

## CHAPTER II

### OVERVIEW OF THE SETTING RESEARCH

#### 2.1. General description of Semarang city (*kota*)

As the provincial capital of Central Java, kota Semarang serves as the hub for all contacts and activities that are directly related to political, social, economic, and administrative tasks. Semarang City's development has accelerated over time as it has emerged as the hub of the area economy. With its extensive land transportation network, including highways and trains, ports, and air transportation that can act as the region's transportation hub, kota Semarang is vital to the growth and development of Central Java. Kota Semarang serves as the focal point for the center region of the country due to its close connections to areas outside of Java (Wllonoyudho, 2010).

##### 2.1.1. Geographics and topographic conditions of kota Semarang

Geographically, kota Semarang is positioned astronomically between the lines of  $6^{\circ} 50'$  -  $7^{\circ} 10'$  South Latitude and the lines of  $109^{\circ} 5'$  –  $110^{\circ} 50'$  East Longitude. Semarang City is situated on the northern coast of the Java Sea, connected to the Pantura (Northern Coast Road) Anyer-Panarukan. The elevation of Semarang City ranges from 2 meters below sea level to 340 meters above sea level, with slopes ranging from 0% to 45%. There are 51 slopes, 121 plains, and 5 valleys in kota Semarang (Rohmawati & Kustomo, 2020)

According to estimates from BPS Kota Semarang in 2023, there are almost 1.7 million people living in Semarang. The topography of Semarang is distinct, with hills and narrow flats extending from the city's east to west. Semarang Barat, Tugu, Tengah, Timur, Selatan, Gayamsari, Pedurungan, Genuk, Semarang Utara, Tembalang, Mijen, Gunung Pati, Ngalian, Gajah Mungkur, Candi Sari, and Tugu are the areas that make up Semarang.

### **2.1.2. Administrative Conditions of kota Semarang**

Kota Semarang is situated along Java Island's economic traffic route, which is the corridor of development in Central Java with four main entrances: (1) the North Coast Corridor; (2) the Southern Corridor, also known as the Merapi-Merbabu Corridor and leading to dynamic cities like Magelang Regency and Surakarta; (3) the Eastern Corridor, which leads to Demak or Grobogan Regency; and (4) the Western Corridor, which leads to Kendal Regency.

Kota Semarang is organized administratively into 177 villages and 16 sub-districts. Semarang City occupies an area of 373.70 km<sup>2</sup>. Paddy fields make up 39.56 Km<sup>2</sup> (10.59%) of the total area, while non-land makes up 334.14 (89.41%). The majority of paddy land (53.12%) is rainfed paddy land, and only roughly 19.97% of it may be planted twice. This is based on the land's use. Dry land makes up 42.17% of all non-field land and is mostly used as yard land, land for houses, and land around yard.



**Figure 2. 1 Administrative Map of kota Semarang**

*Source: Bappeda Kota Semarang, 2020*

The 373.70 km<sup>2</sup> administrative territory of Kota Semarang is split into multiple sections, with 39.56 km<sup>2</sup> of paddy land and 334.14 km<sup>2</sup> of non-field land. Semarang City is situated between 6°50'-7°10' South latitude and 109°35'-110°50' East longitude, with an elevation of 0.75 to 348.00 above the shoreline. The topography of Semarang is distinct, with hills and narrow flats extending from the city's east to west. Semarang Barat, Tugu, Tengah, Timur, Selatan, Gayamsari, Pedurungan, Genuk, Semarang Utara, Tembalang, Mijen, Gunung Pati, Ngalian, Gajah Mungkur, Candi Sari, and Tugu are the areas that make up Semarang.

### 2.1.3. Demographic conditions

Based on statistics from the BPS Kota Semarang in 2023, the estimated population of Kota Semarang in 2022 is 1,6 million. Semarang City's population is highly diverse, consisting of people from several ethnic backgrounds, including

Javanese, Chinese, Arabic, and their descendants. Muslims make up the bulk of the population, with Christians, Catholics, Hindus, and Buddhists following suit. There are several occupations, including those of traders, government employees, manufacturing workers, and farmers.

