IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICY IN IMPROVING PUBLIC WELFARE

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Abstract

The study aims to examine how implementation of public policy can affect the well-being of the public. Through an in-depth analysis of the literature, the study identifies key factors that play a role in the success of public policies such as education, health, employment, housing, and social protection. With a focus on the developing-country context, the study seeks to provide new insights into how public policies can be effectively implemented to improve public well-being. From the analysis of the literature, the study found that the success of public policy implementation in improving the well-being of communities depends mainly on several key factors: (1) inclusive and evidence-based policy design; (2) availability of adequate resources; (3) good inter-agency coordination and collaboration; (4) policy adaptation to local contexts; and (5) active participation of the community. Furthermore, the main challenges emerging relate to resource constraints, resistance from stakeholders, and changing political-economic conditions. The study proposes several strategies to improve policy implementation effectiveness, including enhancing institutional capacity, using participatory approaches in policy formulation and implementation, and increasing transparency and accountability in decision-making processes. This research reaffirms the importance of a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach in designing and implementing effective public policies to enhance public well-being.

Keywords: Implementation, Public Policy, Public Welfare.

Introduction

Public policy is an action carried out by a government, which can be in the form of a law, regulation, decision, or a series of activities directed towards achieving a specific goal related to the public interest. (Knill, C., & Tosun, J. 2020). These policies are made in response to social, economic, or political issues faced by society. Well-formulated and well-implemented public policies can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government, as well as bring about positive changes in the quality of life of people. (Van Buuren et al., 2020). Therefore, the

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formulation of evidence-based policies and involving public participation is crucial to ensuring a fair and sustainable outcome.

Fundamentally, the dissemination of public welfare is the primary objective of public policy. Social well-being describes the quality of life and basic satisfaction experienced by individuals and groups within a community or society. (Romich, J., & Rodriguez, M. Y. 2021). As a multidimensional concept, well-being encompasses the economic, social, political, physical, and psychological aspects whose interaction affects the extent to which individuals or groups feel that their basic needs are met and can lead a fulfilling life. To well-being, some basic needs need to be accommodated, among others: 1) Physical needs: Such as adequate food, board, and health; 2) Security needs: Includes protection from violence and crime and economic and political stability; 3) Social needs: such as education, social inclusion and participation in community life; 4) Self-development needs: Opportunities for personal and professional growth, as well as the realization of the potential of individuals and groups. (Romich, J., & Rodriguez, M. Y. 2021; McNutt, J. G., & Hoefer, R. 2020).

In improving social well-being refers to an effort to give equitable rights and opportunities to every individual in society, in order to a better and more dignified quality of life. A good quality of life is a condition in which every individual in a society can meet their basic needs, have equal access to opportunities and means, and feel satisfied and happy with their lives. (Lu et al., 2020).

The key indicators of a good quality of life in a society are Physical well-being and health, Security, Education and Opportunities, Social Welfare, Quality of Living Environment, and Freedom and Self-esteem. Achieving a Good Quality of Life requires the collaborative efforts of individuals, communities, as well as governments and other organizations. Public policies and programmes must be designed and implemented with the aim of promoting well-being and a better quality of life for all (Sapiro, V. 2020).

However, there is a gap between hope and reality on the ground. There are still many communities below the poverty line, as well as various social problems that affect the level of well-being of other communities. (Sapiro, V. 2020). There are a number of social problems that can affect the level of well-being of the people. One is poverty, where factors such as low incomes and high unemployment rates can contribute to poverty levels. Societies that are unemployed or have no stable income tend to have difficulty meeting their basic needs. (Feely et al., 2020).

The publication of the Central Statistical Authority (BPS) also shows that the comparison of the level of well-being between the provinces and the residential areas (urban and rural) is also a factor affecting the welfare of the people. Lack of access to finance is also an obstacle to improving the level of well-being. (Tantuka, Z. 2024). This problem requires intervention through public policy.

