



The Absence of Public Policy in Handling Street Children in Parepare City

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Abstract. The study of the handling of street children in Parepare City is intended to analyze and describe this problem in the perspective of Public Policy. The handling that has been carried out by the Parepare City government is still not optimal. So far, the handling of street children has only been limited to the services of orphanages and halfway houses for street children, which have not been maximized in overcoming this problem. The wandering of street children until now shows the need for the government to overcome these problems from the aspect of efforts that can be done, namely by making a policy to deal with the problem of street children. So far in the city of Parepare there has been no public policy specifically dealing with street children. This research method is qualitative. Data collection techniques were carried out using observation, FGD, interview, and documentation techniques. The informants of this research are the Head of the Parepare City Social Service, Head of the Social Plan Division, Parepare City Social Service, 5 Street Children, 2 Social Workers, 3 Parents of Street Children. This research is expected to produce recommendations for handling street children in Parepare City. The problem of street children should be taken more seriously by creating a public policy, so that in the future the problem of street children can be overcome in the city of Parepare.

Keywords: Public Policy. Handling, Street Children, Parepare City.

1 Introduction

Parepare City is one of the 24 regencies/cities in South Sulawesi Province which is a transit area for tourists to tourist areas. In addition, Parepare City is also the entrance of inter-island trade commodities through the Parepare City Port which connects the island of Sulawesi and Kalimantan Island, Java Island, and islands in Eastern Indonesia.

With this strategic position, the city of Parepare is prone to many problems, one of which is the problem of street children. The problem of street children never seems to end. Many street children handling programs have been carried out by the government both in terms of preventive, curative and rehabilitative, but the problem of street children has never been able to be resolved completely [1]. While the government may lack the resources to be an effective service provider, it does lack the resources positioned to provide the necessary work environment through policies to develop street children mentoring [2].

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Street children or commonly abbreviated as Street Children are "children who spend most of their time doing daily life activities on the street to earn a living or wander on the streets and other public places". The categories that include street children are aged between 5 and 18 years, doing activities and wandering on the streets for 4 to 8 hours per day, dull appearance and unkempt clothes, and high mobility [3].

The widespread phenomenon of street children in Indonesia is a complicated social problem. Street children are in situations and conditions that do not have a clear future [4]. The factual problems of street children can be observed directly, increasing day by day, their existence is widespread in the city of Parepare and is a complex problem. As a social urban phenomenon, street children have a spatial dimension, namely public space. He is present in the public space afflictively [5]. The handling of street children's cases is becoming increasingly widespread in various cities in Indonesia, especially in the city of Pare-pare, South Sulawesi Province.

One of the ways that the government can solve the problem of street children is through public policy [6]. Public policy is the key to success for developing countries, but it has been largely ignored. In essence, a public policy is characterized by the active involvement of the government in directing, stimulating and encouraging related elements so that a strong and sustainable policy system is formed.

Public policy has many meanings, for example the well-known definition of public policy which states that public policy is related to do or not to do with principles or ways of acting chosen to direct decision making [7]. Strengthened by the opinion of Ealau and Prewitt [7], which states that a policy is a provision that applies by consistent and repeated behavior, both from those who make it and those who obey it (those affected by the policy). Titmuss defines policy as the principles that govern actions directed towards certain goals [7]. Another definition states that, public policy is a direction of action proposed by a person, group or government in a certain environment that provides obstacles and opportunities for the proposed policy to use and overcome in order to achieve a goal or realize a specific goal or purpose [8]. Meanwhile, according to James A. Anderson, "public policy is a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern"[7].

Public Policy, according to Titmuss, is always problem-oriented and action-oriented. Thus it can be stated that policy is a determination that contains principles to direct ways of acting that are made in a planned and consistent manner in achieving certain goals. Basically, public policy is a decision intended to: (1) overcome certain problems, (2) carry out certain activities, (3) achieve certain goals, which are carried out by authorized agencies in the context of carrying out state governance and development tasks. Various perspectives on public policy can be interpreted from the point of view of the political economy system, where policy is interpreted as a form of intervention issued by the government to influence market mechanisms so that the economic process in society takes place as expected.

A very famous definition was put forward by Thomas R. Dye who stated that public policy is "...whatever governments choose to do or not to do"[7]. According to Dye, public policy is a decision taken by the government; either to do something or not to do something. According to Dye, public policy is a choice that requires consideration. Thus, public policy is the same as government decisions. Or vice

versa, that is, all government actions are public policy. But according to Howlett, Dye's definition "...is perhaps too simple and fails to provide the means for conceptualizing public policy"[7]. Howlett thinks that Dye's thinking is too simple and fails to explain the meaning of the actual concept of public policy. Howlett further explains that:

Dye's definition is not without merits. First, Dye specifies clearly that the agent of public policy-making is a government this means that private business decisions, decisions by charitable organizations, interest groups, individual or other social groups are not public policies". Second, Dye highlights the fact that public policies involve a fundamental choice on the parts of governments to do something or to do nothing. This decision is made by individuals staffing the state and its agencies."

