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Implemenation of Child Friendly City Policy in Singkawang City in 2022-2023 Period

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the implementation of the “Child Friendly City” policy in Singkawang City, which is a strategic initiative to create an environment that is safe, healthy, and supports the development of children as the nation's next generation. Using a qualitative approach, this study collected data through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and analysis of relevant documents to understand the perspectives of various stakeholders, including local government, civil society organizations, educational institutions, and children's communities. The results show that despite strong commitment from the government and cross-sector collaboration, the implementation of this policy still faces various challenges. These challenges include different priorities among actors, budget constraints, and a lack of public understanding of the concept of “Child Friendly City”. In addition, although a non-compliance reporting mechanism is in place, socialization of this mechanism still needs to be improved so that children feel more confident in conveying the problems they face. Thus, this research concludes that the successful implementation of the “Child Friendly City” policy in Singkawang is highly dependent on effective collaboration between all parties, as well as the need for targeted strategies to overcome existing challenges. Hopefully, with a more collaborative and transparent approach, all children, especially those from vulnerable groups, can benefit equally from this policy, thus creating a child-friendly environment and supporting their holistic well-being. This research provides recommendations to improve socialization and education about the policy, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and increase children's participation in decision-making, in order to achieve the goal of creating Singkawang City as a child-friendly city.

Keyword: Policy, Policy Implementation, Child Friendly City.

INTRODUCTION

Protection of children's rights is the main responsibility of the government, both at the central and regional levels (Mekonen, 2010; Wessells, 2015; Collins, 2017). If not guaranteed properly, children will be more vulnerable to various forms of violence, both physical,

emotional, and sexual, due to lack of adequate protection and supervision. An unfavorable environment, such as the lack of safe and clean playrooms, inadequate health facilities, and poor infrastructure, will hamper their physical and mental growth (Aina & Bipath, 2022; Atmore, Van Niekerk, & Ashley-Cooper, 2012). In addition, without access to quality education and other supporting services, children may experience difficulties in achieving their maximum potential (Greenberg, 2003; Clair, Miske, & Patel, 2012), which in turn can affect their future and their contributions to the community. Inadequacy of children's needs and rights can also cause an increase in social problems, such as juvenile delinquency and high school dropout rates.

In Indonesia, the commitment to fulfill the rights of children has been confirmed through the ratification of the child rights convention through Presidential Decree Number 36 of 1990 (Shahnaz & Muhja, 2022; Prameswari, Agustin, & Felicia, 2023; Paikah et al., 2021). In line with that, the Indonesian government designed a strategic policy in the form of a child-friendly city (CFC), which aims to create an urban environment that is conducive to growth, development, and child protection (Khumayah et al., 2023; Rahmawati et al., 2024). This policy is designed to ensure that every city and district in Indonesia is able to provide public services, facilities and protection systems that are in accordance with the needs of children.

The concept of a CFC in Indonesia is an approach that aims to create an urban environment that supports the development of children holistically (Setiawan, 2024; Khumayah et al., 2023; Butarbutar, 2020). Cities that apply this concept are committed to ensuring that every child has equivalent access to educational, health, recreation, and safe protection facilities from all forms of violence or exploitation. The main principles of a CFC include active participation of children in decision making that affect their lives, recognition of children's rights as a priority in urban planning, as well as collaboration between government, civil society, private sector, and international organizations to create a conducive environment for the development of children (Van Vliet & Karsten, 2015; Carvalho & Koteng, 2014; Ebel, 2024). With this approach, it is hoped that children can grow and develop in a pleasant environment, safe, and give them the same opportunity to achieve their full potential (Malone, 2017; Powell, 2024; Jansson et al., 2022; Nam & Nam, 2018).

At the national level, the CFC concept is further regulated through the Ministerial Regulation of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Number 12 of 2011 concerning Indicators of CFC. This regulation provides a basic framework for local governments to develop policies and programs that support the fulfillment of children's rights in their respective regions. Along with the development of policies, the government strengthens this regulation through Presidential Regulation Number 25 of 2021.

Singkawang City, as one of the cities in Indonesia that is trying to implement the CFC concept, has also integrated this policy in local government programs. Singkawang, with a unique cultural and demographic diversity (Setyowati, Astuti, & Kurniawan, 2020; Maisondra, 2023; Chiang & Cheng, 2019), faces its own challenges in ensuring that each child gets his rights equally. To support this initiative, the Singkawang City Government, through the Mayor Regulation No. 13 of 2022 concerning Child Protection, has strengthened efforts in creating a more friendly and safe environment for children. The regulation contains various provisions that support children's comprehensive protection, including efforts to prevent physical, psychological, and sexual violence. In addition, there is a special focus on the empowerment of women and families as the main party in child protection. This regulation also emphasizes the importance of child participation in the decision making process related to them, so that they can play an active role in community development and be involved in positive activities. In its implementation, the Social, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Agency became one of the key institutions responsible for carrying out this policy. They coordinate with various parties, including educational institutions, health services, and communities, to

create ecosystems that support children's welfare. In addition, regular supervision and evaluation is carried out to ensure this policy runs effectively and in accordance with established standards.

