

The Strategies of Scavengers in Maintaining Their Viability Based on Social Networks in Surabaya City

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ABSTRACT

As a big city, Surabaya still becomes its own magnetic attraction for the urban to come and earn a livelihood. The informal sector is basically a form of response to the migrants and the poor people of the city towards the uneven development in many regions. The informal sector operationally growing or developing in urban areas generally includes the fields of trade, construction, services, and transportation. And one of the types of work that can be categorized important is trading rubbish/garbage. The front-liners in trading rubbish/garbage are scavengers. Social network has its leading role in their effort to maintain the survival. It is very important to fulfill the need of information concerning employment, food, clothing, housing and others. Social network is formed because basically humans have their limitations in dealing with other people and the social network is used by scavengers as a strategy to maintain their survival.

The study explored the objective conditions of the ability of the scavengers in maintaining their viability, and in finding a strategy of the model-based approach to social network. This is a descriptive-qualitative research. The techniques applied were purposive and random samplings, data collection based on FGD, and in-depth interviews. After careful observation, it was known that the social network was formed due to the bond of kinship in the scavenger community. Besides the mechanical and organic ties of solidarity could develop a chain of trading to sell their scavenging goods. There was a mutual beneficial relationship between scavengers and collectors. They also developed their social interaction outside the communities. After some prudent observations were conducted, the strategies of scavengers in maintaining their viability based on social network were described.

Keywords: Strategy to maintain viability, scavengers, social network

INTRODUCTION

In many large cities in Indonesia including Surabaya, the informal sector is basically a form of response of the urban and the poor people in the city towards the uneven development in most regions and the widespread of the unemployment and of the poverty.

The informal sector is basically a form of response to the urban and the poor people of the city towards the uneven development in many regions. The informal sector operationally growing or developing in urban areas generally includes the fields of trade, construction, services, and transportation. And one of the types of work that can be categorized important is trading rubbish/garbage. Rubbish/garbage in this study was described as the ones having

certain economic values, such as wastes of paper, plastic, metal, glass and animal bones. The front-liners in trading rubbish/garbage are scavengers. In this study they are described as: "someone who has a job of collecting garbage items which are no longer used by the owners and they are obtained free of charge or without having to buy and then those items (with the economic value) can be sold again and recycled and usefully be put as a livelihood that can support their daily lives."(Ferri 2000)

Scavengers community is a specific community with its own characteristics. Its presence, on the one hand, is rejected by the society because the scavengers are considered potentially committing a crime, not trustworthy and as an object of suspicion.(Twikromo ,2000) On the other hand, its presence is required because they can help minimize the garbage to be disposed of in the garbage disposal areas. They particularly selected the inorganic garbage which is needed by certain factories. Scavengers as a profession with its lower income can be handed down from generation to generation. Even they persuade other families, relatives or friends to be scavengers. It could happen because certainly they implemented the strategy based on the social network which played an important role in order to maintain their viability.

Rogers and Kincaid reviewed and cited a research conducted by Lomnitz in Mexico. It was about the survival of the poor who could maintain their viability through a network connection called "close-Knite". Through this network their needs of information related to employment, food, clothing, shelter and others could be met ((Rogers and Kincaid, 1969). Clyde J Mitchell (1971) said that social networks are formed because humans basically have limitations in dealing with other human beings and the social network is used as a strategy to maintain viability by scavengers.

SOCIAL NETWORK

As it was said by Putnam that "the human network" was the most important part of a community. It is as important as working tools (also called physical capital) or education (also called human capital). These various capitals increase the productivity and effectiveness of collective actions simultaneously (Putnam, 2000). Social network is a set of special or specific relationship formed among groups of people.

The characteristics of these relationships can be used as a tool to interpret the motive of the social behavior patterns applicable therein (Todaro, 2000). Social networks facilitate communication and interaction and allow the growth of trust and strengthen the cooperation. The healthy communities tend to have strong social networks. The exchanges that occur in social networks are long-term ones in which people involved expect the long-term individual gains.