Furthermore, the above definition can be interpreted as:

"a set of interrelated decision taken by a political actor or group of actors concerning the selection of goals and the means of achieving them within a specified situation where those decision should, in principle, be within the power of those actors to achieve" [9]

Jenkins' opinion shows that there is decision-making by political actors, or groups of actors in formulating public policy not individually, but in relation to one another. It contains elements of the process of choosing one of a set of goals that are considered priorities, as well as how to achieve them, of course within the limits of the actors' authority to predict the results to be achieved. Jenkin's view is seen by Howlett as an explanation that is "...a bit more precise than that offered by Dye"[9]. Thus, both Dye's and Jenkins' definitions, according to Howlett, are close to the same. The difference lies in Jenkins' opinion that sees public policy more as a process, while Dye sees it as a choice [9]. It is also said by Howlett that: "...Jenkins also introduces the idea of public policy making as goal oriented behavior on the part of governments, an idea which provides a standard by which to evaluate public policies" [9]. Thus, public policy according to Jenkins' understanding is more about an effort to achieve goals (goal oriented) and how to achieve these goals. This opinion makes it easier to evaluate policies because the indicators are clear.

Another opinion is conveyed by Anderson (1945), he provides a definition of policy as follows: "a policy as a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern" [9]. From this definition, it is understood that a policy is an action that has a specific purpose, followed and implemented by an actor or a group of actors in order to solve a specific problem. Regarding who makes the policy, he further states that "...public policies are those policies developed by governmental bodies and officials" Thus, it is clear that 'public policy' is made by the government. The implications of the definition of public policy are described as follows:

"(1) Purposive or goal oriented action, rather than random behavior or accidental occurrences; (2) policies consists of courses or patterns of actions by government officials rather than their separate, discrete decisions; (3) policy involves what governments actually do, not what they intend to do or what they say they are going to do; (4) public policy may be either positive or negative in form; it may involve some from of overt government action to deal with a problem on which action was demanded (positive), or it may involve decision by government officials not to take action, to do nothing, on some matter on which government involvement as sought (negative); (5) public policy, at least in its positive form, based on law and is authoritative" [9].

In response to Anderson's thoughts, Budi Winarno argues that:

"...the definition of public policy will be more appropriate if the definition also includes the direction and action or what is done and not merely concerning the proposed action. Based on considerations such as this, the definition of public policy offered by James Anderson is better because it focuses attention on what is actually done and not on what is proposed or intended". [10].

One of the public problems is street children in Parepare City. Overcoming the problem of street children has not been fully effective, one of the causes is because in the city of Parepare there is no public policy made by the government to solve the problem of street children. The government only focuses on street children who are in social institutions but there are still many street children who are outside social institutions who have not received attention and the lack of government efforts in terms of preventing the emergence of street children with family empowerment. Efforts made by the government and community organizations that care about street children have not provided the best solution to the problem of street children. This is due to the lack of regulation or public policy in the city of Parepare that specifically regulates the development of street children.

The existing facts show that street children in the city of Parepare from year to year have increased, from the data available at the Parepare City Social Service in 2023 21 street children were caught who often begged in several places in the Parepare City area.

The formulation of the problem of this research is how the efforts of the Parepare City Government in Handling Street Children in Parepare City. The purpose of this research is to analyze the efforts of the Parepare City Government in handling street children in Parepare City.

Regulation or public policy is important to deal with the problem of street children. Public policy is a form of government intervention to solve public problems in various aspects of life. It is through public policy that the government has the power and legal authority to organize people's lives, one of which is the Development of Street Children.

2 Research Methods

In this study the authors used a qualitative approach. In this research, the types of data collected are primary data and secondary data. To collect primary data and secondary data, researchers used several data collection instruments, namely: Interview, the Informant in this research is the Head of the Parepare City Social Service, Head of the Social Plan Division, Parepare City Social Service 5 Street Children, 2 Social Workers, 3 Parents of Street Children. The second method uses the Focus Group Discussion / FGD method or focus group discussions involving the Social Service, the Community and also the parents of street children. and also observation of street children's activities around the streets in Parepare City. Data analysis is carried out starting with reviewing all available data from various sources, namely from interviews, FGDs, and observations that have been written in field notes, documents, then the existing data is reduced and presented according to the needs of this research until the conclusion is drawn.

3 Results and Discussion

In this study which discusses the handling of street children in Parepare City. Talking about coaching that this coaching is often marginalized and considered weak when it should always be considered, especially for related parties. This is one form of welfare for street children through coaching activities. This is the same as what was said by Mr. A as a Junior Expert Social Worker on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 that:

"If we alone are aware of the welfare of street children, it is difficult, our position in the Social Service is also not strong enough to carry out street child development because there is no regulation in the form of a regional regulation that specifically regulates the development of street children, so we are developing innovations by coordinating with the community and various Regional Work Units of the city government, for now while in handling street children there are only 3 things we can do, namely preventive guidance, further guidance and social rehabilitation guidance."

