

# Effectiveness of Street Children Handling Policy amid Urban Spatial Inequality: A Case Study in Makassar City, Indonesia

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## ABSTRACT

This research discusses the phenomenon of street children in Makassar City through a political sociology approach and Henri Lefebvre's theory of space production. The research identifies the causes of street children's emergence and analyzes the government's countermeasures. Massive urban development by the government and capitalists has created social inequality, dividing urban space into abstract space, which the state and capital owners utilize for business interests, and social space, which people use to live and do activities. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of street children handling policies through repressive and preventive approaches implemented by the Makassar City Government. This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method and descriptive-critical analysis. The theory of poverty and urbanization is used to explain that inequality is part of a capitalistic structure that places capital above people's social rights. The results show that government and community efforts in dealing with street children still face various structural barriers. Therefore, more inclusive and spatial justice-based policies are needed to solve this problem sustainably.

**Keywords:** Street Children, Social Space, Inequality.

## I. Introduction

This study discusses the efforts of the Makassar City Government in handling street children. Where the Makassar city government has a vision of development towards the World City, but to get to the World City the Makassar City Government experiences various obstacles, one of which is the existence of street children mushrooming in urban centers, this is undoubtedly a serious problem because the requirements to become a World City must be established in the economic and sociological sectors of its society. The problem of the emergence of street children is not caused only by economic factors. However, it can also be caused by the policies issued by the government in urban development because these policies influence the occurrence of inequality in urban areas. This makes the author interested in studying the efforts of the Makassar city government in handling street children by focusing on urban development policies using a political sociology approach.



According to Law No. 23 of 2002, street children spend most of their time on the streets. (Kemensesneg 2002). Street children under 18 years old spend part of their time in public places (streets, markets, shops, entertainment venues) for 3-24 hours to carry out economic activities (Sakman 2016). As a result of the amount of time spent on the street, their life order is shaped by the conditions they face. In their daily lives, street children always try to form groups they consider family. Members of this group then have their respective roles in carrying out activities on the streets. For example, the oldest group members protect younger group members from interference from other street children's groups. In addition, the oldest members also have a role in collecting the begging or selling of younger members. The presence of street children is something very dilemmatic. Street children certainly have different backgrounds and motivations. One of their motivations for becoming street children is due to the socio-economic pressure of their parents, who are not able to provide enough for their daily living expenses. Thus, they depart from their desire to help their parents. They do work with their abilities; street children do this work to get money for their living expenses. (Halim 2019).

The conditions faced by street children tend to be marginalized, vulnerable, and exploitative. The marginalization referred to here is because street children have jobs that have unclear prospects, are less valued, and so on. They are vulnerable because they work in a vulnerable environment from a social and health perspective. Exploitative is meant because street children have a low bargaining position. The impact of marginalized life makes street children vulnerable to exposure to delinquency, which is contrary to the values and norms that exist in society. So that it resulted in a shift in goals that initially they went down the street to help the family economy, shifted to them looking for money to fulfill the interests of getting drunk, such as using their money to buy glue or liquor to get drunk. Street children in Makassar city can be seen in public places, such as at the intersection of the reform highway. Andi Pangerang Pettarani street, and Sultan Alauddin Street, the intersection of Masjid Raya street and Gunung Latimojong street, the intersection of Sungai Saddang Street and Veteran Street, the intersection of Monginsidi street and Veteran Street, the intersection of Landak Baru street and Veteran Street. Perintis kemerdekaan street is in terminals, garbage dumps, and loitering in government and private offices. Most of the street children in Makassar City are migrants from several districts in South Sulawesi, including Jeneponto, Maros, Pangkep, Gowa, and Takalar regency (Anasiru, 2011). The Makassar City Government has issued Local Regulation (PERDA) No. 2/2008 on the Development of street children, vagrants, beggars, and buskers to tackle the problem of street children, as an effort to implement Local Regulation No. 2/2008 (Bagian Hukum Sekretariat Daerah Kota Makassar in 2008 -2009). The role of the Social Service in fostering street children in Makassar City is an implementing element of local government affairs in the social sector (Hamsyukur, 2017).

