



## Village Government Policy in Reducing Poverty

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 11 September 2023

Received in revised form 23 November 2023

Accepted 15 December 2023

### ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out how local government policies reduce poverty in Baringin Village, Lubuk Kilangan District, West Sumatra. Includes policy strategies, policy steps, and follow-up Local government policies and village community development, as well as factors that influence local government policies not being optimal in reducing poverty in Baringin District, include budget factors, community factors, resource factors, community factors, and apparatus attitudes. The research method used is qualitative-descriptive. In collecting data, field research was carried out using observation techniques with the aim of directly knowing the data needed. Then carry out interview techniques and conduct library research by searching for documents related to local government policy issues related to reducing poverty in Baringin Village. The results of this research show that the local government's policy in reducing poverty in Baringin Subdistrict is quite good. This can be seen from the policy programs implemented by the subdistrict government, which can be directly felt by the community. However, in the implementation of local government policies to reduce poverty, there are of course obstacles or factors such as budget, lack of communication, less creative human resources, and less professional attitudes of officials.

#### Keyword:

Policy; Village Government; Poverty.

### INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a topic that continues to be discussed to this day as a benchmark indicator regarding the level of prosperity and prosperity in people's lives in a country (Cobbinah et al., 2015; Dauda, 2017; Klasen, 2008; Leichenko & Silva, 2014). Poverty is an unavoidable issue in a country, particularly in developing nations like Indonesia, and is an inherent part of human existence (Adams et al., 2019; Garba & Bellingham, 2021; Sumner &

Edward, 2014). Poverty is not just an economic problem but also a social problem. Poverty is also the underlying issue for the emergence of various other social problems in society, such as ignorance due to a lack of educational facilities in remote villages or sub-districts, unemployment everywhere, an increase in street children and beggars becoming more prevalent, and an increase in crime

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(Fukuda-Parr, 2016; Gupta & Vegelin, 2016).

Poverty is a very complex and chronic personality trait. Because it is very complex and chronic, the way to eradicate poverty requires precise analysis, involving all components of the problem, and appropriate, sustainable, and non-temporary handling strategies (Mitra & Bhattacharya, 2023). A number of variables can be used to track personal poverty, and from these variables, a series of poverty eradication strategies and policies can be produced that are right on target and sustainable.

For four decades, efforts to eradicate poverty have been carried out by providing basic needs such as food, health, and education services, expanding employment opportunities, agricultural development, providing revolving funds through the credit system, infrastructure development and assistance, sanitation education, and so on. Of the series of methods and strategies for eradicating poverty, all of them are materially oriented, so their sustainability is very dependent on budget availability and government commitment (Leal Filho et al., 2019; Oyedepo, 2014; Schramade, 2017). Besides that, the absence of a democratic government structure causes low acceptability and community initiative to reduce poverty in their own way (Allen et al., 2019; Miewald & McCann, 2014).

Recent events have had an impact on poverty eradication programs, which tend to focus on efforts to distribute social assistance to the poor as a compensation program for the removal of subsidies. These programs include the distribution of rice and basic necessities for the poor, the social safety net program (JPS) for the poor, direct cash assistance (BLT), and so on. Efforts like this will make it difficult to solve existing poverty problems because aid is not intended for empowerment and can even lead to dependency.

The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) recorded a poverty rate of 9.54 percent in March 2022, down 0.17 percentage points from September 2021 and 0.60 percentage points from March 2021. The number of poor people in March 2022 was 26.16 million, down from 0.34 million in September 2021 and 1.38 million in March 2021. The proportion of urban poor people in September 2021 was 7.60 percent, decreasing to 7.50 percent in March 2022. Meanwhile, in September 2021, the percentage of rural poor people was 12.53 percent, decreasing to 12.29 percent in March 2022.

Village governments, as government organizers, are also obliged to realize social welfare as mandated by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, as stated in Article 05, paragraph (2), of Law Number 32 of 2004, which reads: Protect and maintain the unity and harmony of village or sub-district communities in the context of national harmony and the provisions of the unified state of the Republic of Indonesia." (b) Improving the quality of life in sub-district communities. (c) Developing a democratic life. (d) Developing sub-district community empowerment Provide and enhance services for sub-district communities.

## RESEARCH METHODS

In this research, a qualitative approach was applied. The type of research used is qualitative-descriptive. Descriptive research is an attempt to describe a symptom (Remler & Van Ryzin, 2021). Events that are happening right now. Descriptive research focuses on actual problems as they exist at the time it is conducted. Through descriptive research, researchers attempt to describe events and happenings that are the center of attention without giving special treatment to these events.

