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Policy evaluation on the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu city

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City. This study used a quantitative approach with descriptive statistics analysis. It is expected that the results of the study can be operationalized or applied at various levels of government, especially in disaster management. The population of this study was all stakeholders in disaster management in Palu City including the Regional Disaster Mitigation Agency, the Social Service, the Public Works Office, the Sub-District Office, the Village Office, and the Acceleration of Regional Development Executive Monitoring Team (TP4D). This study involved a total of 228 respondents. The determination of the sample used a census technique meaning that the entire population was used as samples. The results of this study showed that the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City was not effective as the fund was only enjoyed by certain groups and had not solved community problems. This means that there are many complaints from the affected community as they have not been registered as a beneficiary of stimulant funds. This research contributes to the development of public policies related to the policy of distributing stimulant funds for victims of natural disasters consisting of earthquakes, tsunamis, and liquefaction, so policy formulation needs to be designed comprehensively so that it becomes a recommendation for the future because policies related to earthquake, tsunami, and liquefaction disasters have not previously occurred anywhere in the world so that the findings of this study become recommendations for the government in handling increasingly complex natural disasters.



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Introduction

Natural disasters are extremely destructive and detrimental to people's lives. This can be seen from the natural disaster that happened in Palu City, which was extremely destructive and even caused panic in the community because of the earthquake, tsunami, and liquefaction. Natural disasters have statistically observable impacts on the macroeconomy in the short term which can lead to a slowdown in production (Noy, 2009). Natural disasters are not new things, but the understanding of their relevance to development and economic growth is still at an early stage (Cavallo & Noy, 2009). Global disasters are not only becoming more frequent but also more catastrophic (Pantti et al., 2012).

Natural disasters are common in many developing countries, and the national and international communities usually assist the victims (Morris & Wodon, 2003). In Indonesia, the government has issued a disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance policy. The government provides a lot of assistance to help affected areas, including Palu City which is one of the disaster-prone areas in this country.

Palu City is a disaster-prone area as it is passed by the Palu Koro fault, which is the most active tectonic plate in the world. On September 28, 2018 an earthquake with a magnitude of 7+ occurred and caused a tsunami and liquefaction. This incident caused most of the community in Palu City to lose their property and even caused many fatalities. Public infrastructure and housing were damaged and collapsed. This forces the government to take post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction measures.

Considering the condition, the government made a quick response by recording residents' houses that were damaged and determined a classification of damage for the distribution of assistance through stimulant funds. The government has allocated a stimulant fund for heavily damaged houses of Rp. 50,000,000, - moderate damage of Rp. 25,000,000.- and light damage of Rp. 10,000,000.- (Nusantara, 2020; Purboyo, 2019). The classification for the distribution of stimulant funds makes data collection take a long time so people feel dissatisfied with government services in disaster management in Palu City.

Several previous studies have been conducted related to the evaluation of natural disasters in Indonesia. Research conducted by Andi (2022) and Selian (2023) found that the data collection of disaster victims carried out by the local government must coordinate with the community regarding the clarity of the data obtained so that it is appropriate. Likewise, research conducted (Rahmadi, 2022) showed that rehabilitation and reconstruction of settlements of earthquake disaster victims often cause problems that result in impacts on the community because they are not included in the rehabilitation program. The results of these studies emphasize this research that many disaster survivors lack the impact of stimulant funds run by the Palu City government.

The provision of a stimulant funds policy is an effort to speed up rehabilitation and reconstruction. However, in practice, there are many complaints due to the lengthy mechanism. A mechanism is applied to classify the damage and the legality of the beneficiary should also comply with the predetermined rules. Besides, the mechanism is applied to correctly determine the target beneficiary. The stimulant fund is a grant from the Ministry of Finance totaling Rp. 1.9 Trillion (KabarSelebes.id, 2020). The distribution of stimulant funds for houses with severe, moderate, and light damage is through some mechanisms, starting from verification and assessment of the level of damage by the TP4D to sorting administrative files at BPKAD before disbursing the funds (Nusantara, 2020).

