

Local Government Strategy in Overcoming Extreme Poverty in Pandeglang Regency (Study in Sindangresmi District)

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ARTICLE INFORMATION	ABSTRACT
<p>Article History: Received May 2024 Revised May 2024 Accepted June 2024</p> <p>Keywords: Local Government Strategy, Extreme Poverty, Public Policy, Pandeglang Regency</p> <p>*Corresponding Author: Ombiromli.fisip@unmabanten.ac.id</p> <p>DOI: doi.org/10.60036/wf137w69</p>	<p>This study aims to analyze the strategies of local governments in overcoming extreme poverty in Sindangresmi District, Pandeglang Regency, one of the areas with the highest extreme poverty rate in Banten Province. The research focuses on local governments' efforts to overcome the socio-economic problems of the extreme poor, including the identification of supporting factors and inhibitions, and the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. The research method used is qualitative, with a descriptive approach, and involves in-depth interviews with local government officials, sub-district officials, and program beneficiaries. The data was also strengthened by documentation studies and field observations. The results of the study show that local government strategies to combat extreme poverty are carried out through three main approaches: reducing the burden of expenditure on the poor, increasing income, and reducing pockets of poverty. Supporting factors for this strategy include policy support, inter-agency collaboration, and active community participation. However, its implementation still faces obstacles, including budget constraints, limited human resources, and regional challenges. This study recommends strengthening cross-sector coordination, increasing the capacity of the apparatus, and optimizing the budget to make extreme poverty reduction programs more effective and sustainable.</p>

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is still a major problem faced by the Indonesian nation, especially in areas that have limited infrastructure, human resources, and economic access. For developing countries like Indonesia, poverty is not only an economic problem, but also a complex social problem because it concerns welfare, education, health, and access to public services. According to Bappenas (2005), poverty is a condition when a person or group is unable to fulfill their basic rights to live with dignity. This condition has the potential to give birth to various further impacts such as increasing unemployment, social inequality, vulnerability to conflict, and low quality of human resources.

The Government of Indonesia targets the elimination of extreme poverty by 2024 as stipulated in Presidential Instruction Number 4 of 2022 concerning the Acceleration of the Elimination of Extreme Poverty. The instruction mandates synergy and coordination across ministries, institutions, and local governments in accelerating the achievement of these goals. Extreme poverty is defined as a condition when individuals are unable to meet basic needs for survival such as food, clean water, shelter, sanitation, health, and education, with expenses below Rp322,170 per month or Rp10,739 per day according to the standards of the Central Statistics Agency (BPS).

Pandeglang Regency, located in Banten Province, is one of the areas with an extreme poverty rate that is still quite high compared to the surrounding area. Based on BPS data in 2023, the number of extreme poor people in Pandeglang reached 18,760 people or around 0.78 percent of

the total population. Despite the decline from the previous year, this figure is still a serious challenge for local governments. The factors that cause extreme poverty in Pandeglang include limited infrastructure, low quality of education, lack of employment, and limited economic access to rural communities.

Sindangresmi District as a research location is an area with rural socio-economic characteristics that are still vulnerable to extreme poverty. This sub-district has around 25,734 residents, with 4,474 residents classified as poor and 49 of them belonging to the extreme poor category. Factors that cause poverty in this region include lack of basic infrastructure, low community productivity, and limited access to capital and markets. The Pandeglang Regency Government has implemented various strategic programs to overcome poverty, including the Family Hope Program (PKH), Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), Smart Indonesia Program (PIP), and community economic empowerment.

However, the implementation of these various programs is inseparable from obstacles such as limited regional budgets, low human resource capacity, and difficult geographical conditions. This causes the implementation of policies that have not been fully effective in reducing the rate of extreme poverty. Therefore, a more directed, sustainable, and adaptive local government strategy is needed to meet the local needs of the community.

This study focuses on the analysis of the strategy of the local government of Pandeglang Regency in overcoming extreme poverty, by reviewing the factors that support and hinder the implementation of policies in Sindangresmi District. Through a descriptive qualitative approach, this research is expected to be able to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of extreme poverty reduction policies at the local level. The results of this study are expected not only to enrich theoretical studies in the field of government and public policy, but also provide practical recommendations for local governments in formulating more effective strategies to achieve sustainable community welfare.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theory Kemiskinan

Poverty is a complex and multidimensional social phenomenon, not only related to economic deprivation, but also to limited access to education, health, and social participation. According to Soekanto, poverty is a situation in which a person is unable to maintain himself according to the standard of life of his group, and is unable to utilize his physical and mental potential to improve his or her well-being. Meanwhile, according to Bappenas (2005), poverty occurs when individuals or groups are unable to fulfill their basic rights to live with dignity, including the needs of food, clothing, shelter, education, and health.