Public policy is a series of decisions made by a government or other policy makers to address a number of problems facing a society. Public policy-making processes typically involve problem identification, agenda setting, policy formulation, adoption (or decision-making), implementation, and evaluation. Such policies can be in the form of laws, regulations, decisions, or various other types of government intervention. (Handoyo, E. 2012). Creating effective public policies requires a good understanding of the complexity of social problems, cooperation

among various stakeholders, and adaptation to changing political, social, and economic conditions. (Nugroho, R. 2004).

Public policy plays an important role in the allocation of resources and regulations that can help in improving the well-being of the people. (Nugroho, R. 2004).

However, implementation of public policy often does not go smoothly. There are various factors that can hinder the successful implementation of public policy, ranging from a lack of intergovernmental coordination, bureaucratic barriers, to low public participation. (Mulyadi, D. 2016; Bakry, A. 2010). In view of this, the study is designed to analyze how implementation of public policies can improve public well-being and what factors influence the success of public policy implementation. The aim of this study is to provide guidance for policymakers in implementing policies in a maximum and effective manner and to help the public understand the importance of the public policy role in improving welfare.

Research Method

The research method of this study is literature. The study method of literature is searching for other research references from various reliable sources. There are several methods that can be done to do a literary study, such as keyword search. This method involves the collection, identification, compilation and analysis of various data found (Linos & Carlson, 2017; Damgaard et al., 2001). The study of literature is considered to be one of the methods of research carried out by studying a variety of existing literature, both those from books and other literature such as national journals. (Pathak et al., 2013; Doz, 2011).

Result and Discussion
The Theory of Social Welfare

The theory of social welfare is a framework of thought that explains how social and economic policies can be used to improve the quality of life and well-being of individuals and societies in general. It covers various aspects such as the distribution of resources, access to social services, social protection, and economic opportunities (Andrés et al., 2023). Although each theory provides different perspectives, together they create a more comprehensive framework for understanding and dealing with welfare issues (Gho, G. 2023).

Community welfare is a condition in which members of a community have the ability to meet their basic life needs, such as food, board, education, health, and have access to adequate social services, as well as engage in satisfactory social relations. The definition of social well-being is not only related to the satisfaction of material needs but also to the improvement of quality of life and satisfaction in various aspects of life. (Gho, G. 2023).

(2) Physical: Access to quality health services, good nutrition, decent housing, and a clean and secure environment. (3) Emotional: Mental health and individual happiness, as well as supportive relationships from family, friends, and communities. (4) Social: Opportunity to participate in community activities, access to education and culture, and equality and equitable treatment for all members of the community. (5) Development: Chance for personal growth and self-development, including education and training. (6) Security: A sense of security from crime and violence, and the possibility to recover from disasters or bad events in life. (Guner et al., 2023; Shah, S. S., & Shah, S. A. H. 2024).

People's well-being is not only measured through economic indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) but also through a broader welfare index that incorporates a variety of factors including happiness levels, education, health, and environmental sustainability. (Xu et al., 2023). This approach recognizes that true well-being transcends material prosperity and encompasses holistic quality of life and subjective welfare. (Perino, G., & Schwickert, H. 2023).

Indicators of public well-being generally cover various aspects of public life, from health and economics to social participation and environmental sustainability. The following are some of the most commonly used indicators of well-being: 1) Income and poverty: Average per capita income and a percentage of the population living below the poverty line are key indicators for economic welfare. 2) Education: Characteristic level, access to quality education, and the level of participation in further education or training are important indicators as to the capacity of a population to improve its quality of life. 3) Health: Life expectancy, infant mortality, prevalence of disease, and access to high-quality health services can provide a measure of the degree of physical welfare in a society. 4) Housing: Housing quality, share of income spent on housing, and number of homeless populations can be an important indicator of access to affordable and affordable housing. 5) Social participation: Participation in community activities and levels of trust in public institutions can measure social involvement and confidence in society. 6) Environmental conditions: environmental conditions, level of physical activity, pollution, and personal resource availability indicate whether an individual can have an environmental and social security response. 9) Subjective welfare: The level of happiness or satisfaction in life can be an important indicator of subjective well-being in a society. (Perino, G., & Schwickert, H. 2023; Liu et al., 2023).

