

## Political Will Implementation of The Government in Hope Family Program Policy

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**Abstract:** *This article focuses on the study of the government's political will in Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH) policy. The purpose of this study is trying to understand the form of political will of the central government in poverty alleviation through PKH policies. This research method uses descriptive qualitative research methods that take research objects at the district level. The findings of this study can be classified into the following: First, poverty alleviation policies through PKH correlate with improvements in the standard of living of people in terms of education, economics, and health. Second, the implementation of PKH which aims to improve the socio-economic welfare of Very Poor Households is still loaded with political interests. Third, the government's political will is still limited to aspects of policy and not yet optimal in aspects of its implementation. This study concludes that the government's political will is not correlated with increasing the welfare of beneficiaries from very poor households.*

**Keywords:** *political will, poverty, government, poor family*

### Introduction

The poor quality of life of the poor results in low levels of health and education. The low quality of life affects the productivity of a society. Such conditions can cause an increase in the dependency of the community. Moreover, several studies see that the quality of people's lives is caused by corrupt practices from the government (Kaligis, 2006; Astuti, 2013).

Policies that are oriented towards poverty alleviation and community welfare correlate with community

involvement (Heeks and Mathisan, 2012; Johnston, 2014). Not only that, demands for the implementation of pro-people programs often experience obstacles due to behavior and acts of abuse of power authority (Maracall and Przeworski, 2003). While the awareness of political will is a necessity for a policy to work well (Fritzen, 2005; Johnston, 2014; and Della Porta and Vannuci, 2012). Thus the political will be an interesting discussion when it is associated with the application of a government policy that is related to pro-people policies.

Especially if the political will is associated with PKH policy. PKH recipients belonging to Very Poor Households are those whose income is low, whose income is not fixed, even those who do not have income. Therefore, various efforts are needed to alleviate the problem of poverty which can improve the lives of people who are classified as very poor to increase education and health. The Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia has issued a program to address the problem of poverty, one of which is the conditional cash assistance program, the Family of Hope Program (PKH) which has been implemented since 2007 (Suleman & Resnawaty, 2017).

Previous studies have seen that the government in providing community welfare, including PKH, prioritizes the aspect of community empowerment in which the community receives the program (Gusnaldi, 1998; Nataya, 2017). Welfare programs for poor communities can also lead to conflict and social jealousy (Hastuti, et. Al., 2006). While the study of the orchid more shows the consumptive behavior of the community beneficiaries of government programs (Anggraini, 2008). Likewise, several other studies examine aspects of the effectiveness and efficiency of welfare programs (Bapenas, 2006; Labsosio UI, 2015; Smeru, 2015).

The main objectives of the hope family program are to tackle poverty, to improve the quality of human resources (human resources), and change the behavior of very poor household groups and to support the welfare of their groups (Virgoreta, 2015). The PKH itself is aimed

at improving the lives of its beneficiaries, through several accesses, namely health, education, and social welfare; The Hope Family Program aims to reduce the burden of family expenses, increase the income of a poor family beneficiary; aims to create a change in the independence and behavior of poor families beneficiaries in accessing education, health and social welfare services; Reducing inequality and poverty; and introducing the benefits of formal financial products and services to beneficiary families (Wulandari, 2017). With the Hope Family Program, it is hoped that this will not only reduce poverty but also break the poverty chain (Ardiyanti, et al., 2017).

Studies of the government's political will in improving people's welfare and minimizing abuse of power have been carried out in developing countries and the results are very varied (Brinkerhoff, 200; Pkundeh, 1988; Pope and Vogt, 2000). One such study describes that the government's political will has an important role in overseeing a policy. Even a policy will reap success if the political will of the leader appears in it (Ho, 2003; Quah, 2003).

The study of the government's political will in carrying out policies becomes important in the agenda of political leadership because political office in government is seen as a means that can provide support for the interests of groups (Theobald, 1990). The many political interests in a policy correlate with the quality of program implementation. Although escorts to abuse of authority are carried out by formal institutions, efforts to abuse the

authority always arise. Even Transparency International (TI) notes on the 2019 corruption perception index of Indonesia given to the Corruption Eradication Commission, but the obstacles are still so large, including related to the effectiveness and independence of the KPK itself (Jayani, 2020).

The purpose of this study is to try to understand the government's political will in the implementation of PKH policies.