The Makassar City Social Service carries out the follow-up coaching program to find out why children go to the streets through identification or assessment at RSPA (Child Protection Social House). The street children rehabilitation coaching program is the collaboration of the Makassar City Social Service with the Drug Abuse Group Foundation or commonly abbreviated as (YKP2N), street children who are assessed and found to be using drugs or smoking glue and the like then they are immediately referred to YKP2N on Jalan Faisal XII Makassar which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. In carrying out its program, the Makassar City Social Service still encounters obstacles: limited funds, the number of street children who increases yearly, and the lack of a coaching center to accommodate street children. This implementation of Regional Regulation number 2 of 2008 runs optimally (Wahyudi, Usman, and Mone 2021). In carrying out its program, the Makassar City Social Service still encounters obstacles: limited funds, the number of street children who increases yearly, and the lack of a coaching center to accommodate street children. This was then implemented in Regional Regulation 2 of 2008, which did not run optimally. The lack of facilities and budget limitations is one aspect that measures that the Makassar city government does not make the existence of street children a priority problem that must be resolved immediately, in addition, the number of street children who continue to grow every year is a problem that must be resolved immediately by the Makassar city government.

Research conducted by Imanuel Jay entitled Implementation of Policies for Handling Homelessness, Beggars, Prostitutes, and Street Children in Palangka Raya. This research highlights the lack of government socialization regarding this policy among the public (Immanuel Jaya, 2021). Bahfiarti et al (2019) state that research focuses on identifying the characteristics of operational actions and community development and empowerment program strategies through the Makassar City Government Social Service. This research then focuses on the problems of street children and how the efforts made by the Makassar City government use political sociology analysis and spatial representation. This analytical tool is then used to explain further and critically about the problems of street children and the efforts made by the Makassar City Government. To analyze the government's policy on overcoming street children, it is not enough to see only the law. However, it needs to be critically analyzed using a sociological approach and representation of space.

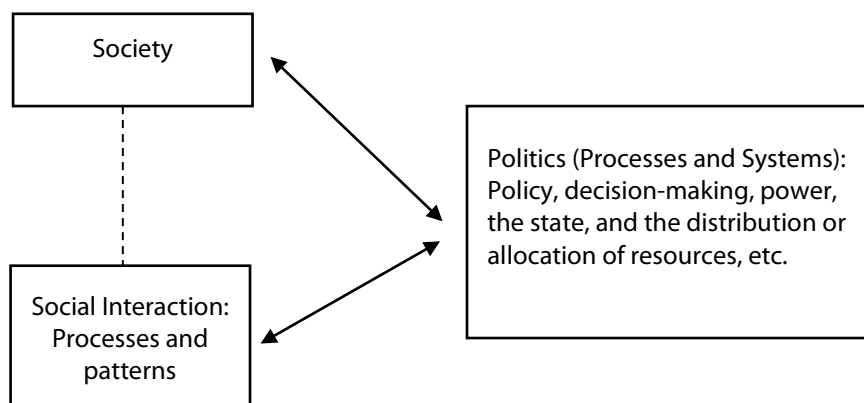
## II. Literature Review

### 2.1. Political Sociology

Political sociology pays attention to the role of power and the individual, for example the impact of globalization on identity: the fragmentation and pluralization of values and lifestyles, with the growth of mass media and consumerism and the decline of sedentary human life patterns and unstable communities, all show that identities that were once taken for granted have become politicized. (Soyomukti 2019). Sociology can be said to be the most general social science. Sociology contributes to political science by analyzing the more specific symptoms of the patterns of societal relationships, namely, the symptoms of power. With these understandings (Qodir 2012). Political sociology is the study of relations between state and society (study of relations between state and society). There is a paradigm shift in political sociology from state-centered, class-based participation models to an understanding of politics as potential in all social experiences. Political sociology is defined as a sociological approach applied to political phenomena. The sociological approach consists of concepts, variables, theories, and methodologies used in sociology to understand social reality, including the complexity of activities related to political processes and systems, which include power, authority, public life, government, state, conflict and conflict resolution, policy, decision making, and distribution or allocation.

