
THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE OF THE DAP POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN KUANTAN SINGINGI REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

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This study aims to examine the role of Social Services in poverty alleviation in Kuantan Singingi Regency. By referring to aspects of education, facilitation and social welfare. This study identifies policies and programs implemented by the Social Service to improve the quality of life of the community. The method used in this study is qualitative descriptive. The method of data collection is through observation, interviews and documentation. The results of the study show that the Kuantan Regency Social Service has implemented several education and social protection programs aimed at meeting the basic needs of the poor. The community believes that despite the progress made through the Social Service program, there is a need to increase transparency, accountability, and community participation. To increase the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs, the Social Service needs to strengthen the data collection system, collaboration between agencies, and increase community participation in the program planning and evaluation process.

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a very difficult problem to overcome or reduce in most developing countries in the world. As a developing country, Indonesia continues to strive to integrate poverty for its population. According to Remi and Tjiptoherijanto (2002), efforts to reduce the poverty level have existed since the 1970s through programs such as Community Guidance (Bimas) and Village Assistance (Bandes). According to Law No. 11 of 2009 on Social Welfare, poverty is characterized by the inability to meet basic needs such as clothing, food, board, education, and health care. In accordance with the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 8 of 2019 concerning Integrated Data on the Handling of the Poor and Disadvantaged, one of which is household-based as previously mentioned.

According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Riau Province, in 2023, Kuantan Singingi Regency has a poor population of 26.10 thousand people or has a poor population percentage of 6.68%. This figure illustrates the proportion of the population that is below the poverty line. The population of Kuantan Singingi Regency may change from time to time depending on economic conditions and factors.

In Law Number 13 of 2011 concerning the Handling of the Poor, the government is an effort to meet the basic needs of the people's lives. In addition, the government is making this effort to create a prosperous society and show the state's concern for improving the quality of life of its people. To support poverty alleviation, local governments take strategic

actions through the implementation of integrated programs and activities and government, private, and community institutions. The government must immediately do important things to stop poverty because it will cause additional problems such as crime and also new social problems such as child neglect, and the non-optimal childcare by the family.

In Kuantan district, poverty is a problem that is being faced and handled. Therefore, the role of the Kuantan Singingi Regency Government is very important in this matter. The Social Service is a government institution that focuses on the development of social welfare, which must have a significant role in fighting poverty. Law Number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Welfare states that the district/city government is responsible for encouraging the community to organize social welfare.

Kuantan Singingi Regency has a lot of potential that can be developed both in terms of nature, culture and economy, including agriculture, fisheries and the ability to improve the living standards of its residents. The Social Service plays a very important role in overcoming poverty through programs that have been formed by the Social Service which aims to overcome existing poverty (Arifin, 2013).

Poverty is one of the main challenges faced by the Kuantan Singingi district government. Although the poverty rate in Kuantan Singingi Regency is relatively low compared to other Riau provincial districts. In order to reduce poverty, the Social Service of Kuantan Singingi Regency has carried out various programs in accordance with its field.

The role of the Social Service in overcoming poverty involves several important aspects that focus on providing social assistance and empowering the poor. The main role of the Social Service is to distribute social assistance tasked with distributing assistance such as Cash Assistance (BLT), Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT) and the Family Hope Program (PKH). In addition to providing social assistance, the Social Service also runs an economic empowerment program that aims to improve the skills and capacity of the poor, the Social Service provides protection and rehabilitation for vulnerable groups, and the Social Service also collaborates between institutions and other agencies such as the education, health and other institutions to create integrated programs in poverty alleviation.

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Table 1.2 Data on the Percentage of Poor Population in Kuantan Singingi Regency

Regency	Percentage of poor population (Percent)			Percent
	2021	2022	2023	
Regency Kuantan Singingi				2023
	8,97%	8,24%	8,07 %	8,07%

The data above shows that the number of poor people has always decreased in the last three years, as evidenced by the number of poor people starting in 2021 which was around 8.97% to 8.24% in 2022, then in 2023 it dropped to 8.07%. Based on the data in the table above, it can be concluded that the number of poor people in the Kuantan Singingi Regency Social Service has decreased from 2021 to 2023.

