(RESEARCH ARTICLE)

# Improving countermeasures policies poverty in Pohuwato regency

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## Abstract

This study aims to determine and analyze the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency and to examine the factors that determine the implementation of these policies. Data collection was conducted using interviews, observation, and documentation. The data was then analyzed qualitatively using the Miles & Huberman technique. The results showed that:

- From the perspective of the process, the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has been running according to the provisions in Pohuwato Regency Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Decrement in Pohuwato Regency, but it is not optimal. It was found that there is a mismatch in the database of the recipients of Social Assistance and Social Security. From the perspective of results, it has had a positive impact on reducing poverty in Pohuwato Regency, although it is not significant, and there is an increase in the Human Development Index in 2022. However, it also causes negative impacts in which the recipients have become more dependent on government assistance. Moreover, the use of social programs that are not right on target.

- The content of the policy, the sources of the policy, and local government support and commitment are factors that can be supporting factors as well as inhibiting factors in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency. On the other hand, public participation and the role of the business world support the policy's implementation.

**Keywords:** Policy Implementation; Poverty Reduction Policy; Policy Improvement

## 1. Introduction

Public policy taken by the government in any part of the world, including in Indonesia, is a government activity to solve problems that occur in the community, either directly or through various government institutions. The focus of public policy in a modern state is everything that can be done by a country whose scope includes policy analysis and formulation, policy implementation, and policy evaluation. Concerning that, this study focuses on studies in the scope of policy implementation.

Implementation, if coupled with public policy, is an activity to implement a public policy that has been determined/approved with the use of means (tools) to achieve its purpose. Lester & Stewart (Winarno, 2012: 101-102) explained that policy implementation is a tool of public administration where various actors, organizations, procedures, and techniques work together to implement policies to achieve the desired impact or goals. In the implementation of public policy, many factors can determine the success or failure of it. The factors that determine the implementation of public policies, based on the elaboration of the theories of Meter & Horn (in Agustino, 2017: 141) and Sunggono (2014: 149), can be seen from the aspect of;

- Contents of the policy,
- Sources of the policy sources, and
- Support and commitment of local governments.

This research is about implementing the Poverty Decrement Policy in the Pohuwato Regency. This policy is important considering that poverty alleviation is a shared responsibility to meet the basic needs of humans based on the 1945 Constitution. The poor is handled by the Government, Regional Government, and the community in a planned, directed, and sustainable manner. Based on the provisions of Article 31 paragraph (2) of Law Number 13 of 2011 concerning Handling Poverty, the Regional Government has the authority to determine policies, strategies, and programs to handle poverty in the region.

Poverty alleviation in Pohuwato Regency is a direct, integrated, and sustainable effort carried out by the local government and/or community in the form of policies, programs, empowerment, assistance, and facilitation activities to meet the basic needs of each person. The implementation of poverty reduction in the Pohuwato Regency is based on the policy of Pohuwato Regency Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Decrement in the Pohuwato Regency. The Poverty Decrement Policy in the Pohuwato Regency is implemented to ensure the protection and fulfillment of basic rights for the poor; accelerate the decline in the number of poor people; increase community participation in efforts to deal with the poor; and ensure consistency, integration, synchronization, and synergy of poverty reduction programs and activities in the Pohuwato Regency.

The poverty rate in the Pohuwato Regency increased in 2022 due to the turbulence of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. As released by BPS as of March 2021, the number of poor people in Pohuwato Regency in 2020 was around 17.62%. Meanwhile, in 2021, the poverty rate increased to 18.08%. This is the duty of local governments to spur poverty reduction. Various components of poverty reduction will slowly be addressed and realized, such as providing adequate employment, strengthening people's purchasing power, developing human quality, maximum natural resource management, and strengthening investment and investment regulations for investors to be more interested in investing in Pohuwato Regency.

The increase in the poverty rate in Pohuwato Regency indicates that the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has not been as expected. In the Regional Regulation of Pohuwato Regency Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Reduction in Pohuwato Regency, there are still many obstacles that still need and are urgent to be resolved through the right solution. If referring to the theory of Charles O. Jones (in Tahir, 2014: 81), it can be stated that several problems in poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency can be seen from three aspects, namely: 1) Organization, 2) Interpretation, and 3) Application (application).

