Implementation of Child Protection and Development Policies in the Makassar City

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine how the government implements policies for protecting and developing children in Makassar City. The research method used is qualitative to examine the relationship between variables. Data collection techniques include interviews and documentation. The data analysis technique follows the steps outlined in the theories of Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, which involve data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. The research findings based on interviews and observations indicate that the implementation is not efficient and effective in terms of human resources. According to Edwards III's theory, efficient and effective implementation requires sufficient resources. Therefore, Makassar Mayor Regulation Number 45 of 2020, which aims to provide support for street children, has not been fully optimized because the Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection still needs more optimized resources, especially in terms of budget allocation. However, when considering the indicators of communication, disposition, and bureaucratic structure, the implementation is deemed fairly effective, as all four dimensions are functioning as intended.

Keywords: Implementation; Child Protection; Development Policies.

INTRODUCTION

The law in Indonesia regarding protection was first implemented after ratifying the Convention on The Right of The Child through Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990 concerning the Ratification of the Convention On The Right of The Child. As an implementation of this ratification, the government has enacted Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, which was later amended to Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning amendments to Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, which substantively regulates several issues including children in conflict with the law, children from minority groups, children victims of economic and sexual exploitation, trafficked children, children affected by riots, children refugees, and children in armed conflict situations, child protection based on principles of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, respect for the views of the child, the right to life, growth, and development (Atout et al., 2019; Ferguson & Norton, 2011; Grace et al., 2019; Munro, 2019). In its implementation, this law has been in line with the mandate of the 1945 Constitution regarding the guarantee of human rights, that children as human beings have the same rights to grow and develop.

The Law on child protection was enacted because there are still cases of violations of children's rights. As problems affecting children continue to emerge, the government has the
obligation and responsibility to implement and support national policies in the implementation of child protection at the regional level, where every child has equal rights without exception (Yörük et al., 2019). Therefore, children need ample opportunities to grow and develop optimally to become whole individuals and take responsibility for themselves, their nation, and their country. Dunn (2015) stated that the state has a great responsibility to provide welfare and a sense of security to its society.

Makassar City is one of the bustling metropolitan cities where violence has occurred throughout 2022. According to the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (DPPA), there were 200 cases of violence against children, the highest being 200 individuals (40.98%), followed by cases of children in conflict with the law (100 individuals, 20.49%), violence against women (69 individuals, 14.14%), domestic violence (52 individuals, 10.66%). Furthermore, there were 50 marriage recommendations (10.25%), 13 victims of abuse (2.66%), and 4 individuals with disabilities (0.82%). Based on this data, one of the main foundations of this study is to focus on the policy of child violence, where 200 cases of violence against children have occurred. In response to this issue, the Makassar City government has taken action by issuing a policy, namely Mayor Regulation No. 45 of 2020 concerning the Formation of the Position, Organizational Structure, Tasks and Functions, and Work Procedures of the Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children at the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Protection of Makassar City. This regulation aims to encourage the community to combat rampant violence against children.

Mazmanian & Sabatier (1983) defines public policy as "a comprehensive decision-making process involving many stakeholders." Dye (2013) state that public policy is "whatever government chooses to do or not to do." Dunn (2015) defines public policy as "actions intentionally followed by an actor in dealing with a problem." An important process in public policy is policy implementation. Policy implementation is a crucial stage in the development and implementation of public policy. The reality shows that policy implementation involves a complex rational and emotional process from the beginning. It is not just about formulation and formulation, but it involves action, which includes both the government and the community. According to Hudson et al., (2019), "Implementation of policies is something important, even possibly more important than policy-making. Policies will remain as good dreams or plans neatly stored in the archives if they are not implemented." The implementation of child protection and development policies is an urgency for the government to optimize all aspects of functions that can support the effective realization of this policy.

METHOD

The research approach plays a crucial role in any study. The approach used in this research is a qualitative approach, aiming to provide a deep, detailed, and comprehensive understanding of the empirical reality behind the phenomenon (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). The focus of the study is to investigate the Policy on Child Protection and Development Implementation as regulated in Mayor Regulation No. 45 of 2020 in Makassar. The research data sources consist of the subjects from which the data is obtained. The required data sources for this study are primary and secondary data, analyzed using the interactive data analysis model by Miles Huberman and Saldana (2014). This model consists of four stages: data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion/verification.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regulation of the Mayor of Makassar Number 45 of 2020 Regarding the Establishment of Position, Organizational Structure, Duties and Functions, as well as the Work System of the Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children at the Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Makassar City, which includes the scope of Child Protection implementation: a. prevention, b. risk reduction, c. handling, d. child data information system. Research conducted in Makassar City on informants focused on the dimensions of (1) communication, (2) resources, (3) disposition, and (4) bureaucratic structure. The research findings revealed that the implementation of child protection and development policies in Makassar City is considered adequately and effectively implemented, as seen in each dimension of implementation as follows:

Communication

The research findings in terms of communication regarding child protection and development policies in Makassar reveal that the communication system implemented by the Makassar city government goes through various stages. Firstly, there is communication between stakeholders such as the provincial government and members of the Makassar City DPRD (Regional People's Representative Council) to jointly develop and establish regulations for child protection. After the regulations are established, the government communicates with the public and other stakeholders through direct and online socialization meetings. The aim is to ensure that all parties are aware of and understand the components in Mayor's Regulation Number 45 of 2020, which was formulated so that the government and the entire community can collectively prevent violence against children.

