

# Implementation of Child Protection Policy in Lhokseumawe City

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the Implementation of Child Protection Policies in Lhokseumawe City. The qanun used is Qanun Number 11 of 2008 concerning child protection. The problem that occurs in this study is that there is still violence and exploitation of children in Lhokseumawe City. The formulation of the problem in this study is how to implement government policies in protecting children in Lhokseumawe City and why there are still children exploited in Lhokseumawe City. The focus of this research is the implementation of government policies in protecting children in Lhokseumawe City and the causes of the occurrence of cases of exploitation of children that still occur in Lhokseumawe City. The purpose of the study is to find out and describe the implementation of government policies in protecting children in Lhokseumawe City, especially those related to the rights of a child and to find out the causes of violence and exploitation of children that still occur in Lhokseumawe City. This research method using qualitative approach methods. Based on the results of this study, it was obtained that in handling violence and exploitation in children, socialization programs were carried out to schools and counseling to each village. In handling violence and exploitation of children, it is carried out with existing SOPs. The obstacles are the lack of community care, lack of facilities and infrastructure and closed access to victims, making it difficult for handlers.

**Keywords:** *Implementation, Policy, and Child Protection.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Children are the next generation of the nation who should be protected from various kinds of actions that can cause harm to a child, every child has the right to get the widest opportunity to grow and develop optimally both physically, mentally, and socially. Child protection is needed to guarantee and protect the rights of a child in order to continue to live a prosperous life, grow and develop and be able to participate optimally in accordance with the dignity and dignity of protection in violence and discrimination.

Children are very obliged to be protected because children have Human Rights (HAM) which can be interpreted as rights that every human being has obtained since he was born into the world. These rights are acquired because the child is a human being. Human rights are defined as beings of God Almighty and are His grace that must be respected, upheld and protected by the state of law, government, and everyone for the honor and protection of human dignity and dignity.

Children born are expected to be useful children for the family in the future and can bring a good name to the family and even expected by nusa and the nation. Not to be a thug, a thief or to be a tramp's son. A child has the right to get the affection of his parents, get a proper education, consume nutritious food, get time to rest, play and get along with his peers.

Child protection is the responsibility of parents, families, communities, governments, and the state. Because the five have a relationship with each other to be able to be the organizer of child protection. In the Child Protection Act violations of child protection and the rights of children, in addition to being a violation of human rights and can also be a huge obstacle to the survival and development of a child.

To maintain the growth and development of a child, it is necessary to have laws and regulations governing child protection, especially those related to children's rights. We can see today many children roaming the streets, especially the protocol streets, at stations, in terminals, in markets, and in other public places. And it happens almost all over Indonesia. Children are vulnerable to being

victims of exploitation by irresponsible people, be it physical exploitation or also economic exploitation such as children who are forced to work and the results are used by irresponsible people, for example children who are forced to beg, busk, sell newspapers and so on. Then the sexual exploitation experienced by a child is carried out by adults and fellow child offenders.

In Indonesia, there is a set of laws and regulations to guarantee children's rights and reduce the impact of violence on children, namely, among others, Law Number 23 of 2002, concerning child protection which was later updated to Law Number 35 of 2014. The law on children regulates all kinds of social and legal problems of children, procedures for mentoring and order of all regional apparatuses in the success of the objectives of the law.

Meanwhile, in Aceh itself there is Qanun Aceh Number 11 of 2008 concerning Child Protection article 32 which states that in the event of violence, trafficking and exploitation of children, every victim is entitled to guarantees for his rights related to his status as a child, family member and as a member of society.

Based on these rules, we can know that children as a group are often victims of violence, trafficking and exploitation of children that must be protected in society. However, the current situation in Aceh itself still contains violence and exploitation of children.

Lhokseumawe City is one of the cities where there are still children who are victims of child exploitation. Where there are still children who are victims of crimes committed by irresponsible persons in which the child is the victim of sexual violence and the child is forced to beg and work. Where children should be at their age are still under the supervision and protection of parents, attending school, playing and promoting the potential that exists in each child. But the reality is that many children do not go to school due to economic factors or are forced by adults to work and beg to make money.

Children who should still spend time playing and chatting, but in reality there are still those who beg or work. In the city of Lhokseumawe, there are still children who are victims of exploitation. Even though the government has issued policies to fulfill the rights of children. The city of Lhokseumawe is referred to as a child-friendly city, in fact, in the city of Lhokseumawe itself there are still cases of exploited children. Child rights facilities that should be in the city such as children's playgrounds do not yet exist.

