



Factors causing children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency

AUTHORS INFO

Magdalena Limbong Lonang
Universitas Sembilanbelas November Kolaka

Nasarudin
Universitas Sembilanbelas November Kolaka
Nasarudin.geousn16@gmail.com

Samsi Awal
Universitas sembilanbelas November Kolaka
awalgeografi@yahoo.co.id

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Abstract

Education is a means to improve human intelligence and skills but there are still many children who drop out of school due to various factors. The problem studied in this research is the factors that cause children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency. This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The subjects in this study were children who had dropped out of school and parents of children who had dropped out of school who lived in Lalonaha Village. The data collection techniques used in this study were interviews conducted with school dropouts and documentation. The results of this study indicate that there are 3 main factors that influence children not to continue their studies, namely: 1) social factors that are influenced by the child's association, 2) economic factors that are affected by the income of parents who cannot pay for their children's schooling, 3) accessibility of areas where influenced by distance, transportation and road facilities to school, which are the factors that cause children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency.

Keywords: school dropouts, parents, social factors, economy, regional accessibility

A. Introduction

Education is a means to improve human intelligence and skills. Education plays a central role in the development of the nation and state, because it is from there that the intelligence and abilities and even the character of the nation in the future are largely determined by the education provided at this time. Education plays a role as a basis in forming the quality of human beings who have competitiveness and the ability to absorb technology that can increase productivity. This means that the educational condition of a community reflects the quality of resources that support the accelerated rate of development (Wassahua, 2016).

Education is very important in improving the quality of human resources for the present and the future. Education is a support for the success of nation building both from formal

education, informal education, and non-formal education. The importance of this education needs special attention from both the government and students' parents. However, not all children can continue their education at a higher level due to various reasons factor starting from factor social to economic factors. The large number of children who do not continue their education causes new problems, both related to the world of education and problems outside the world of education. One example of an educational problem faced by the government is the high number of children who do not continue their studies at a higher level of education (Rahmanto, 2012). According to Djumhur and Surya (1975) in Bago, (2013) explained that the types of dropouts can be grouped into three, namely: dropping out of school or stopping in stages, dropping out of school at the end of levels, and dropping out of school or stopping between levels.

Dropout children are children who leave school or do not continue school until they graduate, influenced by several factors, including social, economic or other factors. Many factors cause children to drop out of school, internal factors are factors that come from within the child either in the form of laziness of children dropping out of school, hobbies for playing, low interest that causes children to drop out of school. External factors are factors that come from outside the child who has dropped out of school, both from the parents, namely the economic situation of the family, parental attention, less harmonious parental relationships, and the educational background of the parents so that the motivation of children to go to school is also low (Suryadi, 2014). Another factor that causes children to drop out of school is the physical condition of an area or geographical conditions which include the accessibility of an area. Accessibility itself includes the distance and travel time from home to school, road facilities and the means of transportation used to get to school. Other assumptions aside from socio-economic conditions and regional accessibility are the factors of the children themselves, namely the low motivation of children to attend school. Children's motivation is low due to the lack of a strong desire that exists within the child to go to school (Fatimah, 2015).

This situation also occurred in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency, based on the results of observations there were 50 children who had dropped out of school. Lalonaha Village is one of the villages that has more out-of-school children than in other villages in Wolo District, Kolaka Regency. This condition is very concerning considering the importance of children to obtain education, besides that the State guarantees every child to get basic education. This condition prompted researchers to find out more about the factors that cause children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village, Kolaka Regency. From the things described, the authors are interested in conducting research with the title Factors Causing Children to Drop Out of School in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency.

B. Methodology

1. Type of Research

This type of research is descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative research produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior in the field. Qualitative research emphasizes the process of analysis, types and nature of research. This research was conducted to find out the factors that caused children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency, so this research is descriptive in nature. Descriptive research is research that describes situations or events that occur in a place (Sugiyono, 2011).

2. Research Subjects

The subjects in this study were children who had dropped out of elementary, junior high and high school and parents of school dropouts who lived in Lalonaha Village. The respondent collection technique used by researchers in this study is a purposive sampling technique, which means that researchers collect data based on certain characteristics that are considered to have characteristics appropriate to the research topic.

3. Research Instruments

Instruments in this study include:

- a. Interview Instrument
- b. Documentation

4. Data analysis techniques

The data analysis used in this study was the process of collecting and properly compiling the data obtained through interviews and documentation as well as various other materials related to the factors that caused children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency. Analysis of the research data was carried out in 3 ways.

