

Analysis of Education Policy Issues in Pariaman City

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ABSTRACT

One important component in the formation of high-quality human resources is education policy. Education policy covers many things, including education quality, equal access, curriculum, teacher welfare, and infrastructure. In many developing countries, including Indonesia, the main problem faced is the difference in access to education between different economic groups, between cities and villages, and between urban and rural areas. The quality of education is also questioned, as the curriculum is often considered irrelevant to changes in the job market. In addition, the lack of teacher well-being has an impact on their enthusiasm and performance in teaching. Governments often have difficulty creating policies that can align quality improvement and equal access.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Importance of Education Policy

There are many reasons why education policy is very important, because education is a basic need for many people with various values and ways of implementing it. Education has a close relationship with values such as religion, belief, tradition, ethnic identity, economics, culture, politics and governance. As a basic need whose value varies for many people, education faces a number of problems, both in terms of conflicting values and its implementation and quality. Every problem is related to other problems, and partial solutions can trigger problems in other areas. Solving educational problems becomes something complicated and complex when it is only addressed piecemeal and by a limited group. Therefore, the existence of educational policies is very important as a tool to influence education so that it is in line with society's expectations, including in terms of religion, belief, economic level, social status, politics, security, culture, work needs, progress and government interests. This means that educational policy making must take into account various crucial dimensions and problems from society, government and the demands of the times.

Education, as the operational basis for the provision of education, has a broad impact on various aspects of social, economic and political life, and is the main foundation in the formation of individual character and abilities, and plays an important role in the progress of a nation. Indonesia's education policy continues to develop in line with societal demands and global dynamics. Although many efforts have been made, there are still several problems that hinder the achievement of the goal of equitable and high-quality education.

Education policy faces many important issues, including teacher welfare, the quality of curriculum and teaching, the availability and quality of educational infrastructure, and equitable access to education. This is still a big problem in remote and underdeveloped areas, where teaching staff and facilities are often inadequate. Additionally, there are striking differences between schools in urban and rural areas regarding the quality of education provided to students.

The curriculum implemented also often receives attention, because many people question whether it meets the needs of the modern job market and 21st century capabilities. Meanwhile, the welfare of teachers, who are responsible for implementing education, also needs to be prioritized. Healthy teachers are expected to provide better and higher quality education. Educational infrastructure,

which includes infrastructure and facilities, is essential to creating an ideal learning environment. The purpose of this article is to look at various education policy problems that exist in Indonesia, find the root of the problem, and find possible solutions. Therefore, it is hoped that it can provide comprehensive insight to policy makers.

Geographical Description of Regency/City

The city of Pariaman on the west coast of West Sumatra, Indonesia, boasts extraordinary geographical characteristics. It borders the Indian Ocean to the west and features a long coastline with many beautiful beach attractions. Pariaman City is surrounded by Padang Pariaman Regency to the north, east, and south. Due to its strategic location, it has become one of the business and tourism hubs of West Sumatra.

The majority of Pariaman City's topography consists of lowlands, particularly along the coastline. These lowlands are very fertile and support agriculture, especially rice, which is the main commodity in this area. Additionally, the city's interior has several low hills that provide landscape variation and opportunities for natural tourism development. The hills help regulate water flow and prevent flooding in the lowlands. Pariaman City has a tropical climate with high annual rainfall. Average temperatures range between 24 and 32 degrees Celsius, and it rains almost year-round. This climate creates a green and fertile environment, greatly supporting agriculture and plantations. The high rainfall also impacts daily life, necessitating a good drainage system to prevent waterlogging.

Pariaman City's long and beautiful coastline greatly influences its natural beauty. Popular tourist spots include Gandoriah Beach, Kata Beach, and Cermin Beach. These beaches are ideal for relaxing due to their stunning views with white sand and calm waves. Additionally, several small islands off the coast add to the tourist attraction. One of them is Angso Duo Island, accessible by boat and offering an extraordinary holiday experience with amazing underwater natural beauty. The small rivers that flow through the city also influence daily life. These rivers serve as water sources for agriculture and offer recreational opportunities such as white water rafting and hiking. The habitat for various types of flora and fauna around the rivers increases the region's biodiversity.

