and speak the truth." (Quran Surah An-Nisa' verse 9).*

The verse above explains that parents are obliged to look after themselves and their families. Understanding word "weak" in this verse has a very broad meaning, encompassing physical weakness, psychological weakness, educational weakness, economic weakness, intellectual weakness, and especially weakness in faith. According to Syamsu Yusuf (2010: 10), in Imam Al Ghazali's approach, children are born with a balanced and healthy natural disposition. It is their parents who impart religion to them. Likewise, children can be influenced by bad traits. They learn bad traits from the environment they live in, from the lifestyle that gives them roles, and from the habits they practice. At birth, a child's physical condition is not yet perfect. This deficiency is overcome through training and education supported by food.

The opinion above can be understood that a child is already a responsibility parents. Everything from meeting a child's physical and psychological needs to providing for their financial well-being, education, environment, and behavior is the responsibility of parents. In reality, many parents fail to fulfill these responsibilities, while others treat and demand that their children provide for their family.

From the perspective of national and state life, children are the future of the nation and the next generation of the nation's ideals, so that every child has the right to live, grow, develop, participate and has the right to protection from acts of violence and discrimination as well as civil rights and freedoms (Explanation of Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection).

Indonesia is one of the countries that ratified the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child, through Presidential Decree (Keppres) no. 36/0 dated 25 August 1990. The existence of this convention means that the State is legally obliged to guarantee and protect children's rights, both social, political, cultural, and economic (Usman & Nachrowi, 2004: 21). In reality, the state is still unable to fulfill its obligation to protect children's rights. The problem that still occurs is the existence of child labor, with children working, hurting children, both physically and psychologically. Even more far-reaching impacts, with work, it is feared that it will disrupt the future of children to get a better life, especially since children are the next generation of the nation (Usman & Nachrowi, 2004: 17).

International law also states that this is regulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN Children's Convention) or the United Nations Conventions on the Right of the Child (1989) which is accessed from the internet ([http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konvensi\\_Hak-Hak\\_Anak25/072011](http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konvensi_Hak-Hak_Anak25/072011)), which states that: Countries that have ratified international agreements on legal protection for children must guarantee child protection such as the care necessary for their welfare by taking into account the rights and obligations of parents, legal guardians, or other individuals who are legally responsible for the child and for this must take all appropriate measures, both based on regulations and administratively.

Furthermore, in the provisions of Article 56 of Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, it is regulated regarding the rights of children to be able to know who their parents are, to be raised and cared for by their own parents. If the child's parents are unable to raise and care for their child properly and in accordance with this law, then the child may

be cared for or adopted as a child by another person in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations (Majda, 2009: 172-173).

Parents have a significant role and responsibility towards their children, and these are regulated by laws and regulations. These include ensuring child protection and caring for children with good and are fully responsible for their child. If the parents are unable to afford it, it can be raised by someone else in accordance with the provisions.

Children are defined and understood differently, according to varying perspectives and understandings. According to Law Number 4 of 1979 concerning Child Welfare, a child is defined as a person under the age of 21 and unmarried. However, according to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Welfare, a child is defined as a person under the age of 21 and unmarried. Protection child is a person under 18 years of age, including unborn children. Many parents and families still don't fully understand the importance of begging. Some parents even use their children as tools for begging, claiming to help meet their family's needs. This means that parents or families work as beggars, often bringing along their toddlers on begging trips.

The definition of a beggar, according to Regional Regulation No. 30 of 1980, quoted in Engkus Kuswarno's book, states, "people who earn income by begging in public for various reasons to hope for the mercy of others" (Kuswarno, 2009:141)

Based on the quote above, it can be understood that beggars are people who earn a living by begging in public using various methods and reasons, hoping for mercy from others. Beggars are familiar figures in everyday life. We encounter these figures almost every day, whether at crossroads, in stalls, shops, or elsewhere. The backgrounds of beggars vary. Some have been evicted from their homes, so they use carts to move from place to place and seek donations or food. Others have left their villages to seek a better life in Padang City, but lack the necessary skills and ultimately turn to begging as a profession.