Various problems in the process of implementing poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency should be suspected to be determined by the determinants that determine the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency where in initial observations it can be identified that the dominant determinants in this regard using the elaboration of the theory of Meter & Horn (in Agustino, 2017: 141) and Sunggono (2014: 149), it can be seen from 1) policy content, 2) policy sources, and 3) support and commitment of Regional Governments. This is because these three prominent factors can be observed as determinants in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency.

Based on the background described, it can be said that the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency still faces problems where these problems arise due to several determinants that determine the implementation of the policy. Therefore, research on the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency is feasible and important to do. The aim is to review and analyze the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency and examine the determinants that determine the success of the implementation of these policies.

## 2. Material and methods

This research approach is qualitative, while the research method used is descriptive qualitative which explains real fact findings directly at the research site. Research data were collected through interviews, observation, and documentation. Data analysis was carried out using techniques and approaches from Miles & Huberman (Sugiyono, 2018: 246). This analysis technique consists of four series of activities, namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion/verification.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Implementation of Poverty Reduction Policy in Pohuwato Regency

*3.1.1. Process perspective in poverty reduction policy implementation in Pohuwato Regency*

Research data on the perspective of the process of implementing poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency can be seen from four aspects, which are 1) procedures for implementing poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency, 2) the role of implementing agencies, namely the Pohuwato Regency Social Office in implementing policies or implementing decisions, 3) the willingness of target groups, in this case, the planning section, operators, companions, and program recipient communities in policy implementation or decision implementation, 4) benefits (benefits or usefulness) of social programs in policy implementation.

The results of research on process perspectives in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency illustrate that the Pohuwato Regency Social Office as one of the OPD/implementing agencies in poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has played an active role implement or carry out poverty alleviation based on Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS) and Social Assistance programs. The target groups that spearhead as the main implementors in poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency, namely the planning, operators, and assistants, have involved themselves in poverty reduction according to their respective Tupoksi. Meanwhile, the recipient community can be directed and given input on how to run the various social programs they receive. Social programs in the implementation of policies obtained by the program recipient communities have provided benefits or uses to improve the living standards of program recipient families. The procedures and procedures for implementing poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency have been running following the provisions in the Regional Regulation of Pohuwato Regency Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Reduction in Pohuwato Regency, but have not been processed optimally due to the implementation The data collection mechanism for poor recipients of Social Assistance and Social Security in Pohuwato Regency still found a mismatch between *the database of* program recipients sent from the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia with the data in the Pohuwato Regency Social Office.

*3.1.2. Perspective of results achieved in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency*

Research data on the perspective of the results achieved in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency can be seen from two aspects, namely 1) positive (desirable) real impacts resulting from the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency, and 2) negative real impacts (undesirable) resulting from policy implementation.

The results of research on the perspective of results in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency illustrate that the implementation of poverty reduction policies has had a positive impact as well as a negative impact. The positive impact is that various programs run together have produced results, namely a decrease in poverty in Pohuwato Regency, although not significant, and an increase in the Human Development Index in 2022. This indicates that there are poor recipients of programs or assistance that have been able to meet their needs and improve their standard of living. However, the negative impact caused by the implementation of poverty reduction policies is the dependence of program recipient communities on government assistance, and there are still inaccurate targets in the use of social programs.

### 3.2. Factors Determining the Implementation of Poverty Reduction Policy in Pohuwato Regency

*3.2.1. Content of the policy*

Research data on policy content as a factor that determines the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency can be seen from four aspects, namely 1) policy objectives, and 2) a detailed description of policy content.

Researchers' observations and document tracing show that the detailed content of the policy is a supporting factor in the success of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency. This is because the objectives in the context of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency have been compiled in detail in the form of strategies and programs in the form of poverty management plans in the regions. The content of the policy includes the interested parties affected by the policy, the types of benefits that will result from handling, the degree of change desired, the position of policymakers, who implements the program, and the resources deployed.

However, researchers can say that the content of the policy is not only a supporting factor in the success of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency but also an inhibiting factor in the implementation of poverty reduction policies. This can be seen from the inability of implementing agents to understand the content of the policy. In this case, the implementing agents in the Social Service have not been able to fully understand the Tupoksi related to the content of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency. Many of the average implementing agencies do not understand the guidelines of one program.