Rea & Parker (2014) defines population as the total number of units of analysis, which are the objects to be studied. According to Sugiyono

(2018), a population is a generalized area consisting of objects or subjects that have certain qualities and characteristics, which are determined by researchers to be studied and then drawn conclusions from.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Village Government Policy in Reducing Poverty in Beringin Village, Lubuk Kilangan District**

People, groups, or governments propose policies to achieve goals by addressing obstacles and seeking opportunities in a specific environment (Grimm et al., 2013). People in poor or disadvantaged positions experience group obstacles. A policy called government policy emerged to reduce poverty because the state, from an economic perspective, was also unable to fully assist them (Béné et al., 2014; Schot & Steinmueller, 2018). Subdistricts with territorial boundaries regulate and manage local communities based on local customs recognized and respected in the Indonesian government system. Regency management uses the concept of decentralization to manage subdistricts (Waworuntu et al., 2023).

Based on data collected through interviews with several informants in research regarding sub-district government policies for reducing poverty in Beringin sub-district, The policies set by the sub-district government include, among other things:

#### *Management of aid evenly*

When conducting research in the Beringin sub-district, several of the communities received assistance from the sub-district government. These included the family planning program (PKH), direct cash assistance (BLT), sub-district funds, basic food assistance, and cash social assistance. Adjusting the management of this assistance to the government's policy, especially for poor families, ensures clarity

in its aim for elderly people and schoolchildren. The policy from the sub-district government and the opinion of one of the informants indicate that this policy has a good impact and should be implemented to make it easier for the community to receive social assistance and other things.

#### *Implementation of sub-district Development Coordination Meetings*

Sub-district Rakorbang, sub-district development coordination meeting (RAKORBANG). This is the framework for preparing a village development plan. The proposal process for development planning for 2023 is carried out using the following mechanisms: RT/RW level planning proposals must go through a community consultation process guided by last year's proposals, which have not been coordinated and are accommodated in the 2022 RKA of the sub-district or related OPD, which is the main priority (data base or softcopy of the proposal from last year, which will be delivered to each sub-district). To find out whether the proposal as in point 1 above has been accommodated in the relevant sub-district/OPD RKA in 2022, the RT/RW coordinates with the village head in their respective area to use it as a guide for the 2023 proposal material, unless there is an urgent proposal that has not yet been made. The framework for preparing a village development plan was proposed last year. The number of proposals is 5 per RW, which are forwarded to the subdistrict. The deliberation process continues to pay attention to the COVID-19 health protocol while still observing it and implementing social distancing with a small number of participants. For proposed infrastructure development activities, supporting data must be provided, such as location, volume, and documentation. Furthermore, community empowerment activities must provide supporting data such as clear

target groups (by name, Andres), prioritizing BDT data, and types of training.

The proposed proposal takes into account:

- a. Level of urgent need: This need cannot be postponed, and if not handled immediately, it will disrupt the activities of community members.
- b. Level of impact or benefit: This need concerns the livelihoods of many people; if not met, it will result in the emergence of resistance in society.
- c. Resources: The ability of resources to be available in sufficient quantities to carry out proposed activities.

Government policies related to sub-district development for the Banyan sub-district community have changed their lives and made it easier to use resources, increasing the economic progress of the local community.

#### *Village community development*

Sub-district community development includes security, order, and tranquility in the area and sub-district community; fostering community harmony; maintaining peace regarding conflicts; conducting mediation; fostering arts and social culture in the community; and coaching the PKK, LPM, and youth organizations. This policy requires the sub-district government to undertake outreach and training to all sub-district institutions that will act as monitors in the community; therefore, it is very necessary to increase the capacity of sub-district social institutions when they are tired of receiving training and counseling, followed by guidance to the sub-district community.

Coaching makes it easier for sub-district governments to carry out empowerment activities in the community. This will certainly have a good impact on alleviating the impact of poverty due to several influencing factors, including low

levels of education and a weak economy, making poverty difficult to overcome in a short time because people really need it and are able to blend in with society.

#### *Providing support for poor and vulnerable communities*

This policy is one of the sub-district government's strategies to reduce poverty in the Beringin sub-district. The sub-district government is conducting a collaborative activity that will be jointly managed, particularly for the sub-district community. Alleviating poverty through better strategies will make sub-districts free from poverty. However, if it is difficult for the sub-district community to participate, then it will definitely take a long time to solve the poverty problem.