Political sociology can be formulated in two ways. First, political sociology is formulated as a study examining the relationship between society, social interaction, and politics. In this relationship, it can be seen how society affects politics, and vice versa, how politics affects society. With an understanding of the concept of society as above, political sociology examines society, in which there are processes and patterns of social interaction, about politics. The relationship is seen in terms of mutual influence. Society as an external-objective reality will guide individuals in carrying out political activities, such as what is allowed in politics, how it is done, and how politics can be done. These guidelines usually come from norms, ethics, customs, and laws that develop in society. Next. How politics affects society, in which there is a process of social interaction. When a political decision has been determined and passed into a law with legal force, for example, a law on local government, the political decision will affect society, including the person or group that created the decision. The following figure illustrates the relationship between society and politics to facilitate understanding. From Figure 1, it is understood that society is a reality in which social interaction processes occur, and there are patterns of social interaction. The relationship between politics and society, including interaction processes such as (political socialization, political participation, political recruitment, and political communication), interaction patterns such as (political culture and political ideology), is mutually influential. His concern is the practice of power in everyday social life, both about the state and non-state. The study concerns political socialization, political participation, identity, political culture, and the globalization of power. The main problems in political sociology also include society, the state, social order, and its changes, inequality and social layers, politics, political participation, and power. Political sociology also examines how society influences regime norms. It examines the social conditions that make a stable political democracy

possible, or what social requirements must be met to realize a democratic political order or power (Qodir, 2012).



**Figure 1. Diagram of the Relationship between Society and Politics**

Poverty can be defined as a situation where a person, family, or community member cannot reasonably fulfill their lives as other community members in general. According to Emil Salim, poverty is usually described as a lack of income in meeting the basic needs of life; they are said to be in poverty if income is not enough to meet the community's needs. (Auria 2021). Poverty is often understood as a state of lack of money and goods to ensure survival. Poverty can be defined as the inability to fulfill various needs such as food, housing, clothing, education, health, and so on. (Rah Adi Fahmi, Setyadi, and Suiro 2018). An analysis of the orientation of development conducted by experts broadly distinguishes the two types of orientation. First, production-oriented development, and Second, human-oriented development (Ihsannudin 2014). An increase in the income of low-income people may not improve their standard of living if goods and services that meet their needs and income levels are not available. According to Korten, this poverty problem can be overcome by providing an approach to these basic needs to improve welfare by assisting those who cannot afford it. Emil Salim emphasized that the problem in overcoming this problem is how the government carries out its policy.

## 2.2. Space Production Theory

Lefebvre's thinking, especially regarding urban sociology, lies in the context of development after World War II, which devastated Western countries, especially France. These countries did not want to wallow too long in the destruction and defeat of their fellow wars. For this reason, massive development was carried out to reorganize people's lives and boost the economy. (Sugiyono 2022). Space Theory in Urban Sociology: A New Approach (Dwianto 2012). Lefebvre sees that the city is genuinely under threat from capitalist industrialization. The city is understood as an "object" created by human action, regarding the relationship between economic, social, and cultural aspects at every level of society. Also, the city is understood as a place for exchange and profit-seeking, to attract tourists, and capital investment. The intersection of all these aspects is finally incarnated and manifested in the spatial dimensions of urban areas. (Francesco 2020). Henri Lefebvre's important thesis is explained in his magnum opus entitled "The Production of Space". Lefebvre's important thesis in this monumental work is his view that places space as a social product. According to Lefebvre, the production of space is always tied to the social reality surrounding it. Space can never rely on "itself" or exist naturally. This notion of space is not without consequences; in other words, space is "political." (Hastira, 2022).

