

FAMILY NEEDS FULFILLMENT AMONG POOR SINGLE MOTHERS IN URBAN INDONESIA: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY IN EAST JAKARTA

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ABSTRACT

The increasing number of single mothers performing dual roles as has become an important social issue among poor urban families. Previous studies have mainly focused on economic hardship, psychological stress, or work–family conflict separately, while limited attention has been given to the holistic fulfillment of family needs among poor single mothers in urban Indonesia. Therefore, this study aims to analyze family needs fulfillment among Poor single mothers in Gedong Village, Pasar Rebo District, East Jakarta, Indonesia. The novelty of this study lies in its comprehensive examination of physical, emotional, educational, and economic family needs simultaneously within the context of urban poverty. This study employed a descriptive quantitative approach using questionnaires distributed to 30 working single mothers aged 19–59 years. The findings show that physical, emotional, and educational needs were generally fulfilled, while economic needs remained less fulfilled. This study contributes to family and social studies by demonstrating that family needs fulfillment among poor single mothers is multidimensional and influenced by urban economic vulnerability. The study also implies that family resilience among poor single-mother households cannot be understood solely through economic perspectives, but must also consider emotional, educational, and caregiving dimensions simultaneously.

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INTRODUCTION

The family is the most fundamental and smallest social unit in human life. The family serves as the primary setting where the processes of socialization and identity formation begin and continue into adulthood (Yao et al., 2024). Socialization within the family provides individuals with the foundation to interact and establish relationships

with the wider community as a larger social institution (Myers, 2022). In Indonesia, the family is legally defined as the smallest unit in society consisting of a husband and wife, husband, wife, and children, father and children, or mother and children (Law No. 52 of 2009). One of the main elements of a family is the existence of a husband and wife who are interconnected in supporting and complementing each other in carrying out their respective functions and roles (Vowels et al., 2023). In addition, married couples generally share responsibilities and cooperate in creating a harmonious family environment (Matalon & Turliuc, 2023).

Families are formed through marriage, and each family member performs specific roles and functions (Brandão et al., 2022). Having a complete and loving family is an aspiration shared by many individuals; however, not everyone has the opportunity to experience such conditions. Single parenthood may occur due to divorce, separation, the death of a spouse, pregnancy outside marriage, or adoption. Until today, many women continue to face significant challenges when deciding to continue their lives as single mothers (Kühn et al., 2023).

According to data released by Statistics Indonesia (BPS) in November 2024, the percentage of female-headed households in Indonesia has increased over time. In 2024, female-headed households consisting of one family member accounted for 22.65%, households with two to three family members accounted for 48.34%, households with four to five family members accounted for 23.05%, and households with six family members accounted for 5.96% (BPS, 2024).

The increasing number of single mothers has become a social trend that cannot be ignored. Data from the National Socioeconomic Survey (SUSENAS) conducted by Statistics Indonesia (BPS) in 2021 showed that 7.04% of young children lived only with their single mothers, while only 1.27% lived solely with their biological fathers (BPS, 2021). These findings indicate that children living with single mothers significantly outnumber those living with single fathers.

Becoming a single parent is not an easy responsibility. In this context, single mothers perform their parental roles without the presence of a partner and under different social circumstances (Farkas, 2022). Due to the absence of a spouse, single mothers are required to perform dual roles within the family. Dual roles refer to situations in which individuals are expected to carry out domestic and public responsibilities simultaneously, often involving competing demands and obligations (Zagefka et al., 2021). In this study, Poor Single Mothers perform the roles of both mother and father in order to maintain family stability and ensure the continuity of family life.

Previous studies have examined the experiences of single mothers. Most of them have primarily focused on specific issues such as economic hardship, parenting stress, psychological well-being, or work-family conflict separately rather than examining poor family life comprehensively (Kim & Kim, 2020). Research conducted by Kopacz (2021) also emphasized that single mothers frequently experience economic vulnerability and social stigma due to their position as the sole providers within the household. Similarly, Martin et al. (2024) highlighted that single mothers commonly face emotional pressure, financial instability, and multiple family responsibilities simultaneously. Existing studies also tend to emphasize individual coping strategies and psychological adaptation, while limited attention has been given to the intersection between poverty, dual parental roles, and family survival among urban single-mother households (Zagefka et al., 2021).