The results of the interview can be said that in order to eliminate street children, coordination with various parties is needed and there must be regulations or public policies that specifically deal with the issue of Street Children Development. In reality, in the city of Parepare there is no regulation, either a Regional Regulation or a Mayor's Regulation that specifically regulates the development of street children.

From the data above, the efforts of the Social Service in handling street children are only followed up through planned programs in the form of preventive coaching programs, further coaching and social rehabilitation coaching. As the results of an interview with a Young Expert Social Worker Mr. K on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 said that:

"This policy is indeed an obstacle, it is hoped that in the future there will be a policy made for the welfare of street children so that the role of the Parepare City Social Service in fostering street children has a reference, so that this Street Child Problem can be resolved".

From the results of the interview, it is described through the activities carried out by the Parepare City Social Service in fostering street children as follows:

3.1 Preventive Guidance

Preventive guidance is the first step taken by the Parepare City Social Service in dealing with problems that occur. Based on the results of an interview with Mr. K on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 said that:

"Conducting a kind of socialization regarding the prohibition of going down the street to become beggars and buskers and then the preventive guidance that we do is direct data collection and then supervising by conducting joint patrols with Satpol PP".

From the results of observations, interviews with Mrs. N as a parent of street children on Wednesday, May 03, 2023 regarding the preventive coaching program that the Social Service does, it is confirmed by the parents of street children clowns that the Social Service conducts socialization.

"It is forbidden to go down the street, but I still go down because that's the way to get food".

From the data above, it shows that the Parepare City Social Service has tried to prevent street children from wandering around the city of Pare-pare, from the existing data, it shows that there is no clear regulation or policy for the prevention of street children so that what is done by the Parepare City Social Service seems futile.

3.2 Advanced Coaching

This advanced coaching is a stage after preventive coaching, which aims to minimize the development of street children who roam in public places. Based on an interview with Mr. K as a Junior Expert Social Worker on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, he said that:

"It is seen first how the results of preventive guidance, but from the preventive guidance it is still not obeyed by the parents of street children, so the further guidance carried out is to make posts at several points in the city of Parepare which are usually used as operating places for these street children".

From the results of these interviews, it can be said that further guidance in dealing with street children carried out by the Social Service is the creation of posts at the point where street children are active. This is in addition to helping minimize the development of street children as well as a form of protection for street children.

3.3 Rehabilitation Development

This Rehabilitation Development has the aim of improving social welfare as based on the results of an interview with Mrs. Sarah as a Social Worker conducted at the Parepare City Social Service Protection and Trauma Center (RPTC) on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 said that:

"We carry out rehabilitation coaching for children who are caught in raids by the TRC team, now in the coaching process we make a contract with the child that he will be in guidance for 3 days, after that interrogate street children about what the problem is why he went down the street, after that in the rehabilitation process we have several coaching activities such as mental and spiritual guidance, physical and skills training and work equipment stimulation assistance".

The same thing was expressed by street children who were interviewed by researchers on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, saying that: "three days if it is fostered, taught to learn to read, recite the Quran, then returned home".

From the results of the interview above, it can be concluded that the social service makes the House of Protection and Trauma Center (RPTC) in providing rehabilitation guidance to street children whose forms of guidance such as mental and spiritual guidance, physical and skills training and work equipment stimulation assistance which aims to teach these street children about the rights and obligations they must get to live in the world.

The data above shows that there needs to be a public policy to deal with the problem of street children in the city of Pare-pare. Policy certainly has a direct influence on the achievement of community livelihoods, especially how street children can be handled properly. With the existence of policies in handling street children, it is hoped that feelings of not being marginalized and aspects of welfare in general can grow in the community. Policies will always be seen in the midst

of society, starting from individuals, families, communities to the international world.

Thus, it is clear that policies have a broad influence on people's livelihoods, therefore it is important to understand the relationships and interrelationships between policies, individuals and community groups. In this case, government institutions can be used as the context of analysis, which is where the various development practices carried out by the government, policies, rules, roles and functions of other organizations both government and non-government in providing services for all levels of society.

A policy can have a broad influence on people's lives both directly and indirectly. To understand how a process, including a policy, affects people's livelihoods, it is necessary to explore in more depth, not only about the impacts that occur but also the form and nature of the policy itself [11].

4 Conclusions

Street children, vagrants and buskers are one of the major problems in urban areas, especially in Parepare City. There have been many efforts made by the Parepare City Government in this case the Social Service in dealing with the problem of street children, but this can be said to be ineffective because there are still many obstacles such as the absence of regulations or Public Policy specifically regulating the handling of street children, people who still often feel compassion and give money, and street children do not have skills. To deal with public problems such as the problem of street children, a public policy is needed, so that the handling of street children can be resolved properly.

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