Child exploitation is allegedly still occurring in the city of Lhokseumawe. Where is the child who should still be in school, but has to work and beg. Children are vulnerable to being victims of exploitation of more mature people who are forced to work long hours to make money. However, there is also a child who works due to economic factors. Therefore, the government must pay more

attention to the condition of children who are victims of exploitation. For this reason, the government should be more serious in making policies to protect children so that they get their rights as a child so that in the future no one will become victims of child exploitation in the future. The government has an important role in tackling this case so that exploitation of children does not occur again and tackling the rights of children. In addition, the support of parents and the general public is also urgently needed.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy according to Wiliam N. Duhn (2003: 132) in Fadilah Agustina (2019: 9), is a complex pattern of dependence of interdependent collective choices, including decisions not to act, made by government agencies or offices. Meanwhile, according to Pressman and Widavsky as quoted by Budi Winarno (2002: 17) defines public policy as a hypothesis that contains initial conditions and consequences that are commonly foreseen. Public policy must be distinguished from other forms of policy such as private policy. This is influenced by the involvement of non-governmental factors. Robert Eyestone as quoted Leo Agustino (2008 : 6) defines public policy as "the relationship between a government unit and its environment". Many people think that the definition is still too broad to understand, because what is meant by public policy can cover many things.

According to Robert Eyestone (2007: 17), says that public policy can be defined as "the relationship of a unit of government to its environment". Meanwhile, according to Thomas R. Dye (2007: 17) states that public policy is whatever the government chooses to do and not do.

Richard Rose (2007: 17) also argues that policy should be understood as " a series of activities that more or less relate to their consequences for those concerned rather than as a separate decision.

James E. Andreson as quoted by Islamy (2009: 17) reveals that policy is "a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concers" which is a series of actions that have a specific purpose that is followed and implemented by a perpetrator or group of actors to solve a certain problem.

Public policy organizes, directs, and develops interactions within a community with its environment in the interest that the community can obtain or achieve the success that is expected to run effectively. So, it can practically be said that public policy is a tool of an institutionalized community to achieve a policy success. The success and failure of public policy in achieving goodness effectively will give birth to new social beliefs. On the one hand, the success of public policy will strengthen the social beliefs

held, on the other hand, the failure of public policy will weaken, and may even collapse existing social beliefs.

## 2.2 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION CONCEPT

Implementation is an action or implementation of a plan that has been prepared carefully and in detail. Implementation is usually carried out after the planning has been passed. According to Nurdin Usman (2002: 70), implementation can also be said to be an activity, action, and an action or the existence of a mechanism in a system. Meanwhile, according to Guntur (2004: 39), Implementation is said to be an extension of the many activities that adjust to each other in the interaction process by looking at goals and actions to achieve them and in implementation there needs to be an effective network of implementers and bureaucracy.

Furthermore, Ripley and Franklin in Winarno (2008: 45) argue that implementation is what happens after a law is enacted that gives the program authority of a policy, benefit, or a type of tangible output. According to the book *Public Policy Analysis* by Subarsono (2009: 30), the book explains that implementation is an activity that has a relationship with the completion of a work where the completion uses the means to achieve a perfect result from the goals set.

Ripley and Franklin in Winarno (2008: 45) argue that implementation is what happens after a law is enacted that gives the program authority of a policy, benefit, or a type of tangible output. According to Danniell A. Mazmanian and Paul A. Sabatier (in Wahab, 2010: 28) explained that implementation is understanding what is as real as it happens after a program is declared valid or formulated is the focus of attention of policy implementation, namely events and activities that arise after the ratification of the policy guidelines that cover it, both efforts to administer it and to cause real consequences / impacts on society or events.

Based on the understandings described by the experts above, it can be concluded that implementation is a system or activities that have been arranged in an orderly manner with the hope that these activities can be in accordance with the objectives of the activities set at the beginning. However, implementation is also not just an activity, but also a process of interaction that has a relationship. This implementation is usually contained in it who the implementation is, the size and resources, who the target group is, how the management of the programme or project, and how the success or performance of the programme is measured. In short, policy implementation is a way for a policy to achieve its goals. Nothing more and nothing less, the purpose of policy is essentially to intervene. Therefore, the implementation of the policy is actually the action of the intervention itself.

According to Edward III in Dwiyanto (2009: 31) in order to implement effective policies, it must pay attention to four variables, namely communications, resources, attitudes (dispositions or attitudes), and bureaucratic structure (bureaucratic structure). The four variables must be implemented simultaneously because each other has a very close relationship. Pointing to four variables that play an important role in achieving successful implementation, the four variables are as follows:

### 1. Communication

That is to designate that each policy will be implemented properly if there is effective communication between the implementation of the program (policy) and the target groups. The objectives and principles of the program / policy can be well socialized so as to avoid distortions of the policy / program.

### 2. Resources

Designating each policy must be supported by adequate resources, both human and financial resources. Human resources are the adequacy of both the quality and quantity of implementers that can cover the entire target group. Financial resources are the adequacy of investment capital for a program/policy.