### 3.2.2. Policy sources

Research data on policy sources as factors that determine the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency are seen from three aspects, namely 1) the state of human resources of Social Services involved in policy implementation, 2) the state of the budget, and 3) the state of infrastructure.

Looking at the results of research on policy sources, it can be said that policy sources are supporting factors in the success of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency. This is because poverty alleviation in Pohuwato Regency has been supported by an adequate number of human resources, there is a budget that has been provided by the Pohuwato Regency Government which is allocated for poverty reduction, and the availability of facilities and infrastructure in organizing poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency. However, researchers can say that policy sources are not only a supporting factor in the success of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency but also an inhibiting factor in the implementation of poverty reduction policies. This can be seen from the fact that there are still social workers who have not attended education and training in the field of social welfare, training, and social service skills, and are still limited in experience implementing social services, decreased budget allocation from the previous year, and there are no facilities for Children's Social Protection Homes (RPSA).

### 3.2.3. Local government support and commitment

Research data on the support and commitment of local governments as factors that determine the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency is seen from two aspects, namely 1) local government support, and 2) local government commitment.

Looking at the results of research on the support and commitment of the Regional Government, it can be said that the support and commitment of the Regional Government is a supporting factor in the success of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency. This is because poverty alleviation in Pohuwato Regency has been supported by budget allocations for various poverty alleviation social programs. However, the researcher can say that the support and commitment of the local government are not only a supporting factor in the success of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency but also an inhibiting factor in the implementation of poverty reduction policies. This can be seen from the decrease in budget allocation for various social programs for poverty alleviation from the previous year.

### 3.2.4. Community participation

Since 2019, many communities have been identified, individually and organizationally, participating in assisting the Pohuwato Regency Government in poverty alleviation efforts in Pohuwato Regency. For example, the program initiated by the Pohuwato Regency Government is the Nutrition and Food Fulfillment Program for the poor. This program is intended to provide food to groups of the elderly, abandoned children, and social disabilities, namely giving food 3 times a day.

Since its launch in 2018, the program has gained attention from various components of society. In 2019 some communities participated in financing the feeding, thus exceeding the target of 500 people and it increased to 805 people. Other community groups participated, such as foundations, LKKS, Social Welfare Institutions, and Legal Aid Institutions participated in assisting the government in improving community welfare.

### 3.2.5. The role of the corporate world

Several companies whose operating areas are in Pohuwato Regency have contributed to helping the government with poverty alleviation. Through *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)* funds, some build roads and bridges as economic access to the community, help build Livable Houses, clean water facilities and infrastructure, MCK, productive economic business assistance, and increase the capacity of employees from Pohuwato Regency, who pioneered careers in companies operating in Pohuwato Regency. This assistance is very significant because it is proven to improve the welfare of the community.

# 4. Discussion

## 4.1. Implementation of Poverty Reduction Policy in Pohuwato Regency

### 4.1.1. Process perspective in poverty reduction policy implementation in Pohuwato Regency

The research findings that from a process perspective that the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has been running following the provisions in the Regional Regulation of Pohuwato Regency Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Reduction in Pohuwato Regency, but has not been processed optimally because the implementation of the data collection mechanism for poor recipients of Social Assistance and Social Security is still found database mismatches program recipients sent from the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia with data available at the Pohuwato Regency Social Office.

The findings of the study if associated with Akib's theory (2010: 7) that the success of a policy or program implementation can be seen from the implementation process (process perspective) where government programs are said to be successful if their implementation is following the guidelines and implementation provisions made by program makers which include, among others, procedures or procedures for implementation, implementing agents, target groups and program benefits. Thus, it can be said that there is a mismatch in the *database of* program recipients sent from the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia with the data available at the Pohuwato Regency Social Office in the mechanism for collecting data on poor recipients of Social Assistance and Social Security, this indicates that the process of implementing poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has not been fully successful.

### 4.1.2. Perspective of results achieved in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency

The research findings that in the perspective of the results, the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has had a positive impact on reducing poverty in Pohuwato Regency although it is not significant and there is an increase in the Human Development Index in 2022, as well as causing negative impacts in the form of dependence of program recipient communities on government assistance and the use of social programs that are not right on target.

