

Implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program for Students in Supporting Education in Surabaya City

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ABSTRACT

The research aims to evaluate the implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program in supporting education for students in Surabaya. It uses a qualitative descriptive approach, collecting data through observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis involves techniques like data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusions. The findings show that the program aligns well with its target group, the implementing organization, and the target group with the organization, indicating successful implementation. However, there are inconsistencies between regulations and distributed pamphlets, and students express the need for additional financial support for daily expenses.

INTRODUCTION

According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, Indonesia had a population of 278.69 million people in mid-2023, making it one of the most densely populated countries in the world. With the high population density in Indonesia, poverty remains a significant social challenge, particularly in developing countries like Indonesia. Poverty is a complex issue involving social, cultural, economic, and educational aspects. To address one of these issues, particularly in education, the government has launched various scholarship programs, including those by the Surabaya City Government, as the city still faces poverty challenges that can hinder the advancement and equitable distribution of education. (Hasan & Muhammad, 2018)

Poverty is a significant social challenge, especially in developing countries like Indonesia, making it a primary focus for problem-solving. According to Gunawan, as cited by Tiara & Lukman (2023), there are two main reasons for poverty. First, poverty can stem from external factors or conditions that individuals cannot control. A person's poverty level is determined by their ability to earn enough income to meet their living needs. Second, societal well-being should encompass not only food needs but also adequate health and education.

The Surabaya City Government has planned and launched a scholarship program known as the Surabaya Golden Generation Scholarship, which prioritizes providing scholarships to children from underprivileged families. This initiative is followed by another scholarship program called the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship. This scholarship is managed by the Surabaya City Department of Culture, Youth, Sports, and Tourism, specifically under the youth division, as it is responsible for overseeing the management of the program.

The Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship is awarded to two categories: high school students and university students from low-income families in Surabaya (holding a Surabaya ID card or family card). This program is aimed at students from underprivileged families who are at risk of dropping out of school and university students who wish to pursue higher education but face financial constraints.

However, in the implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program that has already been carried out, there are issues that have arisen. One of the main problems is the limited quota allocated to the low-income families category, which affects their ability to pursue higher education in Surabaya. The target for 2024 is set at 3,500 recipients, but so far, only 2,700 people have been reached, leaving about 800 spots still available. There have been challenges in both the dissemination of information and the optimization of the quota distribution. According to a report from antaranews.com, many of the remaining spots have not been utilized due to a lack of awareness about the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program.

Another issue in the implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program is the accuracy in targeting the recipients of the scholarships. This problem was highlighted by researchers during preliminary

interviews with recipients of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship as part of a pre-research study, which indicated challenges in ensuring that the program reaches the intended targets.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Public Policy

According to Carl Friedrich, policy is a strategic step aimed at achieving the desired goals of an individual, group, or government in a particular matter. This approach is not only intended to overcome existing obstacles but also to identify and leverage available opportunities to achieve the desired objectives. However, Friedrich's explanation is further strengthened by the perspective of Knoepfel and his colleagues (2007), who describe policy as "a series of decisions or actions resulting from the structured and repeated interaction among various actors, both public/government and private, who are involved in different ways in responding to, identifying, and solving a problem that is politically defined as a public issue." (Meutia, 2017).

According to Thomas R. Dye (1992), as cited by Anggara (2014), public policy is defined as any decision by the government to act or not to act. Based on Thomas R. Dye (1992) in Anggara (2014), "Public Policy is whatever the government chooses to do or not to do." Dye also emphasizes that in public policy, government actions encompass both decisions to act and decisions not to act.

Policy Implementation

In general, policy implementation directs the policy goals towards the outcomes of government activities. According to Anggara (2014), failures in policy implementation can be caused by limitations in human resources, ineffective organizational structures, and a lack of coordination with relevant parties. Policy implementation, as explained by Wahab and cited by Anggara (2014), refers to the process of executing policy decisions, which are often articulated in the form of laws, government regulations, judicial decisions, executive orders, or presidential decrees.

According to Van Meter and Van Horn, as cited by Anggara (2016), implementation refers to the actions taken by individuals, officials, or groups from either the public or private sector to achieve the goals set out in policy decisions. Mazmanian and Sabatier, also cited by Anggara (2014), describe implementation as the process of executing basic policies, which are generally articulated in the form of laws but can also include orders or decisions from other judicial bodies. According to Anggara (2014), implementation is an understanding of what clearly happens after a program is enacted or planned.

Education

Education which comes from the word "educare," meaning to bring out or develop a child's or student's potential. According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia Pusat Bahasa (2008:326), education refers to the process of changing an individual's or group's attitudes and behaviors through teaching and

training to achieve human maturity. According to the Longman Advanced American Dictionary (2007:509), education is the process by which a person develops their mind through learning in schools or colleges. Education plays a crucial role in a country's development. In accordance with the 1945 Constitution, Article 27, education is considered as preparation for shaping good citizens who understand their rights and obligations (Amaliah, 2015).