The development of Pariaman City's infrastructure fosters economic and tourism growth. To facilitate visitors and local residents, good roads, lodging facilities, and other amenities are continuously updated. With various festivals and cultural events regularly held to attract tourists, tourism is one of the main sectors driving Pariaman City's economy. Overall, Pariaman City has a wealth of natural and cultural beauty. It is an attractive destination for domestic and foreign tourists due to its tropical climate, diverse topography, and beautiful coastline. Pariaman City has become one of the leading tourist destinations in West Sumatra thanks to its adequate infrastructure and the friendliness of the local community.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Understanding Policy

The term policy is a translation of the English word "Policy" which is distinguished from the words wisdom (wisdom) and virtue (virtues). According to Irfan Islamy (1999), wisdom comes from the word "Wisdom" and is an action that requires further and in-depth considerations. Meanwhile, policy is an action that includes the rules contained in a policy. M. Solly Lubis (2007) said that wisdom in the sense of wisdom is deep thought/consideration to become the basis (foundation) for policy formulation.

Policy is a set of decisions taken by political actors in order to choose goals and methods for achieving goals. Keban (2008), sees wisdom as a decision that permits something that is actually prohibited or vice versa, based on certain reasons, such as humanitarian considerations, emergency situations, etc. Meanwhile, policy shows the existence of a series of alternatives chosen based on certain principles. A policy can take the form of a decision in the form of the Constitution (UUD) and the National Development Program. The decisions outlined in the form of laws (UU) and Regional Development Programs are called policies. If laws are called policies, Government Regulations (PP) can be called policies. Furthermore, PP can be called policy, and Ministerial Decrees (Kepmen) can be called policies, and so on.

The definition of policy is the reference in this discussion for further and deeper thoughts/considerations and decisions, not a decision to violate something. Even though the terms wisdom and policy have different meanings as stated above, the two words also have similarities. The similarity between policy and policy is defined as a certain directed action by an actor (government) based on considerations that contain certain rules (principles, norms) to solve the problems faced by society in order to achieve the expected goals.

Steps to Create a Policy

The stages of making public policy according to William N. Dunn, (2003) are as follows:

1. Policy Issues and Agenda Setting

Agenda preparation is a very strategic phase and process in the reality of public policy. In this process there is space to interpret what is called a public problem and priorities on the public agenda are contested. If an issue succeeds in gaining status as a public problem, and gets priority on the public agenda, then that issue is entitled to more public resource allocation than other issues. In preparing the agenda, it is also very important to determine a public issue that will be raised on a government agenda. Policy issues are often referred to as policy problems. Policy issues usually arise because there has been disagreement between actors regarding the direction of action that has been or will be taken, or conflicting views regarding the character of the problem. According to William N. Dunn (2003), policy issues are a product or function of debate regarding the formulation, details, explanation or assessment of a particular problem. However, not all issues can be included in the policy agenda.

2. Policy Formulation

Problems that have been included in the policy agenda are then discussed by policy makers. These problems are defined and then the best solutions are sought. The solution to this problem comes from various existing alternative or policy options. Similar to the struggle for a problem to be included in the policy agenda, in the policy formulation stage each alternative competes to be selected as the policy taken to solve the problem.

3. Policy Adoption/Legitimacy

The purpose of legitimacy is to provide authorization for the basic processes of government. If legitimate actions in a society are regulated by popular sovereignty, citizens will follow the government's directions. However, citizens must believe that legitimate government actions must be supported. Legitimacy can be managed through the manipulation of certain symbols, where through this process, citizens learn to support the government.

4. Policy Implementation

The policies that have been taken are implemented by administrative units that mobilize financial and human resources.

5. Policy Evaluation/Assessment

Policy evaluation can be said to be an activity involving the estimation or assessment of policies which include substance, implementation and impact. In this case, evaluation is seen as a functional activity. This means that policy evaluation is not only carried out at the final stage, but is carried out throughout the policy process. Thus, policy evaluation can include the stages of formulating policy problems, programs proposed to resolve policy problems, implementation, and the policy impact stage.