In addition to reaping the benefits of development, local residents play a significant part in its process. Locals are also in charge of how they manage and use the resources in their community in a sustainable and intelligent manner. In a development, the residents themselves are regarded as subjects and objects, but they may also develop into potential liabilities. If the population is supported by high-caliber human resources, it will have development potential. However, if the quality is poor, the population will become a significant burden on development.

**Table 2. 1 Population, Population Growth Rate, Percentage Distribution of  
Population, Population Density, and Population Sex Ratio by District in  
Semarang Municipality, 2023**

<b>District</b>	<b>Population1 (thousand)</b>	<b>Annual Population Growth Rate 2020 – 2023 (%)</b>
Mijen	89,95	3,93
Gununpati	100,75	1,00
Banyumanik	143,43	0,35
Gajah Mungkur	56,35	0,08
Semarang Selatan	62,18	0,09
Candisari	75,61	0,08
Tembalang	198,86	1,73
Pedurungan	196,53	0,63
Genuk	132,47	2,64
Gayamsari	70,41	0,08
Semarang Timur	66,48	0,10
Semarang Utara	117,89	0,09
Semarang Tengah	55,21	0,10
Semarang Barat	149,33	0,11
Tugu	33,80	1,07
Ngaliyan	145,50	0,96
<b>Kota Semarang</b>	<b>1,684,74</b>	<b>0,90</b>

*Source: Kota Semarang Dalam Angka 2024*

## **2.2. Poverty in Kota Semarang**

Poverty remains a significant issue in kota Semarang. Semarang, the capital of Central Java, is a city with a rich history and a diverse population. Despite its economic growth, poverty persists as a critical challenge. As of 2022, the poverty rate in Semarang stood at approximately 4.25% (around 79,870 people) (BPS Kota Semarang, 2023). This figure is the lowest among the 2015-2022 data. While slightly improved from previous years, still reflects significant socioeconomic challenges. Several factors are known to contribute to poverty in Semarang, including socioeconomic and environmental factors.

The city, like many urban areas, experiences economic issues that result in uneven distribution of wealth and resources. While the poverty gap index has

shown a declining trend, the index in 2022 is still relatively high compared to that of 2015, indicating that uneven distribution of wealth is a real issue in this case (BPS Kota Semarang, 2023). Additionally, the rising cost of living, including housing, food, and basic services, places more burden on low-income families.

High unemployment rates, underemployment, and low wages is another issue commonly found in urban areas (Sitompul & Athoillah, 2023). A more recent study found that competitiveness of young population in Indonesia is still quite low (Sitompul & Athoillah, 2023). In the context of Central Java, studies claimed that the highest contributor to poverty is an unemployment (Sari et al., 2023) and low human development index (HDI) (Suryaningrum & Mulyanto, 2021). However, a data from BPS Kota Semarang (2023) exhibit improvements in terms of labour force participation rate (LFPR) and human development index (HDI), along with an unemployment rate that declines every year (2020-2022) to the point where it dropped to 7.6%. With the implementation of appropriate training programs and enhancements in the quality of education aimed at improving the human development index, it is possible for this declining trend to persist in the future.

Environmental factors are increasingly recognized as significant contributors to poverty in Semarang. The city's vulnerability to natural disasters, such as floods and landslides, poses a constant threat to the livelihoods of its residents, particularly those living in informal settlements or poorly constructed housing. Areas such as Semarang Timur, Semarang Barat, Tugu, Tembalang, Genuk, Ngaliyan, and Mijen are mostly affected by floods, as recorded by BPS Kota Semarang. Apart from floods, landslides are also a concern in this city, affecting 10 districts and 38

subdistrict in 2022 alone (BPS Kota Semarang, 2023). These events potentially destroy property, reduce agricultural productivity, and displace populations. Addressing environmental challenges is crucial to creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment that supports poverty reduction efforts.