According to the Republic of Indonesia Law No. 20 of 2003, Chapter 1, Article 1, on the National Education System, education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment and process. Its primary goal is for learners to actively develop various aspects of their potential, such as spiritual, religious, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed for personal, community, national, and state interests. Education is considered a key element in developing quality human resources, playing a central role in a country's development. Its presence is viewed as a fundamental foundation for improving human quality. The United Nations recognizes the importance of education by including it as one of the 8 Millennium Development Goals, with a primary focus on achieving equitable and universal primary education.

Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship

The Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program is intended for youths in Surabaya who are currently studying at the high school (SMA/SMK/MA) level or have been admitted to higher education institutions. This scholarship is available for students and university students who face economic challenges in continuing their education. It is also accessible to those who demonstrate outstanding achievements, both academically and non-academically. This aligns with the Surabaya Mayor Regulation No. 135 of 2022 on the Procedures for Granting Scholarships.

Conceptual Framework

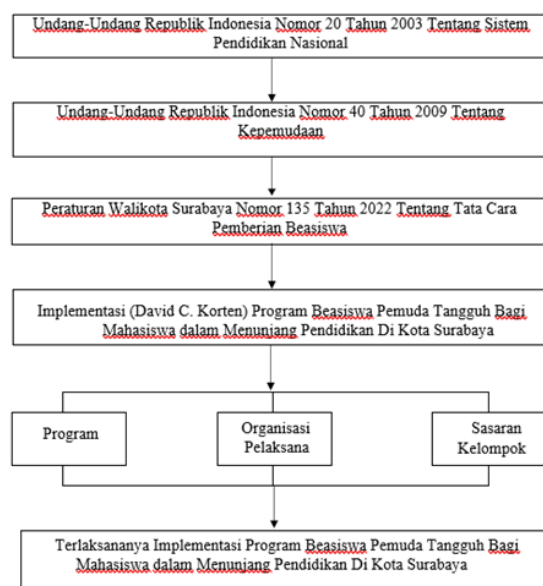


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

Sources:

1. Republic of Indonesia Law No. 20 of 2003 About the National Education System
2. Republic of Indonesia Law No. 40 of 2009 About Youth
3. Surabaya Mayor Regulation No. 135 of 2022 on the Procedures for Granting Scholarships
4. Implementation according to David C. Korten's Theory

METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative method with a descriptive research type. The research location was chosen purposively, specifically at the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation. Informants for this study were selected using purposive sampling, consisting of the Head of the Youth Division of the Surabaya City Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, staff from the department, and 10 students who received the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship. Data analysis techniques follow Miles and Huberman's framework, including data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing or verifying conclusions. According to Moleong (2018), the validity of data in qualitative research includes credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Suitability of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program with the Target Group

In terms of program alignment with the target group, it means there is a match between the program and the needs of the target group, as described by David C. Korten in Bahri et al., (2020). This alignment refers to how well the 'Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program,' conducted by the Department of Culture, Youth, Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City, meets the needs of the target group. The purpose of aligning the program with the target group is to understand how the program affects performance and the impact it has on the target group.

The objective of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program: implemented by the Department of Culture, Youth, Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City, is to assist students facing financial constraints so they can continue their education at higher education institutions. According to Suratman in Ahmad et al., (2021), a policy or program must be implemented effectively to achieve the desired impact or goals. The objectives of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program are commendable, and thus, the benefits to the students are felt.

Policy of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program: According to Charles O. Jones in Ramadhani & Nawangsari (2023), a program is a crucial component of a policy. For the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program, policies are established to guide its implementation. The implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program is regulated by Surabaya Mayor Regulation Number 135 of 2022 concerning Scholarship Provision Procedures. However,

there is a discrepancy between the requirements stated in the regulation and those detailed in the pamphlets distributed by the department. This discrepancy has led to a sense of injustice in the distribution of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship. This aligns with Frans Magnis Suseno's theory of justice in (Pandit, 2018), which describes a condition where individuals are treated equally according to their rights and responsibilities.

Amount of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship: Every policy that is developed and implemented to achieve its goals requires a budget. According to Deddy Nordiawan in Arifah (2018), this budget serves as a planning tool to determine what needs to be done and how the policy should be crafted. Students receiving the scholarship will get free UKT (student tuition fees) according to the UKT costs of their respective public universities, semester tuition funds amounting to IDR 750,000, and a monthly allowance of IDR 500,000 for daily expenses for a period of 10 months. However, students also hope for an increase in the allowance due to the rising cost of living, especially in Surabaya, which is the largest city in East Java Province. Therefore, efforts should be made to increase income to improve well-being, including supporting students in continuing their higher education (Muazaroh & Subaidi, 2019).