From a sociological perspective, poverty is also related to social inequality, unemployment, and inequality in access to economic resources. Hall and Midgley (in Sudirman, 2014) emphasized that poverty is a condition of material and social deprivation that makes a person live below the standard of living viability. Therefore, poverty alleviation efforts cannot only be focused on increasing income, but must also involve strengthening social capacity, education, and community empowerment.

In general, poverty is divided into three main forms, namely:

- Absolute poverty, when a person's income is below the state-defined poverty line;
- Relative poverty, due to unequal distribution of development;
- Cultural poverty, which arises due to a culture of dependence, low motivation, or a resigned attitude to economic conditions.

The main causes of poverty in developing countries, including Indonesia, include low education, limited employment, weak infrastructure, and inclusive development policies. Thus, the government has a responsibility to intervene through social, economic, and empowerment policies so that people can get out of the trap of structural poverty.

The Theory of Extreme Poverty

Extreme poverty is the most severe form of poverty characterized by a person's inability to meet basic needs such as food, clean water, shelter, health, and education. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) has set the extreme poverty line in Indonesia based on expenditure below Rp322,170 per capita per month or around Rp10,739 per day. This condition illustrates limited access to decent basic services and hinders human development efforts.

Todaro and Smith (2011) explain that extreme poverty is closely related to low productivity, limited capital, and weak access to the labor market. The extreme poor tend to be trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty due to malnutrition, low education, and lack of productive assets. Key characteristics of this group include vulnerability to economic shocks, limited access to public services, and dependence on social assistance.

Tackling extreme poverty requires a more targeted and sustainable approach. The government must ensure that social programs truly touch target groups, through accurate data collection, cross-sector collaboration, and community-based empowerment. Thus, public policy strategies not only reduce poverty rates statistically, but also strengthen the economic independence of the extreme poor.

Public Policy Theory

Public policy is a series of actions taken by the government to overcome problems faced by the community and achieve certain goals. According to David Easton (1965), public policy is "an authoritative allocation of values for the whole society". Thomas Dye (1978) defines it as "whatever the government chooses to do or not to do". These two views affirm that public policy is not just an administrative decision, but the result of a political process involving many actors and interests.

The public policy process usually goes through several stages, namely: (1) problem formulation, (2) agenda setting, (3) policy formulation, (4) policy adoption, (5) implementation, and (6) evaluation. In the context of extreme poverty alleviation, these stages require cross-agency coordination, transparent supervision, and community participation in every process. Effective policy implementation requires synergy between the central government, local governments, and non-governmental actors such as the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Successful public policies typically have three main characteristics: data-driven, responsive to community needs, and adaptive to socio-economic dynamics. At the regional level, an effective policy strategy must also consider geographical conditions, local resources, and the capacity of government apparatus in its implementation.

Local Government Strategy in Combating Extreme Poverty

Local governments have a strategic role in implementing poverty alleviation policies because they are the entities closest to the community. Based on Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, autonomous regions have the authority to regulate government affairs and the interests of their own people. In the context of extreme poverty, local government strategies should be directed at three main approaches: reducing the burden of community spending, increasing income, and reducing pockets of poverty.

The approach to reduce the burden of public expenditure is realized through social assistance and social security programs such as the Family Hope Program (PKH), Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), and BPJS Kesehatan for contribution assistance recipients (PBI). Meanwhile, increasing income is carried out through community economic empowerment, skills training, micro business capital assistance, and increased access to employment. The reduction of poverty pockets includes the

development of basic infrastructure, the improvement of education and health services, and the development of remote areas to be more connected to economic centers.

In addition to technical strategies, policy support, interagency collaboration, and community participation are also important factors that determine the success of the program. Without good coordination between parties, policies tend to be ineffective and only administrative in nature. Therefore, a participatory and data-based approach is the key in designing regional policies that are socially just.