The local government has implemented several policies aimed at reducing poverty, one of them is "Gerbang Hebat Semarang". "Gerbang Hebat Semarang" is a program initiated by the local government of Semarang, Indonesia, aimed at alleviating poverty and improving the overall welfare of its residents. "Gerbang Hebat" stands for "Gerakan Bersama Penanggulangan Kemiskinan dan Pemulihan Ekonomi Hebat" which translates to "Joint Movement for Great Poverty Alleviation and Economic Recovery." The program encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including economic development, social assistance, education, health services, and infrastructure improvements. The program has achieved significant poverty reduction efforts, with a reduction rate of at least 1.5% per year, aligning with the RJMD (Regional Medium-Term Development Plan) target of Semarang City for 2016-2021 (A. Rahmawati & Nugroho, 2021). Furtherly, the program has also improved healthy lifestyles and increased income for the community members (Kristiyanti, 2021). This indicates that the program is effective in achieving its goals of enhancing the quality of life for the residents.

The government has also made efforts to achieve a Smart Economy as part of its Smart City initiatives. Various programs aimed at economic development includes, attracting investors, strengthening the workforce, supporting SMEs,

improving farmer welfare, and revitalizing traditional markets (D. H. Aditya & Ashari, 2023)

### **2.2.1. Poverty Rate Development (2020-2023)**

The vital problem of poverty has long plagued Kota Semarang, the capital of Central Java, Indonesia, and it still presents serious obstacles to the growth of the city and the welfare of its citizens. Although the city has experienced economic growth and advancement in a number of areas, the advantages have not been distributed fairly, trapping many people and communities in a cycle of poverty. With a poverty threshold of 589.598 rupiahs, the number of impoverished persons in Semarang Municipality fell from 84,45 thousand in 2021 to 79,87 thousand in 2022. The level of the poverty line affects the number of impoverished individuals since those who fall below the poverty line on a monthly average are considered to be poor (Semarang, 2024)

According to the most current data available from Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) Kota Semarang, there are roughly 67,850 people in Semarang City who are poor, making up 4.44% of the total population (BPS Kota Semarang, 2023). The government-established poverty line, which is a threshold income level, is used to measure poverty in kota Semarang and other places. People are considered to be living in poverty if their income is less than this threshold. The price of necessities like food, clothing, and housing is one of the many criteria taken into account when determining the poverty line. This computation in kota Semarang looks at the average monthly per capita spending of people who can't afford these necessities.



Planning and policy-making depend heavily on Kota Semarang poverty data. It assists local authorities in determining which areas require greater focus and funding, creating focused interventions, and assessing the success of their carried out initiatives.

**Table 2. 2 Total of poor people in Semarang city 2021-2023.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Poverty line (rupiah/capital/month)</b>	<b>Number of poor people (thousand)</b>	<b>Percentages of poor people</b>
<b>2020</b>	522 691	79,58	4,34
<b>2021</b>	543 929	84,45	4,56
<b>2022</b>	589 598	79,87	4,25
<b>2023</b>	642 456	80,53	4,23

*Source: Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) kota Semarang, 2023*

According to BPS Kota Semarang (see figure above) , the following are the percentages of poor people in Semarang city (Semarang, 2024):

- The percentage of poor people in Semarang City in 2023 decreased by 0.02 percentage points, to 4.23 per cent compared to 4.25 per cent in 2022.
- The percentage of poor people in 2023 was 4.23 per cent, a decrease of 0.02 percentage points compared to 2022.
- The number of poor people in 2023 was 80.53 thousand people, an increase of 0.66 thousand people compared to 2022.

### **2.2.2. Development of the Poverty Line in kota Semarang**

The Poverty Line is the minimal amount of money needed to meet needs for both food and non-food items in order to avoid being classified as impoverished. Individuals with average monthly per capita expenditures below the poverty

threshold are considered impoverished. In 2023, the monthly poverty line was set at IDR 642,456 per capital. The poverty line rose by 8.96 percent from 2022 to 2023, or IDR 589,598 per person per month.