Policy implementation can fail if the policy content or objectives are poorly communicated and if the policy targets are unclear. Liu et al. (2022) emphasize that communication is crucial and central to the life of an organization. Based on the research results regarding child protection efforts, it can be said that the Makassar City Government has made efforts to address child issues in Makassar City with clear policy objectives and goals. The policy objectives and goals need to be communicated to the target groups in order to reduce implementation distortion. In terms of communication, the process of prevention, supervision, reporting, and the development of the child data information system are conducted through socialization. The communication between implementers and the public is effective, allowing the community to be aware of the risks and dangers of violence against children, thus ensuring effective and efficient implementation.

Resources

Policy implementation should be supported by resources, including human resources, materials, and methods. Resources are essential factors in policy implementation to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. Without resources, policies remain mere documents on paper without being realized to provide solutions to existing societal problems and deliver services to the community. The availability of resources in the implementation of child protection and
development policies in Makassar City is considered ineffective due to the limited capacity of facilities and budgetary constraints faced by the government in optimizing various educational activities aimed at the community. According to George C. Edwards III (1998), even if communication is clear and consistent, policy implementation becomes difficult when implementers lack the necessary resources to carry out the activities.

Additionally, (Luckham, 2015; Sátyro & Cunha, 2014) concludes that limited budgetary resources will affect the success of policy implementation. In addition to programs not being optimally implemented, budget constraints lead to a low disposition among policy actors. If efforts are made to improve the achievement of the Minimum Service Standards according to the provisions of Child Protection and Development Organization, resources can be one of the reasons to enhance the achievement of the Minimum Service Standards. The availability of human resources in handling child protection issues at the departmental level is still limited due to budgetary constraints, prompting the Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection to make efforts to optimize the performance of its staff in completing the tasks at hand. However, these efforts are considered insufficient because they overload the staff and result in ineffective policy implementation. Based on interviews and observations, it can be said that the implementation is not effectively and efficiently carried out considering the limited human resources in achieving the Minimum Service Standards and implementing the policies (Basly, 2007; Boone, 2019; Chirwa, 2015; H. G. Frederickson et al., 2016; Zadeh & Darwish, 2020).

Disposition

Good implementers must have a positive disposition, as this enables them to effectively carry out policies as intended and established by policymakers. Based on interviews and observations, it is evident that the fulfillment of the rights of every child who is a victim of violence has been achieved, indicating that implementers have a positive disposition and the implementation is effective and efficient. If implementers have different attitudes or perspectives from policymakers, the implementation process becomes ineffective and inefficient. The disposition expressed by George C. Edwards III as a driver of policy implementation success indicates that the implementers' disposition will influence policy performance. If policy implementation is based on a positive attitude, willingness, and commitment to effectively carry out the policy, the success of policy implementation will be greater.

The implementation of child protection in Makassar City shows that the willingness and determination of the implementers to carry out the implementation of child protection have been effectively implemented. Despite various shortcomings and constraints, they continue to make efforts to overcome them, such as building networks with various actors to jointly address various issues of child violence in Makassar. According to Palgrave Macmillan (G. Frederickson et al., 2012), Intermediary Ways are known as representations and mediators between the public and public affairs. Actors in the intermediary channel include civil society groups, political communities (political parties), and informal leaders. This collaborative network undoubtedly has the public's expectations for the government and all policymakers to guarantee the fulfillment of the rights of every child who is a victim of violence, mistreatment, exploitation, and neglect in terms of healthcare maintenance, continuous education services, social and psychological services, birth certificates, and legal assistance services.
Bureaucratic Structure

The organizational structure plays a crucial role in policy implementation. One aspect of organizational structure is the presence of standard operating procedures (SOP). According to (Shafritz et al., 2016), bureaucratic structure includes the dimension of fragmentation, which involves the distribution of responsibilities or policies to different bodies, requiring coordination. Moreover, bureaucratic structure includes the dimension of standard operating procedures, which facilitate and standardize the actions of policy implementers in carrying out their tasks. In a bureaucratic structure, procedures in handling cases become crucial. Is there an integrated approach to handling children who are victims of violence, mistreatment, exploitation, and neglect? Based on interviews and observations, it can be concluded that all elements or institutions involved in handling victims of violence have established cooperation, resulting in a structured or operational procedure for dealing with violence victims. Therefore, the implementation is considered fairly effective and efficient.

As stated in other research findings by (Ferguson & Norton, 2011), child protection is closely related to five pillars: parents, family, community, government, local government, and the state. All of these pillars are interconnected as implementers of child protection. (Kim & Kim, 2016) also explains that the government can make real efforts to prevent child violence by creating an environment that prioritizes child protection. The Makassar City Government should also increase or enhance human resources in the Department of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection to ensure that the process of providing services and handling reported cases of child violence can be expedited. In addition, the provision of facilities and infrastructure by the Department of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection is also necessary.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussions, it can be concluded that the Implementation of Child Protection and Development in the city of Makassar is considered to have been implemented quite effectively. The communication dimension between implementers and the community is functioning well, as evidenced by the dissemination of information regarding prevention, supervision, reporting, and the development of a child data information system, which has reached and been known by the people of Makassar. In terms of resources, the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Protection lacks equipment and budget resources to achieve the Minimum Service Standards and effectively carry out policies. As for the implementers, they have shown good disposition in fulfilling the rights of every child who is a victim of violence, which makes the implementation effective and efficient. The bureaucratic structure in handling child victims of violence involves collaboration among all elements or institutions, resulting in the formation of a structure or operational procedures for handling such cases.

The findings of this research are expected to benefit the community, especially the government of Makassar city, in organizing child protection, particularly in terms of enhancing supervision over the performance of relevant departments. This is crucial in supporting the successful implementation of policies, with the aim of achieving the standards and preventing incidents of violence against children in Makassar, as in previous years. The results of this research indicate that the key actors in child protection are the community, assisted by the government and other agencies. It is essential for all parties, including parents and the state, to
work together and provide facilities related to child development in order to address the issue of violence against children.

REFERENCES


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