The findings of the above research if associated with Akib's theory (2010: 7) that the success of a policy or program implementation can be seen from the results achieved (results perspective), the program is considered successful when the program has the desired impact. A program may succeed from a process point of view, but it may fail in terms of impact, or vice versa. In other words, policy implementation can be considered successful when there has been consistency between the process passed and the results achieved. Thus, it can be said that the negative impacts arising from the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency indicate that the program has not been fully successful because the program still has unwanted negative impacts.

## 4.2. Factors Determining the Implementation of Poverty Reduction Policy in Pohuwato Regency

### 4.2.1. Content of the policy

Research findings that the content of the policy is a supporting factor as well as an obstacle to the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency. This is consistent with Siregar's (2022: 717) theory that the success of a public policy implementation is largely determined by the level *of policy implementation* itself, including the content of the policy. The content of the poverty reduction policy in Pohuwato Regency is a supporting factor because the content of the policy has included the interests affected by the policy, the type of benefits to be produced, the degree of change desired, the position of policymakers, who implements the program, and the resources deployed.

The success achieved in poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency is due to the policy objectives that are quite detailed in the Regional Regulation of Pohuwato Regency Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Reduction in Pohuwato Regency and there has been a determination of facilities and implementation of priorities in poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency. However, the content of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency needs to formulate internal provisions in each OPD, especially in Social Services, to improve the ability of the agents to understand the content of the policy.

The policy content of Pohuwato Regency Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Reduction in Pohuwato Regency itself includes the extent to which the target group or *target group, in* this case, the beneficiaries are contained in the content of the policy and the types of benefits received by the beneficiaries. The clearer and more

detailed the Regional Regulation of Pohuwato Regency Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Reduction in Pohuwato Regency will be easier to implement because implementors are easy to understand and translate into concrete actions.

So the important thing in poverty reduction policy in Pohuwato Regency is the extent to which the interests of the target group or target group *(beneficiaries) are contained in the content of the policy, the type of benefits received by the beneficiaries, the extent of the desired changes from poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency, whether various programs in poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency* are appropriate, whether the policy has mentioned The implementor is it detailed, and whether it is supported by adequate resources.

### 4.2.2. Policy sources

Research findings show that policy sources such as human resources, budget, facilities, and infrastructure are supporting factors as well as obstacles to the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency. This is consistent with Siregar's theory (2022: 717) that the success of the policy implementation process is influenced by human resources, costs, and time. These policy resources are indispensable for the success of a policy made by the government.

Human resources in poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency are very important because they are a source of policy drivers and implementers. Budget as well as facilities and infrastructure are needed for smooth financing and policy support facilities so as not to hamper the policy process. An important thing in the implementation of poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency is the setting of time targets which is an important part of policy implementation because time supports policy success. Time resources in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency are the determinants of the Pohuwato Regency Government in planning and implementing these poverty reduction policies.

Although the content of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has been communicated clearly and consistently, if implementors lack the resources to implement them, the implementation of poverty reduction policies will not be effective. In line with Yuliah (2020: 140), that power is an important factor in implementing public policy. Concerning the implementation of poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency, these resources include adequate staff with good skills to carry out their duties, information, authorities, and facilities needed to translate proposals on paper to carry out poverty reduction services in Pohuwato Regency.

Pitaloka & Wibawani (2019: 71) said that the success of the policy implementation process is influenced by the utilization and quality of human resources and non-human resources. Therefore, it is very appropriate now for the Pohuwato Regency Government to develop resources through improved education and technical training for social workers who have not attended education and training in the field of social welfare, training, and social service skills, and are still limited in experience in carrying out social services.

Funding sources in poverty alleviation in Pohuwato Regency are also not only sourced from the regional budget but also sought from funds set aside from company companies, grants from within and outside the country, as well as other legitimate and non-binding sources. In addition, the development of facilities and infrastructure in the form of Children's Social Protection Houses is also a major need in the successful implementation of poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency.