**Figure 2. 2 Poverty Line in Semarang City 2013-2023**

*Source: Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) Kota Semarang*

### 2.2.3. Factors of Poverty in Semarang City

A large number of the people living in Kota Semarang are affected by a complex web of interrelated causes that contribute to poverty and prolong economic suffering for them. Poverty persists in the city despite a number of systemic and structural problems as well as general economic progress and development. Economic inequality, or the severely unequal distribution of wealth and income, is a significant contributing factor (Suryaningrum & Mulyanto, 2021). There is a significant gap between the rich and the impoverished, meaning that not everyone gains equally from economic expansion. Access to high-quality education is restricted, which exacerbates this inequity. Low-income children often have

restricted possibilities and low-paying professions because their families cannot afford the expenditures of higher education. Particularly in underdeveloped places, the educational system itself frequently lacks the infrastructure and resources needed to offer high-quality instruction to everyone.

Access to healthcare is still another important consideration. Many low-income families are unable to pay for necessary medical care due to inadequate healthcare services and expensive medical expenses. Their health is impacted, and it also puts a significant financial strain on them, making them even poorer. Furthermore, many people are at risk of experiencing catastrophic medical expenses due to a lack of adequate health insurance coverage (Coccia, 2021). In Kota Semarang, where job security and income stability are low, informal employment is common (Suryaningrum & Mulyanto, 2021). It is challenging for informal workers to save and make investments in the future since they frequently operate in unpredictable environments and do not receive social security benefits. This industry comprises laborers who are frequently overworked and underpaid, as well as street sellers and domestic helpers.

Infrastructure and housing are also quite important. In Kota Semarang, a large number of the impoverished reside in slums or informal communities with subpar housing. Basic necessities for a respectable standard of living, such as electricity, clean water, and sanitary facilities, are frequently lacking in these places (Derlauw & Suwitri, 2016). Access to jobs and basic services is further hampered by the poor infrastructure in these areas. These informal communities have also expanded as a result of the city's infrastructure failing to keep up with the population boom

brought about by fast urbanization. Although praiseworthy, the local government's attempts to reduce poverty are hampered by corruption, insufficient resources, and ineffective bureaucracy (Sari et al., 2023). Even though they are beneficial, social assistance programs frequently do not reach everyone who needs them or do not offer enough assistance.

In addition, there are systemic problems including the absence of efficient monitoring and evaluation systems to gauge the success of initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and make required corrections. Environmental influences also cannot be disregarded. Natural calamities like flooding, which can destroy impoverished villages, are common in Kota Semarang. These catastrophes demolish houses, ruin livelihoods, and make already vulnerable groups of people even more vulnerable. Reducing poverty will probably become more difficult as a result of climate change.

Poverty persists due to a combination of social and cultural reasons. Access to resources and opportunities is restricted by discrimination and social exclusion, especially directed towards specific ethnic groups or marginalized populations. The issue is exacerbated by gender inequality since women frequently encounter additional obstacles while trying to access healthcare, work opportunities, and education. Households headed by women are more susceptible to poverty because of differences in wages and less work options (Derlauw & Suwitri, 2016).

Furthermore, Kota Semarang's already high levels of poverty have been made worse by the COVID-19 outbreak since the city's most vulnerable residents have been disproportionately impacted by economic disruptions and employment losses.

Informed by data-driven analysis, creative and focused actions will be essential to reducing the pandemic's short- and long-term effects on the city's impoverished neighborhoods.

The Semarang City Government's integrated policy initiative, the Gerdu Kempling program, has attempted to address these different aspects of poverty; nevertheless, its efficacy and implementation have varied among the city's villages and sub-districts (Muktiali, 2018).

However putting such tactics into practice in Kota Semarang; a largely urban area; might call for customized methods that take into account the particular difficulties the city's disadvantaged citizens experience (Habibi & Nursyanti, 2023). A number of initiatives have been put in place by the local government and non-governmental groups with the goal of reducing poverty. These include programs aimed at raising the standard of education, expanding employment prospects, offering social services, and improving healthcare. The dynamic character of the economy and the constant influx of people from other places in search of better possibilities, which might put a strain on the available resources and services, present obstacles despite these efforts.