Some studies have indicated that a person's behavior is closely related to his involvement in his community networks. In his study Alexander found that individuals who deviated from the norms of clicks turn to have low involvement in the clicks if it was compared to those who did not deviate (Rogers and Kincaid, 1969). Roberts and O'Reilly saw that individuals who engaged in social networking would be more satisfied at work than those who were not involved in it.

The involvement of individuals in the network to some extent is determined by the social choices made by himself. Of the social relations done with other individuals, an individual

can determine to which individuals he can keep in touch with and which ones should be ignored. This, however, does not mean only social choices that determine the individual's own involvement in the network. Clyde saw that the social position or social situations and circumstances of each individual also determined the individual's involvement in the network. They are the elements of the social structure that affect and even in many ways determine the existing interaction. (Suparlan, 1995)

The social position in scavenger society was reflected in the role of each individual in the social relations among them. These relationships included friendships, intermediaries and patron client. They exist and were important in the life of community as scavengers, especially in their role for the viability. (Suparlan, 1978).

MODEL OF CONVERGENCE COMMUNICATION

Rogers and Kincaid attempted to describe the model of convergence communication emphasizing communication as a process of creation and sharing of common information among participants to achieve mutual understanding (Rogers and Kincaid, 1969). It was revealed that communication was not a simple process of action-reaction like in a linear communication, but it was a process of exchange (transaction) among the actors. And during this process, the role of the actors was as a source and a recipient of the communication in turns to achieve mutual understanding. Information and mutual understanding were the dominant components in the model of convergence communication.

SOCIOMETRIC THEORY OF MORENO

Sociometric theory of Moreno is related to the attraction and rejection felt by individuals for the formation of group structures. The sociometric structure of a group in touch with some of the things occurring in the communication of the group. Individuals who feel attracted to each other and mutually put themselves on the highest rank would prefer to communicate in a way that distinguishes them from other members of the group who hate each other

PROBLEM

Scavengers community is a specific community with its own characteristics. Its presence, on the one hand, is rejected by the society because the scavengers are considered potentially committing a crime, not trustworthy and as an object of suspicion. On the other hand, its presence is highly required because they can help minimize the garbage to be disposed of in the garbage disposal areas. They particularly select the inorganic garbage which is needed by certain factories. Scavengers as a profession with its lower income can be handed down from generation to generation. Even they persuade other families, relatives or friends to be scavengers.

Up to the present moment the scavenger is the kind of work that has not been written in the sense of getting recognition from the government. Consequently the people who work as scavengers have not been part of the state policy, even though they are citizens deserving some serious attentions. The local government think that the scavengers are not the local citizens. The condition results in no program which is specially intended or allocated to them as they are never listed as the recipients of assistance or funding from the government for the welfare improvement of the poverty. In their very limited conditions the community still

survives. In fact, they can maintain their viability in the structure of hard life of the urban. It would not be possible without the existence of social networks.

PROBLEM FORMULATION

- a. How is the objective condition of the strategy of the scavengers in maintaining their viability in the city of Surabaya based on the social networks?
- b. How is the model of the strategies in maintaining the viability of the scavengers in the city of Surabaya based on the social networks?

RESEARCH METHOD

This study was conducted in Njawar, Benowo District, Surabaya. Njawar was selected because the area of the final disposal of the garbage/rubbish of Surabaya is located here, in this area. Besides, there were many scavengers who had got their permanent residences in the township of its own thus allowing the problem under study could be observed.

The units of analysis in this study were scavengers with the characteristics of unity as follows:

- a. Husband or wife having a job as a scavenger.
- b. Living in the location of the final disposal of the garbage/rubbish in Njawar, Benowo, Surabaya.
- c. Observations at the beginning of the study and guided interviews were implemented as data collection techniques.