1. Data reduction; the process of summarizing, choosing the main things and looking for data that is considered appropriate to the research focus.
2. Display data; presentation of data in a clearer and more detailed form. Displaying this data is intended to make it easier for readers to understand what happened in the field which contains a collection of interview results, and documents, in the form of brief descriptions.
3. Conclulation; drawing conclusions from the results of research that has been done. So that the data that the researchers collected can be read and understood, the data is analyzed. As for the process of this analysis, researchers used descriptive analysis with inductive thinking.

C. Findings and Discussion

1. Factors Causing Children to Drop Out of School in Lalonaha Village

Education is very important for human life, without education humans will not be able to progress and keep pace with increasingly sophisticated developments. Undergoing education is not easy, there must be obstacles to go through it, obstacles in education can cause a person to fail to complete education. These obstacles are like someone who has dropped out of school, dropping out of school itself has many causes including social factors, economic factors, regional accessibility and children's motivation. As for knowing the factors that cause children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village in depth, the researchers collected data using interviews so that they could produce accurate data. The interviews were conducted by looking at the conditions experienced by students and their parents and obtained 3 factors that caused children to drop out of school, namely factors of social conditions, economic conditions and regional accessibility conditions.

a) Social Conditions

The social conditions faced by school dropouts in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency are mostly influenced by the social environment that is less supportive, so that there is a need for supervision from the family and the surrounding environment. The following are the results of the interview conducted on Thursday, July 29, 2021, which can be seen in table 1 below:

Table 1. Data from interviews with children who dropped out of school due to social conditions

No	Informant	Informant Description
1	Informant 1	I couldn't continue my schooling because my friends often teased me, I was often ridiculed for having a limp, in the end I was embarrassed to go to school and decided to quit school.
2	Informant 2	I stopped going to school because I was often influenced by my friends to skip school, because I skipped school and I was too negligent to be kicked out of school.
3	Informant 3	I quit school because of the influence of my friends who often invited me to be absent and skip classes during class hours which resulted in me being expelled from school.
4	Informant 4	I quit school due to my own mistakes that I could not control myself in socializing. At school I often smoked and skipped school. I had received a warning from the teacher but I continued to do it until I was expelled from school.
5	Informant 5	I stopped going to school because I hung out with my friends who often played online games and I underestimated my school because I was addicted to playing games and I was expelled from school because I rarely went to school because I enjoyed playing games.

Based on the results of the interviews that have been conducted, the main factors causing children to drop out of school are ridiculed by their friends, the influence of association with their friends so that they become lazy and often skip school and are addicted to online games. In addition to conducting interviews with children who have dropped out of school, researchers also conducted interviews with parents of children who have dropped out of school to obtain more accurate and clear information. The results of interviews with parents of students who have dropped out of school can be seen in table 2 below.

Table 2. Data from interviews with parents of school dropouts

No	Informant	Informant Description
1	Informant 1	My child stopped going to school because at school he was often teased by his friends because we were poor people, his appearance was different from his friends, his school clothes were also used clothes from his older brother. We often advise him to stay in school and ignore what his friends say but he still wants to quit school and chooses to work to help us to make ends meet.
2	Informant 2	My sister is indeed a dropout, she was kicked out of school. I got reports from his teachers that he often skipped school and didn't even come to school. Since our parents died, he often skips school.
3	Informant 3	As far as I know, my child gets along with everyone, we control our child's social interactions, at home he is a good boy, but we receive a letter from school that our child often skips class and in the end he is expelled from school.
4	Informant 4	Our child has naughty friends, we often remind him at home and even after school. we always remind him not to hang out with his naughty friends but he has been affected. His teacher often called him but indeed he could not be reprimanded.
5	Informant 5	Our child is difficult to manage, every day he goes out with his friends to play games, ever since there was such a thing as an online game his work was just that. We reminded him many times but he didn't listen and finally he was expelled from school.

Based on the results of the interviews above, the factor of dropping out of school is caused by social factors or the association of children with their peers, children who cannot balance their relationship with their school will automatically have an impact on their education. The role of parents greatly determines the child's education later. The results of interviews with informants of school dropouts and parents of school dropouts show that the factors that cause dropouts are also influenced by social conditions, where dropouts are caused by unsupportive associations. Children who drop out of school often hang out with children who are not in school, according to their parents they are influenced by their friends, during school hours they are invited to play so that the child is lazy to go to school. The strong influence of his friends made him no longer think about his school. Children who do not get supervision from their parents are very easy to fall into bad associations. There were also informants who were dropped out of school due to physical limitations and were often ridiculed by their friends. Every child's mentality is different, a child with a weak mentality can be put down by the words of his friends.