The team from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (PUPR) assisted by an assessment team from the Palu City Public Works Service (PU) has started to verify damaged houses in Palu City in preparation for the disbursement of stimulant funds. Verification aims to determine the level of damage to the house due to earthquakes, tsunamis, and liquefaction to subsequently obtain stimulant financial assistance or housing repair funds from the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) (Purboyo, 2019).

Indeed, various problems were found in the field such as the legality of beneficiaries whose homes were lost and have no evidence and mistakes in the name of the beneficiary. The distribution of stimulant funds is an effort to accelerate post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction activities (Nusantara, 2020). Disasters have become the subject of research and attract the attention of academics and government as well as independent institutions (Mohamed Shaluf, 2007). This study is expected to be a reference for the government in carrying out its function in protecting the community by implementing a stimulant funds assistance policy to rebuild community houses that are damaged by the earthquake.

Literature Review

Public policy is support for individuals and this support will impact what the community feels (Moon et al., 2020). The public policy process focuses on policy implementation which is a practical stage and is distinguished from policy formulation which can be viewed as a theoretical stage (Nuraisyah et al., 2020).

Public policies can affect the level of community satisfaction in every aspect of life (Kaya et al., 2020). Public support is a driving force for a policy to achieve its goals (Groh & Möllendorff, 2020). Effective policies must have actor collaboration (general) and inclusion of community groups (Ludvig et al., 2021). A policy must follow the needs of the community to resolve social problems (Willis, 2020). Public policy needs sentiment analysis from the public so that the policy can remain targeted and precise in solving the problem (Wu et al., 2021).

Public policy is entrusted to public administrators to carry out each policy in dealing with all significant challenges in society (Smith et al., 2021). Public policies have to be sustainable to address all problems

perceived by the public (Meira et al., 2020). Public policy has an impact on social learning to be able to adapt to changes in surrounding areas (Nicolletti et al., 2020).

Meanwhile, public policy evaluation is part of the last stage of a public policy, in other words, a public policy cannot just be released, but must be monitored, and one of these monitoring mechanisms is called "policy evaluation" (Pramono S., 2020). Policy evaluation is carried out to assess the effectiveness of public policies to be accountable to their constituents. In addition, evaluation is needed to see the gaps between expectations and reality and to find shortcomings as well as to close shortcomings.

From all the policies issued by the government, to find out whether the policy has been implemented according to the implementation guidelines and on target and can achieve the objectives of the guidelines, it is necessary to conduct a policy evaluation. Because with policy evaluation, we can know the implementation of policies and measure the results achieved. Essentially, the policy evaluation intends to determine aspects of the policy-making process, implementation process, policy consequences, and the effectiveness of policy impacts. The consequences of a policy when implemented usually bring socio-economic changes related to or within the limits of the benefits caused by the effects that occur, and these consequences are in the form of policy impacts. Impact is defined as a change in physical and social conditions as a result of policy output.

Method

This quantitative study used both primary and secondary data. Data were collected from observation, questionnaires, and written documents. The population of this study was all stakeholders in disaster management in Palu City consisting of the Regional Disaster Mitigation Agency, the Social Service, the Public Works Office, the Sub-District Office, the Kelurahan Office, and TP4D. The determination of the sample used a census sampling technique involving 228 respondents. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics covering frequency distribution, means, and standard deviation. The frequency distribution was used to present the portion of the sample that was categorized as strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. The level of the category covered the lowest to the highest.

Results and Discussions

This researcher used descriptive statistical analysis with the help of Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS). The test results cover descriptions of stimulant funds, validity and reliability tests, and descriptive statistics.

Description of Stimulant Funds

The Regional Disaster Mitigation Agency (BPBD), as a part of the regional apparatus of Palu City, is under and responsible to the Mayor. The BPBD is led by the Head of the Agency ex-officio held by the Regional Secretary. To assist Regional Heads in carrying out the duties and functions of disaster mitigation, it is important to establish a Regional Disaster Mitigation Agency based on the mandate of Law Number 24 Year 2007 concerning Disaster Management and Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 46 of 2008 concerning Organizational Guidelines and Working Procedures of Regional Disaster Mitigation Agencies.

