

Policy Analysis of the Free Education Program Implementation

(Case study in Medan 1 Public School)

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Abstract-The purpose of this study is to find and obtain data that can provide information about the implementation of free education policies in Junior High School 1Medan using the theory of public policy by SyaifulSagala, and find out the obstacles faced in implementing the Education Policy Free 2017/2018 school year. This study uses descriptive qualitative research. The main data sources are words and actions. Sampling in this research is Purposive Sampling and data collection using is observation, interview, and documentation. Using informant triangulation and review techniques to ensure data validity. Based on the data analysis and the discussion that has been conducted, the results of the study show that it has taken; the implementation of free education policies in Medan 1 Public Middle School has gone well where, 1) BOS funds received by schools have been used properly, namely for funding education, especially school operational costs. All students, especially those who are less able to carry out their learning activities cheaply and easily, that is, they do not have to pay fees managed by the school, for example tuition fees, development money, registration fees, and book money or can be said free of charge. While for non-operational costs it is still the responsibility of the parents of students. 2) Constraints faced in the Implementation of the Free Education Policy at Public Junior School 1 Medanof the 2017/2018 Academic Year are; the complexity in preparing the accountability report, the delay in disbursing funds is the lack of certainty on the date or time of disbursing funds, decreasing education services especially extracurricular activities, assuming that the public with the free education policy is completely free.

Keywords – Policy; Implementation; Free;Education; BOS Funds

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian National Education Objectives contained in Indonesian republic Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System Chapter II Article 3 which reads: National education functions to develop capabilities and form a dignified character and national face in order to educate the nation's life, aiming at developing potential students to become believers and devoted to the Almighty God , having a noble character, being healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and being a democratic and responsible citizen [1].

Various efforts made by the government in improving the quality of education have not shown encouraging results, there are even many failures in its implementation in the field.

Failure after failure is caused, among other things, by inappropriate management, the placement of education personnel is not in accordance with their field of expertise, and the handling of problems is not by experts, so that the goal of educating the nation through improving quality in every type and level of education cannot be realized. Efforts to improve the quality of human resources are a challenge for education.

In view of this, education has a very important role in producing a qualified generation to continue the life of the nation and state in the future. The role of education is to prepare students to have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to contribute to public welfare as active citizens.

Government policy regarding 9-year basic education compulsory (9-year reasonable) is a government effort to achieve National Education goals, and the program shows the government's attention to education. The era of technology and communication is growing rapidly at this time, demanding that educational institutions are responsible for preparing students to face the outside world filled with competition and challenges.

The 9-year fair declaration is currently experiencing various obstacles. There is a phenomenon, there are still many national children who are still school-aged who cannot get an education due to several factors, especially economic factors. The economic conditions of the Indonesian people today are mostly in the middle to lower class of economics. The government's attention to education is not enough just to declare a reasonable 9 years, because education is the responsibility of the government, society and educational institutions

As a consequence of the mandate of the law, the government is obliged to provide education services for all students at the basic education level (SD/MI and SMPMTs and equivalent education units).

One effort to implement improvements in the education sector is the implementation of free school policies by the district government based on current regional autonomy. The launching of the program deserves a thumbs up. Because even though it is full of sharp highlights, this is a bold step in the midst of the difficulty of the cost of education in various regions. The business of the local district government in implementing this program is to eliminate the cost of education for all students from elementary to secondary levels.

Providing cheap and easy education for the people, which means education must be held for the people, which must be easy to follow or reach for all people.

Public Junior School 1 Medan is one of the public schools that accepts and implements this free education because it is included in a school located in the Medan City government area that was held since 2007 and then followed by a government program namely free nationally.

Based on the pre-survey conducted on March 26, 2019 at Public Junior School 1 Medan, the provision of BOS funds has so far affected the improvement of education services in Public Junior School 1 Medan, but the implementation is still experiencing some problems. One of the problems is the uncertainty of the timing of the distribution of funds every three months. So, the school must look for bailout funds first to pay for related needs before the funds from the regional and provincial governments come out. This resulted in funds that should have been received and allocated for school operational costs to be delayed if the school was unable to seek bailouts.