Strategy for Implementing the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program: In the implementation process of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program, the Department of Culture, Youth, Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City first devises a strategy to achieve the desired goals. According to the book Wardhana (2021), a strategy serves as a guideline for direction and objectives over a long period for a company, derived from actions and the allocation of necessary resources to achieve the desired goals. The strategy employed by the department involves an improved online-based system called the Besmart website. Additionally, information dissemination by the department is carried out through social media, making it easier for the community, including students in Surabaya City, to access the information.

The Suitability of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program with the Implementing Organization

In terms of alignment between the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program and the implementing organization, it involves assessing whether the tasks assigned to the program align with the capabilities of the organization executing it, as discussed by David C. Korten in Bahri et al., (2020). In this context, alignment refers to how the tasks defined in the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program match the capabilities of the Department of Culture, Youth, Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City.

Employee Understanding for Program Implementation: In this context, the implementing organization refers to the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City, which acts as a bridge for providing information related to the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program to the target groups. The Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City, as the implementing organization, involves collaboration among its employees. An organization cannot be said to have effective collaboration if

its members do not have individual awareness of their roles within the organization, build expectations and responsibilities, maintain communication and coordination, and uphold the commitment of each member (Ardias et al., 2022). In essence, employee understanding means information that is acknowledged or known by an individual (Saleh, 2019). The understanding of employees at the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City regarding the implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program can be said to be in accordance with the program's objectives.

Program Implementers' Response to Recipients of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship: This aspect concerns how the program implementers respond to the recipients of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship and whether their responses are appropriate. In program implementation, the response of the program implementers—whether they accept or reject the execution of the program—becomes a key factor in the success or failure of the program (Prambudi Adha et al., 2022). The Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program has been successfully implemented, as evidenced by the fact that, as of August 2024, the number of scholarship recipients has reached its target of 3,500 students. This has been beneficial for the students, allowing those with limited economic resources to continue their higher education.

Alignment of the Target Group with the Implementing Organization

This means the alignment between the target groups and the implementing organization to produce a program that is suitable for the target groups, as stated by David C. Korten in Bahri et al., (2020). The Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City, as the implementing organization, ensures this alignment with the target groups to achieve the results of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program.

Accuracy of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship Program: The implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program has been very beneficial for students facing economic constraints in continuing their higher education. This support encourages students to pursue their studies with motivation and to graduate on time. According to Anis et al., (2021), a program can be considered accurate if it meets the set targets. In this context, the department has effectively achieved the program's objectives, meeting the targets and adhering to the existing regulations.

Timeliness of the Implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship: The timeliness of the implementation of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program can be considered successful. This is evidenced by the fact that the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Tourism of Surabaya City has carried out socialization and disbursement of funds in accordance with its schedule. However, students hope that the budget for daily needs could be increased, as the cost of living for students tends to rise over time. This aligns with Rochmawan's explanation in Gunawijaya (2017), which states that as civilization and scientific and technological knowledge advance, human needs become more varied and numerous.

Target Accuracy of the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship: Target accuracy in a program refers to how well the program meets its intended goals, as determined by its targeting criteria (Alvian et al., 2024). In the Pemuda Tangguh Scholarship program, the target is students—specifically, students residing in Surabaya who are enrolled in state universities and face economic constraints. The program can be considered accurate in its targeting. This is evidenced by the fact that scholarship recipients fall into the category of Low-Income Families, as observed from their living conditions.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the research and discussion, the conclusions can be summarized as follows: First, alignment of the pemuda tangguh scholarship program with target groups, the pemuda tangguh scholarship program is deemed appropriate for its target groups. This is evidenced by the program's goal of assisting students with economic difficulties to continue their higher education and graduate on time. Second, alignment of the pemuda tangguh scholarship program with implementing organizations, the alignment between the program and the implementing organizations is considered appropriate. This is demonstrated by the knowledge and understanding of the staff responsible for executing the program. Third, alignment of target groups with implementing organizations, the alignment between the target groups and the implementing organizations is also deemed appropriate. This is observed through the program's adherence to its goal of assisting students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The scholarship recipients fall within the category of poor families, as indicated by their living conditions. The recommendations, there is a discrepancy between the requirements in regulations and the information presented in pamphlets by the department, suggesting a need for evaluation of these regulations or policies. The city government should consider increasing the pemuda tangguh scholarship budget to better cover students' daily living expenses, as costs continue to rise.

FUTURE STUDY

Future research is needed to explore other theories and indicators to obtain different objectives, results and conclusions. This includes factors such as sustainability, management efficiency, and long-term effects, which have not been studied before. By examining these additional factors, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the factors that drive different and more favorable outcomes, allowing them to contribute more effectively and efficiently.

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