Lefebvre then proposes a triadic concept in terms of the production of social space. The first concept is spatial practices, which refers to the interactions and communications that emerge and subsequently shape space. Spatial practices produce and reproduce spatial relations between objects and products. These

practices ensure the continuity of the production of social space and its cohesiveness. Spatial practices can and do be influenced by gender, race, and administrative-bureaucratic dimensions. However, spatial practices under capitalism's control are linked to capital circulation, labor reproduction, and the need to control labor (Nalle, 2021). In the concept of spatial practice, social space includes the involvement of every member of society who has a particular relationship or relation to the ownership of the space. Thus, social cohesion over a space is determined by the degree of competence and the level of use of space (physical or material). The second concept is representations of space, which refers to the discourse describing the space that has been formed and can be found in maps, images, and notations. Representations of space are linked to the technocratic rationality of positive science and embody a tendency towards abstraction, mathematical modeling, and quantification of social phenomena.

The third concept is representational space, which refers to the symbolic dimension of space used by people interacting in space and is ideological. Representational space includes how the occupants or people who use it interact with each other through practices and forms of visualization in a space. This conception of space emerges based on a variety of authentic experiences experienced by everyone as a cause and effect of the dialectical relationship between spatial practices and representations of space. Space becomes something that is perceived explicitly by individuals, groups, or communities, so that it becomes a perceived space. (Nalle 2021) Contestation of Space As explained earlier, Lefebvre argues that various aspects participate in shaping space. These aspects include economic, political, and cultural aspects. The influence of these aspects eventually forms two spaces that are significantly separated from each other. The two spaces in question are abstract space and social space. On the one hand, the owners of capital or business and the government often conceptualize space through abstract considerations, such as size, area, location, and most importantly, the profit gained from objectifying space. The abstraction framework is used to map urban areas. In this area, Lefebvre refers to space as abstract space. On the other hand, individuals in the community use the space in their neighborhood as a place to live and do activities concretely. They use urban areas freely and without any tendency in their everyday life (everyday life). It is in this area that Lefebvre refers to space as social space. (Sugiyono 2022).

### 2.3. Rights to the City

Lefebvre not only sees urban areas as spaces of conflict involving political, economic, and cultural aspects, but also draws his other reflections towards how conflicts should be resolved and the struggle for urban justice should be carried out. When looking at the phenomenon of inequality and unjust development in urban areas, Lefebvre argues that the standard translation of the term "rights to the city" is, however, there is also another form of translation that is also often used in Indonesian scholarly texts, namely "the sovereignty of the city dwellers." (Nalle 2021)

Lefebvre divides who the right to the city is given to, namely, cry and demand. These two words refer to whom the right to the city is addressed (whose right). Those who have the right are those whose rights, opportunities, and participation in urban areas are deprived. In this case, they experience vertical social exclusion in the form of economic deprivation and horizontally, where certain parties limit their access and opportunity to participate in city management. Furthermore, "rights," according to Lefebvre, are somewhat more concrete. Lefebvre mentions that these rights, for example, are manifested in several possibilities, such as the right to obtain information, the right to obtain various services, the right to express freely their opinions about the activities they carry out which, at a certain point, are related to how the city is managed to accommodate the activities that occur. Lefebvre also emphasizes the opportunity to form social spaces where people can be actively involved in managing these spaces. Lefebvre calls this a form of "urban revolution". Urban areas are not only dominated and governed by specific interests, such as the economic or political interests of a few people. Lefebvre calls this community participation "the work of art" (the city is an oeuvre). Participation is understood as an art to be actively involved in managing the space where they live and stay. Thus, urban communities are not only seen as passive parties who live, undergo activities in urban areas, and

carry out policies related to urban management, but also play an active role in participating in various forms in managing cities. (Nalle 2021).

### III. Research Method

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative research is a research method that intends to understand phenomena related to the research subject. The choice of descriptive qualitative research in this writing is, of course, adjusted to the research objectives, where this study aims to explain the efforts of the Makassar City government in overcoming street children in Makassar City (Sugiono, 2015). Qualitative research involves a particular setting for a study because it is related to context. The situation must be understood in the context of the institution's history and the environment that shapes it, which is part of the situation data (Umar Sidiq, 2019).

