

Empowering Poor Families through Conditional Cash Transfer in Papua

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Abstract—The purpose of this research is to describe the empowerment of poor families in Jayapura city through conditional cash transfer program. This study used qualitative descriptive analysis method focusing on PKH or Family Hope Program beneficiary's family. The results show that indicators of empowerment of poor families have turned into better welfare conditions, such as active family participation in groups, changing perspectives on poverty, broad social network connections, and behavioral changes to the utilization of education, health services and decision-making processes in family. There are factors affecting conditions above, such as human resources involved in the program, cultural systems, social and economic system, and politics in the community which largely contribute to the powerlessness of poor families. This research concludes that empowering poor families requires commitment of stakeholders towards sustainable, integrated, and culturally sensitive conditional cash transfer program.

Keywords—conditional cash program; empowerment; poor families; Papua

I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a social problem that has a broad impact on society, families, and individuals. That is an issue very interesting to studied, especially in developing countries. Some strategies continue to be developed in order to minimize and mitigate the impact of poverty. Empowerment strategies through a cash transfer as a method of handling poverty that empowers beneficiaries in poor families, supported by the international [1-5] and the impacts of the CTT on household consumption, education, health, empowerment of women and child, shows rapid growth [6,7]. The Protect poor families to obtain socio-economic security, invest of economic [8-10]. With the inclusion of selective program requirements, poor families gain socio-economic resilience to escape poverty, and direct relevance to the sustainable development [11,12]. The female has scope in power decision making, and then nothing appear to have immediately gender-status inequalities, the decreasing working rates of child boys and girl [13-15]. This positive impact, is it happening in developing countries, regions with high poverty rates and people who have a tradition of patriarchal culture, which is very strong, like in Papua. Does the empowerment of poor families and individuals in them occur? What about the factors that influence the empowerment

of poor families, which have been identified can be managed as a source of strength for poor family.

The phenomenon of poverty with a long duration, as well as a low level of response to social inclusion development, generally affects the lives of poor families, in Papua. The growth of empowerment programs and the guarantee of social protection for indigenous people, are less synergistic and sustainable. Inter-ethnic conflicts that often occur also cause the condition of empowerment of poor families to be very rented with poverty. This condition can only be done by streamlining the empowerment program [16], or give assisted social cash transfer [8]. National economic survey (*Susenas*) report in March 2018 shows that a region of high poverty rate is Papua province with total poor population of 917, 63 people, and average expenditure per capita of 498, 640 rupiahs. This number increased if compared to average monthly expenditure per capita in 2017 i.e. 457,541 rupiahs. Furthermore, some areas in the eastern part of Indonesia are the contributor to 20% of poor population [17,18]. It occurred in poor families with low level of education and having limited access to public services, finance, and material source. Therefore, to minimize the level of helplessness of poor families, it is not enough to simple increase infrastructure facilities or reduce the price of basic commodities, but how the limitations of poor families can be changes into a force through increased access to skills, access to education and improved access to health, for poor women and his family in Papua.

Based on the Ministry of Social RI data in 2017 that cash assistance through the family hope program (PKH) has reached 29,180 poor families, and this will continue to increase every year. However, there are not many studies related to the conditions of empowerment of poor families through conditional assistance in Papua, changes in non-cash policies have been ratified. This then raises speculation, how is the condition of empowerment of the poor families who received the program, as in the conditional cash transfer policy before? Whereas the results of the research are very useful for local governments, social organizations, to play a role in enhancing the empowerment of poor individuals and families in Papua, through sustainable social policies and programs. With this description, this study examines the empowerment of poor families who receive conditional cash assistance programs, known as the family hope program in the city of Jayapura.

