



Community Participation Makes Equal Welfare

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ABSTRACT

Community Welfare is a concept that shows the government's responsibility to provide social protection to all its citizens. It requires active participation from the community to achieve this. This article aims to discuss the importance of active community participation in realizing a welfare state, along with the challenges and obstacles. This research is descriptive research that describes the social behavior of the community which is related to the active participation of the community in realizing a welfare state. The results of this research are that there are several obstacles in implementing community participation, such as the lack of public understanding of the importance of participation, differences in views and interests, as well as limited resources and support from the government. The government needs to strengthen coordination and collaboration with the community in planning and implementing welfare programs as well as ensuring transparency and accountability in managing public resources and building an effective monitoring system.

INTRODUCTION

The welfare state is an economic and political model that has the aim of increasing the standard of living of its entire population. According to Elviandri, Dimiyati, and Absori (2019), there are several initiatives run by the government that seek to meet people's basic needs, such as health care, education, housing, and social security. By implementing fair fiscal policies and wealth transfers, the welfare state aims to narrow the economic and social gap between prosperous and poor regions (Suryono, 2018). The idea of a welfare state has many supporters, but faces many obstacles when put into practice, especially in the areas of politics and money. Funding these programs and ensuring recipients get the help they need requires the government to provide enough money. In order for the common good to be realized, law makers and policy makers must consider competing priorities without forgetting the big picture (Fedryansyah, 2016).

Disagreements regarding welfare and income redistribution are indicative of differences of opinion and values in society, which make it difficult to implement the idea of a welfare state. According to several organizations (Dahlan, & 'Irfaan 2014), people need to take charge of their own lives and not depend on the government, so social programs like this should not be necessary. However, others argue that these efforts are woefully inadequate to address social and economic problems, and that further funding and assistance is needed. Those who are more fiscally conservative also see social programs as wasteful. According to Lismanto and Utama (2020), the government must show how these programs can provide benefits to society and the country over time.

Article 34 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia states, "The poor and neglected children are cared for by the State," and furthermore, Article 27 Paragraph (2) states, "Every citizen has the right to work and a decent living for humanity." These regulations apply within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, regardless of one's position regarding the welfare state. Because the state is obliged to guarantee the social welfare of its people (Hadiyono, 2020), therefore, community involvement in implementing state welfare programs is very important. In essence, for public policy to reflect the needs and goals of society, it is essential for members of society to actively participate in promoting and supporting the idea of a welfare state. The basic principle of a democratic country like Indonesia is community involvement, because government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" is a central principle of the country's original charter.

Building a welfare state relies heavily on community involvement. Politically involved communities, especially those who depend on public assistance, have a greater opportunity to have their interests and needs taken into account by policy makers (Anasiru, 2011). Community access to government welfare resources and services becomes better and faster when the community is actively involved. According to Sukmana et al. (2015), this will contribute to a better quality of life for individuals and reduced social injustice in society. However, involving the community is not easy. Some problems that

can arise when trying to involve society in building a welfare state include a lack of understanding of why it is important for society to be involved, information gaps, and differences in viewpoints and interests.

Therefore, this article is here to discuss and emphasize how important it is for the government to do what needs to be done to involve the community in building a welfare state by making it easier for people to get the information they need, increasing their ability to do so, and encouraging communication channels and more open participation in policy making.

Several authors have written about social welfare and active community involvement, and their work has been published in national and world magazines. Across the country, there is research and writing exploring the relationship between society and well-being. For example, in an article entitled "The Role of Local Community Figures in Social Welfare Development," Ahmad Suhendi (2013) investigated the significant impact that community leaders have on social development and individual welfare.

Although the author's research focuses on issues facing community leaders and other social institutions, this paper takes a different approach, arguing that community engagement must be strengthened across the board. In addition, according to a 2014 paper by Nancy Rahakbauwi and MJ Maspaitella entitled *The purpose of this article, entitled "Social Welfare Development: Community Empowerment in a Social Worker's Approach,"* is to discuss how empowering communities is important for improving social welfare. Community economic empowerment is the main subject in this paper and the researcher's work as a means towards social welfare. However, by focusing on the importance of community involvement, this essay will provide a more thorough explanation of the value of community empowerment.

