

# The Impact of Relocating Illegal Settlement at Simpang Bareleng, Batam City, Riau Islands

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## ABSTRACT

Slum settlements in Batam City are mostly inhabited by poor people who are unable to access proper housing. The inability of the poor to access these decent settlements, makes them choose to live in slum settlements with inadequate basic facilities and infrastructure. Relocation or resettlement is an alternative to provide opportunities for people living in slum settlements, whose land status is illegal or living in a disaster-prone environment to reorganize and continue their lives in a new place. This research was structured with the aim of knowing how the implementation of the relocation program for occupation settlements at the Simpang Bareleng in the city of Batam. As a qualitative and quantitative descriptive research, the results of this study have both positive and negative impacts. In terms of physical conditions, relocation provides positive changes to the current settlement conditions. Then the social impact of the relocation carried out in the Tembesi Village, has also been successful in maintaining the social order that has been formed. However, in terms of the community's economy, the relocation program had a negative impact due to the loss of sources of income and decreased community income.

**Keywords:** slum; relocation; community; impact; negative.

## INTRODUCTION

The settlements are part of the environment outside the protected area, both in the form of urban and rural areas that function as residential or residential areas and places of activities that support livelihoods and livelihoods (Law No.4 of 1992). Housing and settlements are one unit that provides an overview of a space for life and livelihood activities with the main function as a place to live. Apart from being a place to live, housing and settlements also function as a place for the process of forming the quality of human life to take place, because in it there is learning the values of life so that the construction of housing and settlements is related to increasing the feasibility and welfare of people's lives.

This has also been mandated in Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution (UUD 1945) which positions housing as the right of every person to be able to improve the quality of life and livelihood. The development of housing and settlements in Indonesia, especially in urban areas, is inseparable from population growth and the development of activities in cities.

Population growth in urban areas is influenced by two factors, namely natural growth factors and urbanization (Sujarto: 2002). The rapid development of the population is not always matched by the ability of city services, resulting in the emergence of housing and slum settlements.

As happens in big cities in Indonesia in general, Batam City as one of the big cities in Indonesia with its very rapid development is also inseparable from housing and slum settlement problems.

Slum settlements in Batam City are mostly inhabited by poor people who are unable to access proper housing.

The inability of the poor to access these decent settlements makes them choose to live in slum settlements with inadequate basic facilities and infrastructure, even occupying land that is not their right/illegal as seen in vacant land in the PJKA area, abandoned state land, and riverbanks.

As we know, the major rivers and several tributaries that cross the City of Batam, have the potential as the main drainage function of the city. However, over time developments in urban areas have caused the function of the river to change. One of them is the emergence of slums on the banks of the river. This condition greatly impacts the environment, which will gradually disrupt the function of the river as a catchment area.



**Figure 1.** Settlement Conditions Before Relocation (Source: Author Documentation)

Relocation or resettlement is an alternative to provide an opportunity for people who live in slums, whose land status is illegal or who live in a disaster-prone environment to reorganize and continue their lives in a new place (Yudhohusodo, 1991).

The relocation program in the city of Batam has been carried out for almost two years. However, while occupying new settlements until now, the conditions of the people who were relocated are still not clearly known. It should be noted that the success of the settlement relocation program is not only limited to moving the old settlements to new settlement locations, but the settlement relocation program is expected to have a good impact or better changes than the conditions before being relocated. These better conditions include the physical conditions of social settlements and the community's economy, so that new sustainable settlement environments can be created (Mutaali, 2012).

The purpose of this writing is to find out how the impact of the relocation implementation has on the people of Batam who are affected.

### **Definition of Housing**

Housing is a group of houses that function as a residential area or residential area equipped with environmental infrastructure and facilities. Housing is also defined as a group of houses that function as a residential or residential environment equipped with environmental infrastructure, namely the basic physical equipment of the environment, such as drinking water supply, garbage disposal, electricity, telephone, roads, which enable the residential environment to function properly and environmental facilities, namely facilities supporting functions for the implementation and development of economic, social and cultural life, such as playgrounds, sports, education, shops, means of transportation, security and other public facilities.