II. METHODS

The research uses qualitative descriptive method with the purpose of describing the empowerment circumstances of social conditional cash transfer (PKH) recipients' family. The selection of informants for this research is done by using purposive sampling and resulted in 10 informants consisted of PKH recipients' family and individuals involved in program implementation. Data research collection is conducted by in-depth interview and participant observation techniques, while data analysis obtained using qualitative analysis according to [19].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Family beneficiaries of PKH in Jayapura city are poor families who have different characteristics of poverty from one another. Living in poverty for quite some time make family of beneficiaries very dependent upon the availability of nature and government assistances. Isolation and inequality in every development process resulting in new social problems for family of beneficiaries, such as transmitting poverty to their children. They admitted that being poor is an unexpected situation they did not want to be in and make them fail to apply and develop family functions appropriately. Their family system functioning become more prone to malfunction. Their children are vulnerable to poverty, violence and job exploitation, dropped out of school, and have rebel character. Women become very vulnerable to acts of violence and discrimination, even family is marginalized (isolated) to urban fringe areas due to inability in competition. Male domination which has already constructed in family strengthen men power as family leaders and become powerful political actors.

Poor families of PKH program beneficiaries has received cash transfer since 2012 until recently. Ever since being designated as beneficiaries of the program, their social and economic lives have changed which significant to some activities inside and outside the family. The emphasis pattern on commitments, sanctions, and grant also resulted in the change of thinking pattern and actions. In this case, the family beneficiaries can take advantage of the program as a means to increase access to public services of education and health. Family of beneficiaries can also control and increase their income through the help of PKH complementary programs, where families who had previously received the program were those with high dependency on collecting activities/sub system, farming and fishing.

Some changes of empowerment in families PKH beneficiaries (KPM) including: (1) the ability to communicate or to build an extensive network between families of beneficiaries and public at large as the communication pattern of PKH beneficiaries which most affected part of the program. KPM limited communication patterns within the core family and cultural environment (kinship) become wider to other social networks, such as economic group activities, art group, and other groups. (2) the next empowerment of KPM PKH is the ability to solve family problem. The ability to solve problems in KPM families affiliated with cultural elements which socially constructed in kinship and wider community, so that the patterns of problem solving in the internal PKH family

are potentially intimidated. Problem handling and solving which once dominated by male has now become more flexible towards strategy and problem-solving patterns by involving women as their partners. The presence, status, and position of women have not yet fully paralleled with men in making the decisions for the family. KPM PKH admitted that kinship relationship is important, particularly in solving major family issues, such as marriage, death, and politics. (3) the next empowerment is improving the quality of education and health in family beneficiaries which slowly shows the advance. Children can get a decent, affordable, and high quality of education. Families beneficiaries realize that the PKH help their family to be empowered and stronger in facing and handling negative impact of poverty. Children, women, and other disadvantaged groups will experience changes in their welfare if they possess the right to protection [20]. Family beneficiaries said they have received supports in financial, mentoring, complementary program, small business, educational, health, and social.

Some aspects of helplessness experienced by KPM PKH are (1) knowledge and skills which did not develop dynamically due to the absent of PKH activities affiliated to the process of improvement, such as trainings with economic and social benefits. PKH is still focused on cash transfer management only which make its recipients have nothing to think of rather than how to get cash transfer every month. It triggers the potential of helplessness in a family which slowly comes up, (2) control of access to self and public services have not yet generated meaningful changes for women since their activities mostly revolve around domestic and reproductive roles, economic source in markets and gardens, and having the same types of commodities [17]. Some factors affect empowerment of PKH beneficiaries in Jayapura are (1) PKH stimulus by providing financial guarantee for KPM for five years, (2) Guarantee to prevent women and children from (and control) discrimination, subordination, exploitation and violence, (3) guarantee of education and health of PKH families beneficiaries, (4) motivation and social support from PKH family members, (5) public service on education and health which sensitive to cultural values, (6) knowledge, attitudes, and skills of PKH family beneficiaries.

IV. CONCLUSION

Family hope program (PKH) is a very effectively improving the empowerment situation of family's beneficiaries. Empowerment of poor families in Jayapura city is strongly influenced by the presence of PKH and its implementation. Families beneficiaries can take advantage of PKH as a means to enhance access to public services, improve the quality of education and health of family members, increase social support, improve family's economic activities, and increase patterns of problem solving in the family. Aspect of cultural construction can potentially create family's helplessness economically, socially, and psychologically. The impact of poverty due to helplessness can be overcome by performing a synergy of policies and social assistance programs which put the characteristics of target based on their respective culture, particularly in the provinces of Papua.

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