The Regional Disaster Mitigation Agency, as part of other regional apparatuses, is the implementer of disaster management tasks by integrating and coordinating all unit work units to carry out pre-disaster, emergency response, and post-disaster tasks. The goal of establishing this organization is expected to be able to provide operational and administrative technical support for natural disaster management in Palu City, which geographically and geologically Palu City is a disaster-prone area.

The distribution of stimulant funds by the Palu City Regional Disaster Mitigation Agency (BPBD) for victims of natural disasters has entered its third or final phase. BPBD Palu City ensured that the distribution of the funds to victims of September 28, 2018, could be completed in February 2020. In the Regulation of the Minister of Finance concerning Grants, this extension can only be given three times. Meanwhile, Palu City has received the extension twice.

The last number of stimulant fund beneficiaries in Palu City was 4775 beneficiaries. Of the total amount, 885 were received in December 2020. The reason for this low distribution is that the Director General of Deputy of the Republic of Indonesia has set the time until December 17. With that short time, we speed up the process of administration and so on. Even then, they were only able to distribute as many as 885. The total number of recipients of stimulant funds from the start, namely in 2021, was 42,000, plus 4,000 in 2022 so the total is 46,000. Added to a total of 1594 houses that were heavily damaged, the total reaches 47 thousand beneficiaries.

Results of Validity and Reliability Testing

The validity and reliability of this study were obtained from the SPSS test on the Item-Total Statistics table which includes policy evaluation variables. The test results on these variables indicate that all instruments were declared valid and reliable (see table 2).

Table 2. Item-Total Statistics of Policy Evaluation Variable

Item	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Correlation coefficient	Result	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted	Cronbach's alpha (α)	Result
Q_01	.669	0.3	Strong	.961	0.7	Reliable
Q_02	.629	0.3	Strong	.961	0.7	Reliable
Q_03	.745	0.3	Strong	.960	0.7	Reliable
Q_04	.743	0.3	Strong	.960	0.7	Reliable
Q_05	.736	0.3	Strong	.960	0.7	Reliable
Q_06	.770	0.3	Strong	.960	0.7	Reliable

Source: SPSS Output

Results of Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics testing was performed to provide a description of the characteristics of each respondent's response to the research questions. The results can be seen below.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Policy Evaluation Variable

Item	Pernyataan	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Q_01	The expected results from the disbursement of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City have been achieved	228	1.00	5.00	3.4574
Q_02	Maximum effort is needed to achieve the expected results in the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City	228	1.00	5.00	3.3062
Q_03	The expected result is that the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City can solve the problem	228	1.00	5.00	3.2248
Q_04	The disaster stimulant funds in Palu City have been distributed evenly among certain groups	228	1.00	5.00	3.2519
Q_05	The results of the disaster stimulus fund disbursement policy in Palu City satisfy the needs, preferences or values of certain groups	228	1.00	5.00	3.4767
Q_06	The expected results (objectives) from the disbursement of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City are useful or valuable	228	1.00	5.00	3.4186

Source: Elaborated SPSS Output

The results of the descriptive statistical test showed that the statement item (Q_05) got the highest mean value, which means that the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City satisfies the needs, preferences or values of certain groups, while the lowest mean of the statement item (Q_03) which means that the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City has not been able to solve the problem.

Evaluate The Distribution of Disaster Stimulant Funds In Palu City

Evaluation is one of the procedures in public policy analysis. The public policy analysis method combines five general procedures that are commonly used in solving problems, namely definitions (problem formulation), predictions (forecasting), prescriptions (recommendations), and evaluations which have the same name as those used in everyday language that function providing information regarding the value or usefulness of the consequences of problem-solving.

Policies that have been implemented will be assessed or evaluated to see the extent to which the policies can solve the problem. Public policies are made to achieve the expected impact. In this case, it's solving the problems faced by society. Therefore, the criteria as the basis for assessing whether public policies have achieved the desired impact or not were set.