Qualitative research involves a particular setting for a study as it relates to context. The situation must be understood in the context of the institution's history and the environment that shaped it, which is part of the data of the situation itself (Yusuf, 2017). The researcher also conducts observation, the first step towards a broader focus of attention, namely participant observation, and practical results observation as a method in its capacity (Hasanah, 2017). The types of data needed in this research are primary and secondary. Primary data was obtained through direct interviews with informants, where the interview was undoubtedly related to the focus of the research. This study's primary data was obtained using interviews with related informants. Secondary data is complementary and supporting, intended to complement primary data, and the results of this research are obtained through literature studies by reading books, writings, and literature relevant to the research.

### IV. Results and Discussion

#### 4.1. Urban development policy

Cities can be defined as areas that are the center of population concentration and activities, especially in the economic field, such as industry, trade, and services. The rapid development of cities often triggers various changes, ranging from land use to cultural shifts. As a result, social inequality arises among city residents, ranging from economic inequality to the difficulty of low-income people getting access to meet their daily needs. The city of Makassar, in its development, later became a world city, with various developments and economic advances ranging from infrastructure development to modern tourist attractions in the city center.

The rapid development of Makassar City has had a significant impact on its original residents. Many people who have lived in Makassar for a long time have been eliminated and marginalized because they are unable to compete economically amid massive government development. This condition is the beginning of the emergence of the urban poor. They then make a living in the informal sector, such as public transportation drivers, pedicab drivers, and scavengers. The inequality in Makassar City creates a striking distance between residents. People with access to capital in urban areas tend to enjoy decent housing and easy access to health, education, and political facilities. Conversely, some people do not have access to this. According to Levebre, this condition is a phenomenon of inequality and injustice in urban society. Massive urban investment, manifested in the construction of roads, high-rise buildings, office areas, shopping centers, railway lines, and various other infrastructures, has only benefited one group of people, but not others (Sugiyono, 2022).

The inequality of development in Makassar City has caused community groups who do not have access to formal spaces to become victims of urban infrastructure projects. This infrastructure development has an impact on groups of people with weak economic conditions, who ultimately experience evictions for the sake of providing infrastructure to support economic activity in Makassar City. Street children, for the most part, come from slum areas that are scattered in various parts of the city. The emergence of these slums reflects

the inequality in the urban development process, which results in a massive gap between the advantaged and marginalized groups. This problem aligns with Henri Lefebvre's ideas in *The Production of Space*, which dedicates his thoughts to radical phenomenology to understand space through a more humanist approach. In this context, the right to the city, whether owned by individuals or communities, has been neglected due to the domination of spatial abstraction by capitalism in its various forms and by technocratic approaches controlled by the state or government (Nalle, 2021). People marginalized by the development process utilize non-formal spaces untouched by government intervention. However, the conditions of non-formal spaces used by the urban poor are generally unable to fulfill their basic needs. As a result, community groups that depend on these non-formal spaces are always in a situation of deprivation.

People living in urban areas experience stark economic inequality. The city has not been able to become a space that guarantees welfare for all its inhabitants. This is reflected in the fact that many poor urban people still have not gained adequate political and economic access. In addition, the urban development process also pushes people with low incomes to the periphery, making them even further away from opportunities to access more appropriate urban facilities and services. According to Henri Lefebvre, this condition is a manifestation of the growing inequality and injustice in urban society. Massive investments in urban development - realized through highway projects, skyscrapers, office parks, shopping malls, railway networks, and other infrastructure - have benefited only certain groups of people. In contrast, other groups have not felt the same benefits (Nalle, 2021).

#### 4.2. Efforts to overcome street children in the city of Makassar

The problem of street children is a social phenomenon that cannot be avoided, especially in Makassar City. This is influenced by poverty factors, limited available jobs, limited knowledge and skills, urbanization problems, and disability problems, causing many of them to survive by being forced to become street children, vagrants, beggars, and buskers on the streets. The Makassar city government in overcoming street children has made various efforts, which are then classified into two aspects: repressive and preventive.