A phenomenon that is currently seen as a daily sight is the increasing number of beggars operating at the traffic light intersections in Padang City. Based on data from the Padang City Social and Manpower Office (2012), in 2011, the number of residents in Padang City stood at 997, and that number is expected to continue to grow. They are spread across the Padang City Raya Market, Jalan Bagindo Azis Chan, Jalan Damar, Bypass, Sudirman, S Parman, Tabing, Koto Tangah, and Jalan Thamrin.

Some beggars carry and carry toddlers during their activities. These are the parents or families of toddlers who typically operate at intersections or busy areas in Padang. The goal of using toddlers as a tool for begging is to create compassion, hope for compassion from others, and earn a substantial income by begging in public.

Based on this fact, the author wants to examine more deeply the families who use toddlers as a tool for begging, which is expressed in the form of a scientific work entitled **"The Use of Toddlers by Their Families in Begging Activities in Padang City."**

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is descriptive (*descriptive research*) with a qualitative approach. Literally, descriptive research is research that aims to describe situations or events (Suryabrata, 2010:76). This research aims to describe the use of toddlers by their families in begging activities that occur in Padang City. The locations that are the main targets of beggars in carrying out their activities in Padang City are the Lubuk Begalung intersection and the Ketaping intersection. This location is a very strategic place because it is an intersection that connects Padang City with other regencies in other words, a place that is busy with traffic vehicles. The data sources in this study use (1) primary data, namely data obtained directly from the source, the primary data source in this study is beggars who

bring and carry toddlers as tools or means of begging in Padang City and (2) secondary data, namely complementary or supporting data from primary data sources related to this research (Umar, 1996: 42). In this study, secondary data was obtained through the Padang City Social and Manpower Service and the Padang City Sat Pol PP.

The subjects of the research were beggars who carried and carried toddlers as tools for begging. The informant collection technique that the author used in this study was... This is the Quato Sampling technique or also known as the sampling technique with a certain number, which is used when the selection of sample members at a certain level is made with a certain number (quato) with certain characteristics (Ghusains Usman and Purnomo Setiady Akhar 2009, 46).

To collect data and information to achieve what the researcher was looking for in solving this research problem, the author determined the data collection tools using observation and interviews. Observation is a data collection method used to collect research data through observation and sensing (Bungin, 2008:115). Observation is also called observation, which includes the activity of paying attention to an object using all the senses. So, observation can be done through sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste (Arikunto, 2006:156). In this case, the author conducted observations of beggars who exploit toddlers in begging activities in Padang City. Interviews are direct meetings with research informants and collecting information from the results of conversations with informants (Moleong, 1998:135), while according to Usman (2008:55), interviews are oral questions and answers between two or more people directly. The author holds direct communication with data sources. In this case, the author conducted interviews with beggars who exploit children in their begging activities in Padang City. Field data collection used unstructured interviews, which were free-flowing and in-depth. To strengthen the interviews, the author used a question guide or interview guide.

### **3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **a. Forms of Use of Toddlers by Their Families in Cleaning Activities**

The forms of exploitation of toddlers by families in Padang City in begging activities mean that parents bring or exploit their toddlers as a means to beg with the intention of creating an atmosphere of pity to gain compassion and empathy from others. The exploitation of toddlers by parents in begging activities constitutes child exploitation.

The forms of exploitation carried out by parents towards their toddlers include looking at the characteristics of the child being exploited, both physically, the child's gender, the child's age, and the schedule for exploiting the child when he is active as a beggar.

Based on the observations that the author saw in the field and interviews conducted during research in Padang City, it can be described as the forms of exploitation by using toddlers as tools or means in begging activities, including:

##### **1) Physically**

Physical exploitation tends to lead to violence against children. In addition to being taken to beg, children also experience violence from their parents. The author observed that the form of exploitation carried out by parents towards their toddlers who were taken to beg physically included pinching and shouting at the children, intended to create an atmosphere of pity and seek mercy from others.

##### **2) Psychologically**

In contrast to physical abuse, mental or psychological abuse has a more detrimental impact on toddlers who are used as tools or means in begging activities

by their parents because it can disrupt the behavior and psychological patterns of toddlers. Because of their work as beggars, children who are always taken along receive less attention and affection. This can be seen from the condition of children who are always taken to beg from beggars in a lethargic state, as if they are not receiving attention from their mothers. This condition of the child is what the parents exploit in their activities as beggars with the aim of creating an atmosphere of pity or empathy from others to hope for mercy (author's observations, May 14, 2025).