The same problems regarding free education policies also occur regionally in Rembang Regency. The writer [2] found several problems that were almost the same as those that occurred in Bontotangi Village. While [3] research's on the analysis of the implementation of the Free Education policy in Bontotangi Bulukumba Village that some problems were found, namely the subsidy of funds was too late resulting in many school programs not being implemented, and not all because students still had to pay for sports uniforms and textbook money.

These problems need to be assessed based on policy theory. To conduct a public policy study is a study that intends to describe, analyze, and explain carefully various causes and effects of government actions.

Chandler and Plano as quoted by [4] which states that public policy is a strategic use of existing resources to solve public or government problems. Furthermore, it is said that public policy is a form of intervention carried out continuously by the government for the benefit of disadvantaged groups in the community so that they can live, and participate in development widely.

While the stages of public policy according to William Dunn as quoted by [5] are as follows: Stage of agenda setting, Stage of policy formulation, Stage of policy adoption, Stage of policy implementation, Stage of policy evaluation. All of these stages become a path that must be followed in implementing any policy.

The education policy that is made must be wise, in the sense that it does not cause new educational problems that are bigger and more complicated when compared to the problems that are to be solved. Education policies that are made must encourage productivity, quality, and shared life in the education sector effectively and efficiently[6].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Understanding of Education

According to John Dewey in [7], noted tha education is the process of forming fundamental intellectual and emotional skills towards nature and fellow humans". While [8] defines that education as an activity of guidance, teaching and / or training that lasts a lifetime to prepare students to play their proper and constructive role in various environments in the future".

According to [1] concerning the National Education System Chapter I Article I, states; Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation and country.

Based on the above understanding, it can be concluded that education is an effort carried out by students consciously and planned to improve, improve, change knowledge, skills and attitudes and behavior in an effort to develop the potential of their students so that maturity can be achieved which is responsible for themselves and prepare themselves to carry out life in the future and improve their welfare level to achieve educational goals and fulfill life goals effectively and efficiently.

Education can be divided into three levels according to its level, namely: Basic Education, Secondary Education, and Higher Education

b. Educational Objectives

According to [9] that the purpose of education is the formulation of behavior which is usually formulated in the categories of knowledge, intelligence, skill attitudes that are expected to be possessed by the education target after completing the education program".Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System Chapter II Article 3 states that the functions and objectives of national education are to develop capabilities and form a dignified character and national face in order to educate the nation's life, aiming at developing potential students to become faithful and devoted to God The Supreme, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and a democratic and responsible citizen.

c. Review of Education Costs

Education as an institution does not directly produce products but occurs through the business of providing services both by teaching staff, administration and managers. To ensure the education process is needed, support from various elements such as human, material, time, technology and from every educational process is expected to produce human resources who have knowledge, skills, independent attitude, confidence, have a foresight, love to learn, have faith and noble.

d. Review of Education Policy

Policy is the whole process and the results of the formulation of strategic education steps outlined from the vision, mission of education, in order to realize the achievement of educational goals in a society for a certain period of time[10]. The aspects included in education policies include:

- Educational policy is an overall deliberation regarding the nature of human beings as human beings in the humanitarian environment.
- Educational policy is born from the science of education as a praxis, namely the unity between theory and practice of education.
- Education policy must have validity in personal development and the people who have education.
- Openness
- Educational policies are supported by research and development.
- Policy analysis.
- Education policy is first addressed to the needs of students.
- Educational policy is directed at the formation of a democratic society.
- Educational policy is related to the translation of the education mission in achieving certain goals.
- Educational policies must be based on efficiency.
- Educational policy is not based on power but on the needs of students.
- Educational policy is not based on intuition or irrational wisdom.
- Clarity of purpose will give birth to the right education policy.
- Educational policy is directed at meeting the needs of students and not the satisfaction of bureaucrats. [10]

Thus, public policy is a policy made by the state, namely with regard to executive, legislative and judicial institutions.

e. Education Policy Making Process

Educational Policy Making Process Education policy is an intensive and comprehensive nature. The policy made is intended to overcome a problem that is complicated. Good policy is a policy made based on aspirations and siding with the community and the reality that exists, responding to various interests and minimizing the loss of certain parties.

The education policy that is made must be wise, in the sense that it does not cause new educational problems that are bigger and more complicated when compared to the problems that are to be solved. Education policies that are made must encourage productivity, quality, and shared life in the education sector effectively and efficiently.