Another option is to read Ratih Probosiwi's review, *Women and Their Role in Social Welfare Development*. According to Probosiwi (2015), this study tends to highlight empowerment strategies that ignore gender to achieve social welfare. In *Women and Social Welfare: A Feminist Analysis*, Dorothy C. Miller, following in the footsteps of Ratih Probosiwi, examines feminist concerns regarding the division of labor and meeting social demands (Miller, 1991). The author's research does not discuss gender, but emphasizes knowledge and active involvement of society in achieving social welfare, which is the same theme in both works.

The final work is an essay by Sarbeswar Sahoo entitled *Globalization, Social Welfare and Civil Society in India*. In this essay, Sahoo (2008) investigates contemporary trends in community activism, which takes a more proactive approach to community welfare issues. The author's essay and this research have many similarities, namely emphasizing the importance of community participation in achieving social justice; However, the author's article aims to capture the significance, as well as obstacles and challenges, of community participation in achieving prosperity, so that this research can be considered new research and worthy of review.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Participation

When someone seeks to be part of the process by which public policies that impact their lives are decided and implemented, we can say that they are participating in society. Czapanskiy and Manjoo (2008) listed many ways that community members can get involved, including providing feedback, answering questions, donating time, energy, or other resources, and participating in program planning and decision making. According to Harris, Owen, and Gould (2012), community involvement aims to make public policy and development better meet people's needs and expectations, encourage a more democratic situation, and ensure that everyone gets the same benefits.

With so many complex social, political, and economic issues facing the nation today, civic engagement is more important than ever. Better outcomes and benefits for society can be achieved when government policies are made more accessible, accountable and participatory through community involvement. In addition, community involvement can strengthen social bonds, community cohesiveness, and the ability to solve problems collectively (Masango, 2002).

Various theoretical frameworks, including collective action theory, community engagement theory, participatory democracy theory, and power theory, provide the theoretical foundation for community engagement. Herbert Mc Closky proposed the idea of participatory democracy, which states that citizens should be actively involved in governing themselves by having a voice in making public policy. At the same time, according to Feenstra (2015), John Locke's theory of power highlights complex power structures in which individuals fight for their interests.

In contrast, according to Keith Davis's idea of community involvement, local residents will be more actively involved in planning, evaluating, and monitoring public programs if they are included in the decision-making process. The importance of community collaboration in achieving common goals is emphasized in Maximilian Weber's theory of collective action. Community involvement is essential for building effective governance and laying the foundation for a welfare state, according to the foundations of community engagement theory (Van Deth, 2001).

For the purposes of this article, "participation" is taking part in welfare state community programs. Social policies based on the idea of a welfare state seek to provide adequate social security and government protection for all individuals (Yay, & Aksoy, 2018). The welfare state is based on the principle of social solidarity, which states that those who can afford it should help those who cannot. Health, education, housing, employment, and other areas are all touched by this idea of the welfare state (Hajighasemi et al., 2022).

Within the framework of a welfare state, citizen involvement is very important. The previous point explained how community involvement is an example of the democratic system that has been implemented by the Indonesian government. When community members take part in the design, decision making, and implementation of social welfare programs, this is referred to as community engagement. For the simple reason that it has the

potential to increase the efficiency and quality of government-run social programs, and create social solidarity among individuals, community involvement is crucial to the idea of a welfare state. To ensure that all residents, especially those who are less fortunate, experience social security and protection from the state, community involvement is key (Asyhabuddin, 2022). This is because different communities have different needs, and social programs can be adapted.

B. Concept of Social Welfare

Social welfare can be interpreted as a science because in its study the science of social welfare includes concepts, theories, methods and paradigms. As a science, social welfare science is a very young science among other scientific disciplines such as Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, Sociology and others. Social welfare can be viewed as a science and academic discipline. Social welfare is the study of institutions, programs, personnel, and policies that focus on providing social services to individuals, groups, and society. Social welfare science has an effort to develop its knowledge base to identify social problems, their causes and strategies for overcoming them.

2.1.1 Understanding Social Welfare

Welfare comes from the word "prosperous". This prosperity contains the meaning of the Sanskrit word "Catera" which means umbrella. In this context, welfare contained in the meaning of "catera" (umbrella) is a prosperous person, namely a person whose life is free from poverty, ignorance, fear or worry so that their life is safe and peaceful, both physically and mentally. Meanwhile, Social comes from the word "Socius" which means comrade, friend and cooperation. A social person is a person who can relate well to other people and their environment. So social welfare can be interpreted as a condition where people can fulfill their needs and can relate well to their environment.