### **Methods**

Methods of this study used a qualitative approach by utilizing data searches through in-depth interviews and documentation reviews. The method used in this study is descriptive, with the characteristics of the data presented in the form of descriptions in the form of texts, opinions, ideas, expressions collected by researchers from various sources with selected data collection techniques (Denzin and Lincoln in Astuti, 2017). This method also describes events, objects, circumstances, and something related to variables that can be described with the problem under study (Satori and Komariah, 2011).

The restriction was carried out on the focus of the study related to the government's political will in the implementation of the family hope policy program in the Bandung district, West Java. Some informants who took the information include beneficiaries from PKH, assistants, some managers of PKH at the district, sub-district and village levels. This study uses a description method in the form of narrative text, views, and ideas collected by researchers derived

from several informant sources and documents.

Data analysis uses descriptive-analytic. The authors seeks to describe how the government's political will in the implementation of the family program of hope is then concluded.

The term political will is defined as the good intentions displayed by a holder of power / political actors (Kpundeh, 1998). Political actors have the meaning of being elected leaders or people appointed by stakeholder groups, supervisors, or anyone (Kpundeh, 1998). A position in politics is considered as a means/media; public office is also a means to provide a benefit for others (family and groups) (Pope, 2000). Political will in policy not only concerns the problem of the political elite that enforce moral standards but also they must have a reason that their actions can uphold morals. Theobald (1990) observations that developing countries have failed to control a particular policy because reform initiatives are largely based or dependent on the goodness of political leaders. Teheobald (1990) also sees that one of the most effective instruments in maintaining political will is democracy.

Democracy is considered by some to be a guarantee of transparency, accountability and justice. Through democracy, the political rights of citizens are well protected, and the people have power in clearer decision-making mechanisms. De Wall (2007) cites Harold Laswell who defines politics as a social process that is more oriented to the things "who gets what, when, and how". Chimpanzee's political behavior, such as isolation tactics, coalitions, and bluffs, is

also commonly practiced by humans in the political arena of power.

Related to democracy, there is a correlation between the number and strength of political parties, party ideology, and the level of clarity of responsibility in democracy (Potter and Tavits, 2011). Meanwhile, Kunicova and Rose-Ackerman (2005) conclude that a proportional representation system is more vulnerable to abuse of authority than a plurality system.

The government's political will in PKH policy deals with issues of policy behavior. PKH itself is a social assistance program in the form of cash that is given to very poor households if they meet certain requirements to change poor behavior (Suharto, 2012). The Family of Hope Program is intended as a cash payment program for Very Poor Households, which for members of Very Poor Households required to carry out the terms and conditions that have been set (Roidah, 2016). Referring to the legal basis for the regulation of the social minister of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2018 concerning the Family Hope Program, which will be discussed in this research journal is whether the objectives of the program have been well realized or not.

PKH is a social assistance program in the form of cash given to very poor households if they meet certain requirements. The legal basis for the provision of assistance for family programs is one of which refers to Law number 40 of 2004 concerning the national social security system (Finance, 2015). One of the legal foundations is a reference in realizing the hope family

program to overcome the problem of poverty.

In its implementation, PKH has a general goal as well as a specific goal. The general objectives are as follows: (1) breaking the chain and reducing poverty. In this part, the program is strived to resolve and reduce poverty both locally and nationally, (2) improve the quality of Human Resources. PKH is also oriented to improve the quality of Human Resources, and (3) change the behavior of very poor households that are relatively less prosperous. Changing roles is an important part of implementing PKH.

The specific objectives are as follows: (1) improving the socioeconomic status of Very Poor Households (RSTM), (2) improving the health of pregnant women and children aged 2-7 years who will enter the primary school from RSTM families, (3) improve the quality of access to health services and education, and (4) improve the level of education (Ii, 2009).

Criteria for participants in the hope family program are very poor families who meet one of the following requirements: (1) has a health component which has children under five years old (toddlers), pregnant or breastfeeding mothers (2) has an education component with elementary education participants/equivalent, junior high school/equivalent and high school/equivalent, aged from 6 to 21 years, including children with disabilities (3) have a component of social welfare in which for the elderly 70 and above, and (4) have a component of social welfare for people with disabilities (Utomo, 2014). All families in a household are entitled to receive assistance in the form of a Family

of Hope Program in cash if the family has met the criteria and has fulfilled its obligations as a participant in this program.

