SELF EMPOWERMENT MODEL OF THE POOR
IN IMPROVING PROSPERITY:
Studies in the District of Alang-Alang Lebar Palembang, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Poverty is a very complicated problem. The government has done various efforts to overcome poverty, but has not come up with optimal results yet. Every effort made to overcome poverty often prevails temporarily. There should be alternative effort to overcome poverty through self-empowerment.

This research aims to conduct a qualitative research, using symbolic interactionism approach. In this approach, human behavior and interaction are transformed into symbols and interpretation. This research analysis is more specific as it is more individual.

This research is expected to provide a model of self-empowerment for poor society to help them promote their prosperity. Through this self-empowerment, poor society can serve as the subjects, not merely as the object of poverty reduction. This poor society empowerment involves social capital (norms, values, trusteeship, network, reciprocity) and personal quality (prayer, entrepreneurship, efforts, initiative, and self-trust on God). Subsequently, this self-empowerment is expected to influence poor society to be able to change their life quality standard and to motivate them better to work harder and finally to promote their productivity. The condition in which the performer of self-empowerment owns good social capital and personal quality will increase revenue, saving and better quality of life, thus this self-empowerment will help reduce poverty, and achieve the expected welfare.

Keywords: Self-empowerment, poverty, social capital, personal quality, welfare.