Frame of Mind

Presidential Instruction Number 4 of 2022 and Decree of the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture Number 25 of 2022 are the legal basis for accelerating the elimination of extreme poverty in Indonesia. Within this framework, the local government's strategy is directed to strengthen synergy between sectors in reducing the extreme poverty rate to 0 percent by 2025.

Pandeglang Regency, through various related agencies and institutions, seeks to implement an extreme poverty reduction strategy based on P3KE (Targeting for the Acceleration of Extreme Poverty Elimination). The focus of its policy is not only on social assistance, but also on strengthening the economic capacity of the poor through the empowerment of micro-enterprises and improving the quality of human resources.

Thus, this literature review emphasizes that overcoming extreme poverty requires a combination of targeted public policies, solid cross-sector coordination, and community empowerment based on local potential in order to create inclusive and sustainable welfare.

RESEARCH METHODS

Approaches and Types of Research

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. This approach was chosen because it is suitable to describe in depth the social phenomena that occur in the field, especially regarding the local government's strategy in overcoming extreme poverty in Pandeglang Regency. Qualitative research aims to understand social reality from the perspective of participants, explore the meaning behind public policy, and uncover social dynamics that cannot be quantitatively measured.

According to Bogdan and Taylor (1982), qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behaviors. Thus, this method allows researchers to comprehend holistically the strategies, policies, and implementation of local government programs in Sindangresmi District in the context of extreme poverty alleviation.

Research Location and Time

The research was conducted in Sindangresmi District, Pandeglang Regency, Banten Province. This location was chosen purposively because the area is one of the sub-districts with the highest extreme poverty rate in Pandeglang. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency, Sindangresmi District has 49 residents in the extreme poverty category out of a total of 25,734 people, so it is a representation of extreme poverty conditions in rural areas.

The research period was conducted from March to July 2025, which included the initial observation stage, field data collection, in-depth interviews, and data validation.

Data Types and Sources

The data used consists of primary data and secondary data.

- Primary data was obtained directly through in-depth interviews with key informants, field observations, and documentation of local government activities. This information includes local

government strategies, program implementation, supporting and inhibiting factors, and policy impacts on the extreme poor.

- Secondary data was obtained from official documents such as the Pandeglang Bappeda report, BPS data, social program archives, academic literature, and laws and regulations related to extreme poverty alleviation.

This combination approach provides a comprehensive understanding between factual data in the field and the formal policies in place.

Research Informant

The selection of informants was carried out by *purposive sampling technique*, which is to select the sources who are considered to know the most about the problem being researched. The main informants in this study include:

- Head of Social Welfare Section (Kasi Kesos) of Sindangresmi District
- Sub-district Social Welfare Workers (TKSK)
- Head of Kadumalati Village and Head of Pasirlancar Village
- Two community beneficiaries of the social assistance program

They were selected because they had a direct role in the planning, implementation, and acceptance of extreme poverty reduction programs in the region.

Data Collection Techniques

To obtain valid and in-depth data, this study uses three main techniques, namely:

- 1) In-depth *Interview*: This technique is used to extract information directly from informants about the strategy and implementation of extreme poverty reduction programs. Interviews are conducted in a semi-structured manner so that researchers can tailor questions to the context of the field.
- 2) Field Observation: The researcher observed the socio-economic conditions of the community, the implementation of assistance programs, and local government activities in Sindangresmi District. These observations help to understand the real context of the policies implemented and their impact on the extreme poor.
- 3) Documentation: Documentation is carried out to obtain written data in the form of activity reports, poverty statistics data, meeting minutes, photos of activities, and regional policy archives. These sources are used to strengthen the data from interviews and observations.

Research Instruments

In qualitative research, researchers play the role of the main instrument that functions to collect, interpret, and analyze data. To help the data collection process, the researcher also used tools such as interview guides, observation formats, and document recording sheets. The researcher's sensitivity to social context, language, and field situations is the key to success in obtaining accurate data.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was carried out from the beginning of data collection to the end of the research in an interactive and continuous manner. The analysis model used refers to Miles and Huberman (1994), which includes three main stages:

- Data Reduction – The process of selecting, simplifying, and transforming raw data into a more organized form. The researcher grouped the information based on themes such as local government strategies, supporting factors, and barriers.
- Data Display – The reduced data is arranged in the form of a descriptive narrative to show patterns, relationships between variables, and the tendency of phenomena.