The [6] writer states in his book entitled that contemporary Education Administration that in general there are approaches used in policy making as follows:

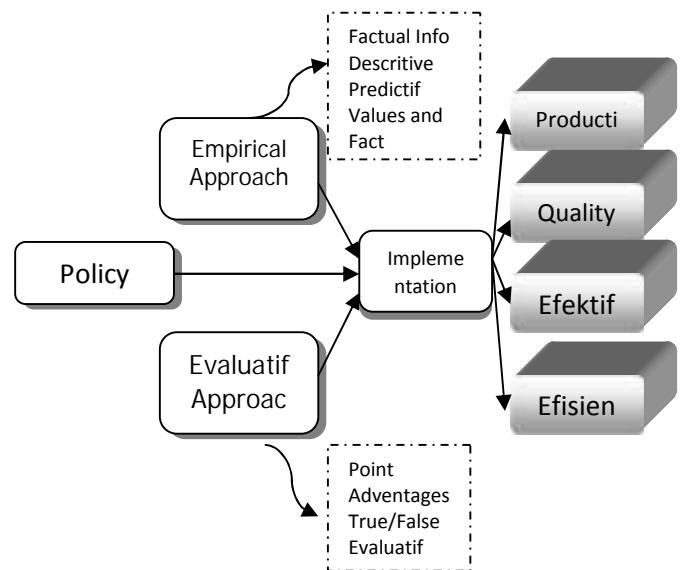


Fig 1. Syaiful's Model of Public Policy (education)

Empirical approach is emphasized mainly on the explanation of various causes and consequences of a particular policy in the field of education that are factual and the types of information produced are descriptive and predictive.

Evaluative approach is "one of the activities that intends to know how far an activity can be carried out or not, succeed as expected or not".

f. Free Education Program Policy

The [11] writer said that Free schools are schools where children and parents do not have to pay fees managed by the school, such as tuition fees, development money, registration fees, and book money." Based on the statement, it can be concluded that free education is education where all levels of society, especially the poor, can carry out their learning activities cheaply and easily, ie they do not have to pay the costs managed by the school, such as tuition fees, development money, registration fees, and book money or you can say it is free of charge

g. The goals and objectives of the Free Education Policy

The Free Education Policy implemented in the Indonesian Government aims to complete the basic and secondary education compulsory education programs that have been programmed by the government in accordance with Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning National Education System, and Law Number 34 of 2003 Article 2. Equity has the opportunity to learn, help alleviate school fees and to improve education management in order to realize the standard of education costs directly proportional to the quality of education. Thus, the quality of education will increase to support the achievement of national education goals, namely creating quality resources [12]

h. School Operational Assistance for Free Education for Quality 9 Year Compulsory Education

In general, the BOS program aims to alleviate the burden on the community towards funding education in the framework of quality 9-year compulsory education. In particular, the BOS program aims to:

- Freeing all poor students at the basic education level from the burden of school operational costs, both in public schools and private schools.
- Free all public elementary and junior high school students to school operational costs,
- Relieve the burden of school operational costs for students in private schools. For SMP / SMPLB / SMPT levels the amount of fees in the city: IDR 575,000 / student / year

III. METHODOLOGY

Research is a process of finding and finding an answer to solve a problem, which must be done through the assessment of an answer to solve a problem, which must be done through both theoretical and empirical studies. The location of the study in Public Junior School 1 Medan. This form of research uses a qualitative descriptive research form. The sampling technique in this study is Purposive Sampling, that is, researchers tend to choose people who are considered to know and can be trusted to be a steady source of data and know the problems related to the problem in depth (informantkey). Data collection techniques that I use in this study is interviews using informant triangulation and review techniques to ensure the validity of the data.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From interview data finds some result, are:

a. Implementation of Free Education Policy in Public Junior School 1 Medan

Preparation for implementing free education policies

- The interview with school headmaster stated that the preparation was carried out by the school especially in terms of teachers, students, schools and parents. The school continues to provide information and socialization to teachers, students and parents so that they are not surprised by the existence of this free education policy. The school must accept this free education policy because it is possible to issue a fee in the rules that have been made by the government and no longer withdraw contributions from the committee or guardians of the student. For students, parents and teachers are given socialization about this free education policy so that there is no misunderstanding that what is said to be free is free in terms of operational costs.
- When implementing free education policies. Based on the information above, it can be concluded that the time for implementing the free education policy in the 2018 budget year will be given for 12 months for the period January to December 2018, namely the first semester of the 2016/2017 school year and the second semester of

the 2017/2018 academic year. Funding is carried out every 3 months or quarterly, ie January-March, April-June, July-September and October-September. Distribution is also expected to be carried out in the first month of each quarter.

