

Conference Paper

Psychosocial Effect of Gentrification in Indonesia

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Abstract

Based on Allianz Wealth Reports 2015, Indonesia is the country with the highest level of the social gap in Asia. It is predictable that one contributing factor is the gentrification that recently occurs rapidly in major cities in Indonesia. Besides increasing the level of economic impact for the local community, some studies have also found that gentrification effect on psychosocial condition of the society. This paper is a study of literature that examines the psychosocial effect of gentrification on Indonesian society. The findings of this study are that gentrification contributes to the emergence of various psychosocial problems, such as low psychological well-being, the changing of the pattern and orientation of social relations, the rising of crime rate, as well as a widening of social gap that can lead to social conflict.

Keywords: Gentrification, Psychological effect, Psychological problems, Psychological welfare, Social relation

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1. Introduction

Gentrification is a phenomenon of the massive development of the times. Some people refer to it as a logical consequence of the increase in population is directly proportional to the increasing need for housing. Aka Jr. called gentrification as a generic issue that is found in every country in the world [1]. Gentrification has become a global issue and became one of the objects of study in various disciplines of the past few years [2]. Gentrification itself is defined as the activity of the influx of wealthy people (then called gentrifier) to build a house in a residential area of poor people (who later called the local people) [3].

As with other countries, gentrification is also rife in major cities of Indonesia. Now it's very easy to find a luxury housing (one-gated housing or vertical housing/apartment) in the middle of the rural community. The effect on society is already visible. The most obvious is the increased economic activity of local communities (local people). In

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addition, the gentrification also has an effect on psychosocial condition of society. Aka Jr. called gentrification effect on various aspects of community life that is economic, political and social [1]. However, some scientific studies on the effect of gentrification are more focus on economic issues, and it is less highlighting the psychosocial effect of his.

Based Allianz 2015 wealth report, Indonesia is a country with social distance (social gap) is the highest in Asia [4]. It is predictable that one contributing factor is the increasingly significant gentrification occurs. It already should be a concern, given the widening social gap enlarging opportunities for psychosocial problems. Some studies show that social distance can be a predictor of potential for the occurrence of various social chaos and conflict in the community. Marx mentions that gave birth stratification social injustice and cause the distance between the rich to the poor is very harmful to people's lives because it will result in winning or losing a competition system [5].

One of the major cities in Indonesia who have felt the psychosocial effect of gentrification is Yogyakarta. For example, on January 4, 2016, the walls of the housing Green House is located in the village Brontokusuman Yogyakarta demolition forced by the villagers. According to them, demolition did because the housing wall blocking the access of the villagers towards the MTs Muhammadiyah. The case is of course a bad precedent for harmonious relations between people in the city of Yogyakarta, as well as evidence that gentrification psychosocial effect on the state of society.

In addition to housing case Green House, in the city of Yogyakarta will be very easy to find banners rejection citizens for a planned residential development concept of vertical housing or apartments (one form of gentrification). For example, denial of citizens Karangwuni on the development plan Utara: the Icon Apartment, the rejection of Hamlet Gadingan over plans to build apartments M-icons on Kaliurang Street Km. 10, rejection of Hamlet Plemburan over plans to build apartments on the Kaliurang Street Km. 6, or refusal Terban village residents over plans to build apartment Taman Melati. Rejection reactions of citizens of the construction of the apartment indicated that gentrification has unwittingly created a polemic psychosocial society. Predictable chaos that might ensue if the apartment is still under construction.

Demolition of the housing wall or rejections of products gentrification is resident on psychosocial issues that have taken place in Indonesian society. These incidents indicate one thing that gentrification has disrupted the harmony of relationships between people. Some studies indicate that poor social relations poor in the community may effects on the fall in the quality of the welfare of the individual (individual welfare and individual well-being). Cohen et al. describe the quality of social relations is one of the

determinants of the quality of individual happiness [6]. While Helliwell and Putnam also state that individuals who have a social relationship quality, like being in a residential area that is conducive to be more difficult to feel sadness, loneliness, low self-esteem, as well as problems eating and sleeping [7].

The above description illustrates that gentrification is not only the economic effect but also the psychosocial effect on the state of society. However, it still needs a series of scientific studies in order to reveal the psychosocial effects of gentrification are more comprehensive. Although measurement of displacement (gentrification) is difficult and most studies are based on incomplete evidence, there is general agreement that displacement (gentrification) has serious consequences, especially for low-income (local people) displaces [8]. Not only an economic problem but also the psychological problem. This paper is a review of the literature on the psychosocial effect of gentrification and is one of the scientific efforts being made to uncover the case in question.

2. Literature Review

2.1. What is gentrification?

The term gentrification was first introduced in 1964 by Ruth Glass, a British sociologist who discovers changes in social structure and pattern of housing (residential) in the middle of London. At first, the gentrification term used to describe the phenomenon of British nobility clearing for later settled in residential areas rabble [9]. Furthermore, Redfern called gentrification as a term used to describe the activity of land ownership rabble by the English nobility [10]. In its development, gentrification became known as a term used to describe the activity of the complex construction of housing by the rich in the middle of residential areas (villages) of the poor.

According to the Collins English Dictionary, gentrification is a process of construction of housing in the city center by people with the socio-economic status of middle-high in the area of human settlements with socio-economic status is low (the working class) that would alter the characteristics of the settlement [11]. Gentrification, typically characterized as the arrival of relatively more affluent and educated households into neighborhoods that have historically been occupied by lower income and often minority households [12]. Cheshire et al. called gentrification as the activity of the influx of people rich (then called gentrifier) to build a house in a residential neighborhood of the poor (who later called the local people) [3]. Furthermore, Hamnett explains that

gentrification means the change (replacement) people living in an area of poor local people become more established by immigrant population (gentry) [13]. Gentrification is the process of changing the urban settlements (villages) by wealthier societies [14].