- *Conclusion Drawing and Verification* – This stage is used to interpret the meaning of the data, draw the final conclusions, and verify the findings through triangulation of sources and techniques.

Data Validity Test

The validity of the data is tested through triangulation techniques, which are comparing and confirming data from various sources, techniques, and collection times.

- Triangulation of sources was carried out by comparing the results of interviews from government officials, village officials, and beneficiaries.
- The technique triangulation was carried out by matching the results of interviews, observations, and documentation.
- Time triangulation is used by repeating interviews or observations at different times to ensure data consistency.

In addition to triangulation, the validity is also strengthened by *member checks* to informants so that the researcher's interpretation is in accordance with the reality in the field.

Research Limitations

This research has several limitations, including: limited time and resources, limited access to official data, and the geographical conditions of Sindangresmi District that are difficult to reach. In addition, some informants have high busyness so the interview process needs to be carried out gradually. However, the researcher seeks to maintain the validity of the data by combining various sources and information collection techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Research Areas

Pandeglang Regency is one of the areas in Banten Province with an extreme poverty rate that is still quite high compared to the surrounding area. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2023, the number of extreme poor people reached 18,760 people or around 0.78 percent of the total population. Sindangresmi District as the location of the study has 25,734 residents, of which 4,474 are classified as poor and 49 people are categorized as extreme poor.

The region consists of nine villages, with the majority of the population working in agriculture, trade, and informal services. The main challenges in this sub-district include limited basic infrastructure, low access to education and health, and difficulty in creating jobs. Geographical conditions consisting of hilly areas and minimal transportation access have also slowed down socio-economic development.

The Pandeglang Regency Government has made efforts to overcome extreme poverty through a number of strategies and programs that have been implemented at the village level. The approach focused on three main aspects: reducing the burden of public spending, increasing income, and reducing pockets of poverty.

Strategy to Reduce the Burden of Public Expenditure

The first strategy carried out by local governments is to reduce the burden of poor household expenditure through various social assistance programs. The Family Hope Program (PKH) is one of the main programs that provides conditional cash assistance to poor families, especially to support children's education and health needs. Through PKH, beneficiary families are required to ensure that their children attend school and pregnant women undergo routine health checks.

In addition to PKH, the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program is also implemented regularly through village funds. BLT is intended for residents who have lost their jobs or do not receive other social assistance. In Sindangresmi District, each beneficiary family receives assistance of

Rp900,000 per quarter. This program significantly eases the burden of public expenditure, especially when the price of basic commodities increases.

Other programs such as BPJS Kesehatan for Contribution Assistance Recipients (PBI) also play an important role in ensuring free health services for the poor. Based on data from the Sindangresmi Health Center, around 92 percent of poor patients have been registered in the BPJS PBI program and do not need to spend money when receiving treatment. This helps to save poor families from the risk of new poverty due to high health costs.

Overall, the strategy to reduce the burden of public expenditure has proven effective in maintaining the economic resilience of extreme poor families. However, its effectiveness is still limited because people's dependence on social assistance has not been fully balanced with increased economic productivity.

Community Income Increase Strategy

The second strategy focuses on increasing the income and productivity of the poor. The local government together with related agencies carry out community economic empowerment programs, skills training, and the development of micro businesses based on local potential.

Some of the activities carried out include training in small business management skills, packaging of local products, and marketing digitalization. The government also seeks to increase public access to capital and productive land through cooperation with microfinance institutions and Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes).

The Head of Kadumalati Village said that community training and empowerment had helped increase public awareness of the importance of economic independence. However, he also highlighted the low participation of the community in productive activities due to limited capital and entrepreneurial knowledge.

The Village Cash Intensive Program (PKTD) is also one of the initiatives that supports increasing community income. Through this activity, residents are empowered to build village infrastructure such as roads and drainage with daily wages. This program in addition to creating temporary jobs also contributes to the development of public facilities in rural areas.

However, revenue enhancement strategies still face major challenges, especially in program sustainability and market access for local products. Local governments need to expand collaboration with the private sector and non-governmental institutions to strengthen the economy of the poor in the long term.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

The third strategy is to reduce the concentration of poverty in certain areas by improving access to basic services and infrastructure. The local government is trying to improve basic infrastructure such as village roads, clean water facilities, sanitation, and health facilities. In addition, school building programs and scholarships such as the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) help children from poor families continue their education.