The purposive sampling technique was applied in the selection of subjects based on the needs of the researcher.

The interactive model was used for data analysis (Miles & Huberman, in Sutopo, 2002) and it was a logical analysis analysis consisting of three components, namely:

Data Reduction

Data reduction is defined as the process of selecting, focusing on simplification, abstracting and raw data transformation emerged from the written records in the field .

Data Presentation

After data reduction, the second step is data presentation. According to Miles and Huberman (1992), data presentation is a set of structured information allowing the possibility of drawing some conclusions and taking some actions.

Drawing Conclusions or Verification

The conclusion drawing (verification) cannot be separated from the data reduction and data presentation. It is started from the beginning of the data collection, then followed by finding out the meaning of objects, and then noting some regularities, patterns of explanation, possible configurations, cause and effect courses, and propositions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of Respondents

Most of the age of scavengers in the research area was of reproductive age. They had got their previous jobs, but the income was not sufficient to meet the needs of their families so

they switched their professions as scavengers. There were, however, some scavengers in the average age of 12-25 years. They plunged directly working as scavengers on the invitation of their friends or families or their own willingness. While of those aged 56 - 77 had already worked for such a long time or just worked as a scavenger due to following the family. The gender of the scavenger community was dominated by male. The number of male scavengers was higher than of female ones. It is clearly understandable because this work requires a strong physical stamina. The female scavengers also did their scavenging activities, but not every day. They just did it twice up to four times in a week.

The marital status of the most scavengers in the research area was married. It indicated that the profession or occupation as scavengers was the important source to earn some money to support the family. They did not want to switch the profession because it would bear the risk. There were also some single ones and they usually worked on the invitations of friends or famil. This group has their desires to look for some other professions as they did not have any dependent children or wives to support. While the ones with the status of widower or widow were those who had already worked as scavengers for a period of long time. They had been left by his or her spouse because of death.

In terms of the ownership of identification cards (ID cards), most scavengers had non-Surabaya ID card because it comes from outside the city of Surabaya, so they do not get their rights as citizens of Surabaya, because they are based on the ID card sttus owned by nonresidents rely on scavenged Surabaya. Mereka as principal job, and most of the scavengers do not have property or goods can be relied upon in the village. In term of the working duration, most of scavengers had already worked for about 4 to 6 years. They were married with several children in their families. Their condition described that scavenging was the main job having supported their lives over the years. Only a few that had been scavenging for only 2 until 4 years

The levels of the education of most scavengers were very low. They just dropped out or graduated from elementary and junior high schools. They could not continue their because of the economic factor or no willingness to do so. Automatically they were not equipped sufficient knowledge nor skills and it made them harder to find good jobs. The type of jobs they obtained requiring physical power or manual labor. The married scavengers usually had one or two dependent people to finance and their children lived in the village. While the single scavengers had no one to be supported.

STRATEGIES USED BY SCAVENGERS IN MAINTAINING THEIR VIABILITY IN THE CITY OF SURABAYA BASED ON THE SOCIAL NETWORKS

In an effort to maintain the survival of the community in Surabaya, the scavengers implemented some strategies which include:

Establishing a Bond of Kinship in the Scavenger Community

Most of the scavengers had the family ties, ranging from grandfather/ grandmother father/mother, children/children in law, and so on. They had a high sense of brotherhood. The marital kinship of the scavenger families or relatives were included in the study. Thus it can be understood that the relationships among scavengers become closer – from a friendship to a family.

Fukuyama (2000) stated that the relationship in the families got closer and it improved the social capital in the family of the scavengers. In fact the number of the scavengers in the research area did not decline but it actually increased significantly due because they invited friends, or neighbors to be scavengers. The exist kinship of the scavenger community resulted in the high level of participation and proximity. They could relate directly or indirectly through another individual.

