

POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGY IN TIBAWA GORONTALO DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to: (1) analyze the poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District and (2) find the factors of the successful poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District. This research uses a descriptive-qualitative method with three data collection techniques i.e. (1) closed interview, (2) observation, and (3) documentation. Data were analyzed using Huberman and Miles's plot comprising (1) data reduction, (2) data display, and (3) data verification and conclusion drawing. This research figures out that: 1) The implementation of the poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District is still considered poor due to: a) Planning, b) Implementation, and c) Evaluation and 2) Factors that determine a successful poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District are: a) the government supports, b) budget, c) the community supports, and d) the organization supports. Our recommendations are thus: 1. The poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District is still considered poor despite the village funds that have been allocated to the poverty alleviation besides the supports from the Social Service and 2. The determinants of a poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District are the community supports. Meanwhile, the amount of budget to poverty alleviation should be increased to encourage the poor community in business.

Keywords: *Descriptive-Qualitative Study, Huberman and Miles's Method, Poverty Alleviation Strategy*

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is one of the global fundamental issues. It is a common description of humans' lives in many developing countries. It is triggered by the national condition of a certain country. An increase in dependency between countries is not only a challenge and opportunity for the economic growth and the establishment of a country but also risk and uncertainty of the future global economy. According to Munir (2002:10), a poor country has a low per capita income and a high level of population growth (>2% per year). Furthermore, most workers in poor countries work in the agricultural sector and are poor.

The characteristics of the Family-based Integrated Social Services program are the fulfillment of individuals and poor households' basic rights that include education, health services, food, sanitation, and clean water. The program, given in the form of Raskin (Rice for Poor Households), *Beasiswa Sekolah Mandiri* (Scholarships for Independent Schools), *Program Keluarga Harapan* (Family Hope Program), empowerment-based programs, and *Jamkesmas*, is designed using a participative approach to encourage the community capacity building, self-managed activities by the community, and sustainable development planning. The program benefits are targeted to the poor community. In this term, the program is given in

the form of PNPM. The Micro and Small Economic Enterprise Empowerment-based Program is designed to give economic access and reinforcement to the micro and small-sized entrepreneurs. The characteristics of the program are micro-sized capital assistance, independence and access to market reinforcement, and business management and skill improvements. The benefits are targeted to the nearly poor community that operates micro and small-sized enterprises as well as the poor community that has not owned a business or been engaged in the economic activities.

According to BPS data, the average percentage of poverty in Gorontalo in 2018 was 15.83% or 316,296 people. That poverty rate is above the national poverty rate. Gorontalo is one of the developing provinces in Indonesia. It comprises six districts/cities. According to Statistics Indonesia, in general, the poverty rate in Gorontalo in 2014-2018 had decreased consistently, in terms of either the number or the percentage.

One of the districts in Gorontalo with a high poverty rate is Gorontalo District. According to the Statistics Indonesia, there were 74,690 poor people spread in all sub-districts and villages in Gorontalo District in 2018.

Poverty is a classic issue that has never met the end. The government has made various policies to solve poverty. The poverty alleviation program is one of the prioritized programs and cross-field strategy in Indonesia. The poverty alleviation policy is divided into three clusters i.e.: (1) The Family-based Integrated Social Assistance Program Group, (2) Empowerment and Jamkesmas-based Program Group, and (3) Micro and Small Economic Enterprise Empowerment-based Program Group (BKKBN, 2019).

Tibawa is one of the sub-districts in Gorontalo District where 5,445 people living there were poor (Statistics Gorontalo, 2018). Due to its high poverty rate, Tibawa is prioritized by Social Services in terms of poverty alleviation.

The data clarify that Gorontalo District has a high poverty rate, so it should be improved in terms of poverty alleviation by the local government of Gorontalo District. The poverty alleviation policies are expected to be improved and targeted to those that need assistance.

The poverty alleviation program designed by the local government, especially the Social Service, must follow Regent Regulation No. 32/2018 that mentions that the Social Service carries out the tasks of poverty alleviation in Gorontalo District. To overcome issues in poverty, the government has implemented many programs and given many stimuli. One of the special programs to accelerate poverty alleviation is capacity building program to the staff and assistants responsible for the Empowerment of the Poor, KAT (Remote Indigenous Community), and PMKS (People with Social Welfare Problems). The local government has funded the capacity building program and expects that the relevant derivative programs can be well realized. One of the examples of the relevant derivative programs is job skills training to poor families. The program is aimed to give poor families training that includes entrepreneurial training, sewing or cooking training, skills training to those with social welfare problems. The last training is specially designed to those with child protection problems, LGBTQs, HIV/AIDS patients, scavengers, and women whose cooking and sewing skills are trained and reinforced. Another relevant derivative program is the empowerment of the poor that also sets a derivative program that is KUBE (Empowerment of Joined Business Group).

There are 16 OPDs (Regional Apparatus Organizations) to whom the local government gives tasks to overcome issues in poverty in Gorontalo District. One of the OPDs that overcome poverty in Gorontalo District is the Social Service. The Social Service is a social organization/institution established in 1971 and implementing national development in terms of social welfare. However, the effort made to overcome social problems and to realize social welfare in Gorontalo District was once delayed due to the disbandment of the Social Department of the Republic of Indonesia in 1999 that followed Law Number 22 of 2000 on Local Government.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Public Policy

According to Dunn (2003), public policy is a set of related options made by the government institution or officials in terms of relevant fields with governmental tasks i.e. energy security defense, health, education, and community welfare. To make it simpler, Sinambela (2000) argues that public policy is any subject determined by the government to either be made or left.

