

Abstract

The Indonesian National Socioeconomic Survey in 2019 showed that Yogyakarta's poverty rate is 11.44 %, higher than the national rate of 9.22%. Meanwhile, the National Human Happiness Index in 2014 and 2017 showed that Yogyakarta's are among the top rank of the survey. Following Narayan et al.'s work of "Voices of The Poor Volume 1 and 2" in 1999 and 2000, this study attempts to investigate the empirical situation of the poor and the meaning of happiness among them. It argues that the poor can admit that they are happy for many reasons. However, as long as they still live under suffering conditions, they are not happy. This project applied a qualitative-narrative approach to explore two main questions. First, 'how is your life currently?', and 'how do you deal with your poverty circumstances?' to reveal the relationship between poverty and happiness. Results showed that the poor are not happy living in poverty. However, they might state that they are happy with their life due to some reasons referring to their belief system and local living culture. That statement reflects their attitude of being "*nerimo*", so that they hoped for the improvement of their psychological wellbeing .

Keywords: poverty, happiness