The results of this study indicate that the implementation of the policy for distributing disaster stimulant funds in Palu City has not been effective because the policy has not been able to solve the problem. This means

that there are many problems related to its implementation. Observations in the field show that there are many people affected by earthquakes, tsunamis, and liquefaction that have not been able to feel the results of the implemented policies. This can be seen from the data obtained that the beneficiaries of the policy are considered not to be on target. It is because the people who should receive assistance do not receive it.

Other findings from this study show that the distribution of stimulant funds in Palu City only satisfies the needs, preferences, or values of certain groups. This means that the distribution of stimulant funds has not demonstrated the principle of justice for all victims. Some non-eligible people receive assistance. Besides, there were also many complaints from the beneficiary because the fund does not meet the criteria of the damage, especially for building damage in the categories, namely light, moderate damage, and severe damage. This shows it is important to have an evaluation to measure the success of the implemented policy.

The results of this study are similar to previous studies (Andi, 2022; Rahmadi, 2022; Selian, 2023). The findings of these studies focus on the lack of coordination in data collection, resulting in inaccurate targeting of policy programs. This is also the case with this research, where a lot of data is not appropriate so the beneficiaries are not appropriate, there are communities. Although there are many problems, the implementation of this policy can indirectly ease the burden on the people in Palu City, especially those affected by the disaster.

The success of the policy can be achieved if the actors involved comply with the size and objectives of a policy that is carried out so that at the evaluation stage, it will achieve benefits that can be said to be a successful program. Speaking of public policy in Indonesia, there are indeed many complaints because the community feels that the program is unfair, for example in the social assistance distribution policy, where there are still people who are categorized as capable, but receive assistance. Conversely, less well-off people do not receive assistance and this is a phenomenon that often occurs. For this reason, a comprehensive policy evaluation is needed so that every policy that will be implemented can meet the needs of the target community, including the natural disaster stimulant fund assistance policy in Palu City.

Policy evaluation plays an important role in public policies considering that many problems in society require problem-solving. The resulting/planned policies aim to provide a remedial effect on social and economic problems. The resulting/planned policy is the product of an agreement between the legislature and the executive. The policy emphasizes what policy actors do.

Evaluation is one level in the public policy process and a way to assess whether a policy or program is running well or not. Policy evaluation is the result of a policy that has values from the results of the objectives of the policy. The final part of a policy process is policy evaluation. It can be concluded that the policy evaluation of the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City has not run effectively because the stimulant funds are enjoyed by certain groups only and have not been able to solve community problems in disaster mitigation in Palu City.

Seeing the description presented, policy actors must pay attention to all aspects that can hinder the implementation of a public policy, including paying attention to the initial stage of the policy when the policy will be formulated because the success of the policy also comes from the policy formulation itself. For this reason, collaboration with stakeholders is needed, including the policy target community so that policy formulation is in line with expectations. Based on the findings of this study, future researchers must pay attention to various aspects that may affect policy implementation and not only focus on earthquakes, tsunamis, and liquefaction disasters but also study more comprehensive disaster problems by adding floods and landslides, because these disasters also sometimes occur unexpectedly so it is necessary to evaluate to find out what to prepare for when natural disasters occur.

Conclusions

Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the distribution of disaster stimulant funds in Palu City has not been run effectively because the funds are enjoyed by certain groups only and have not been able to solve community problems. This means that there are many complaints from the affected community because they have not been registered as beneficiaries of the stimulant funds. This makes the implementation of the policy less effective. The results of this study indirectly contribute to the development of public policy, especially in handling natural disasters in Indonesia by optimizing comprehensive policy evaluation to determine the success of implemented policies. Regarding the policy of distributing stimulant funds for victims of natural disasters consisting of earthquakes, tsunamis, and liquefaction, policy formulation needs to be designed comprehensively so that it becomes a recommendation for the future because policies related to earthquake, tsunami, and liquefaction disasters have not previously occurred anywhere in the world, for this

reason, the findings of this study are recommendations for the government in handling increasingly complex natural disasters.

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