Establishing of Solidarity

Various ways were taken by the community of scavengers to survive. They formed a mechanical and organic bond of solidarity. The mechanical bond of solidarity could be observed through a social network sharing information about opportunities to work as scavengers. Besides, the existence of the association was very useful to overcome the problems in matters relating to the sale of scavenged goods, saving clubs, mutual cooperation in the form of moral and financial support, and friendship. The activities were usually done informally. When they were at rest, they helped the sick people. They also permitted the neighbors to watch television or listen to the radio in their homes.

The organic bond of solidarity was also found in the scavenger community because of the working division and interdependence resulting from the specialization of the work. To maintain their viability with regard to how to overcome difficulties in terms of jobs, their style of communication was one-way, with the communication patterns of patron and client. The one who played a role as patron was the collector, while the client was the scavenger. The organic bond of solidarity can observed through the formation of social networks in determining the price of scavenged goods, and the social network when lending some money.

Establishing the Procedures of the Commercial Chain of the Sale of the Scavenged Goods between Scavengers and Collectors

The social networks of the scavengers and the collectors could be described in the business chain of material/scavenged goods. It started from the scavengers to the factories or plants. It was such a long business chain because it involved a number of players with multiple levels. The bottom level was scavengers. The higher one was a number of small collectors. The next one was a number of big collectors who would be in touch with the factory or Final Manufacturer.

Developing a Social Interaction with People outside the Scavenger

Humans cannot live alone and they need other people for their social interaction. All human actions are reciprocal and they are called the social interaction. Basically humans have a kind of instinct to always be in touch with one another. The scavenger community living around the area of garbage disposal also establish their social relations with the citizens outside the garbage disposal area. Some female scavengers were sometimes invited for message, and the male scavengers with special skills were also hired to do some repairs or renovation and so on. Even some of them were builders. The social networks formed due to the social interaction could assist them to handle some matters of food, groceries, and health.

THE MODEL OF THE STRATEGY OF THE SCAVENGERS IN MAINTAINING THE VIABILITY BASED ON SOCIAL NETWORKS RATIONALE

1. The inequality or the gap in the development of rural and urban areas is the background of the massive flow of migration of the population from countries to cities. It results in the employment in the informal sector. It is the only choice in order to survive and

improve their standard of living in the city of Surabaya. One form of the informal sectors is garbage/rubbish/waste trading and the front-liners of it is the scavenger community.

2. Up to now scavenger is a kind of jobs that has not been written. It has not got any recognition from the government. Consequently, the people who work as scavengers are not included in the parts of the policy of the State although they are citizens to be paid some attention.
3. There have not been any official legal protections such rules or regulations to protect the scavenger community.
4. The existence of social networks for the social interactions among members of the scavenger community resulted in the formation of a social group and social bond as a means to maintain the viability.

The Purpose of The Model of The Strategy of The Scavengers in Maintaining The Viability Based on Social Networks

It is implemented in order to:

Social networks established are aimed to facilitate their social interactions, and communication. Through the interaction the primary and secondary needs are fulfilled in order to maintain the viability.

Targets of The Model of The Strategy of The Scavengers in Maintaining The Viability Based on Social Networks

The targets of the model are the people who come from other cities, counties, provinces, and islands. The criteria :

- a. Having the principal job as scavengers and who lived in Surabaya for at least one year.
- b. Having some limitations in meeting their basic and social needs.