Based on these limitations, this study seeks to address the existing research gap by focusing on the experiences of poor single mothers in fulfilling family needs comprehensively within an urban social setting. The novelty of this research lies in its emphasis on the multidimensional fulfillment of family needs, covering physical, emotional, educational, and economic aspects simultaneously among poor single mothers in urban Indonesia.

Gedong Village, Pasar Rebo District, East Jakarta, was selected as the research location for several reasons. First, the area represents one of the urban regions in East Jakarta with a relatively high level of urbanization, where many women perform dual roles within their families. Second, the location provided accessibility for the researcher to obtain respondents who met the research criteria. Third, studies focusing on the dual roles of working Poor Single Mothers, particularly regarding the fulfillment of physical, emotional, educational, and economic family needs, remain limited. Based on these considerations, the researcher was interested in conducting this study.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a descriptive research design with a quantitative approach to describe the dual roles of Poor Single Mothers in fulfilling family needs. Quantitative research is based on the positivist paradigm and is used to examine populations or samples through systematic and measurable procedures (Ganzevles et al., 2022). The study used both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data were collected directly from Poor Single Mothers aged 19–59 years who were unmarried or without a husband and actively employed, while secondary data were obtained from document analysis, scientific studies, and relevant academic literature.

The sampling technique used in this study was saturated sampling (census) or total sampling, in which all members of the population were used as research samples. Therefore, the study involved all 30 Poor Single Mothers who met the research criteria as respondents. Data were collected using a questionnaire consisting of 48 closed-ended statements measured with a Likert scale. The questionnaire covered four dimensions of family needs fulfillment, namely physical, emotional, educational, and economic needs.

The research instrument was tested for validity and reliability before being distributed to the respondents. The validity test involved 25 respondents with characteristics similar to the research participants but who were not included in the main sample. The results showed that all questionnaire items were valid and reliable, indicated by r-count values greater than the r-table value and Cronbach’s Alpha coefficients above 0.60. The data analysis process included editing, scoring, coding, data cleaning, tabulation, and descriptive analysis to produce accurate and credible research findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study involved 30 Poor Single Mothers residing in Gedong Village, Pasar Rebo District, East Jakarta, Indonesia. The respondents were selected based on specific criteria relevant to the objectives of the study, including women who did not have a husband, were actively employed, and were responsible for fulfilling family needs independently. The analysis focused on several respondent characteristics, including age, occupation, educational background, monthly income, monthly expenditure, and access to social assistance.

Characteristics of Poor Single Mothers in Gedong Village, Pasar Rebo District, East Jakarta

Age of Poor Single Mothers

The findings revealed that the majority of Poor Single Mothers were between 31 and 40 years old, accounting for 45.16% of the respondents. Respondents aged between 19 and 30 years represented 41.94% of the sample, while respondents aged between 41 and 59 years accounted for 12.90%.

These findings indicate that all respondents were within the productive age category. Productive age is an important factor because it influences the physical capacity, work productivity, and ability of Poor Single Mothers to perform Dual Roles as both breadwinners and caregivers. Respondents within the productive age range generally possessed stronger economic motivation and greater responsibility in maintaining family stability and ensuring Family Needs Fulfillment.

Table 1. Age of Poor Single Mothers

No.	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1.	19-30	12	41,94
2.	31-40	14	45,16
3.	41-59	4	12,90
Total		30	100%

Occupation of Poor Single Mothers

The occupational background of the respondents demonstrated that most Poor Single Mothers worked as private-sector employees, representing 66.67% of the respondents. Entrepreneurship ranked second with 23.33%,

followed by labor workers at 6.67%, and civil servants at 3.33%. Most respondents worked approximately 8 to 10 hours per day. This condition indicates that a substantial portion of their time was spent outside the home, limiting their opportunities to directly supervise and care for their children.

Most respondents only interacted with their children in the morning before work and in the evening after returning home. This situation illustrates the complexity of Dual Roles experienced by Poor Single Mothers in Urban Indonesia, where economic demands often reduce the amount of time available for parenting and emotional interaction with children.