Toddlers brought by their parents or families to beg are naturally under mental stress. They should be playing with their peers. However, the family must sacrifice everything to survive and earn a living by begging on the streets, carrying their own toddler.

Therefore, parents must recognize that they are the primary factor influencing their children's personality and behavioral development. Their success in shaping their children's personalities depends heavily on their parenting style and attentiveness. As the most important individuals in the family, parents should educate their children with love and tenderness.

#### b. Factors Causing the Use of Toddlers by Their Families in Shipping Activities

Begging is a job undertaken by these mothers, who bring and use their children as tools or means in carrying out their activities for various reasons, such as meeting the needs of their families, such as finding food, paying for their children's school fees, and helping their husbands cover daily living expenses. The author also found psychological reasons, such as not wanting to work hard and finding money easily. These reasons are supported by the confessions of beggars who have been working in this field for a long time, ranging from one to four years.

The above phenomenon is extraordinary in Padang City, as it represents a form of exploitation of toddlers by their own parents, who use or exploit their own children as a means to earn more money through their begging activities. Children who become victims of this exploitation are usually taken to work with the intention of using them as a means to beg.

What the author found in the field and the results of interviews regarding the factors that encourage the use of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City include:

##### 1) Economic Factors

The primary problem faced by the lower classes, such as those who exploit them, is economic or financial. The harshness and intense competition in cities mean those unable to cope are eliminated from the social selection process. Undeniably, the hardships of urban life contribute to their economic weakness. This creates problems for those unable to cope. One example is parents or families exploiting their own toddlers as tools or resources for begging at intersections in Padang City.

Furthermore, we can't completely blame these parents, as some of the sources the author encountered were physically disabled. Their physical condition prevented them from earning a living to support their six children. Physical disability is a barrier to a person's activities, especially earning a living. Outsiders might consider it inappropriate for parents to exploit their children. From the perspective of the parents themselves, we can see that they couldn't find any alternative but to take their children out onto the streets. Generally, the children

didn't object to this. They felt it was their duty to do this work, and they felt responsible for their parents' physical disabilities.

So, it can be concluded that behind the economic reasons that are the complaints of the lower classes who become beggars, there is something that forces these parents to engage in this deviant behavior. When we observe a phenomenon, we shouldn't judge it from only one perspective.

## 2) Environmental Factors

The surrounding environment is also a driving factor in the exploitation of toddlers. According to anthropology, humans live collectively. Therefore, human action and behavior patterns are the result of a learning process. Humans interact with their surroundings. This ongoing interaction shapes a person's personality. Beggars typically live in the same area. When a lower-class family moves into the area, they are indirectly influenced by the environment around them.

In general, the author concludes that toddlers brought to beg by their parents as a means of livelihood generally live in slum areas with a disorganized society. This disorganized society has a negative influence on those who live there.

According to one source interviewed by the author, he said he took his children to earn money because his neighbors were doing the same. They believed that by taking their children to beg or work on the streets, they would earn more money. Parents influenced by their environment believed there was nothing wrong with taking their children to earn money on the streets. After all, it could help them meet their daily needs. Furthermore, bringing along young children would create a sense of pity. According to socialization theory, the most influential social media after family is the community in which they live.

## 3) Socio-Cultural Factors

### a) Family social status

Every human being has a status that is only obtained according to his efforts, namely the status that is achieved. *This* status can change based on human effort. For example, a farmer can change his status to become an entrepreneur if he makes an effort.

In discussing the motives of parents exploiting their children by using them as a means of begging, the concept of social stratification plays a significant role in this activity. Parents who engage in this exploitation claim that this is the way they should be. They believe that those in the lower classes will never advance to the next grade. Therefore, they believe there's no point in sending their children to school if they'll ultimately suffer the same fate as them.

These parents do not have the right mindset; they think that mobility to move up the social class is closed, so they prefer to take their children out on the streets to help earn a living.

### b) Parents' Perception of the Meaning of Children

Children are a valuable asset to parents. They are an investment for the family, especially financially. For parents, having children means securing a brighter future. Perceptions of the meaning of children vary from parent to parent, as does their response to these perceptions.