Policies or legal basis of the Family Hope Program are guided by applicable laws, namely as follows: (1) Law Number 40 of 2004 concerning the Social Security System (2) Law Number 11 Year 2009 concerning social welfare (3) Law Number 13 of 2011 concerning the handling of the poor (4) Government Regulation No. 39 of 2012 concerning the Implementation of Social Welfare (5) Presidential Regulation Number 15 of 2010 concerning the acceleration of poverty reduction (6) Regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2018 concerning the Family Hope Program (7) Law Number 13 of 1998 concerning welfare in old age (Andira, Burhanudin, & Kalalinggi, 2018). The legal basis is a reference in realizing the Hope Family Program to overcome poverty at the central to regional levels.

While the rights of participants in the PKH are as follows: (1) Receive cash assistance, (2) Receive services on health aspects including pregnant women and infants in Community Health centers or Integrated service post and so on whichever is in accordance with applicable regulations, (3) Receiving services in the aspect of education for children of compulsory age, according to applicable regulations (Keuangan, 2015).

Health Requirements for Child health requirements category are following: (1) Children aged 0 to 28 days must have their health checked three times, (2) Children aged 0 to 11 months must be fully immunized and weighed

regularly every month, (3) Children aged 6 to 11 months must get vitamin A at least twice a year, (4) Children aged 12 to 15 months must receive additional immunization and be weighed regularly every three months. And for children aged 5 to 6 years, their weight is weighed once every three months.

Category of health requirements for pregnant women are following: (1) During pregnancy, pregnant women are required to carry out antenatal care examinations at public health centers or the like four times (twice in 3 months of pregnancy, and twice in the last three months and (2) Pregnant women during childbirth must be assisted by health workers.

## **Result and Discussion**

### **1. PKH implementation and political will**

The Family of Hope Program in Bandung Regency began to be realized in 2007. Because Bandung Regency is one of the areas that has become a field project for the implementation of PKH at the national level. The Family of Hope Program in Bandung Regency is one of the programs to alleviate poverty issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs, with one of its objectives being to improve living conditions in Very Poor Households, both in terms of their socioeconomic conditions, education, health, and social welfare.

The government's political will in this PKH policy can be known from the start of the process of determining the target families. This process is the earliest process that must be carried out in determining a prospective participant of

the Hope Family Program, where in this determination there are several selections to determine who is entitled to this assistance, by seeing whether the family meets the criteria set by the government or not. Implementation of the determination of target families who will be potential participants of this assistance, the data was obtained from PPLS in 2011 which was sent to the Ministry of Social Affairs.

In the socialization process, this process provides information to the public about the Hoping Out Program which is so that the community knows and better understands about this program. The socialization was carried out by a companion of the Hope Families Program who had coordinated with the relevant village government. The response from the community was different, in which the response from prospective participants who had met the criteria and deserved help with this program was positive, but from communities who did not meet the criteria and did not deserve this assistance they were very disappointed and of course, they hoped for assistance. the other.

The government's most obvious political will is to appear in the process of meetings. This process is carried out by the facilitator by first coordinating with the local village government. However, in this process, there are often efforts from political parties to get into groups. As in the presidential and legislative elections, several legislative candidates work closely with the government to gather votes from PKH beneficiaries.

The next implementation is the formation of the Family Hope Program group, this is a division of groups of participants in the aid program based on the village where they live is still in one village. The purpose of this grouping is to facilitate participants of the Family Hope Program with a companion during the meeting. In this meeting, there is a group leader who coordinates and is responsible for the group members.

The formation of the group leader is carried out by an assistant whose group leader comes from the recipient of the program. The benefit of forming this group leader is to dig up information for each change in the data of recipients of the Hope Family Program and to give encouragement to the participants of this program to be diligent in coming to the Integrated service post, as well as controlling children in school.

The next implementation phase is the distribution process of the Family Hope Program assistance distribution, the amount of assistance depends on the components owned by the recipient's family by fulfilling their commitments. The assistance is given to participants in one year there are four stages. In the process of this implementation in Bandung regency went well. However, sometimes there is a delay in the distribution process. But the PKH participants remain patient waiting for their aid to be channeled to their accounts.

Seen from the realization, most of the beneficiaries of this program are right on target, namely towards very poor households and the selection of qualified assistants. Besides, there is a cooperation

between the PKH beneficiaries and the companion to the information data collection process, so that the objectives of this program will be realized based on the regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The political will of the government in this process is more visible than the monitoring process of assistants and beneficiaries.

The ongoing process of socialization by holding a meeting between participants of the PKH with a companion at the house of the group leader by giving direction by a companion will help smooth the realization of the program. Also, regular visits to every participant of the PKH by monitoring the use of funds at each disbursement, providing stationery for PKH participants for their children's education needs can help realize the objectives of the program.