#### **2.4. Social Service Agency Kota Semarang (Dinas Sosial kota Semarang)**

The position of Semarang City Social Service agency is an implementing element of local government administration, overseen by a Head of Service who reports directly to the Mayor and is technically administratively guided by the Regional Secretary, in accordance with Semarang City Regional Regulation Number 14 of 2016 on the Establishment and Structure of Organization and Work

Procedures of Semarang City Regional Apparatus Organization. According to Articles 4 and 5 of Semarang City Mayor Regulation No. 68/2016 on the Elaboration of Duties and Functions of Semarang City Social Service, the primary responsibilities and functions of the organization are as follows:

- Policy Formulation: Policy formulation for the Social Empowerment Sector, Social Rehabilitation Sector, Social Security Protection Sector, and Poor Handling Sector;
- Plan Formulation: Formulation of strategic plans in accordance with the vision and mission of the Mayor;
- Coordinating Tasks: Coordinating tasks in the context of implementing secretarial programmes and activities, the Social Empowerment Sector, the Social Rehabilitation Sector, the Social Protection and Security Sector, and the Poor Handling Sector;
- Organising Coaching: Organisation of guidance to subordinates within the scope of their responsibilities.
- Organisation of Preparation: Organisation of the preparation of Employee Work Targets;
- Organising Cooperation: Organising cooperation in the Social Empowerment Sector, Social Rehabilitation Sector, Social Protection and Security Sector, Poor Handling Sector;
- Secretarial Organisation: Organisation of the secretariat of the Social Service;

- Implementation of Programmes and Activities: Implementation of programmes and activities of the Social Empowerment Sector, Social Rehabilitation Sector, Social Protection and Security Sector, Poor Handling Sector;
- Organisation of Assessment: Organisation of employee performance appraisal;
- Organisation of Monitoring, Evaluation of Programmes and Activities: Monitoring and evaluation of programmes and activities of Social Empowerment Division, Social Rehabilitation Division, Social Protection and Security Division, Poor Handling Division;
- Organisation of Reports: Organisation of reports on the implementation of programmes and activities;
- Implementation: Implementation of other functions given by the Mayor related to his duties and functions.

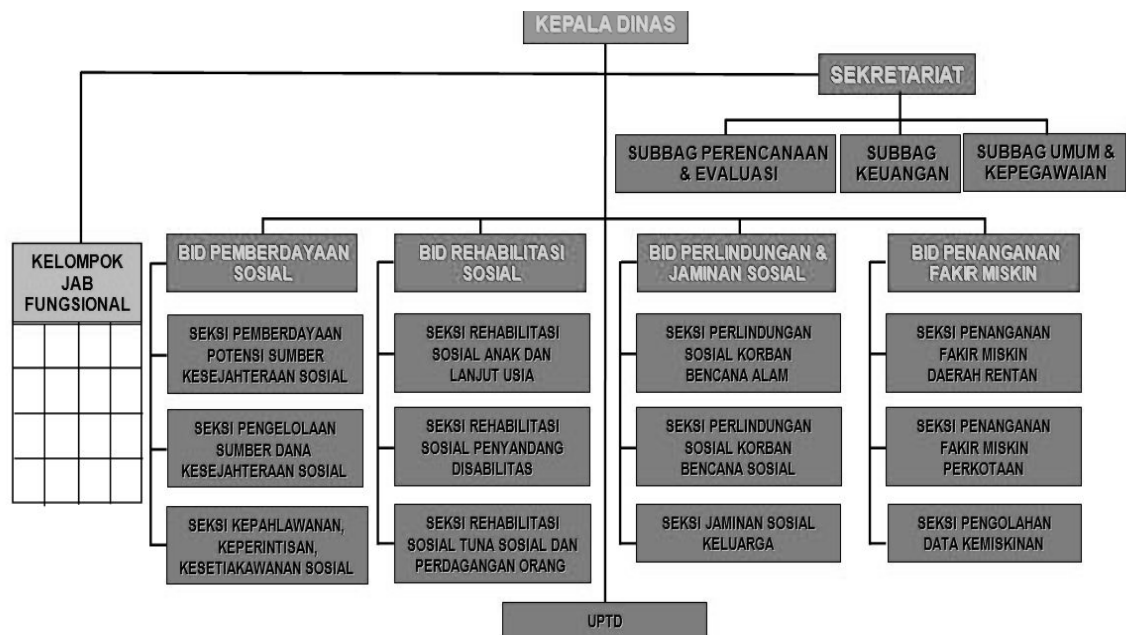
The local government has to be in charge of keeping an eye on and assessing the success of programs aimed at addressing homelessness. This entails gathering information, carrying out studies, and identifying patterns in order to improve the provision of services and influence policy choices. The local government can discover program gaps, comprehend the changing wants of the homeless population, and create creative solutions to these problems by utilizing an evidence-based strategy (Ispriyanti et al., 2019). The efficiency and impact of homelessness interventions are significantly increased by the use of technology and data analytics.