Similar to other parents, parents who bring their children to beg also do the same. They view children as a good investment and a valuable asset to

the family. Children have the potential to contribute to the family economy, whether through work or as a means of earning money.

This perception of parents is mostly misinterpreted by parents, so that they carelessly take their children, who are still toddlers, to be used as tools or means for begging.

#### 4) Education Factor

##### a) Low Parental Education

Education also influences begging. Education shapes a person's mindset. The higher a person's education, the more sophisticated their mindset. Parents' low levels of education result in a lack of understanding of the importance of education for their children. This lack of understanding of education is what leads parents to take their children to beg, which is essentially exploiting them. The forms of exploitation these toddlers experience from their parents include taking them to beg on the streets, being exposed to air pollution, vehicle exhaust fumes, and receiving harsh treatment such as pinching and even physical contact.

This low level of parental education also prevents toddlers from playing with children their own age. Parents are unaware of the importance of education for a child's future and are primarily concerned with earning more money while raising their children, while they are still young. None of the four informants in this study had a formal education; they were unable to even complete elementary school. Lack of formal education leads to a low mindset, which leads to a lack of consideration for shame or self-respect as a mother. Therefore, one of the ways she seeks to survive and support her family is by begging.

##### b) Parents Do Not Know and Understand the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Child Exploitation

In Indonesia, numerous laws govern child abuse and exploitation, ranging from the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Child Protection Act. However, these regulations are not always recognized and understood by parents who exploit their children. Although they understand the legal implications and penalties for using their children for begging, the weak legal framework for perpetrators of exploitation discourages parents from repeating the same mistakes.

As expressed by Mrs. Hn:

"I don't know what the child said earlier. What I do know is that it is wrong to bring a child to beg. I also don't know about the law that I will face. I was once chased by the Public Order Agency and caught at that time, and then we were sent to the Social Services. At that time, we were given lunch and locked in a rice warehouse until Maghrib. After Maghrib, we were taken again, who knows where, and then released in Purus, without being given money for transportation. I felt upset when we were caught, left alone instead of being helped. Instead, my child peed in his pants, and there were no replacement pants. Is this the meaning of the law, or the punishment that I should receive? So it's useless if it's like that, why should I care about the law" (Hn, interview, Padang, 24/06/2025).

Parents believe it's pointless to comply with government regulations when the government itself doesn't care about them. Parents who use their children as

tools or means for begging also believe that their children's problems are domestic family matters and shouldn't be interfered with by the state.

The problem of parents who do not know and understand about child exploitation by using toddlers as tools or means in their activities as beggars is a result of the low level of parental education, so the important problem in this case that should be resolved quickly is the problem of education.

c) The Impact of the Use of Toddlers by Their Families in Shipping Activities

Family is the single most important factor for a child, whether protected or not. However, many toddlers suffer from negative consequences due to their parents' use of them as tools or resources for begging, including:

1) Physical Impact

Parents who use toddlers as a means of begging often neglect their children's well-being, prioritizing easy and more money, creating an atmosphere of pity and sympathy among bystanders. Abusive treatment from their parents, such as pinching and pulling, is a common physical impact these toddlers experience. This type of treatment often occurs when the child disobeys their parents' wishes.

2) Psychological Impact

The psychological impact experienced by toddlers who are used as beggars by their families is that they often remain silent and rarely speak, become apathetic, always obey their mothers' orders, and are isolated from those who should love and care for them. (Author's observations)

3) Emotional Impact

The author observed that toddlers who were carried and carried by their parents or family members to beg at intersections sometimes cried. They felt uncomfortable due to the noise of vehicles and hunger because their parents hadn't invited them to eat. Many scolded their toddlers while they were begging. While the toddlers were crying, their parents sometimes scolded them and used foul language toward them (author's observations, May 9, 2025).

Toddlers who are taken begging by their parents as a means of begging feel pressured by the fear of being scolded if they don't obey and follow their parents' wishes. The subsequent impact on these children is that they become easily discouraged and easily angered because their parents often do this to them, and in turn, the children will do the same to others.