METHODOLOGY

This scientific research is a type of qualitative social research. Qualitative social research is a research approach that focuses on in-depth understanding and interpretation of social phenomena by collecting descriptive, narrative and non-numerical data. Qualitative social research methods include the use of subjects studied and also collected from various empirical data and case studies, personal experiences, introspection, life journeys, texts resulting from observations, history, interviews, interactions, and visuals that describe everyday and problematic moments and meanings in life.

RESEARCH RESULT

A. The Role of the Public in Realizing the Nation 'S Purpose Well - Being

Community involvement is essential in social assistance programs, which are the backbone of the welfare state. By getting involved, communities can tell the government what they need and ensure that programs are tailored to their needs. For example, low-income people in Indonesia can get assistance through the Social Safety Net (JPS) program. Individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have the opportunity to apply for several forms of social assistance, including food stamps, basic food assistance, and cash (Nasrah et al., 2021). Residents in the area were involved in the process of verifying aid

recipient data, which shows community support for the program. Those in need will actually get social assistance thanks to this system. Every community has a voice in government policies and programs that affect them.

Community involvement is very important for social welfare programs to be effective and sustainable. For long-term, just development, community involvement is needed in various fields such as health, community economic empowerment, and education. The education industry offers a wide variety of opportunities for community participation.

In the case of health services, for example, community involvement is key to improving the system and quality of services. One way to get involved in the community is by managing local health facilities, providing social assistance to patients and their families, or participating in health education activities. For example, "Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)" is a program in India that recruits community volunteers to help educate rural residents about health and provide basic medical care (Rahul et al., 2021).

In the field of community economic empowerment, people can take part in programs that teach them new skills, build businesses together in the form of cooperatives or joint ventures, and help build the local economy (Sari, 2017). One of the programs that helps low-income families to improve their economic situation is the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P)" in the Philippines. The program offers social support as well as business development and skills training. Community well-being and individual independence will increase as a result of enthusiastic and dedicated community involvement in these programs (Aguado, 2021).

Apart from that, society also plays an important role in reducing the possibility of social and ecological disasters. Social and natural disaster risk reduction programs require community involvement in planning, implementation and monitoring. By working together, communities can help the government anticipate and prepare for potential threats in their region. Helping with evacuations and first aid after earthquakes and floods are two ways that community members can do. Furthermore, community organizations can assist governments in constructing flood barriers and resilient man-made structures. Disasters can have a greater impact and recovery times can be longer if people are not prepared and do not take social risks (Widayanti, 2016).

B. Challenges in Implementing Community Participation in Realizing Social Welfare

The effectiveness of government programs is highly dependent on community involvement in social welfare development. However, in reality, there are several obstacles that hinder community involvement. Uncertainty and lack of interest in community service initiatives is a major problem (Ta'dung, & Lusdani, 2020). Problems like this can arise when people are not given enough information, do not trust existing programs, or do not realize how important the role of society is in the growth of social welfare. Barriers to community involvement can also arise from social, political and economic contexts. Inequalities in wealth and social status can limit people's access and participation in social assistance programs. Other factors that can influence community involvement are a politically unstable environment and restrictions

on freedom of speech (Nurbaiti, & Bambang, 2017). In some countries, people can feel pressured or even imprisoned if they speak out against government policies, making it difficult for them to participate in social programs.

It is widely believed that active participation of the people is essential for the establishment of a democratic state and the achievement of social prosperity. Therefore, it is very important for the government to encourage community involvement in development initiatives, such as the implementation of social welfare programs. There are several initiatives that have been undertaken by the government to involve more people in these programs. The government's goal in instituting social welfare programs is to involve members of the community in their design and implementation. For example, through sub-district or village discussion forums, the community can convey their demands and hopes for social welfare programs to the government. The community is also provided with enlightenment and assistance by government institutions regarding social welfare programs and their active participation. People will better understand the value of social welfare programs and how they can contribute to these programs. The government can also provide incentives for people to take part in social assistance programs. For example, the government can provide monetary assistance or gifts as incentives for people to take part in social welfare programs. Providing incentives or praise will encourage more people to take part in social assistance programs. However, the government's efforts to involve the community face many challenges. There are many social assistance programs available, but not enough people know about them. The majority of people do not know that social assistance programs exist and what is required to apply. Therefore, the government must increase its efforts to inform the public about social assistance programs and how to maximize their benefits. Lack of understanding and participation from some communities is another obstacle, especially in less developed or remote areas. Some people may feel unsafe or unsure about participating in social assistance programs. Communities, especially those less experienced with social welfare programs, need the government to provide appropriate assistance and guidance. A socially just welfare state can only be built through a partnership between society and government. The community and government can work together in implementing social welfare programs, because the government is the institution that regulates these policies and projects. Communities will be more engaged and proud of the programs they help run as a consequence of this relationship, which will enable everyone to work towards the same goal, namely for the benefit of society, more effectively.