To reduce the impact of poverty, the sub-district government helps the community see and manage the potential of their natural resources (Mulia & Saputra, 2021; Sultana et al., 2019; Surya et al., 2020). Through regular income and providing assistance to the community, such as cash assistance and other social assistance, this is an initial way to raise society from adversity through this policy, which will certainly really help the lives of the poor and vulnerable. If we look at this policy, it appears that there is a concern that the sub-district government is obliged to serve the community fully in order to achieve the vision of the state, one of which is for the welfare of the community. In this way, the government is obliged to provide good services to the community, especially in terms of developing communities experiencing poverty (Lloyd et al., 2013).

Various factors influence the poverty experienced by society, including low education, an unsupportive environment, and a lack of awareness of business opportunities (Banerjee, 2016; Djonko-Moore, 2016). This concept is closely tied to a person's mindset and perspective on

situations. For instance, if someone solely relies on external factors for their life experiences, without putting in any effort, they may end up lacking in both intellectual growth and material wealth. So, to overcome this problem, this policy serves as the foundation for empowering activities in the community to reduce poverty and improve it quickly.

Through sub-district government policies in providing support to the poor and poor, it shows the government's concern in developing sub-districts, not only in the form of buildings but also in building productive human resources. Judging from the policies made by the sub-district government, they are quite good at helping to reduce poverty. We need to strengthen the policies made to ensure their impact is clear. And looking at the informants' responses, they're also quite good.

### **Obstacles for the Subdistrict Government in Reducing Poverty in Beringin Subdistrict, Lubuk Kilangan District, Padang City**

Several sub-districts and villages will certainly progress by implementing the prepared strategies effectively (Herawati & Sunjaya, 2022). The development of community life will certainly experience the same thing if the sub-district government carries out its role well in developing sub-districts that are in line with state goals. Community welfare plays a crucial role in achieving the programs established in prosperous sub-districts. However, the process is not easy to carry out; it requires several strategic and effective steps, and there are obstacles to reducing poverty in the Banyan sub-district.

#### *Limited Funds*

Carrying out an activity program is difficult if finances are limited. Usually, the activities to be carried out will experience delays, so the targets to be achieved will

take a long time. Every government agency also has weaknesses and limitations, one of which is a limited budget. The location of the region and the number of residents have an impact on the amount of funding for each related agency, as funds increase for sub-district areas classified as experiencing growth and progress. However, to anticipate that funds will be stable, you can also submit a proposal to the DPRD (legislature) to increase the sub-district government budget. However, another option is to cut program finances, and in the end, not all programs run well.

*Lack of participation from the sub-district community in various activities in the sub-district, especially in the development sector.*

The progress of a sub-district is influenced by several factors that support development activities that are completed according to targets, public building projects, and so on. This will prevent the progress of a sub-district from being left behind. Human resources in the sub-district play a crucial role in influencing the implementation of development activities in sub-districts (Madubun, 2023). Because human resources have the potential to support the implementation of government activities, the sub-district government is obliged to have a cooperative relationship with the sub-district community. However, during government implementation activities in building infrastructure in sub-districts, cooperation from the community did not work well.

*The role and function of existing institutions at both sub-district and hamlet levels has not been maximized*

Supporting and unsupportive factors will determine whether each development process progresses quickly or slowly, with the government being responsible for developing sub-districts according to its role and function. In the banyan chaos,

institutions in the sub-district often neglect their responsibilities and fail to play an active role in empowerment or development activities. A lack of concern leads to improper execution of roles and functions. In the end, the progress of the sub-district experienced obstacles because the role and function of the institutions in the sub-district were not optimal.

### **Efforts made to overcome sub-district government obstacles in reducing poverty in Beringin Village, Lubuk Kilangan District, Padang City**

The many obstacles or obstacles that occur in implementing and organizing activities in the community are commonplace among government agencies or other organizations. Every organization or institution will certainly experience various challenges when experiencing these activities. The obstacles that occur will certainly have a negative impact on the program that will be implemented. As happened with the policies that have been implemented by the Subdistrict Government to implement policies to reduce poverty in the subdistrict, it is very necessary to take action that can reduce the impact of poverty.

#### *Manage the budget for activity programs according to existing funding capacity*

Anticipating budget management in as much detail as possible is crucial as it significantly influences the implementation of activities or programs (Liébana-Cabanillas et al., 2017). Every organization will definitely manage its budget before carrying out activities in the field, because managing a budget is fundamental to knowing how much funding we need to carry out every program in the community, internal financing, and so on. Creating a program priority scale that aligns with the available funding capacity is essential for maintaining budget stability. Having a priority scale ensures that the program will

not be neglected due to limited funds; therefore, calling for a priority scale is necessary to anticipate this.