4) Health Impact

Almost every day, toddlers carried and carried by their parents or families to beg at intersections do not receive health care. Typically, parents bring their toddlers to beg between 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM. These toddlers are carried by their parents at intersections and exposed to the pollution of passing vehicles. Furthermore, these toddlers are also exposed to the scorching heat of the midday sun and sometimes get wet from the rain because their parents take them to beg. This will certainly have a very negative impact on the toddlers' health, but the living conditions that cause their parents and families to continue this practice.

The negative impacts on the health of toddlers who are brought and brought by their parents to beg are very concerning, including coughing and

frequent shortness of breath due to exposure to car and motorbike fumes, fevers due to frequent exposure to the sun and rain, and the child's stomach becomes enlarged and hard due to frequent heat and exposure to various dust and smoke on the streets. But life circumstances are what make parents and their families do this to their toddlers.

c. Response and Handling Pattern of the Padang City Social and Manpower Service regarding the Problem of the Use of Toddlers by Their Families in Delivery Activities

The increasing prevalence of beggars in Padang City should be the government's responsibility. Based on interviews conducted with the Head of the Social and Manpower Office and the Secretary of the Padang City Social and Manpower Office, the following is a description of the response and handling patterns implemented by the Padang City Social and Manpower Office regarding the problem of families exploiting toddlers for begging:

1) Social Services Response

According to the Head of Social and Manpower, Hariadi Dahlan, in response to parents who bring their children as a means of begging, he said:

"The existence of beggars in Padang City has become a tradition; in fact, some beggars do it as a profession or permanent job. In fact, if viewed from the field, they are not classified as poor. Many of these beggars do not have an education. Education is the foundation of everything. When each family has committed to not begging, it will cause shame, especially begging using young children as tools. But for these beggars, the pleasure of holding out their hands has become an attraction in itself in earning a living" (Hariadi Dahlan, interview, Padang, 21/06/2025).

The interview above reveals that the Head of the Padang City Social and Manpower Office responded to parents who bring toddlers to beg because they lack education, thus lacking a sense of shame, and begging has become a tradition. This is a barrier to the government's efforts to address child exploitation by these parents. The parents' traditional mindset hinders the programs implemented by the Padang City government.

This is different from what was expressed by the Secretary of the Social and Manpower Office, he expressed the response of the parents who brought their children by saying:

"I see this from the husband who begs. Here, there is a lack of responsibility as a husband, father, and head of the family in meeting his family's needs. In fact, the husband forces his wife to do the work and helps his wife by taking her to and from her activities as a beggar. As a husband, he should be responsible for the life and needs of his family, not like this. There is neglect and a casual attitude without feeling guilty towards his children and wife (Firman Daus, interview, Padang, 24/06/2025).

From the interview above, the Secretary of the Department of Social and Manpower's response to parents who use their children as a means of begging is that as a husband, he must be responsible for fulfilling his family's living needs, not burdening his wife and children with begging. Regarding the case of the use of toddlers by parents as a means of begging activities, the Department of Social and Manpower provided its response regarding this, namely the lack of education from parents and the husband's lack of responsibility in fulfilling his family's needs.

2) Handling Pattern

The local government, specifically the Padang City Department of Social Affairs and Manpower, is responsible for handling beggars who use toddlers as tools in their activities. The Padang City Department of Social Affairs and Manpower's efforts include:

- a) Preventive efforts are carried out to prevent the growth and expansion of the number, distribution, and complexity of problems related to beggars. These efforts include socialization, monitoring, campaigns, and strengthening of social institutions that care.
- b) Repressive efforts are undertaken to reduce and/or eliminate begging. These efforts are carried out through outreach and selection.

The Social and Manpower Office (Disosnaker) conducted outreach to beggars in collaboration with the Padang City Public Order Agency (Satpol PP). This outreach effort was very helpful in handling beggars who brought and carried toddlers. This was evidenced by an interview the author conducted with the Head of the Social and Manpower Office, who stated:

"The Padang City Social Service successfully reached 23 beggars last March, and 3 of them were mothers with toddlers. Of the total number that have been reached, none of them came from Padang City. They came from outside the area, namely West Pasaman, Batu Sangkar, Solok, Painan, Pariaman, Agam, and various other areas. With this outreach, I hope that all drivers, both four-wheeled vehicles and motorcycles, will not provide support to beggars. Thus, they will be deterred and will naturally return to their hometowns" (Hariadi Dahlan, interview, Padang, 21/06/2025).