The results of this interview are in accordance with Titaley's (2012) theory regarding children who are unable to foster satisfying friendships also feel isolated and unhappy. For these children, school is an unpleasant place and as a result they can often skip school or drop out. Frequent conflicts with friends at school make children disliked by other friends so that they feel alone or isolated for a long time become lazy to go to school and eventually drop out of school. This statement is in accordance with the opinion of Slameto (2015), namely students who have characteristics or behavior that are less pleasing to other friends, have a sense of inferiority or are experiencing mental pressure will be ostracized by their group, the result will disrupt their learn and become lazy to go to school for no reason because at school they experience unpleasant treatment from their friends.

b) Economic Conditions

Parents of children who drop out of school are classified as in low economic conditions, most of them are busy working to meet the daily basic needs for their families, therefore children often receive less supervision from their parents. The following interview was conducted on Friday, 30 July 2021, which can be seen in table 3 below:

Table 3. Data from interviews with children dropping out of school due to economic factors

No	Informant	Informant Description
1	Informant 1	I couldn't continue my schooling because my parents couldn't afford the committee money and gas money because the location of my school was far away and if I was boarding the fees would be even bigger.
2	Informant 2	I couldn't finish school because my mother couldn't pay off my school's committee payment arrears, so I had to quit near the end of the semester.
3	Informant 3	I did not continue my schooling because the school fees were not enough for my parents' income, while my parents had to send my 4 younger siblings to school. That's why I decided to quit school to help my parents and send my

		younger siblings to school.
4	Informant 4	I didn't go to school because my parents couldn't afford to send me to school. My mother works alone because my father has been sick for a long time. I decided not to go to school so I could help my parents.
5	Informant 5	I stopped going to school because my parents' income was not enough to pay for my schooling.

The results of interviews conducted on July 30 with school dropouts showed that on average it was caused by the economic condition of parents who were unable to pay committee fees and transportation fees, arrears of committee money that could not be repaid, and children who preferred to work to help meet the needs of the family than the school. In addition to interviews with children who have dropped out of school, to clarify this information, the researchers conducted interviews with parents of children who had dropped out of school to get more accurate information. The results of interviews with parents of school dropouts can be seen in table 4 below.

Table 4. Data from interviews with parents of children dropping out of school

No	Informant	Informant Description
1	Informant 1	My child stopped going to school because we couldn't afford to pay for the school committee, and we also couldn't buy petrol because the school was far away. There is a boarding house near the school but we cannot afford the boarding fee. We don't get any help from the government. The pocket money is uncertain because sometimes we don't give pocket money. Sometimes we go into debt to pay for our children's schooling. We, as parents, really hope that our child will be able to finish school, but because of our circumstances, he has to drop out of school.
2	Informant 2	My son stopped going to school because he didn't pay the committee money. My income is not enough to pay for my children's schooling since my husband died. I also don't get any help from the government, apart from committee money I can't afford to pay for my child's school fees. my child is a good person, he doesn't force me to keep sending him to school now he helps me to earn money.
3	Informant 3	Our income is not enough to pay for my four children who go to school. I only pay for school children, every parent would want their child to stay in school but he understands that he is willing to drop out of school and choose to work for his younger siblings.
4	Informant 4	Since my husband was sick, we have had economic difficulties so we can no longer afford to pay for my child's schooling. We received assistance from the government but not financial assistance but rice.
5	Informant 5	We have difficulty paying committee fees and buying books every semester, my child is forced to drop out of school.

Based on the results of interviews, dropout factors in Lalonaha Village were caused by the economic situation of families who were unable to pay for their children's schooling. The economic situation is very influential in education, many parents want to see their children succeed in education but the family's economic situation is only enough to meet their daily needs. The problem of costs is also a source of strength in learning, lack of funds greatly interferes with the smooth running of studies and in general these costs are obtained from parents. The economic situation of the family is closely related to children's learning, children who are studying apart from having to fulfill their basic needs such as food and clothing, also need learning facilities such as study rooms, tables, chairs and stationery. These learning facilities can only be fulfilled if the family has enough money, so that the lack of funds cannot meet the children's school supplies. The results of this study are also in accordance with the opinion of Itsnaini (2015) which states that the weak economic condition of parents is one of the causes of students dropping out of elementary schools in the city of Yogyakarta. The results of this study are reinforced by the opinion of Nurmalinda (2017) in her thesis which concludes that the economy in the family is very influential in the education of their children, there is a lack of family economy and when the economy in the family is lacking, parents only focus on working to fulfill their family's living needs, causing motivation to go to school even less in children.

c) Region Accessibility

The location of the school which is far from the homes of dropout children is one of the factors that can cause children to drop out of school. Long distances with difficult access are things that must be considered by the community to be able to send their children to school, long distances between homes and schools cause children's interest in going to school to decline which in turn causes children to drop out of school. The following interviews were conducted on Saturday, July 31, 2021 with school dropouts, which can be seen in table 5 below.