By offering a variety of vital services and interventions, the Social Services agency of Semarang City (*Dinas Sosial kota Semarang*) plays a crucial role in tackling homelessness. By providing direct social support, this office aims to improve the welfare of vulnerable groups, such as families and persons experiencing homelessness (Fernando, 2019). They provide vital assistance, including food assistance, emergency shelters, and medical care. Dinas Sosial also oversees reintegration and rehabilitation programs designed to assist the homeless in regaining stability and self-sufficiency.

#### **2.4.1. Organizational Structure of Dinas Sosial kota Semarang (Social Service Agency Semarang)**

The Social Service agency of kota Semarang, based on Semarang Mayor Regulation Number 68 of 2016 concerning Position, Organisational Structure, Duties and Functions and Work Procedures of Semarang City Social Service agency, as follows:





**Figure 2. 3 Organizational Structure of Dinas Sosial Kota Semarang**

*Source: Dinas sosial kota Semarang, 2023*

## 2.5. Current Policies on homelessness in Kota Semarang

Handling homelessness in Semarang City is a cooperative endeavor comprising several parties with different but related responsibilities. Through direct engagement with homeless persons and families and the provision of vital social services, support programs, and interventions, the Social Services Office (*Dinas Sosial kota Semarang*) plays a crucial role. (Nugraha, 2022). These services cover everything from short-term need like food assistance and makeshift shelters to long-term fixes like rehabilitation and reintegration programs that enable people to regain stability and independence. At the same time, municipal laws pertaining to homelessness are enforced by the Municipal Police (*Satuan Polisi Pamong Praja - Satpol PP*), who oversee the removal of homeless people from public areas in order to maintain public safety and order (Fernando, 2019). Even while this enforcement

is required, it must strike a careful balance in order to protect human rights and guarantee that homeless people are sent to the relevant assistance networks rather than being simply housed.

At the policymaking level, the Local Government led by the mayor and administrative offices, takes the lead in developing comprehensive strategies and allocating budgets for social welfare programs that address homelessness (Kristiyanti, 2021). These policies address the underlying causes of homelessness, such as poverty and a shortage of affordable housing, by implementing housing programs, social services, and preventive measures. Urban planning, settlement issues, and housing solutions are overseen by the Housing and Settlement Office (*Dinas Perumahan dan Kawasan Permukiman*), which makes a substantial contribution. In order to improve living conditions and promote sustainable urban development, they strive to modify existing settlements, offer cheap housing options, and incorporate necessary infrastructure.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and community groups are essential in enhancing service delivery and advocating for homeless populations in addition to governmental initiatives. These organizations frequently enhance the support system accessible to homeless people by bringing new resources, grassroots connections, and specialized knowledge to the table. They work together with government organizations to promote policy changes, close service delivery gaps, and encourage community involvement in the fight against homelessness.

In the end, Semarang City's policy for handling homelessness is an example of a cooperative and all-encompassing approach that brings together community

involvement, governmental leadership, and specialist support to fulfill the multifaceted needs of homeless people and families (Kertati & Cristiani, 2022). The city hopes to create long-term stability and social inclusion for its homeless population in addition to mitigating current problems by utilizing the capabilities of all stakeholders and promoting inclusive laws and practices.