Following outreach efforts, the Department of Social and Manpower's handling of beggars carrying toddlers involves screening with the intention of determining the next course of action: conditional release, return to their hometown, and social assistance. As stated by the Secretary of the Department of Social and Manpower,

"After reaching and collecting data, we returned the beggars to their respective homes. In addition, they have signed a letter of agreement not to enter Padang City again. In return, we will send 20 kilograms of rice to the beggars (Firman Daus, interview, Padang, 24/06/2025).

- c) Rehabilitation efforts are carried out with the aim of reinstating beggars as members of society through social institutions. These efforts include mental and spiritual guidance, social guidance, skills and entrepreneurship training, assistance with work equipment and business capital, repatriation to their hometowns, education, and counseling.

As explained by the Secretary of the Department of Social Affairs and Manpower, he said:

"We undertake numerous rehabilitation efforts. These include mental and spiritual guidance to foster awareness, attitudes, and behavior in beggars so they no longer beg. Social guidance is provided to motivate and foster awareness and independence to help them solve their own problems. Skills and entrepreneurship training are intended to provide knowledge and skills. Assistance with work equipment and business capital is provided so that beggars can be independent and live better lives. Repatriation to their home areas is carried out by the department and in coordination with related agencies. Providing education involves considering the situation of toddlers

with the intention of having the children return to school or being placed in an orphanage, or finding adoptive parents for beggars who are unable to be supported in their needs. Then, the final effort is providing counseling services carried out by professionals to improve the daily social conditions of these beggars to be more effective (Firman Daus, interview, Padang, 24/06/2025).

The handling pattern carried out by the regional government, especially the Department of Social and Manpower, against perpetrators of exploitation of toddlers, is in the form of providing counseling related to child protection laws, and for perpetrators of exploitation who have been counseled and still exploit toddlers, they will be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations.

Interviews with the Head of the Social and Manpower Office and the Secretary of the Department of Social and Manpower revealed that families in Padang City view toddlers as beggars with low self-esteem, a lack of shame in begging, and that begging doesn't actually exist if the husband is responsible for the child and family. The Department of Social and Manpower's handling of this case involves preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The author pays attention to the results of the research, so they can be summarized as follows:

- a. The forms of exploitation of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City are physically, namely creating a feeling of pity from other people, which is done by their parents by pinching and shouting at their children, while psychologically, namely taking advantage of the child's condition, which looks gloomy and pitiful, to support the creation of this atmosphere of pity.
- b. The factors causing the exploitation of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City are economic, influenced by the environment, socio-cultural factors, namely parents' wrong perceptions about the meaning of children, low parental education, and parents not knowing or understanding child exploitation.
- c. The impact of the use of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City is physically that the child's health is affected, psychologically that is becoming quiet, apathetic, emotional, pitiful views, always obeying what their parents say and gloomy, while the emotional impact is such as feeling depressed, easily giving up and getting angry easily, while the impact on the child's health is that the child becomes angry, short of breath because of exposure to car and motorbike fumes and fever because of frequent exposure to the sun and rain.
- d. The Padang City Social and Manpower Office's response and handling pattern regarding the problem of toddlers being exploited by their families for begging in Padang City. The Padang City Social and Manpower Office's response was that the children viewed themselves as having low self-esteem, had no shame in begging, and that begging actually did not exist if the husband was responsible for the children and family. The handling pattern included implementing preventative, repressive, and rehabilitation efforts.

Thus, the author concludes the results of this study, namely "the use of toddlers by their families in begging activities in Padang City is a form of exploitation and mistreatment of toddlers by using or making children as a means in their activities as beggars to create a

sense of pity or empathy from other people to earn more money in their activities as beggars".

After studying the use of toddlers by their families in begging activities, the author provides the following suggestions:

- a. This research is expected to provide considerations and contributions of thought for the Padang City Regional Government, especially the Padang City Social and Manpower Service, in order to overcome begging in Padang City.
- b. This research is expected to increase insight and be used as reference material for use in further research.
- c. Since not all aspects related to carrying and carrying toddlers have been studied in depth, further research is needed.

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