However, the social service continues to strive to improve the standard of living of the community and fight poverty through several programs that have been implemented previously such as PKH, BLT, Non-Cash Food assistance providers and other programs. Although there has been a decrease in the poverty rate in recent years, the poverty rate in Singingi district is quite significant, especially in rural areas.

However, the results have not been maximized because several problems that often occur cause activities to not have the potential to run well. The determination of receiving

assistance is carried out based on not being in accordance with the provisions and requirements. Aid distribution officers often commit fraud by including those closest to them such as relatives who are not legally eligible for assistance. As said by one of the community by Mrs. Marlinda.

"Usually, the team or people who collect data on duty are less sportsmanlike, it can be said that they are unprofessional because there are still those who commit fraud such as they include their relatives or closest people as candidates for receiving assistance, and they are seen as not worthy of receiving legal and requirements"

Therefore, it is necessary how well the government carries out its applicable obligations. Based on the research in the field conducted by the author, the author has a strong reason to try to conduct this research. From the various problems above, the author is interested in studying and conducting research on "The Role of Social Services in Poverty Alleviation in Kuantan Singingi Regency"

2. METHODS

The research used in this study is a qualitative approach used to describe a subject and its object, including individuals, institutions, communities, and so on. The results of this study are also based on observations, interviews and documentation conducted by researchers. This research was conducted in Kuantan Singingi Regency about the role of social services in poverty alleviation. The time used in this study is from January to March 2024.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Social Services in Poverty Alleviation in Kuantan Singingi Regency

Poverty is a state of shortage that exists in several sectors of society. The indicators of poverty refer to the low level of community education, productivity and effectiveness to the welfare of the community. People who are considered poor have few human resources, which is the root of poverty and limited educational knowledge owned by the community. In addressing the problem of poverty that affects some communities, the government has certainly prepared various policies and agencies or agencies to overcome this poverty. Poverty is one of the social problems faced by the government, without the maximum role of the government, of course, the problem of poverty is difficult to overcome and overcome by the community. The Social Service is one of the institutions assigned by the government specifically to overcome social problems that plague the community, this service has a very important function to organize and improve the standard of living of the community in a better direction and more prosperous in the future.

The goal of Kuantan Singingi Regency is to realize a society with social and economic justice and one of the goals is to improve the social welfare of the community. So this poverty problem is the main program run by the government, a special institution that overcomes the problem of poverty in Kuantan Singingi Regency is the Social Service.

This study uses the approach of Permensos Number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Welfare where the district/city

government is responsible for the community to organize social welfare. The approach is as follows:

Educational Aspects

The educational aspect is an integrated part of the learning process helping students to develop their abilities and is also very important in life. Education is a sector that greatly determines the quality of a nation. Therefore, education is also referred to as an internal part of nation building.

Based on the results of the interviews with the informants above, it can be concluded that the Social Service has an important role in supporting access to education for the poor through its various programs in providing assistance to children from poor families to be able to support their access to formal education from elementary to tertiary levels.

According to Zulyanto, A. (2022). Wider access to education plays a key role in poverty reduction. Education can increase an individual's capacity to get a better job and can improve the family's standard of living. Low levels of education and poor skill mastery can hinder economic growth which will ultimately slow down poverty reduction.

So the aspect of education in the role of the Social Service is very significant in overcoming poverty by showing that education is one of the main strategies in improving the economic condition of the poor and is also the key to overcoming poverty in a sustainable manner.

Facilitation Aspects

The facilitation aspect is a process of activities to make it easier for the community to achieve the goal of change. In the role of the Social Service, the facilitation aspect is very crucial to support poverty alleviation. Through coordination between institutions and others. The Social Service can ensure that existing programs run well and have a positive impact on the community. Synergy between the government, communities, and related institutions needs to be continuously improved to achieve more effective and sustainable poverty alleviation goals.