### 3. Attitude/disposition

Designate characteristics that stick tightly to policy/program implementers. The important character possessed by implementers is honesty, commitment and democracy.

### 4. Bureaucratic Structure

Pointing out that the bureaucratic structure becomes important in the implementation of policies. This aspect of the bureaucratic structure covers two important things, namely the mechanism and structure of the implementing organization itself.

## 2.3 CHILD ABUSE

Violence is an act of harm that is repeatedly committed both physically and emotionally towards a person. By committing abuse, torture, or mistreatment, which can result in physical, psychological, or financial harm to both individuals and groups.

Violence against children is a deliberate act that can cause harm to a person, both physically and emotionally. Forms of violence against children can be clarified into physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence and also social violence. According to End Child Prostitution In Asian Tourism (ECPAT)

International is a relationship or interaction between a child and an older person or adult such as a foreigner, conceived sibling or parent in which the child is used as an object of fulfillment of the perpetrator's sexual needs.

Violence against children is caused by several factors, both stand-alone and a combination of several factors themselves. According to Gelles Richard J (1982: 31) , which is a contributing factor to violence against children, namely:

1. Inheritance of violence where a person has experienced violence in his childhood, then he or she will commit violence against others.
2. Experiencing social stress due to economic factors, unemployment, disease, poor family conditions, disabled people, and the death of someone in the family.
3. Social isolation and delays in the lower communities.
4. Family structures, such as single parents, are more likely to commit acts of violence than intact families.

### 3. RESEARCH METHOD

The approach used in this study is qualitative. The data obtained in this study is qualitative data so that the method used is a qualitative method. Research using qualitative research is intended to obtain an in-depth and comprehensive picture of the problem under study. Qualitative research methods are research methods that do not rely on evidence based on mathematical logic, number principles, or statistical methods. Actual speech, gestures, and other social actions are the raw materials for qualitative analysis (Mulyana, 2008:150).

The informant selection technique used in this study was purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a technique in non probability sampling based on the characteristics possessed by the selected subject because these characteristics are in accordance with the purpose of the research to be carried out with this technique, then researchers can choose informants who are considered to know and can be trusted to be a source of data that knows the problems of this research in more depth so that the data obtained is more valid, or comparing an event found from another subject.

The data source is determined using purposive sampling with certain considerations that are considered to be able to provide data optimally, while for the data community it is determined using incidental sampling, which is a data source determined based on chance, which is considered suitable as a data source. This study uses an interactive analysis model.

### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Children are a valuable asset of the nation, the decline of a nation depends largely on the condition and quality of the children who live and grow up in a nation. As a social being, children need support from all parties to maximize

their potential. The support can be in the form of attention and affection both from the family and from other parties around him.

Although age can still be said to be young, a child also has a way of looking and feeling according to his thoughts. Each child certainly has a different way of thinking depending on the background and social conditions that surround it, which then encourages the child's growth and development. Capital for the sake of sustainable progress for a nation is a quality generation, therefore the important role of children is a concern for the country and even the world. Every child has the right to be protected and fulfilled his rights as a child.

In Indonesia, empirically, there are still many problems that become homework for the government in improving the high rate of violence against children. This condition is certainly very concerning, because violence against children does not only occur outside the home but can also occur in his own home where it should be a shield and protector for the child in his growth and development. Violence against children generally occurs on the streets, schools and even at home as well as the conditions that occur in Lhokseumawe City.

Cases of violence against children often involve parties who are in fact close relatives of the child, such as parents, siblings and even other closest parties who can interact with the child. Violence that occurs at home is usually triggered by economic problems, family economic pressures often cause psychological shocks to parents, which then in some cases trigger violence against children, or even child exploitation.

The negative impact of the condition then also affects the mental state of the child himself. In some cases for children who live in social conditions that are not conducive, it turns out that it can encourage the child to also do the same thing in the future, in other words, the child himself also has the potential to commit unlawful acts as he has experienced as a result of childhood trauma.

Cases of violence against children in Lhokseumawe City based on data from the PPPA Office are known to be at 20 cases / year. This figure is still relatively high for a city that only has 4 sub-districts in its administrative area. There are several factors that are suspected to have contributed to aggravating the situation, according to the government, the rise of the variety and variety of video game-based children's games featuring elements of violence is also one of the triggers. Therefore, everything that can trigger violence against children needs to be responded to quickly in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2002 which regulates child protection. All parties must agree and act, because children should get protection and fulfill all their rights.

#### 4.1 Implementation of Child Protection Program in Lhokseumawe City

Children are vulnerable to being victims of exploitation of more mature people who are forced to work long hours to make money. Therefore, the Government has made a policy, namely Qanun Aceh Number 11 of 2008 concerning Child Protection. In addition, the Government has also implemented a Child Worthy City to guarantee and protect children and can fulfill their rights to life.