Table 2. Occupation of Poor Single Mothers

No.	Job	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Private-sector	20	66,67
2.	Entrepreneurship	7	23,33
3.	Labor workers	2	6,67
4.	Civil servants	1	3,33
	Total	30	100%

Educational Background of Poor Single Mothers

The educational backgrounds of the respondents varied considerably. Most respondents completed senior high school or vocational high school education, accounting for 66.67% of the sample. Elementary school graduates represented 3.33%, junior high school graduates represented 6.67%, diploma graduates represented 6.67%, and bachelor's degree holders represented 16.67%.

These findings demonstrate that the majority of Poor Single Mothers possessed basic literacy and numeracy skills that enabled them to participate in employment and household financial management. However, limited educational attainment may also restrict access to higher-paying and more stable employment opportunities, thereby influencing the economic dimension of Family Needs Fulfillment.

Table 3. Educational Background of Poor Single Mothers

No.	Job	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Elementary school	1	3,33
2.	Junior high school	2	6,67
3.	Senior high school	20	66,67
4.	Diploma	2	6,67
5.	Undergraduate	5	16,67
	Total	30	100%

Monthly Income of Poor Single Mothers

The findings showed that the monthly income of most respondents ranged between IDR 3,000,000 and IDR 4,000,000. This income level indicates that many Poor Single Mothers earned wages below the regional minimum wage standard. Although the income was generally sufficient to meet daily basic needs, particularly for respondents with only one child, the income level remained highly vulnerable to unexpected financial conditions such as emergency healthcare expenses, housing costs, and additional educational expenditures. The findings suggest that Poor Single Mothers in Urban Indonesia continue to experience economic insecurity despite their active participation in the workforce.

Table 4. Monthly Income of Poor Single Mothers

No.	Monthly Income (IDR)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	1.000.0000 – 2.000.000	5	16,67
2.	2.000.0000 – 3.000.000	4	13,33
3.	3.000.0000 – 4.000.000	20	33,33
4.	4.000.0000 – 5.000.000	1	3,33
	Total	30	100%

Monthly Expenditure of Poor Single Mothers

The study found that the average monthly expenditure of Poor Single Mothers ranged from IDR 3,000,000 to IDR 4,000,000, representing 66.67% of the respondents. The second-largest expenditure category ranged from IDR 2,000,000 to IDR 3,000,000 per month. The similarity between monthly income and expenditure indicates that many respondents experienced financial difficulties in allocating savings for future or emergency needs. This condition reflects the economic, where household income is primarily allocated to basic survival needs such as food, education, transportation, and housing.

Table 5. Monthly Expenditure of Poor Single Mothers

No.	Monthly Income (IDR)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	1.000.0000 – 2.000.000	3	10,00
2.	2.000.0000 – 3.000.000	6	20,00
3.	3.000.0000 – 4.000.000	20	66,67
4.	4.000.0000 – 5.000.000	1	3,33
Total		30	100%

Social Assistance and Social Protection Received by Poor Single Mothers

The findings further revealed that 76.67% of Poor Single Mothers did not receive any form of social assistance or social protection from the government. Meanwhile, 16.67% of respondents received educational assistance through the Jakarta Smart Card (Kartu Jakarta Pintar/KJP), and 6.67% received support through the Family Hope Program (Program Keluarga Harapan/PKH).

These findings demonstrate that most respondents relied entirely on personal income to achieve Family Needs Fulfillment. Limited access to social assistance increased their economic vulnerability and reduced their capacity to cope with financial emergencies or unexpected household expenses. This condition also highlights the importance of strengthening social welfare programs and economic empowerment initiatives for Poor Single Mothers in Urban Indonesia.