Policy Issues

The main issues in education policy in Kota Pariaman include educational accessibility, teaching quality, educational infrastructure, and teacher welfare. Local governments strive to increase school enrollment rates, reduce school dropout rates, and ensure that every child receives an adequate basic education. Improving the quality of teachers through continuous training and providing adequate educational facilities is also the main focus of education policy.

The Pariaman City Government, especially the Pariaman City Education and Culture Office, plays a major role in formulating education policies. Apart from that, other stakeholders including teachers, principals, students and parents are also involved. This education policy is also implemented in collaboration with provincial and central governments to ensure alignment with national education standards. These issues have become a focus of attention over the past few decades, with efforts intensifying especially in the last ten years along with global developments and increasing educational demands. The newest programs are usually implemented at the beginning of the new school year to ensure optimal preparation, and regular evaluations are carried out every semester or school year to assess progress.

Education policy issues cover the entire City of Pariaman area, from the city center to the outskirts. Special attention is also given to remote areas which often have limited access to quality educational facilities. Schools in this area are a priority in terms of improving infrastructure and providing educational resources. The importance of education policy issues in Kota Pariaman is rooted in the need to improve the quality of human resources to support regional development. Quality education is considered the basis for improving the quality of life, reducing poverty, and achieving sustainable development. Awareness of the vital role of education in creating a smarter, healthier and more productive society encourages the government to continue investing in this sector.

The Pariaman City Government implements education policy through several strategic steps. First, efforts to increase accessibility are carried out by building more schools in remote areas and

providing transportation assistance to students. Second, improving the quality of teaching is realized through training and professional development programs for teachers. Third, improvements to school infrastructure are carried out by renovating damaged school buildings and providing adequate learning facilities. In addition, the government also allocates sufficient budget and collaborates with various non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support educational initiatives.

2. METHOD, DATA, ANALYSIS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method which is analyzed based on the stages of production. The steps in policy making include planning which includes policy issues, policy agenda, policy formulation, policy legitimacy, and policy socialization. The data used in this research was taken from library sources, especially books related to the implementation of educational policies. The collected data is then selected, presented and analyzed using this method. The study results show that the key factor in policy is "implementation". Implementation of education policy is related to how administrative bodies implement programs as well as legal, political, economic and social factors that influence directly or indirectly the actions of the parties involved in the program. There is a process that must be followed to implement the policy. With this qualitative descriptive approach, the research is expected to provide in-depth insight into education policies and how these policies are received and implemented in the field. It is hoped that the results of this research can become the basis for formulating educational policies that are more effective and responsive to the needs of stakeholders in the world of education.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Policy Issue Findings

Based on the research we conducted on the Pariaman with teachers and communities, we found several education policy issues, including;

1. Implementation of Quality Compulsory 12 Year Education is not yet Maximum
2. Improving Teacher Management, Teacher Education, and Reform of Teacher Education Institutions (LPTK) Improvements in teacher quality, ability and integrity still need to be improved.
3. Symptoms of Fading Student Character and Identity or National Disintegration.
4. Students' complaints regarding the implementation of full day school in SMA/MA equivalent in Pariaman City.

Policy Issue Analysis

Table 1. Policy Issue

Policy Issue	Cause of Issue	Policy Solution
Implementation of Quality Compulsory 12 Year Education is not yet Maximum	There are still many children aged 16-18 years who have not been accommodated or served in secondary education units	Meeting the needs for facilities and infrastructure, number and capacity of teachers
Lack of teacher skills and competence	Increased incidents related to narcotics, fights between students and between community groups, and promiscuity	Strengthening character education, instilling Pancasila values, strengthening the role of family, community and government
Symptoms of Fading Student Character and Identity or National Disintegration	Change of curriculum	Provide training
Students' complaints regarding the implementation of full day school in SMA/MA equivalent in Pariaman City	Lack of rest time at home, students feel bored and bored at school all day	Improving teacher skills in restoring student motivation and interest in learning