##### 1. Policy Communications

Effective implementation will be carried out if, decision-makers know what they are going to do. Information that decision makers know can only be obtained through good communication. Communication carried out between the Lhokseumawe City PPPA and local government apparatus, law enforcement and the community related to the handling program so that the program is right on target and does not deviate from the goal.

In the clarity of information, there is usually a tendency to develop information objectives by policy actors on the basis of their own interests by interpreting information based on their own understanding. The way to anticipate such actions is to create procedures through statements, objectives, eliminate options from multiintrepeation, carry out procedures carefully and reporting mechanisms in detail.

##### 2. Human Resources

To implement policies and fulfill relevant sources in the implementation of the program, there is an authority that guarantees that the program can be directed as expected, as well as the existence of supporting facilities that can be used to implement government programs in overcoming cases of violence and exploitation of children in Lhokseumawe City, where until now there are still many children who are victims of violence and exploitation of children.

The PPPA has overcome cases of violence and exploitation against children in accordance with existing SOPs and has done well. The program carried out is counseling to every gampong and

school. However, the program that was carried out had to be stopped because no budget was given by the government to the PPPA service.

#### 4.2 Efforts of the Lhokseumawe City Government in Tackling Child Exploitation

##### 1. Prevention Efforts (Preventive)

Prevention efforts are very important to prevent and control the occurrence of violence and exploitation of children, this prevention must be carried out intensively in order to control the occurrence of violence against women and children. If prevention can be done early, the government and the public can know what is being done effectively and evenly. The role of the Lhokseumawe City PPPA in pursuing prevention is carried out by increasing awareness for government and community organizers about the importance of child protection.

- a. Prevention is carried out by means of socialization

With the socialization carried out, it is hoped that the community will be aware of cases of violence and exploitation against children and can improve so that the community can carry out early prevention of children who are victims of violence and exploitation. As good as public awareness about child protection will have an impact both in tackling violence and exploitation of children that occurs can be reduced.

- b. Prevention efforts are carried out by providing education and disseminating information As an institution that houses the protection of women and children in Lhokseumawe

City, PPPA provides education, introduction and dissemination of children's rights as a manifestation of preventive measures against the occurrence of violence and exploitation of children, these activities are carried out through socialization activities evenly and thoroughly so that the public can know about the institution and can report acts of violence if they experience it.

##### 2. Enforcement Efforts (Reprentif)

Repressive efforts as a form of efforts to overcome violence against children. Reprentive countermeasures are efforts made by law

enforcement officials, in the form of imposing or providing criminal sanctions to perpetrators of violence or exploitation of children, in this case carried out by the police, courts and community institutions.

Countermeasures are made to obtain justice for victims of violence and exploitation of children, and the perpetrators involved in the case can be sanctioned as fairly as possible and the perpetrators get a *jerah* effect so that children who are victims of violence and exploitation of children can live a calm and peaceful life.

With the existence of institutions related to child protection, it is urgently needed so that the countermeasures carried out can run effectively. In carrying out handling, it cannot be done individually but must cooperate with various parties to be able to produce a good solution so that cases of violence against children can be resolved.

### 3. Rehabilitation Efforts

Recovery and treatment efforts are two factors that support each other, which is in providing treatment as well as providing recovery to victims who have experienced violence and exploitation of minors. Recovery is required to continue the handling actions completed by the recovery process to victims To minimize acts of violence and exploitation of children, it must be done by conducting supervision and guidance efforts. In order to be able to foster and supervise, then special training and education will be given, the restoration of abilities and the redistribution of the midst of society is aimed at restoring a child's bad habits into better habits.of violence.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research in the field, it can be concluded:

1. The implementation of child protection policies in Lhokseumawe City related to child exploitation cannot be said to be optimal, where the socialization process carried out by the implementing party of the new policy is limited to providing information to the community and has not been comprehensive, this can be seen from the number of minors who work and beg for economic needs. Despite the issuance of Qanun Aceh Number 11 of 2008 concerning child protection and also the construction of a Child Worthy City in the city of Lhokseumawe.

2. Countermeasures carried out in tackling violence and exploitation of children, namely:

- a. Handling Efforts (Preventive)

The countermeasures are by counseling the community and parents that violence against children is unlawful and has a dangerous impact on victims of violence.

- b. Repreventive Efforts

Repressive countermeasures must be in accordance with established procedures and on existing laws and regulations.

- c. Recovery Efforts (Rehabilitative)

Efforts to provide treatment as well as provide recovery for victims who have experienced violence and exploitation of children under the age of age.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All of the authors listed have contribution to this paper.

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