STRATEGY AND ACTIVITY

1. Strategy

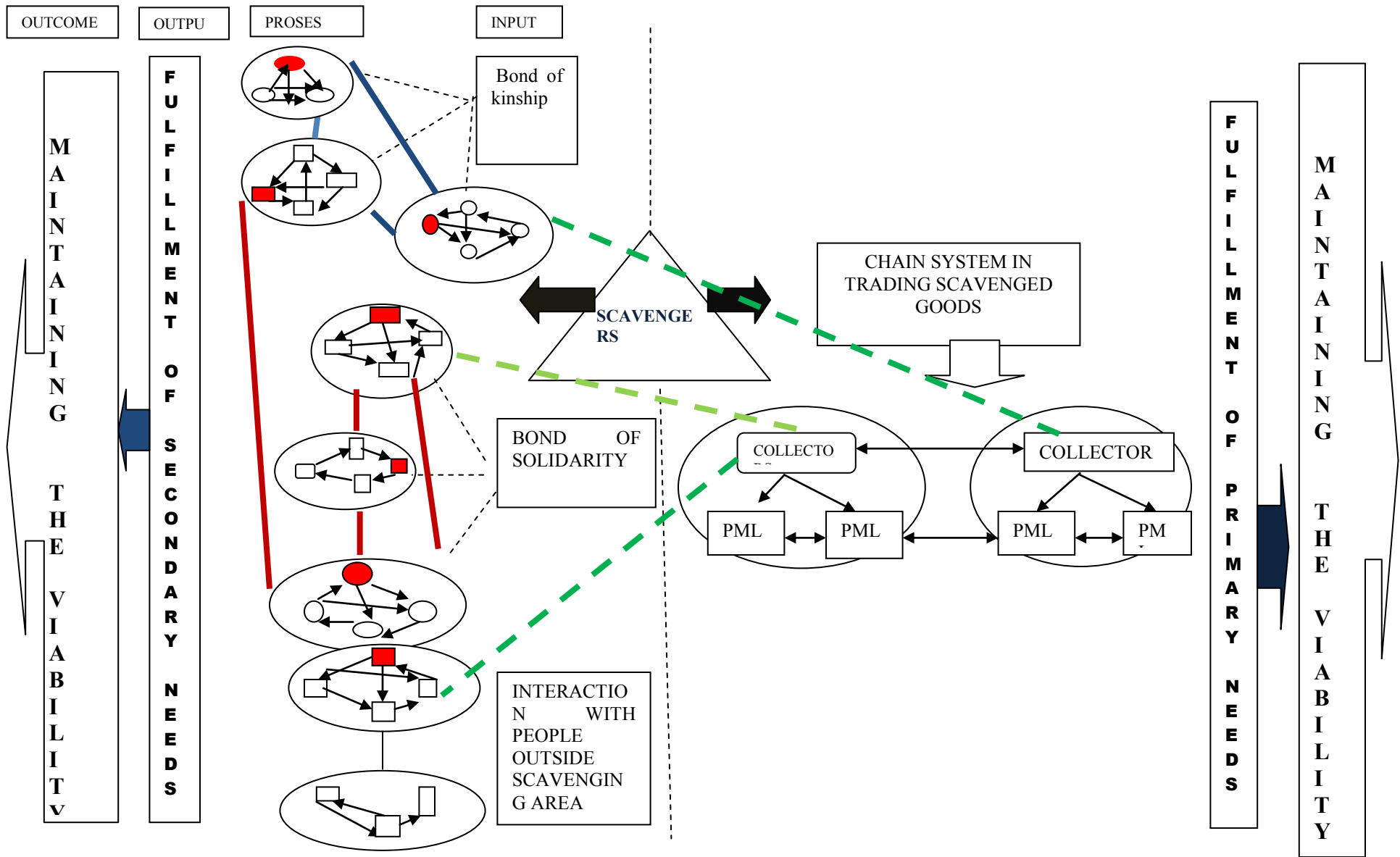
The strategy of the scavengers in maintaining their survival is a way which has been selected by using a group approach in which a person will experience an effective social learning process to develop their capacities, so that they meet all the needs. The concept focuses on emphasizing the utilization of social networks in which patterns of social relationships, social situations and social roles have an influence in the establishment of social networks in which the needs of primary and secondary can be fulfilled

2. Activity

Activities carried out through the use of social networking of the scavengers in order to maintain viability include:

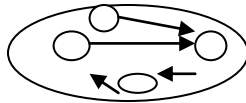
1. Develop a bond of kinship.
2. Establish a mechanical and organic bond of solidarity.
3. Establish a chain system of scavenged goods trade.
4. Develop a social interaction with the community outside of scavenged.