Policy Formulation

Table 2. Policy Formulation

Policy Solution	Policy Formulation
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Meeting the needs for facilities and infrastructure, number and capacity of teachers	The government will allocate adequate funds to build, renovate and expand educational facilities such as school buildings, laboratories, libraries and sports facilities.
Quality Teacher Recruitment and Placement System, continuous teacher development, Quality Teacher Education Curriculum	An intensive recruitment program will be carried out to increase the number of qualified teachers. In addition, existing teachers will receive regular training and professional development, including training in the use of educational technology.
Strengthening character education, instilling Pancasila values, strengthening the role of family, community and government	The government will ensure that character values and Pancasila are thoroughly integrated into the education curriculum, from elementary to secondary levels. The government will encourage the active role of families in character education by providing education and outreach to parents about the importance of supporting children's character formation at home.
Improving teacher skills in restoring student motivation and interest in learning	The Pariaman City Government must take steps to increase teacher motivation and the quality of education

Policy Analysis and Policy Formulation

The policy of implementing a full day school system in SMA/MA equivalent has become a complex discussion, giving rise to various responses from stakeholders in the world of education. Complaints from students regarding the increase in study time are the main focus that demands attention. These complaints include aspects of increasing learning loads which have the potential to result in physical and mental fatigue, limited time to rest, difficulties in pursuing interests and talents outside the scope of school, as well as an imbalance between academic and non-academic activities. On the other hand, teachers face new challenges in designing curricula that are interesting and effective in the longer term, while providing additional support to students who need special attention.

To address these complaints, holistic and detailed policy formulation is needed. First, policies must be based on a thorough analysis of the various aspects involved, including student needs, resource availability, and the long-term goals of the policy. Policy alternatives such as adjusting study schedules, reducing workload, improving learning quality, and increasing rest time should be considered. The resulting policy must reflect a balanced compromise between various interests, including improving the quality of learning, developing students' interests and talents outside of school, as well as providing adequate support for teachers. In addition, policies must be implemented effectively and sustainably, by identifying the resources needed, designing appropriate implementation strategies, and establishing efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Active participation from all parties involved, including students, teachers, parents/guardians, as well as schools and local governments, is very important in designing and implementing this policy. This will ensure that the resulting policies reflect their needs and interests equally, and can improve the overall quality of education with a positive impact for all parties involved.

4. CONCLUSION

Conducting an analysis of policy issues in Pariaman City requires a comprehensive and in-depth process. The first step is mapping the main issues faced by the city. This involves collecting relevant data from various sources, including government reports, community survey results, academic data, and input from local stakeholders such as educational institutions, community organizations, and advocacy groups. In the realm of education, issues may include the accessibility of education for all citizens, the quality of learning, the adequacy of educational facilities, the welfare of teachers, and the relevance of the curriculum to local and global needs. In this context, the implementation of a full-day school system can be a significant issue, as it affects numerous aspects of education and society as a whole.

After identifying key issues, the next step is an in-depth analysis of the impact of the policies being implemented, such as the full-day school system. This involves evaluating the positive and negative impacts on various parties involved, from students and teachers to parents/guardians and the wider community. Empirical data, interviews, and case studies can be used to gain a deeper understanding of how these policies affect daily lives. In this analysis, it is important to consider multiple perspectives,

including social, economic, cultural, and environmental aspects. Additionally, aspects of justice and equality must also be considered to ensure that the resulting policies do not leave behind vulnerable groups or exacerbate existing disparities.

From this analysis, conclusions can be drawn regarding concrete steps that need to be taken to formulate better and more sustainable policies. This includes developing inclusive education strategies, increasing investment in educational facilities, improving teacher welfare, revising relevant curricula, and increasing community participation in decision-making processes.

In conclusion, the analysis of policy issues in Pariaman City requires a holistic, collaborative, and sustainable approach. By involving various stakeholders and taking into account diverse perspectives, Pariaman City can develop education policies that better meet the needs of its community and are more likely to be successfully implemented effectively and sustainably.

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