According to the Urban Geography Dictionary, gentrification is a process of clearing land for housing in urban areas initially not utilized (neglected), with the aim that the population previously living in the area have easy access to jobs and public services (previously inaccessible) [15]. Meanwhile, according to the Oxford American Dictionary in Lees et al, gentrification is a process of economic class divisions migration medium-high to low-grade residential communities, resulting in increased cost of land and property in the region [16]. Lees et al called gentrification as a change in the settlement characteristics of the working class (low socio-economic status) into a settlement with the characteristics of the bourgeois class (socio-economic status of middle-high) that are infused with central offices and shopping centers [16]. While Keating defines gentrification as a change in settlement that was once left behind and not worth a settlement of more advanced and valuable because it is occupied by people who are more financially secure [17]. Gentrification is the process of "rehabilitation" of the working class residential neighborhood by residents of the middle class, the aristocracy, or professional developers [18].

At first glance, based on some of the definitions that have been described, gentrification very positive implications, especially for economic activities of local communities. The influx of residents with higher economic standard of living in the settlements that were once left behind economically can drag the economic status of local communities for the better. Formerly quiet residential area, is now crowded with the presence of various offices and commercial areas, as a consequence of the changing characteristics of the population living in the region. However, any change of course does not impact on one aspect but in many aspects of life. Gentrification was thus not only an impact on the economic aspect but also on the psychosocial aspects such as changes in the pattern and orientation of social relations, a decreased level of individual welfare, rising crime, to the potential for social conflict are higher.

2.2. Psychosocial effect of gentrification

As usual social phenomenon, gentrification is also positive and negative implications. Atkinson and Bridge argue that gentrification positive and negative effect on people's lives [19]. More positive effect on the economic aspects (economic activities of local

communities), while the negative effect on the psychosocial aspects of society. Redfern one of the negative things of gentrifikasi is the destruction of the social system of society because the gentrifier failed to build relationships with local residents [10]. The study on the psychosocial effects of gentrification has been widely applied in western countries (developed countries). However, similar studies are still very rare in developing countries, including Indonesia. By considering the complexity of Indonesian society, the research on the psychosocial effect of gentrification in Indonesia must be done intensively. Studies conducted by Group Writers of Causa Justa Just Cause, an organization concerned with the health issues and public policy, in 2014 at San Francisco and Oakland United States, found that gentrification will lead to various social problems in society, such as the fragmentation of the social community, segregation of society, increasing social injustice and health service, up to a direct effect on the decline in physical health and low psychological well-being [20].

In 2010, Aka Jr conducting research the effect of gentrification on psycho-socio-economic society in the city of Atlanta, United States who find that the psychosocial effects of gentrification as the low individual well-being is more felt by the black population is poor (local people) than the white population rich (gentrifier) [1]. For information, Atlanta has been characterized as one of the most segregated cities in the United States [21]. That condition then brings social jealousy in the black population of the poor against the rich white. Poor black residents also blamed government policies for the occurrence of the condition. Parrillo [9] called gentrification effect on the increasingly wide gap between the rich (affluent families) to the poor (poor families). While Atkinson and Bridge mentions one of the psychosocial effect of gentrification is their social jealousy in the community that could potentially increase the rate of crime and social conflict [19]. While the non-poor shift to the non-poor cities (gentrification), the poor are increasingly concentrated in high-poverty places. These conditions will improve social resentment [22].

Hwang and Sampson through his studies in Chicago, USA, found that gentrification contributions to the formation of social fragmentation which effect on increasing prejudices between blacks with Latin citizens [23]. They also discovered the role of gentrification to the formation of a collective perception of ethnic bias in Chicago. Gentrification has a disparate effect on different races, ages, and classes, and fosters further segregation [24]. In a study of four neighborhoods undergoing gentrification also in Chicago, Nyden et al note how gentrification effect on the loss of community and ethnic/racial identity including the disruption of neighborhood social networks,

ethnic retailing, religious institutions and community organizations [25]. In a highly-racialized city such as Chicago, gentrification also highlights differences between white gentrifiers and the minority groups being displaced, with some minority respondents characterizing gentrification as a racist process.

Kohn mentions that gentrification produces new colonies in promoting wider sense of community that is different between them [26]. Results of a study conducted by Walks and Maaranen in several American cities found that gentrification produces group polarization of society and fosters inter-ethnic prejudice [27]. Murdie and Teixeira through their research in Toronto found that gentrification can cause conflict and social resentment between local people (the poor) and gentrifier (the rich) [28].

Atkinson found some psychosocial effect produced by gentrification, among others, social conflicts are increasingly vulnerable as indicated by the increasing number of public protests over the product of gentrification and rising crime rate in the surrounding area that was gentrification [29]. Gentrification can increase the occurrence of crime, such as murder, robbery, destruction and theft of property [30]. Davidson finds gentrification will be increasing social distance and tensions among people [31]. Oliver also found that social pressures felt by the poor (the local people) is higher in an environment with gentrification [32, 33]. In some cases, the high levels of social pressure and social tension can lead to social conflicts. Gentrification may also weaken existing neighborhood institutions, such as active churches and civic associations [34]. Furthermore, gentrification triggers a loss in the sense of belonging to the community and other social effects that are unquantifiable [24].

3. Conclusions

Based on a literature review that described above, it can be concluded that gentrification negatively effects on the society psychosocial conditions. Poor social relationships, social distance, segregation, loss sense of belonging, social conflict, the rising crime rate, which influence on individual tension and welfare are some of the negative psychosocial condition that are intended.

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