The Social Service is responsible for facilitating the poor in accessing various assistance programs that include data collection, eligibility verification and distribution of assistance. The Social Service also acts as a facilitator who can connect the poor with other agencies to ensure that the poor get full access to basic services and opportunities for economic improvement.

According to Pratiwi, Norsyarifa and Apsari (2022) that good facilitation in access to social programs plays a very important role in poverty alleviation. Facilitation that includes accurate data collection, ensuring that assistance is on target. This is consistent with the role of the Kuantan Singingi Regency Social Service which facilitates access to various social assistance programs. Facilitation is an important component in the role of the Social Service in poverty alleviation. The importance of facilitation in empowerment and wider access to social services. Committed to facilitating access to social assistance for the poor, although there are still challenges to be overcome. Ongoing efforts are needed to ensure that all levels of society can benefit from existing social protection programs.

Social Welfare Aspects

The aspect of social welfare is an action taken to achieve a good standard of living. The social welfare aspect is an integral part of the Social Service in poverty alleviation through the provision of social security, the development of empowerment programs, and access to basic services. The Social Service contributes significantly to improving the welfare of the community. The success of these programs relies heavily on collaboration between the government, communities, and various other stakeholders to create a more prosperous and independent society.

The Social Service plays a crucial role in improving the social welfare of the community through planned and directed social protection programs to improve welfare and ease the economic burden of poor families through direct assistance which is expected to improve welfare.

According to Murdiyana and Mulyana (2017), social protection programs play an important role in improving the welfare of the poor. programs such as PKH and other programs run by the Kuantan Singingi Regency Social Service can help meet the basic needs of the poor, so that they can improve their welfare.

The aspect of social welfare in the role of the Social Service is crucial to overcome poverty by showing that social protection is an important component in efforts to improve the social welfare of the community as a whole.

What are the obstacles faced by social services in overcoming poverty

Poverty alleviation is not a problem that is easily overcome by the government and the Social Service, of course there are obstacles that occur in carrying out the programs and policies taken.

There are several obstacles in facing poverty alleviation in Kuantan Singingi district. The Social Service of Kuantan Singingi Regency faces the main obstacles in overcoming poverty, namely:

1. Inaccurate data on the population declared poor.

Data on the poor that is not verified, the Social Service or the Government faces problems in updating data on the poor so that there can be inadequacies in the distribution of social assistance. An inaccurate database can cause those who really need it to be unreachable.

2. Budget limitations

Budget is the main factor that determines the success of a plan or policy. Without a budget, all planning will fail. The budget allocated specifically to improve people's welfare is very important in the government's efforts to reduce poverty. The Social Service is often faced with budget limitations that affect the implementation of social programs. The limited budget makes the Social Service unable to reach all poor people in Kuantan Singingi optimally. The priority of aid distribution must also be chosen very carefully.

4. CONCLUSION

From the results of research in the field on "The Role of Social Services in Poverty Alleviation in Kuantan Singingi Regency", the researcher concluded that the role of Social Services in overcoming poverty in Kuantan Singingi Regency in terms of the Education aspect of the Social Service plays a role in supporting access to education for the poor through various assistance programs, especially to

ensure that children from underprivileged families can receive education. In terms of facilitation, the Social Service identifies recipients of social protection programs through verification and data updates. However, there are still challenges related to inaccurate data on the poor, which has an impact on the uneven distribution of aid. The Social Service continues to strive to improve the mechanism for distributing aid to be fairer and more efficient, as well as ensuring that program performance indicators run optimally. Social Welfare Aspects The Social Service focuses on improving the welfare of the poor through various social assistance programs such as PKH, and other programs. These programs aim to improve people's living standards, although budget constraints remain a major challenge. The community feels the positive impact of social assistance, but the challenges in terms of accessibility and socialization of the program. The Social Service also continues to develop strategies to increase the effectiveness of assistance programs, so that it can have a wider impact on the welfare of the community.

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