##### 4.2.1. Repressive Measures

Repression is one of the characteristics of the social control system. Repressive actions usually take the form of pressure, restraint, or suppression (Humas, 2022). The city government of Makassar is carrying out massive development to make the city of Makassar a world city. In contrast, the existence of street children in the city of Makassar with various activities makes the city look like a slum, which certainly hinders all the efforts of the city government of Makassar in carrying out development towards becoming a world city. This statement shows that the Makassar city government continues to carry out development and seeks to solve problems related to street children. So that the problem of street children can be resolved and the goal of becoming a world city can be realized. This condition must then be resolved immediately by the city government of Makassar so that the inequality that occurs in urban areas can be resolved, because the end of conflict and inequality in urban areas can make the urban poor or in this case street children can get all their rights, this is what Levebre calls the realization of the right to the city obtained by all people in urban areas. The city government of Makassar is making efforts to deal with street children by making policies that regulate all forms of street child management through local regulation number 2 of 2008. PERDA No. 2 of 2008 became the legal umbrella for the Makassar city government to carry out efforts to deal with street children in the city of Makassar. Through this regulation, the government created a team tasked with acting against street children who carry out begging and selling activities by conducting raids by the Pamong Praja police.

The city government of Makassar, in this case, the social service, together with the pamong praja police, has made initial efforts to overcome the problem of street children in the city of Makassar. However, the government's efforts in conducting the raid are not optimal because the raid has not deterred street children from carrying out their activities. On the one hand, the owners of capital or business and the

government often conceptualize space through abstract considerations, such as size, area, location, and most importantly, the profit gained from the objectification of space. On the other hand, individuals in the community use the space in their neighborhood as a place to live and do activities concretely. They use urban areas freely and without any tendency in their everyday life. This condition then makes the distance between the government and street children even further. It produces conflict because street children who are exploited see the city, in this case, shopping centers, red lights, and places with crowds, as a place to make money. The government's efforts in overcoming street children are of course not only limited to conducting raids, the Makassar city government has also created a rehabilitation program. The rehabilitation coaching program for street children is the collaboration of the Makassar City Social Service with the Drug Abuse Group Foundation or commonly abbreviated as (YKP2N), street children who are assessed and known to use drugs or smoke glue and the like then they are immediately referred to YKP2N on Faisal XII Street Makassar which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The city government of Makassar in this case the social service has made efforts in tackling the problem of street children in the city of Makassar, but has not been able to make significant changes to reduce the number of street children, besides that the social service of the city of Makassar in handling the existence of street children is also still lacking support from government institutions, so that the social service of the city of Makassar is still complicated in solving the problem. At the same time, the factor of child exploitation carried out by some individuals against street children is the most prevalent cause in poor communities. The position of street children in the city of Makassar is as victims of exploitation carried out by parents or irresponsible individuals to obtain as much profit as possible from the use of space, because of the capitalization of space carried out by capital owners and the government. This problem is considered by David Harvey with the term greenwashing, or covering projects with large profits as projects that appear to care and support humanity. Conducting raids and arresting street children to help the development of Makassar city towards a world city is considered symbolic behavior rather than substantive (Harvey, 2015).

#### 4.2.2. Preventive Measures

Etymologically, prevention comes from the Latin word "pravenire", which means 'anticipation' or preventing something from happening. In short, preventive efforts are social control efforts in preventing disturbances (Hukumonline, 2024). The Makassar city government also carries out this preventive effort through social services to tackle the problem of street children. The government makes various efforts to overcome street children by constructing social institutions. The Makassar City Social Service carries out the advanced coaching program to determine why children go to the streets, using identification or assessment at RSPA (Child Protection Social House).