Public Policy Analysis

Policy analysis is a creating activity in the policy-making process. Policy analysis is defined as an intellectual and practical activity made to create, critically evaluate, and communicate the knowledge regarding the policy process in the policy process. Policy analysis is the beginning, instead of the end, of the attempt made to improve the policy-making process. Before relevant information with a policy is allowed to use by the target users, the information should be compiled within a relevant document with the policy and communicated using various forms of presentation (Suharno, 2008).

Public Policy Implementation

In principle, policy implementation is a way to realize the objectives of the policy. "Policy implementation is broadly perceived as a legal administrative tool used by the actor, organizations, procedures, and techniques that jointly work to implement a policy and thus the desired impacts or objectives can be achieved" (Winarno, 2007:101). Implementation is the actions made by the government to achieve the objectives set in a policy decision. It should be noted that before making policy, the government has to examine whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the community.

Poverty Alleviation Programs

There are many arguments regarding poverty concepts. In this chapter, we will propose several experts' arguments regarding poverty concepts relevant to this research. The first argument is Sulistyani's (2004) conveying that poverty not only engages with issues in welfare but also that in vulnerability, powerlessness, closed access to job opportunities, income waste on consumption, high dependence rate, low access to a market, and poverty reflected in the poverty culture inherited through generations.

Poverty Alleviation Strategy

According to David (2011:5), strategic management can be defined as an art and knowledge of formulating, implementing, and evaluating cross-functional decisions that allow an organization to achieve its objectives. Strategic management is focused on the attempt made to integrate marketing, financial or accounting, production or operation, research and

development, and computer information system management to achieve organizational success.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method we use is the qualitative approach. According to Moleong (2013), “Qualitative research is the research aiming to holistically investigate what is experienced by the research subject a certain scientific method and describe the investigation using proper words within a scientific specific context”.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. Research Location Map

Tibawa is one of the 19 sub-districts in Gorontalo District. The sub-district has 16 villages and bordered by Limboto in the east, Pulubala in the west, Anggrek in the north, and Bongomeme in the south.

2. Research Findings

A. Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo

1) Planning the Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District

The local government of Gorontalo District has planned the poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo well along with the local government of Tibawa and village apparatuses. With all parties being engaged, the poverty alleviation plan can be well implemented and run to succeed the vision and mission set by the local government of Gorontalo District and the vision and mission of the Social Service in Tibawa.

2) Poverty Alleviation Strategy Implementation in Tibawa Gorontalo District

The poverty alleviation strategy implementation in Tibawa Gorontalo District has been approved by the Regent of Gorontalo District and follows the budget given by the local government. The implementation is based on the poverty data collected by the Tibawa community and submitted to the Social Service as the report regarding the number of poor people in Tibawa. By the means of the report, the implementation is expected to run well by the plan set by the local government for the poor community in Tibawa.

3) Poverty Alleviation Strategy evaluation in Tibawa Gorontalo District

The evaluation of the poverty alleviation program made by the local government of Gorontalo District is conducted by the regent to OPDs engaged in the program. The evaluation is made once a week to observe the progress of poverty alleviation activities. The Social Service also makes a similar evaluation in each sub-district, especially in Tibawa to observe to what extent the implementation of poverty alleviation activities can alleviate poverty.

B. Determinants of the Successful Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District

1) Government’s Supports to Realize a Successful Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District

The government’s supports regarding poverty alleviation in Tibawa Gorontalo District are considered adequate. The government has supported both activities and programs conducted by the Social Service. As a result, all activities and programs regarding poverty alleviation can be well run even though several programs have not been approved by the local

government or the regent as the local government perceives that there is another program regarding the development of Gorontalo District that should be prioritized.

2) Budget Supports to Realize a Successful Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District

The budget supporting the poverty alleviation strategy is provided by the local government. The Social Service is given annual funds to implement the poverty alleviation program in Gorontalo District, especially in Tibawa. With the supports in the form of budget, poverty alleviation is expected to be more quickly and easily implemented and thus the poverty rate in Gorontalo District can be more quickly reduced.

3) Community's Supports to Realize a Successful Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District

The community has supported the poverty alleviation adequately. They voluntarily participate in the programs or activities designed by the local government; such as entrepreneurial training for the poor community that receive assistance.

4) Organizations' Supports to Realize a Successful Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District

Organizations' supports are important for poverty alleviation. By supports from organizations such as the Social Service, the interested sub-districts and villages will be able to successfully implement the poverty alleviation programs made by the local government.

CONCLUSION

The conclusions of this research are:

1. The poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District has not been well implemented although the local government has allocated special funds and the Social Service has given its supports. Based on this research, the strategy cannot efficiently reduce the poverty rate in Tibawa because the poor community receiving the assistance still receives it. It signifies that the strategy implemented cannot reduce the poverty rate in Tibawa Gorontalo District.
2. The determinants of a successful poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District are the community's supports, budget whose amount should be improved as it has not been able to motivate the poor to do businesses, and the supports from the local government that assists, monitors, and develops the poor's businesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The local government and relevant institutions should give more priorities to the poverty alleviation strategy in Tibawa Gorontalo District to reduce the poverty rate by the means of the programs designed by the Social Service.
2. The Tibawa community should support each program designed by the local government and the Social Service to achieve the ultimate goal that is poverty alleviation. Besides, the community's support will ease the implementation of the program and the target set by the local government can thus be achieved.

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