Table 6. Social Assistance and Social Protection Received by Poor Single Mothers

No.	Monthly Income (IDR)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Smart Jakarta Card	5	16,67
2.	Family Hope Program	2	6,67
3.	Didn't receive	23	76,67
Total		30	100%

Overall, the findings indicate that Poor Single Mothers in Gedong Village experienced significant economic and social challenges while performing Dual Roles within the family. The combination of limited income, long working hours, restricted social support, and caregiving responsibilities created substantial pressure on their efforts to maintain Family Needs Fulfillment. These findings confirm that the experiences of Poor Single Mothers in Urban Indonesia are closely associated with structural economic vulnerability and limited social protection systems.

Family Needs Fulfillment among Poor Single Mothers in Gedong Village, Pasar Rebo District, East Jakarta

The findings obtained from 30 Poor Single Mothers demonstrated considerable variation in the ways respondents fulfilled family needs. Differences in age, occupation, educational background, income level, and social conditions reflected the unique characteristics of each respondent. These factors significantly influenced the capacity of Poor Single Mothers to perform Dual Roles and achieve Family Needs Fulfillment within the context of Urban Indonesia. The following section presents a detailed analysis of family needs fulfillment based on four major aspects: physical needs, emotional needs, educational needs, and economic needs.

Physical Needs Fulfillment

The findings revealed that the fulfillment of physical needs among Poor Single Mothers in Gedong Village was categorized as fulfilled. The actual score for physical needs fulfillment reached 2,488, representing 82.93% of the ideal score. This result indicates that the respondents were generally able to fulfill basic physical needs, including

food, clothing, housing, and healthcare. The high percentage demonstrates that most respondents successfully maintained the basic survival needs of their families despite experiencing economic limitations.

Nevertheless, the high fulfillment category does not indicate the absence of difficulties. Several respondents still experienced challenges in meeting physical needs, particularly regarding clothing needs. Some respondents reported that they occasionally relied on second-hand clothing or received proper clothing from other people due to financial limitations. This condition illustrates that Poor Single Mothers in Urban Indonesia continue to experience economic vulnerability despite their efforts to maintain household welfare.

The fulfillment of physical needs represents the primary priority within the family because it forms the foundation for the survival and well-being of family members (Kakwani & Son, 2026). Physical needs include essential aspects such as food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare, which must be fulfilled before other needs can be addressed (Pözlzer et al., 2024). Without adequate physical needs fulfillment, family members, particularly children, may experience barriers to physical and psychological growth and development (Rocha et al., 2021). Therefore, the ability of Poor Single Mothers to maintain physical needs fulfillment reflects their strong commitment to preserving family stability despite living under conditions of Urban Poverty.

Emotional Needs Fulfillment

The findings indicated that emotional needs fulfillment among Poor Single Mothers in Gedong Village was also categorized as fulfilled. The actual score for emotional needs fulfillment reached 948, representing 79.00% of the ideal score. Most respondents were able to provide emotional support for their families by allocating time to gather with family members, giving gifts to children, engaging in recreational activities together, and becoming attentive listeners for their children's concerns and experiences.

These findings demonstrate that the majority of Poor Single Mothers possessed a strong awareness of the importance of emotional attachment within the family. Despite experiencing economic pressures and Dual Roles as both caregivers and breadwinners, respondents continued to prioritize emotional closeness and family harmony. This achievement reflects the respondents' commitment to creating emotionally supportive home environments for their children.

The fulfillment of emotional needs strengthens the relationship between Poor Single Mothers and their children while also creating harmonious and supportive family environments (Gaspar et al., 2022). In single-mother households, emotional support plays an important role in maintaining children's psychological stability and strengthening family relationships (Yan et al., 2024). Emotional needs fulfillment includes affection, attention, moral support, and positive communication among family members. These elements are essential because emotional well-being contributes to children's confidence, social adjustment, and psychological resilience.

Educational Needs Fulfillment

The findings further showed that educational needs fulfillment among Poor Single Mothers in Gedong Village was categorized as fulfilled. The respondents achieved an actual score of 783, representing 74.57% of the ideal score. Data regarding the educational levels of respondents' children indicated that 24.00% attended preschool or kindergarten, 21.00% attended elementary school, 22.00% attended junior high school, 30.00% attended senior high school or vocational school, and 3.00% pursued undergraduate education. These educational levels were generally consistent with the children's age categories.