### **Definition of Settlements**

- Settlement is a residential area complete with public facilities and social facilities that contain integration, interest, and awareness as well as utilization as a living environment.
- Settlements provide space for movement, a source of energy and services for improving the quality of life of an intelligent resident, which functions as a venue for social, cultural, and economic activities.
- Settlements are spatial arrangements made by humans for their own interests, which are the result of human activities, with the aim of surviving as human beings so that life is easier and better, gives a sense of security and happiness, and contains opportunities for complete human development.

### **Slums and Landscaping Policy**

The slum environment is a very complex settlement problem because the slum environment is not only in poor physical condition but also involves problems with the economic and social conditions of the people living in the settlement. In addition, the problem of slum settlements is also related to the problem of poverty and social inequality, as well as social indiscipline as well as problems involving the ability of City/Regency government institutions in terms of regulation, spatial organization or the resources owned by the city according to the nature of city functions.

Slums occur due to the inability of residents in residential areas to change their environment in a better direction resulting in a decrease in quality. Slum settlements can be categorized as follows:

- Squatter Settlements are slum settlements located on illegal or illegal land.
- Slum Areas are slum settlements located on legal land with low quality of the physical environment for facilities and infrastructure and tends to decline.



**Figure 2.** Conditions of Slum Settlements in Simpang Bareleng, Batam City (Source: Author's Documentation)

To overcome housing and slum settlement problems, it can be done in two ways (Khomarudin, 1992), namely:

- Developing new residential areas, namely by building houses according to the needs of the population. This effort can be done with Home Ownership Credit (KPR) including relocation.
- Improving the existing settlement environment so that it meets the requirements for a decent life.

### **Residential Relocation**

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (2016) relocation has the meaning of moving places or moving from one location to another. When linked in the context of housing and settlements, relocation can be interpreted as moving a settlement location to a new settlement location.

Ridho (2001), suggests that the procedures that can be followed in carrying out relocation are several stages, namely:

- An interactive approach to the people affected by relocation in order to inform the plan for the relocation program.
- Establishment of community discussion forums as a forum to explore responses, aspirations of residents and community participation in the rejuvenation project. This discussion forum activity was carried out from planning to program implementation.
- Preparation of plans for the location of new residential houses by taking into account the aspirations of residents.
- After moving residents to a new location, it is necessary to provide guidance and coaching to residents so they can adjust to the new settlement environment.

### **Relocation Impact**

Social impacts are changes in people's living conditions that occur together with a new policy, program, or project. The core problem of relocation is the loss of people's means of livelihood as well as the reduction in their potential capabilities because of displacement. When a community is forced to move, the existing production system is reduced. Many jobs, valuable land and income assets were lost.

Kinship groups and informal social networks are scattered. The risks most often faced by riverbank residents who must transport them are loss of land, loss of jobs, loss of residence, loss of access to production and disarticulation of communication.

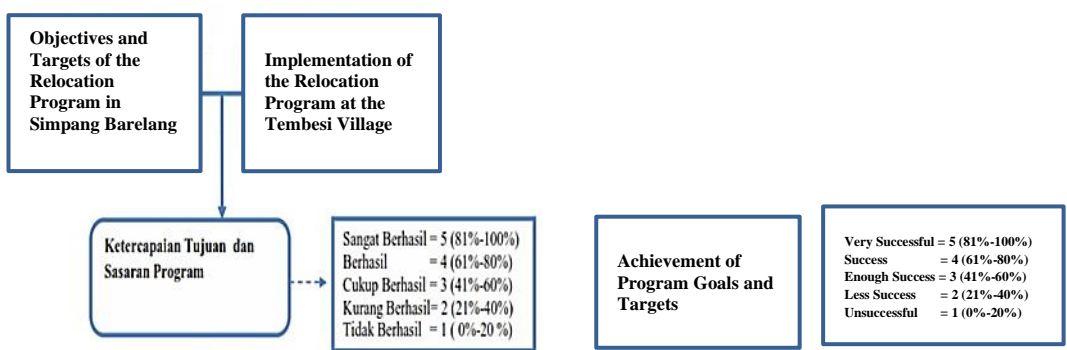
According to De Wet (2002), the expected result of the relocation process is that the condition of the relocated community is better than the condition before relocation occurred. These better conditions should last long over time so that new settlement locations can grow into comfortable settlements. These better conditions include income levels, diversity of income sources, status and guarantees in the new location, as well as access to basic infrastructure services.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