- Implementation of free education policy in Medan 1 Public Middle School. The implementation of the free education policy is expected to run smoothly after all parties have been able to carry out preparations that must be understood in order to avoid misunderstandings.

Study Findings Associated with Theory Study

In this sub-chapter the collected data is analyzed based on the variables studied according to the formulation of the problem then the existing theory is linked, namely:

Based on the results of research studies in the field relating to free education policy at Medan 1 Public Middle School, there are several problems in its implementation, namely: complexity in preparing accountability reports, late disbursement of funds, decreasing education services especially extracurricular activities, and public opinion regarding the existence of policies free education is completely free is wrong due to the lack of socialization carried out by the government through the education office.

The author of [11] mentioned that the cost of education can be classified into 4 according to the type of source, namely:

- Education costs incurred by the government
- Education costs incurred by the community of parents or guardians of students
- Education costs incurred by the community are not parents or student guardians, for example sponsors from financial institutions or sponsors
- The educational institution itself.

Based on the results of research in the field relating to the cost of education, in Public Junior School 1 Medan the source of education funding, especially the operational costs of the school, has been borne by the government, namely by eliminating the cost of education, especially school operational costs which are the result of government policy in realizing compulsory education 9 years basic. The cost of education cannot be equated with spending money made by educational institutions, education offices, and schools. Parents or students only finance their children's personal needs such as school uniforms, pocket money, courses and others.

In the BOS Handbook for free education in order to realize the normal 9 years of 2009, there are all information and rules that have been established for the implementation of BOS in 2009. In particular, the BOS program aims to:

Based on the results of research in the field, Public Junior School 1 Medan has been able to implement a free education policy properly in accordance with all the rules set out in the BOS guidebook for free education in order to realize 9-year basic education compulsory, that is, all students are free from education fees especially school operational costs. Then in the BOS guidebook, there were also guises such as preparation and implementation which included distribution,

disbursement, use of funds as well as accountability, all of which had also been carried out by the Public Junior School 1 Medanis well. It was proven that the community was greatly helped by the existence of a free education policy in terms of their children's education costs even though there were still obstacles in its implementation for the school itself.

V. CONCLUSION

a. Conclusion

Based on data analysis and discussion conducted by researchers in research, conclusions can be formulated as follows:

1) Implementation of Free Education Policy in Medan State Middle School I Academic Year 2017/2018

- Free education is education where all levels of society, especially the poor, can carry out their learning activities cheaply and easily, namely they do not have to pay fees managed by the school, for example tuition fees, development money, registration fees, and book money or can be said free of charge. While for non-operational costs it is still the responsibility of the parents of students.
- The time for the distribution of free education policy funds, whether sourced from the central government or regional government, is carried out in stages in accordance with the provisions.
- The implementation of a free education policy in Medan 1 Public Middle School has gone well. The BOS funds received by schools have been used properly, namely for funding education, especially school operational costs.

b. Constraints faced in the Implementation of the Free Education Policy at Public Junior School 1 Medan2017/2018 Academic Year

- Complexity in preparing accountability reports
- Delay in disbursing funds is lack of certainty on the date or time of distribution of funds
- Decreasing education services especially extracurricular activities
- The presumption of the community in the presence of free education policies is completely free.

b. Suggestion

Based on the conclusions and implications that have been stated, the researcher submits several suggestions regarding the implementation of free education policies as follows:

- For School Parties

The school should always provide socialization to student guardians and all students regarding the implementation of this free education policy so that there are no false assumptions.

• For Teachers

For teachers, they should always give motivation to students that with free education, they must be more enthusiastic to learn because they are not burdened with the cost problem.

• For the Government

The government should be more serious in providing guidance on the preparation of the accountability report so that it is correct and in accordance with the guidebook.

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