The government also integrates inter-regional development policies so that disadvantaged villages can be more connected to economic centers. Improving connectivity between regions is an important strategy to facilitate the distribution of goods and expand employment opportunities for the extreme poor.

However, from the results of observations in the field, there are still limitations in the quality of infrastructure and equitable distribution of development between villages. Some areas in Sindangresmi are still difficult to reach, especially in the rainy season. This is the main inhibiting factor in the implementation of extreme poverty reduction programs.

Supporting Factors and Inhibiting Strategy Implementation

The results of the study show that there are several factors that support the success of local government strategies, including:

- National and regional policy support, through Presidential Instruction Number 4 of 2022 and regional regulations related to extreme poverty;
- Inter-agency collaboration, such as coordination between the Social Service, Bappeda, and the village government;
- Community participation, especially in social activities and village development.

Meanwhile, the inhibiting factors found in the field include:

- Regional budget limitations that limit the scope of the program;
- The capacity of human resources of the apparatus and the community is still low;
- Difficult geographical conditions, which slow down the distribution of aid and public services.

These obstacles show that the success of the strategy depends not only on policy planning, but also on the capacity for implementation and coordination across sectors at the regional level.

Analysis and Implications

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that the local government's strategy in tackling extreme poverty in Pandeglang Regency has been running in accordance with the direction of national policy, but it is not yet fully optimal. The implementation of the strategy is still administrative and has not been integrated into one continuous data management and evaluation system.

A new approach is needed that combines data-driven policies, sustainable community empowerment, and local economic innovation. This approach will strengthen synergy between agencies and ensure that each program truly reaches the extreme poor in need.

By optimizing cross-sector coordination, increasing the capacity of apparatus, and expanding community economic access, local governments are expected to be able to create strategies to combat extreme poverty that are more effective, adaptive, and sustainable.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

This study shows that the local government's strategy in overcoming extreme poverty in Pandeglang Regency, especially in Sindangresmi District, has been implemented through three main approaches, namely reducing the burden of community expenditure, increasing income, and reducing pockets of poverty. These three strategies are oriented towards improving the welfare of the extreme poor through central and regional policy synergy.

The first approach is carried out by providing social assistance such as the Family Hope Program (PKH), Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), and BPJS Kesehatan for Contribution Assistance Recipients (PBI), which functions to reduce the economic pressure of poor households. The second approach is carried out by empowering the community through skills training, increased access to capital, and labor-intensive activities to increase income. Meanwhile, the third approach is focused on equitable development through increasing access to basic infrastructure and public services.

Despite the efforts that have been made, the implementation of this strategy still faces a number of obstacles such as budget limitations, low human resource capacity, and difficult geographical conditions in the area. However, central government policy support, inter-agency collaboration, and community participation are important factors that support the success of the program.

Overall, the local government's strategy in alleviating extreme poverty in Pandeglang Regency has shown a positive direction, although its effectiveness still needs to be strengthened with cross-sector coordination and more comprehensive data-driven policy innovation.

Suggestions

Based on the results of the research, there are several recommendations that can be proposed:

- 1) Local governments need to strengthen cross-sector coordination between the Social Service, Bappeda, village governments, and non-governmental institutions so that the implementation of the program runs in an integrated and efficient manner.
- 2) Increasing the capacity of human resources is a priority, both for government officials and beneficiary communities, through continuous entrepreneurship training, mentoring, and education.
- 3) Optimizing the use of P3KE data (Targeting for the Acceleration of Extreme Poverty Eradication) needs to be carried out to ensure that programs are on target and avoid overlapping assistance.
- 4) The government also needs to encourage active community participation in every stage of the program, so that the policies implemented are more responsive to local needs.
- 5) Policy innovations based on regional potential, such as local economic development, digitalization of micro-enterprises, and empowerment of extreme poor women, need to be improved to create long-term economic independence.

By paying attention to these things, it is hoped that the strategy to overcome extreme poverty in Pandeglang Regency can run more effectively, fairly, and sustainably, so as to be able to significantly reduce the extreme poverty rate and strengthen the welfare of people in rural areas.

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