The government's coaching efforts are an effort to resolve the economic problems that cause street children to take to the streets to carry out their activities. The efforts made by the government if reviewed by using Corten's opinion, this poverty problem can be overcome by providing an approach to these basic needs which in essence is to improve welfare by assisting those who are unable, training for productive age street children conducted by the Makassar city government in this case the social service is an effort to improve the welfare of street children so that they can meet their basic needs. In addition to efforts in conducting guidance through the child protection social house (RSPA) the government also made efforts by providing socialization to the general public so as not to give money to street children who carry out begging activities on the streets, this socialization activity was carried out by making a talk board in every corner of the crowd such as at the traffic light intersection. Besides that, the Makassar city government, or in this case, the social service, in conducting this socialization activity, also uses the MUI fatwah, which states that giving money to street children is a haram action. The efforts made by this government have tried to make people understand that giving money to street children is wrong. Moreover, it cannot be justified because it can build a mindset that begging street children will continue to occur. Seeing these conditions, Levebre states that in the concept of spatial practice, social space includes the involvement of every member of society who has a particular

relationship with the ownership of space. Thus, social cohesion over space is determined by the degree of competence and the level of use of space (Nalle, 2021).

#### 4.2.3. Obstacles to tackling street children

The government's inability to map the fundamental problems of street children is also due to the government's lack of seriousness in tackling them. We can see this with the limited number of social institutions due to the lack of budget given to the problem of street children. This phenomenon occurs because the government and capital owners are more focused on developing very capitalistic cities, which impacts how they see the problems that occur. Capital in urban areas is allocated to build road infrastructure, shopping centers, and tall buildings. This problem is based on Harvey's spatial theory, which states that capital cannot maintain its unity with nature as a sustainable harmony because, for capital, nature is ultimately an object for production. Nature is a potential value that can be used directly or indirectly for commodity realization (Harvey, 2005).

The city, which was initially seen as an object of production, is then utilized by the government and capital as something that must produce, so that when there are obstacles in urban development, the government as the holder of authority makes various efforts to solve problems that hinder urban development through the policies it makes. The Makassar city government should be able to see the problems related to street children further to the fulfillment of basic needs not only focusing on the street children's curbing program, but the coaching program also carried out by the government should go hand in hand with the fulfillment of basic needs, so that regional regulation number 2 of 2008 can run effectively. Overcoming street children carried out by the Makassar city government is also assisted by the Street Children Lovers Community (KPAJ), this street child lovers community focuses on providing basic education and developing the creativity of street children with the aim that street children also get basic education as a provision of knowledge and also so that street children no longer beg but are more creative in making money. The community of street children lovers (KPAJ) has made efforts so that street children have the provision of knowledge and creativity as their capital in surviving in urban areas, because through the knowledge and creativity possessed by street children they are then able to build awareness so that they can grow and develop in the face of the progress of the city of Makassar, which according to Corten in the concept of political sociology, poverty can be overcome by providing an approach to these basic needs which in essence is to improve welfare by assisting those who cannot afford it. The efforts made by the street children lovers community (KPAJ) must of course be supported by the government so that these efforts can be more effective in improving the welfare of people in urban areas, so that the problem of street children can be resolved, this is in line with what Emil Salim said, who said that the government should take part in helping street children get out of poverty by implementing policies and programs that improve the welfare of the urban poor.

## V. Conclusion

Massive urban development by the government and capitalists causes social inequality, which separates urban space into two types. First, the abstract space is understood by the state and capitalists as a place to gain maximum profit through business activities. Second is social space, which the community interprets as a place to live and move freely without any particular interest. Street children then utilize this social space to survive in the city. Furthermore, efforts have been made by the Makassar City Government to overcome the problem of street children. These efforts are categorized into two approaches: repressive and preventive. The author uses space and poverty theories through Henri Lefebvre's perspective and a political sociology approach in this section. Poverty in urban areas cannot be separated from the impact of massive urbanization due to urban development. In addition, domination by capital owners continues because of the capitalistic mindset that considers inequality necessary so that capital can continue to reproduce. This view is the background to why the government's efforts to deal with street children, such as outreach and coaching

programs, still face various obstacles. The same is true for street children's communities, which also experience limitations in solving this problem.

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