#### *Increasing human resource capacity*

To reduce the impact of poverty in the Beringin sub-district, it is critical to look at the root of the problem of poverty. Poverty in society does not solely stem from material deprivation. Here, poverty refers to the mindset and way of thinking. Most other sub-districts have made progress and can reduce poverty through policies that enable sub-district communities to manage their existing natural resources and improve their businesses. This is, of course, due to the local government's concern and efforts to reduce poverty by conducting management skills training and providing education-related outreach to create business opportunities.

Increasing human resource capacity will enable individuals to be productive and active in managing natural resources. Increasing human resource capacity in the sub-district will lead to automatic progress. Continuing the training and counseling that have been carried out is crucial to increase human resource capacity. The programs aimed at reducing poverty will run smoothly due to sustainability. Increasing the capacity of sub-district officials before carrying out activity programs in the community is essential for the successful implementation of sub-district government policies.

The efforts of the Beringin Village Head regarding policies to reduce poverty are the rationale that can reduce the impact of poverty, but support from related parties is very necessary to implement these policies. Collaborating with related parties or influential people in the Beringin sub-district will help achieve increased human resource capacity to reduce poverty. This effort will undoubtedly influence changes in people's behavior.

*Inviting and embracing the community*

Many people have not yet implemented the policies decided for building prosperous sub-districts, as observed during research. Authorities have also not implemented poverty reduction policies effectively. Therefore, one of the basic ways for sub-district governments to reduce poverty in sub-districts is to approach the community. Success in each program depends on how well the process is executed, as a well-established approach will certainly impact social relations within the community. Building good relationships is a good approach to apply.

Carrying out actions to invite and embrace the community is certainly not as easy as imagined. Without the sub-district government's concern, the community will certainly face difficulties in social relations, leading to the failure of all activities in the end. Efforts to reduce poverty that occur in the Beringin sub-district take the form of inviting and embracing the community to participate and be active together in developing the sub-district. This action greatly influences the course of development activities in the community; therefore, to increase the value of community participation in building a prosperous sub-district, it is necessary to carry out invitations in the form of socialization and to embrace and approach the community.

*Increasing the role and function of institutions at the sub-district and hamlet level.*

Based on observations that have been made directly in the field, the research shows that institutions at the sub-district and hamlet level are not running well; their role and function in developing the sub-district still have no impact at all. Therefore, it is very necessary to meet again with existing institutions in the sub-district so that their role and function are

again active in carrying out community empowerment activities.

Sub-district institutions are partners of the sub-district government in arranging participatory activities to develop sub-districts in the form of empowerment activities, so increasing the role and function of institutions is very necessary to increase the capacity of these institutions. The information above clearly indicates a significant need to enhance the capacity of sub-district and hamlet institutions. Enhancing the capacity of sub-district and hamlet institutions requires establishing good relationships in partnerships to ensure effective implementation of program activities and definite changes in policies for reducing poverty.

**CONCLUSION**

Sub-district government policies in reducing poverty in sub-districts are: (1) management of aid evenly; this policy aims to receive aid right on target, and recipients of any aid feel helped by the aid. (2) Sub-district development: the sub-district development policy outlined in this sub-district regulation is a policy that has been mutually agreed upon. In developing sub-districts, there are two categories of development that will be implemented by the sub-district government: the construction of facilities and infrastructure and the development of human resources (HR). (3) Sub-district community development: sub-district community development policies include security, order, and tranquility in the area and sub-district community; fostering harmony among community members; maintaining peace; handling conflicts; conducting mediation; fostering arts and social culture in the community; and coaching for the PKK, LPM, and coral reefs. cadet. (4) Providing support for poor and vulnerable communities is one of the strategies of the sub-district government to reduce poverty in Beringin Sub-district. Obstacles to

implementing the policy are: limited funds; lack of participation from the sub-district community in various activities in the sub-district, especially in the field of development; not maximizing the role and function of existing institutions, both at the sub-district and hamlet level; weak human resources; and the ability of sub-district officials to carry out their duties and functions as village officials and provide services to the community. Efforts made by the sub-district government to overcome obstacles are: Managing the budget for activity programs in accordance with existing funding capacity, increasing human resource capacity, inviting and embracing the community to re-increase the role and function of institutions in the sub-district.

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