In addition, several institutions have also developed welfare indices that try to integrate these aspects into a single measure, such as the Human Development Index (HDI) published by the United Nations and the Economic Welfare Index (ICE) launched by economists Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen, and Jean-Paul Fitoussi. (2011).

Public Policy Concept

Public policy is the action taken by a governmental entity, be it the central government, the local government, or other government agencies, in responding to certain issues that arise in society. Public policy is directed towards achieving certain goals that are considered important by the government and the public. Effective public policy requires mature planning, public participation, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances (Banerjee, S., & John, P. 2024). Public policy is government policy designed to influence and solve problems faced by the general public. These policies can cover a wide range of areas, including economic, social, political, cultural, and others. In general, public policy is an action or decision taken by a government or a public institution in connection with the allocation of resources, the handling of problems, or the achievement of a goal deemed important by a community or a state. (Grelle, S., & Hofmann, W. 2024).

These types of public policy are generally distinguished by their scope and nature. Here are some types of public policy; 1) Public policy Macro: This policy is general and can also be said to be a basic policy. Examples are the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia 1945. 2) Sectoral/Substantial Public Policy: These policies are more specific and are usually aimed at a

specific sector or area of government. 3) Local/Operational Public Policy: This type of policy usually applies at the local or operational level. For example, a public policy issued by a local government or an operational policy in a government agency (Grelle, S., & Hofmann, W. 2024; Méndez-Barrientos et al., 2024).

Besides, there is also a preventive public policy (targeted to prevent problems) and a curative public policy (bertujuan mengatasi masalah yang sudah ada).

The process of formulating and implementing public policies is a series of systematic measures aimed at addressing social, economic, or other problems faced by society.

This process is generally divided into several major stages; 1) Agenda setting; a) Problem identification: Understanding and determining problems to be addressed; b) Priority setting: Determining which issues are most urgent or important for immediate response. 2) Policy formulation; (a) Alternative development: Creating a variety of policy options to solve identified problems; (b) Impact analysis: Analyzing the potential impact of each policy option; (c) Selection of Alternatives: Choosing the best policy option based on the analysis carried out. 3) Policy Approval; (a) Decision-making: The process of policy-making through valid legislative or executive procedures; (b) Legislation: Policy approved into law or regulation; (iv) Implementation of the Policy; (i) Policy implementation: Process of implementing the approved policy into practice; (ii) Administration: Establishment of resources and procedures for policy execution; (iii) Monitoring: Monitoring the implementation process to ensure its effectiveness. 5) Policy Evaluation; (a) Performance Assessment: Assessing how effective the policy is in solving the targeted problem; (b) Feedback and Revision: Providing feedback and making policy improvements based on the evaluation results; (g) Policy Termination. Adjustment or Termination: Determining whether the policy needs to be adjusted or terminated based on evaluation findings and current conditions (Méndez-Barrientos et al., 2024; Syropoulos et al, 2024).

The process of formulating and implementing public policies is a continuous and dynamic cycle, which may require adjustments based on changing circumstances and input from various stakeholders.

Public Policy Implementation Impact Factors

Implementation of public policy can be influenced by various factors that affect success or failure in meeting the policy objectives set (Tian et al., 2022). First, Internal Factors. Internal factors refer to elements within an organization or system that are directly involved in the policy implementation process. These factors include: 1) Organizational structure: Effective design and organizational structure can facilitate communication and coordination, essential for smooth implementation. 2) Resources: These include finance, human resources, and available technology. Lack of resources can be a major obstacle. 3) Capacity and Implementation Ability: This covers the level of expertise, competence, and motivation of individuals responsible for implementing policies. 4) Organizational culture: An organizational culture that supports innovation, change, and adaptation can facilitate implementation processes. 5) Leadership and Management Commitment: Strong leadership and commitment of management to policies affect implementation success. 6) Internal communication: Effectiveness in communicating

policies, roles, and accountability to all parties involved (Martínez-Rod et al., 2022; Fan et al. 2022).