### 4.2.3. Local government support and commitment

Research findings show that the support and commitment of local governments are supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency. This is consistent with Siregar's (2022: 717) theory goes, the implementation of a public policy will be very difficult if there is not enough support in the process for the implementation of the policy.

Ginanjar (2021: 190) stated that from the compiler to the policy implementer, the success of the implementation is largely determined by the amount of support and commitment from all parties. The commitment of the Pohuwato Regency Government to realizing the goals outlined in the policy is an important variable. This is because the commitment of the Pohuwato Regency Government is needed so that the policy can run under the applicable regulations. The lack of commitment of the Pohuwato Regency Government will cause irregularities in the implementation of the policy program.

The aspect of support and commitment of the Pohuwato Regency Government in fulfilling aspects related to the implementation of archives which is its obligation needs to be strengthened, especially in supporting the allocation of

funding sources needed to run activity programs derived from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) of Pohuwato Regency. The Pohuwato Regency Government should strengthen its support and commitment to poverty reduction policies through sustainable and sustainable guidance and control.

### 4.2.4. Community participation

Research findings show that community participation is a supporting factor in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency. In line with what was stated by Tjokrowinoto (in Alawiyah & Setiawan, 2021: 149) that in achieving success in poverty alleviation based on local wisdom, community empowerment in the form of community participation is needed. Thus, it can be said that the participation of the people of Pohuwato Regency in poverty alleviation, means that the community participates in providing services to other communities, is involved in poverty reduction projects, and will know more about the problems and needs in their environment. The community will also be able to develop itself towards economic independence with the protection of Pohuwato Regency Government policies.

The participation of the people of Pohuwato Regency in contributing to poverty alleviation in their area shows that there is a real active involvement. This can be seen from the benefits and contributions provided by the community, which can help the Pohuwato Regency Government program in poverty reduction, especially the fulfillment of nutrition for the poor. The community engages spontaneously with awareness and responsibility so that poverty reduction in Pohuwato Regency can be successful well. It can be said that in poverty alleviation programs, participation is an absolute requirement to ensure the success of the program. Therefore, the Pohuwato Regency Government needs to continue to encourage active participation of the community through a socialization approach.

### 4.2.5. The role of the corporate world

Research findings show that the role of the business world is a supporting factor in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency. In line with Hersugondo (2009: 98) that the role of the business world or companies as part of the elements in our society is required to play a role in helping to solve the problem of poverty faced in this country. If all existing companies, which in fact number in the thousands, carry out *CSR*, then the potential available funds reach tens of trillions of rupiah.

Gifts to the poor through Pohuwato Regency Government programs lead more to *charity*, such as giving fish that will run out in one consumption. Meanwhile, corporations have an alternative in contributing to reducing poverty in Indonesia by carrying out corporate social responsibility, namely Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the form of community development as a form of corporate social responsibility that is more oriented towards empowering the community.

The existence of CSR in Pohuwato Regency greatly helps the economic revival of Pohuwato Regency. Given the importance of the role of this CSR program in developing small businesses (including cooperatives), efforts to increase the role of CSR programs need to continue to be supported as well as an effort to increase people's purchasing power which in the long run is also important for companies.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion, it can be concluded that:

- From the perspective of the process, the implementation of poverty reduction policies in Pohuwato Regency has been running following the provisions in Pohuwato Regency Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2018 concerning Poverty Reduction in Pohuwato Regency but has not been processed optimally. Meanwhile, from the perspective of the results, the implementation of poverty reduction policies has had a positive impact on reducing poverty in Pohuwato Regency, although it is not significant, and there is an increase in the Human Development Index in 2022. However, it also causes negative impacts, where the recipients of the program become more dependent on government assistance. Moreover, the use of social programs is not right on target.
- The factors that determine the implementation of poverty reduction policies can be seen from 1) the content of the policy, 2) the sources of the policy, 3) the support and commitment of the Pohuwato Regency Government, 4) participation of the community, 5) the role of the business world. Policy content factors, policy source factors, and support and commitment factors of the Pohuwato Regency Government are supporting factors as well as inhibiting factors in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency. Meanwhile,

the factor of community participation and the role of the business world are supporting factors in the implementation of poverty reduction policies in the Pohuwato Regency.

## Compliance with ethical standards

*Disclosure of conflict of interest*

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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