MODEL OF STRATEGY OF SCAVENGERS IN MAINTAINING THE VIABILITY BASED ON SOCIAL NETWORKS



NOTES

1. Social Networks with the Members Inside



2. Opinion Leader /Liaison in Social Network



3. Bridge Connecting Inter-Social Networks



4. Liaison (By Collector)/Cosmopolitant



- a. Activities carried out by scavengers in order to maintain the viability based on the social network are developed through social bonds in the community. The social bonds are formed due to the bonds of kinship, solidarity, establishing a good trading system in selling scavenged goods and interaction with the community outside of the area of the scavengers.
- b. Several social networks are formed within the social bonds. They are used by the scavenger community as a means of fulfilling their needs including the primary and secondary needs. The social bonds here are more familial friendship.
- c. The social networks have an important role in the fulfillment of the secondary needs (except the needs of clothing, food, and house) such as the needs of health, entertainment, and education because within the community the members can have their social interaction, and meet the needs. In order to make the interaction effective in the social network, there should be a leader who has the guiding views and strong influences to the members of the community to achieve a certain decision. Besides the leader also has a role as a liaison among the social networks, because there are some needs which are not only met through the social networks, for example fund-raising for the medical expenses of one member of the social network. The funds can be raised from the existing social networks. In this case the roles of the leader and the collectors are very significant. The community members listen to their opinions.
- d. In terms of the primary need related to the fulfillment of the needs of clothing, food, and house, the interaction between scavengers and collectors is very important. The social interaction here is more likely to act as intermediaries. Those collectors are the mediators connecting the scavengers as the bottom layer with the larger collectors who are at intermediate levels. Collectors are generally manipulative with the selling prices of scavenged goods. They purchase at a relatively cheaper price or lower than that of the great big collectors. In this case, the collectors gain the high profit.

The form of social networking communication is down-directed because the collectors have a position as a patron while the scavengers are as clients. The patron-client relationship is a social exchange relation of two people or more leading toward an unequal relationship. One party clearly has a higher position than the other side. It is due to the existing positions of a superior and an inferior. The superior is considered to have a bigger ability and more powerful which causes the inferior to be dependent on them. The inferior provides assistance

and support which includes personal services. Dependence which starts from a broad aspect of its dependence include other social life. (Robert ,1995)

CONCLUSIONS

1. Activities carried out by scavengers to maintain their viability based on the social networks was to build a social bond in the community. The forms of the social bond were the bonds of kinship and solidarity. Establishing a good chain of trading system in selling scavenged goods and interaction with the community outside of scavenging area were also other forms of their striving .
2. Within the social bonds several social networks were formed. They were used as a means of scavenger community to meet their needs which include primary and secondary needs, and the social bonds here were more familial-friendship.
3. The social networks had an important role in the fulfillment of the secondary needs (except the needs of clothing, food, and house) such as the needs of health, entertainment, and education because within the community the members could have their social interaction, and meet the needs. In order to make the interaction effective in the social network, there should be a leader who had the guiding views and strong influences to the members of the community to achieve a certain decision. Besides the leader also had a role as a liaison among the social networks, because there were some needs which were not only met through the social networks, for example, fund-raising for the medical expenses of one member of the social network. The funds could be raised from the existing social networks. In this case the roles of the leader and the collectors were very significant. The community members listened to their opinions.
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RECOMMENDATION

To maintain the viability of the scavengers, it is highly necessary to have some liaisons, such NGO or individuals, to assist the scavengers in the fulfillment of the primary and secondary needs and to access the local government programs of Surabaya city. As it is stated in the

Constitution 45, the government must extend the rights of the scavengers like any other citizens.

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