Starting from the problems and objectives to be achieved, this research is included in applied research, namely research or investigation of a problem with the aim of being used for certain purposes (Moelong, 2015). This research will examine and evaluate the implementation of the relocation program implemented in Batam City, because the relocation program that has been completed has never been comprehensively evaluated so that the success of the program is not yet known. This study and evaluation will be useful and can be used as input in implementing the same program in the future as well as an alternative form of handling slums in Batam City.

With the research methods mentioned above, the appropriate research approach to determine the data sources in this study is to use an evaluation research approach (Evaluative Research). Then for the evaluation carried out in this study is a summative evaluation.

Data analysis is an attempt to break it down into parts (decomposition), so that the arrangement/order of the form of something that is broken down is clearly visible and therefore the meaning can be captured more clearly, or its contents can be more clearly understood (Moelong, 2015). Data analysis in this study is an evaluative analysis carried out using qualitative and quantitative analysis methods.



**Figure 3.** Scheme of Analysis of Appraisal of Allocation Program Effectiveness (Source: Author)

**RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Overview of the city of Batam**

Batam City geographically has a very strategic location, which is located on international shipping lanes. The area of Batam City is 426,463.28 Ha, consisting of a land area of 108,265 Ha and an area of water/sea area of 318,298.28 Ha. The city of Batam covers more than 400 (four hundred) islands, 329 (three hundred twenty nine) of which have been named, including the outermost islands in the border areas of the country.

Batam City based on Regional Regulation number 2 of 2004 concerning the Spatial Plan of Batam City 2004-2014, is located between  $0^{\circ} 25' 29''$  -  $1^{\circ} 15' 00''$  North Latitude  $103^{\circ} 34' 35''$  -  $104^{\circ} 26' 04''$  East Longitude.

The physical condition of the topography is relatively flat with an average height of 0-3%, bearing in mind that Batam City is traversed by several large rivers, the consequence of which is that Batam City often experiences inundation or flooding due to the overflow of these rivers, especially in areas along their streams.



**Figure 4.** Batam City Area Map (Source: Author)

### Conditions Before Relocation

#### Residential Conditions

The condition of the existing houses is uninhabitable/slum housing characterized by poor housing conditions. Most of the residents' houses are relatively narrow for the size of the house and are inhabited by an average of up to six family members, so that the division of space is difficult to do and becomes irregular. The building materials used by most of the people are still very simple and non-permanent, namely made of bamboo, wooden planks, and some use tin walls. The floor of the house is also still there in the form of a dirt floor. The distance between the roof of the building and the base/floor of the building is too short so that ventilation and lighting from the house is not optimal and causes health problems to the occupants.

#### Sanitation

Most people who live in these settlements do not have private MCK. For the purposes of bathing and defecating, people use public toilets. Public MCK was built independently by the community.



**Figure 5.** Conditions of Public MCK (Source: Author Documentation)

#### Clean Water Service

To meet the clean water needs of residents in this residential area, groundwater is utilized by using a pump system or by using a bucket well located in their respective homes.

#### Waste System Problems

The settlements along the banks of this river do not have waste disposal facilities or a waste management system. To dispose of garbage, residents usually make a hole in the ground behind their house as a place to dispose of their household waste, but there are also residents who throw garbage in the river.

#### **Economic Conditions**

The economic life of the slum dwellers in Simpang Barelang, Batam City, belongs to people with a low economic level. Most of the people work in the informal sector with their income which can be said to be still low, such as small traders, odd laborer, bricklayers, and street vendors.