Second, external factors. External factors are variables outside an organization or system that affect policy implementation. These include: 1) Political support and stability: support from politicians, policymakers, and political stability in the country or region. 2) Economic conditions: Local, national, or global economic conditions can affect the availability of resources and public acceptance of the policy. 3) Norms, values, and social culture: socio-cultural conditions that support or oppose the policy may affect the success of implementation. 4) Technology and Innovation: Technological advances and innovations that can facilitate or complicate the implementation process. 5) Regulation and Other Policy: Compliance with relevant regulations and relations with other policies implemented. 6) Environmental conditions: Changes in the environment, such as natural disasters, can pose additional challenges. 7) Pressures from my stakeholders: Including pressures from civil society, advocacy groups, and the private sector (Fan et al., 2022; Bruno et al., 2022).

The influence of these factors is complex and often interrelated. Success in implementing public policy often requires careful attention to both of these types of factors, ensuring that the strategies and approaches taken are capable of addressing the challenges presented by both sets of factors.

Public Policy for Public Welfare

Public policies for public welfare are an important area involving policies and programmes designed to improve the quality of life and well-being of citizens, which can cover various aspects such as education, health, employment, housing, and social protection. Its primary objective is to create conditions that enable each individual to reach their full potential, as well as to help those who are in vulnerable conditions. (Ginting et al., 2023).

Public Policy Aspects for the Welfare of the Society includes; 1) Education: Investing in affordable, inclusive, high-quality education. Education is the key to improving the well-being of individuals and societies as a whole. 2) Health: Provision of efficient, effective, and affordable health services. These include disease prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. 3) Employment and income: Creation of employment through economic policy, as well as guarantees of minimum income and support for those who lose their jobs. 4) Housing: Ensure access to affordable and livable housing. This can involve housing market regulation and social housing provision. 5) Social protection: Strong social protection systems to support individuals and families during difficult times, such as retirement, loss of work, or illness. 6) Access to Services: Providing easy access to a variety of basic services such as clean water, sanitation, and electricity. 7) Social justice and equality: Reducing gaps and promoting equality of opportunity through redistribution of wealth and other policies. (Asmorowati et al., 2022; Alcock, P. 2022).

Implementing effective public policies for the well-being of the people requires attention to the internal and external factors that have been discussed earlier. Furthermore, continuous monitoring and evaluation is required to ensure that such policies their objectives effectively, and that the time and resources allocated for implementation are sufficient. (Alcock, P. 2022).

The biggest challenges often relate to resource constraints, differences in interest between groups in society, and the need to adapt such policies to changing socio-economic and political conditions (Sjöberg, S., & Turunen, P. 2022).

Thus, public policy is an important tool in an effort to improve the well-being of the people. However, success depends heavily on effective implementation strategies, an in-depth understanding of social dynamics, and the commitment of the various parties to work together towards common goals.

Conclusion

Implementation of public policy plays an important role in improving the well-being of the people. By using the right policies, focusing on vital aspects such as education, health, employment, housing, and social protection, states can create conditions that help their citizens to maximize their potential and a better quality of life.

However, in its implementation, this public policy faces various challenges. Internal factors such as existing organizational structure, resources, and quality of the SDM, as well as external factors like economic conditions, cultural norms, and regulations can affect the effectiveness of policy implementation. To this, successful public policy requires careful implementation strategies, continued monitoring and evaluation, adaptation to the changing dynamics of circumstances, and the full commitment of all parties involved.

Thus, the implementation of public policy is a complex process that requires hard work and strong dedication. Nevertheless, the end result of improving the well-being of the people makes all these efforts worthwhile.

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