The findings demonstrate that Poor Single Mothers possessed a strong commitment to supporting their children's education despite economic limitations and time constraints. Respondents not only provided educational facilities such as school supplies and learning materials but also actively accompanied and supervised their children's learning processes. These efforts indicate that education was perceived as an important strategy for improving future family welfare and reducing the cycle of Urban Poverty.

Education represents a crucial long-term investment in family development. Poor Single Mothers play a central role in shaping children's mindsets, aspirations, and future opportunities through educational support (Kishan et al., 2023). Educational needs fulfillment includes the provision of learning facilities, internet access, communication with teachers, and parental involvement in children's educational development (Yang et al., 2022). When educational needs are fulfilled effectively, children are more likely to develop self-confidence, independence, and positive personal characteristics that contribute to their future success (Powell et al., 2021).

These findings further indicate that, despite experiencing economic hardship, Poor Single Mothers demonstrated strong adaptive resilience in fulfilling their children's emotional and educational needs. Within the context of Indonesian collectivist culture, emotional attachment, family solidarity, and close interpersonal relationships may function as important informal coping mechanisms that help families maintain stability despite limited economic resources (Noviani et al., 2025).

Economic Needs Fulfillment

The findings revealed that economic needs fulfillment among Poor Single Mothers obtained an actual score of 757, representing 72.09% of the ideal score. This result indicates that economic needs fulfillment remained in the less fulfilled category. Although many respondents were able to provide basic necessities such as food, healthcare, and children's education, they continued to experience financial instability, particularly during emergency situations.

Several respondents admitted that they still depended on financial support from extended family members, government assistance programs, or personal loans during urgent conditions. This situation demonstrates that the household economic system of Poor Single Mothers remained highly vulnerable. The balance between income and expenditure often left respondents with limited financial reserves or savings for unexpected needs especially in urban context (Istyawan, 2025).

These findings may also be explained through gender theory, particularly the concept of gender inequality and the gendered division of labor. In patriarchal societies, women are often expected to prioritize domestic and caregiving responsibilities, while economic responsibilities are traditionally associated with men (Utaminingsih et al., 2020). As single mothers, respondents were required to perform dual roles as caregivers and breadwinners simultaneously. This double burden limited their access to stable employment, financial security, and economic opportunities, making their household economy more vulnerable despite their efforts to fulfill their family needs.

From a broader theoretical perspective, economic needs fulfillment represents one of the most fundamental challenges experienced by Poor Single Mothers because they are required to perform Dual Roles as income earners and household managers simultaneously (Augustijn, 2023). The ability of Poor Single Mothers experiencing Urban Poverty to fulfill family economic needs is strongly influenced by educational background, type of occupation, access to social support, and the availability of social welfare programs. Therefore, although many respondents demonstrated resilience and strong efforts in maintaining household welfare, they still required sustainable social support and economic empowerment in order to improve long-term family well-being significantly (Bai et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that Poor Single Mothers in Gedong Village, Pasar Rebo District, East Jakarta, were generally able to perform their Dual Roles as both breadwinners and family caregivers in achieving Family Needs Fulfillment. The fulfillment of physical, emotional, and educational needs was categorized as fulfilled, indicating that the majority of respondents possessed the ability to maintain family continuity, provide emotional support for their children, and ensure that their children's educational needs continued to be met despite experiencing limited time, economic pressure, and substantial household responsibilities.

However, the economic aspect of Family Needs Fulfillment remained less fulfilled due to several persistent financial challenges. The relatively equal balance between monthly income and household expenditure prevented many Poor Single Mothers from maintaining financial reserves for emergency situations. In addition, limited access

to social assistance and social protection programs further increased the economic vulnerability experienced by respondents and their families. These findings indicate that economic needs fulfillment remains the primary challenge faced by Poor Single Mothers within the context of Urban Indonesia.

Overall, this study demonstrates that the ability of Poor Single Mothers to fulfill family needs is influenced by several important factors, including productive age, occupational background, educational attainment, and the capacity to manage domestic and economic responsibilities simultaneously. Nevertheless, social support and economic assistance remain essential in improving the long-term well-being and social welfare of Poor Single Mothers and their families.

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