#### **Social Conditions of Society**

The social life that occurs in this settlement is quite good. Social interaction between personnel with one another and between neighbors in one settlement is well established. Concern among others is also shown in the social order in this settlement. The togetherness of this community is also seen in their concern for the environment in their settlements. They are independently able to build facilities and infrastructure in their settlement environment such as building a road network, building public toilets, and making poles for street lighting. However, in this settlement there are still bad habits of society, such as consuming alcohol.

#### **Relocation Implementation Process**

##### **Data Collection**

The first stage of data collection was carried out to obtain data on affected community members. This data collection was carried out by the Fispra Division of Batam City BAPEDA, Sub-District Head, Lurah, DKRPP and KB of Batam City, Government Section and OTDA Regional Secretariat of Batam City. After collecting data, the next stage is program socialization.

##### **Outreach Program**

The program socialization was carried out by the Batam City government to the affected settlement communities as an initial notification that a relocation program would be held in their settlements. The purpose of the socialization is to give residents an understanding of flood disaster management through the relocation program, so that residents who are on the banks of the river want to be relocated to another place that is more appropriate with financial assistance from the city government.

The formation of the Working Group team (Pokja) is intended so that the implementation of the relocation program is carried out in a participatory manner by the community. The working group (Pokja) at the sub-district level was formed democratically and was elected together with the residents through deliberations (resident consultation). At the RW/RT level, a sub-Working Group (sub-Pokja) was formed as a committee at the level of the program beneficiary group.

#### **The Conditions After Relocation**

##### **Relocation Settlement Locations**

Settlement relocation is a policy adopted by the government to overcome the mushrooming growth of illegal settlements. Communities living on the land that has been allocated to investors are relocated to several other areas that have been designed as residential areas which are used as places for new settlements for residents who are relocated.



**Figure 6.** Cleaning of Illegal Settlement Areas (Source: Author Documentation)

### **Impact of Relocation on Residential Environmental Conditions**

Positively, the effect is the improvement of physical environmental conditions and the development of residential areas, while the negative effect is related to the hampered economic mobility due to unsupportive accessibility which affects the post-relocation area development process. So that the goal of reconstructing the community's conception of settlement relocation can be achieved. This is in line with the understanding that social phenomena in the field have a double meaning. Emphasis is given to human behavior and the results of interactions between community members, including their interactions with the surrounding environment. The results of the study provide a description of several social and spatial phenomena that exist in the settlement relocation area. The final process of the interaction between social and spatial phenomena shows that there are four community conceptions about settlement relocation. Conception of settlement relocation includes: (1) acknowledgment of community existence; (2) partiality to capital owners; (3) opportunity to obtain cheap land; (4) opportunities for economic activity. Equally important, community strategies were also found in response to the environmental conditions of the settlements. These strategies include: (1) Help Unions; (2) changing professions and looking for side jobs; (3) building emergency houses; (4) utilization of house space as a place of business.



**Figure 7.** Current Existing Conditions (Source: Author Documentation)

### **Impact of Relocation on Economic Conditions**

This study found that the relocation process carried out by the city government brought new problems for eviction victims. Victims of evictions experienced social and economic impacts. The social impacts experienced are related to social interaction, education, differences in norms between residents, and social change. Meanwhile, the economic impact is felt, such as rising living costs, business that cannot be resumed, and job loss. Victims of evictions surrendered when relocation was carried out, because the victims of evictions realized that they were dealing with authorities who had authority and were afraid of sanctions if they opposed the government. In addition, the eviction victims realized that occupying government-owned land was wrong.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the discussion above, it is known that the relocation program carried out has had both positive and negative impacts. In terms of physical conditions, relocation provides positive changes

to the current settlement conditions. Then regarding the social impact, the relocation was relatively successful in maintaining the social order that had been formed. Meanwhile, on the community's economy, the relocation program had a negative impact due to the loss of their source of income, which resulted in a decrease in people's income, such as rising living costs, businesses that could not be resumed, and loss of jobs.

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