Table 5: Data from interviews with out-of-school children due to regional accessibility factors

No	Informant	Informant Description
1	Informant 1	I dropped out of school because my house is very far from school and I don't have a vehicle. I'm tired, sis, every day I have to walk to school. I quit school in class VIII.
2	Informant 2	The road to school is still bad and hasn't been paved, I dropped out of school because my parents couldn't afford to pay my fees every day, if you want to walk the distance is very long.
3	Informant 3	I dropped out of class VIII in semester 2 because I couldn't afford to walk every day because I didn't have a motorbike, every day I had to cross fields and rivers and during the rainy season it sometimes flooded.
4	Informant 4	I stopped going to school because I didn't have a vehicle to go to school, I felt I couldn't afford it if I had to walk long distances every day and the road wasn't good.
5	Informant 5	I dropped out of school because the distance to school was quite far. I walk and not many of my friends do, nor am I able to walk through gardens and rivers every day.
6	Informant 6	I stopped going to school because I couldn't walk every day because my parents didn't buy me a motorbike. The road to my school was also not good and the river I crossed sometimes flooded.

Based on the results of interviews with school dropouts, it was shown that one of the factors causing children to drop out of school was due to the long distance between the house and the location of the school, not having a vehicle, and the condition of difficult access roads that had to pass through rivers and community plantations. In addition to interviews with children who have dropped out of school, researchers conducted interviews with parents of children who had dropped out of school to obtain more accurate information. The results of interviews with parents of school dropouts are described in table 6 below:

Table 6: Data from interviews with parents of children dropping out of school

No	Informant	Informant Description
1	Informant 1	Our child stopped going to school in class VIII. He went to school on foot, while the distance from school to his house was far and the road was not good, passing through rice fields, forests and rivers. I couldn't force him to continue going to school because he often complained about buying a motorbike but we didn't have any money and in the end he stopped going to school.
2	Informant 2	My child dropped out of school because I couldn't afford the school fees. My child takes public transportation to school, if he wants to walk he can't afford it because it's far and the roads are bad and haven't been paved.
3	Informant 3	my child did drop out of school in grade VIII junior high school. Every day he walks because he doesn't have a motorbike. If we have to take public transportation, we can't afford to pay the fare, not to mention the money spent on his school assignments. He mustpassing through damaged roads, rice fields and rivers not to mention that during the rainy season sometimes the rivers flood.
4	Informant 4	the road was not good, he passed through the rice fields with the river. He walked to school because we didn't have a vehicle, because he said he couldn't walk every day so he stopped going to school.
5	Informant 5	the condition of the road is still very apprehensive every day he has to travel a long way, through rice fields and rivers. He walked, he often complained and now he is not in school anymore.
6	Informant 6	Until now the road has not been good, the government has not paid enough attention to the way the children go to school, so many have stopped going to school, including my child. He's on foot.

Based on the interview results above, the factor for dropping out of school in Lalonaha Village is the accessibility of the area which is very far away, causing many children to have to stop going to school. Long distances and lack of vehicles and inadequate road conditions can cause children to be lazy to go to school and eventually stop going to school. In accordance with the opinion of Fatimah (2015) regarding accessibility as a driver and obstacle to smooth education, in this study regional accessibility is also one of the factors causing school dropouts, this factor is the dominant factor experienced by school dropouts in Lalonaha Village. The location factor referred to consists of the distance between the residence and the far school, difficult access to schools and the lack of means of transportation which are taken into consideration by parents to be able to send their children to school. Accessibility conditions that are still difficult to reach, such as the distance to schools to reach children to attend school. Distance is one of the causes of dropping out of school, too far a distance and the lack of vehicles to go to school cause children to be lazy to go to school.

Based on the results of interviews with school dropouts, the distance to school is very far so children become lazy to go to school because there are no vehicles to go to school so children have to walk and pass various obstacles on the road to get to school. Even public transportation costs money, while the income of parents and children is only enough for daily life. The results of this study are supported by research conducted by Wulandari (2016) that the distance factor is the distance factor to school that makes children forced to stop going to school, even parents cannot take their children because they work and don't want to bother sending them around. location or location of the school is a factor that can cause children to drop out of school, long distances and lack of transportation and access that is considered difficult, safety is considered not guaranteed.

D. Conclusion

Based on the results of research that has been conducted regarding the factors that cause children to drop out of school in Lalonaha Village, Wolo District, Kolaka Regency, it can be concluded that social factors are influenced by the association of children, economic factors are influenced by the work of parents who are only farm laborers so that the income of parents who cannot pay for their children's schooling and the accessibility of areas that are affected by distance, transportation and road facilities to school, which makes children reluctant to continue schooling.

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