PKH is expected to use assistance to be used for the health components of pregnant women and toddlers, the education of the child if he has and sits on an elementary school/equivalent, junior high school/equivalent, and high school/equivalent, as well as improving social welfare in the elderly. Due to the absence of written sanctions for participants who misuse the distribution of funds, therefore there must be cooperation between the participants and their assistants so that the assistance is used properly and the program is realized properly.

Distribution of Family Assistance Program Hope this is done in four stages in one year. The amount of assistance obtained is determined by the number of categories in Very Poor Households that have fulfilled the requirements and

obligations of beneficiary participants to carry out important matters concerning health, education, and social welfare. The amount of funds received by the Family Hope Program recipients per phase is as follows:

**Table 1. Amount of funds received by PKH participants per one stage**

No	Categories	Magnitude of liquid
1	Pregnant Women	600.000
2	Toddler	600.000
3	Elementary School/Equivalent	225.000
4	Junior High School/Equivalent	375.000
5	high school/ equivalent	500.000
6	Elderly	600.000

*Source: PKH document*

PKH beneficiaries have a variety of obligations that must be fulfilled, including obligations for education, health, and social welfare. These obligations include the obligation of pregnant women to check their contents, provide nutritional intake and immunization against children under five, and must send their children to elementary, junior high, and high school.

Until now the objectives of the Family Hope Program in Bandung Regency have been well realized where there has been a significant increase in Very Poor Households ranging from health in pregnant women and toddlers as well as improvements in educational status so that the standard of living of beneficiaries has increased. But not all Very Poor Households receive assistance from the Hope Family Program, because the Government has indicators to

determine which families are entitled to receive benefits from this program.

## **2. Impact of The Government's Political Will**

The government's political will regarding the PKH policy in Bandung Regency has had a positive impact. As it is understood that the conditions of community welfare in Bandung Regency vary, ranging from very poor households to very rich households. Welfare conditions in Very Poor Households cause them to lack health issues, where when pregnant women and toddlers experience illness or lack of nutrition, they do not consult with midwives, local doctors because of constraints on costs, so child growth and development does not run optimally, and the high dropout rate is caused again by the economic condition of the family. After the existence of a Family of Hope Program since 2007, there has been an increase in welfare in Very Poor Households.

Based on the results of this research interview with some participants of PKH and with the companion of Program, the researcher can conclude that with the existence of this program, socio-economic conditions in Very Poor Households have improved. Although the increase is not significant, at least there has been an increase. The level of education has changed, which after receiving the assistance of this program for Very Poor Households, their children can go to senior high school, even they admit that there are some children from Hope Family program participants who can continue their education up to university level.

Likewise with the health aspect, which after they got the Family Hope Program, there was an increase in the health of pregnant women and toddlers, where they no longer lacked the material for the cost of checking their contents to the nearest Community Health centers.

They also fulfill their obligations in which pregnant women routinely check their contents to the Community Health centers and the like, and often check the health of infants and regularly weigh them to the Integrated service post. They also give vitamins to their toddlers. Besides, they also fulfill obligations by sending children of age to compulsory education to elementary/equivalent, junior high/equivalent, and high school/equivalent. There are even one of the participants of PKH who has sent their children to the university level, despite receiving educational scholarships in the form of Bidik misi and others.

## **Conclusion**

The government's commitment to realizing PKH is considered effective in improving the lives of poor families. This commitment is a manifestation of the government's political will that seeks to improve 3 (three) aspects of poor family life, namely: economic aspects of poor families, health aspects of poor families, and education aspects of poor families. The manifestation of political will is seen from the form of good coordination from the government by involving non-governmental organization stakeholders. When viewed from the process of implementing the program, starting from the determination of target families, the socialization process, the process of



conducting the initial meeting and the validation process, the formation of participant groups, the implementation of the distribution of aid and verification, to the process of channeling assistance, the realization of this implementation went well and following the objectives from the regulation of the social minister of the Republic of Indonesia.

However, this political will does not correlate with changes in PKH beneficiary behavior. PKH beneficiaries still have a large dependency on the sustainability of this program. Whereas he hopes, this program will only serve as a stimulant and a companion so that beneficiary families can become more prosperous after receiving this intervention. Even the level of success of the program is still limited to changing a small number of beneficiary families.

The theoretical implications of this research are reinforcement of De Wall's conception that political behavior in the form of government political will through policy implementation cannot be separated from the orientation of power.

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