The education sector is a field that requires cooperation between the government and society. Participation from the community, especially in the field of supervision and monitoring, can help the Indonesian government in implementing its programs to improve the quality of education. Government officials can ease the way for citizen participation by holding meetings and forums with interested citizens, including parents and community leaders. By participating in these forums, community members can see how government-

run education programs are run and make recommendations on how schools in their area can improve. By involving the community in every step of the process, this partnership helps ensure that government education programs are successful and on target (Astawa, 2017).

The health sector is another area where government and society can work together, alongside education. Community involvement in implementing government health programs can increase their effectiveness. A good example is involving public health cadres in the government's immunization program. These health cadres can not only supervise those who have not been vaccinated, but can also educate the public about the importance of vaccination. In order to eradicate infectious diseases that endanger public health, it is very important for society and the government to work together in implementing the goals of the immunization program. The government can encourage community involvement in the implementation of social welfare programs by creating more opportunities for community involvement. It is important for the government to consider the wants and needs of the community and ensure that the programs they launch really help the community. In many countries, improving collective welfare can be done by encouraging community participation in social welfare programs. The following are some international examples of community participation in social welfare programs:

- a) Canadian Food Bank Program As an example of a community-based social welfare program, look at food banks in Canada. In Canada, those in need can obtain food through food banks, which are part of the social assistance system. For this program to work, food donations from local businesses and the community are essential. This program has helped reduce hunger. Food donations from local businesses and communities are critical to the success of this program, therefore involving the community is key (BEKEN, 2021).
- b) Brazil's Conditional Cash Transfer Plan The Conditional Cash Transfer (CMT) program is a social welfare project in Brazil that encourages low-income families to participate in health and education programs in order to receive financial assistance. This program is one of the best social welfare programs in the world. Poor communities in Brazil have seen their poverty rates decrease and their access to health services and schools increase thanks to program funding from the country's GDP (Rasella et al., 2013). This program encourages community involvement in program evaluation and policy making so that programs can be adapted to the needs of the communities they help.
- c) Employment Guarantee for Rural India In India, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (NREGA) provides social assistance to low-income rural residents. One of the best social assistance programs in the world. Unemployment and poverty have decreased in rural India as a result of this program (Chakraborty, 2011). Community involvement is very important for the success of this program because this program is built on the premise of active community involvement in program formulation, implementation and monitoring. The community is

actively involved in the monitoring process through frequent holding of participatory forums.

Several factors must be considered when determining the best way for society to engage in creating a welfare state. The government has a responsibility to the public to make its social assistance programs and their eligibility to participate clear and easily accessible. Participation in community activities can be increased by providing simple and easy to understand information. Second, the state can establish monitoring institutions, advocacy and working groups to encourage community involvement. Here, citizens can voice their opinions about the state of social assistance programs and provide recommendations for reform to policymakers. Third, the community can be involved in the process of evaluating, planning and implementing social welfare programs by the government. Community participation can be carried out at all stages of program development, including brainstorming, monitoring and assessment.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the explanation above, it is clear that citizen involvement is very important for the formation of a welfare state. Limited resources, differences in opinions and interests, and lack of community involvement are some of the obstacles in realizing community participation. To overcome these difficulties, the government must increase community involvement and cooperation in the development and implementation of welfare programs. The government must also build an efficient monitoring system and encourage openness and responsibility in the management of public funds. Meanwhile, community members must be proactive and aware of the importance of their involvement in the struggle for the common good.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

In writing this article the researcher realizes that there are still many shortcomings in terms of language, writing, and form of presentation considering the limited knowledge and abilities of the researchers themselves. Therefore, for the perfection of the article, the researcher expects constructive criticism and suggestions from various parties.

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