With the Mayor Regulation No. 13 of 2022, Singkawang has established a strong legal foundation in realizing a child decent city. Through this policy, it is hoped that children in Singkawang not only get a safe environment, but also have broader access to education, health, and better social protection. This policy is also an important part of the city government's strategy to improve the welfare of children as the next generation of the nation.

Although Singkawang has carried out various important actions to support child protection, including the implementation of CFC programs and campaigns about the stop of violence against women and children, reality in the field shows that cases of sexual and physical violence against children still often occur. The local government together with various parties have tried to create a safer environment for children, for example through counseling to the community, the construction of child-friendly facilities, and increasing access to health services and inclusive education. However, these steps do not seem to be able to eliminate the main challenges in eradicating violence against children.

This study aims to analyze how the implementation of CFC policy in Singkawang City, with a focus on the Social, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency. This study will explore more about the policy implementation process, the challenges faced, as well as opportunities that can be utilized to increase program effectiveness.

METHOD

The study uses a qualitative method to explore in depth how CFC policies in Singkawang City are implemented in 2022-2023. This study selects a qualitative method because it allows researchers to understand social phenomena in its context more comprehensively. As an approach that focuses on understanding processes and meanings related to human experience, this method is very suitable for exploring the complexity of policy implementation involving various actors and social interactions. Thus, the qualitative method provides a flexible but in-depth framework, which allows researchers to explore aspects that may not be measured or disclosed through quantitative methods. This approach also allows adaptation during the research process, so that researchers can capture the dynamics and complexity that exists in the implementation of CFC policies in Singkawang City.

This study has collected data through three main techniques: interviews, observations, and document studies. These techniques help build a comprehensive understanding of research topics. Each of these techniques was chosen to provide a comprehensive picture of the implementation of CFC policies in Singkawang City in 2022-2023.

Interview is a method of data collection that involves direct interaction between researchers and informants to gather their in-depth information about their experiences, views, and perceptions. This technique allows researchers to explore information that cannot be obtained from other sources, as well as understanding how CFC policies are accepted and applied in daily practice.

Then, this study carries out data collection techniques through observation. Observations were made to directly observe the processes and interactions that occur in the field related to policy implementation. This technique allows researchers to collect data that is real-time and see how CFC policies are carried out in daily situations. Through observations, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how policies are implemented and how social interaction takes place in a certain context.

Furthermore, this study also uses document study techniques. This includes the collection and analysis of relevant documents, such as policy reports, archives, and other official notes. This technique is important to complete the data obtained from interviews and observations, as well

as providing historical and legal contexts related to CFC policy. Documentation allows researchers to evaluate the consistency and suitability between policy documents and implementation in the field.

This study chose to apply data analysis techniques consisting of three main steps, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. In the first step, the data collected will be reduced, which is filtered and selected which one is relevant for further analysis. This reduction process is important for eliminating irrelevant or excessive data, so focus only on data that supports research objectives. Furthermore, data that has been reduced will be presented in an easy-to-understand form, such as descriptive narrative, table, or graph. This data presentation aims to provide a clearer and more structured picture of the main findings in research. After the data is presented, the researcher will draw conclusions by identifying the patterns that arise from the data. The drawing of this conclusion is supported by relevant theories and aims to answer research questions and provide useful recommendations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study can attract the proposition that the implementation of CFC policy will be successful if the content variable is formulated and implemented by considering the six aspects of the policy content including (a) the interests of the target group are clearly loaded and accommodated in the policy, (b) the type of benefits to be received by the target group is collective and clearly contained in the contents of the policy, (c) the contents of the policy contain the targets of the change to be achieved on a clear and gradual scale, (d) the location of the right decision making according to the stated policy goals and objectives, (e) the program implementer has been clearly determined by ensuring the quality of implementing that is committed, competent, flexible and able to coordinate well; and (f) the availability of adequate resources to support the implementation of the policy.

In addition, another proposition is the implementation of a CFC policy will be successful if it is supported by aspects of the context which includes (a) the power, interests and strategies of the actors in line with the policy objectives so that the policy implementation will run more optimally, (b) the characteristics of the institution and regimes that are in power strong and effective so that policies are more easily implemented, and (c) target groups obey and respond well to the implementation of the policy.

Implementation of CFC policy based on the contents of the policy

Child Friendly City is a concept carried by the government to create an environment that supports optimal growth and development of children. This policy aims to ensure that children's rights are met, as well as providing the same protection and opportunity for children to participate in various aspects of life. Singkawang City, as one of the cities in Indonesia, has been committed to implementing CFC policies since 2022.

The Singkawang City Regional Development Program in 2018-2022 is a series of efforts made to realize the vision and mission of the elected mayor and deputy mayor outlined in the goals and objectives and steps in the development strategy so that the achievement of the directed, effective and efficient vision. Furthermore, the regional development program is translated by the Social, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency of Singkawang City in the form of activities in the outcome of development programs in accordance with the goals and objectives in the regional development plan.

CFC policy in Singkawang City is a positive step in fulfilling children's rights and creating an environment that supports their growth. With the commitment of all parties, as well as strong support from the government and the community, it is hoped that the implementation of this policy can continue to be improved and provide maximum benefits for children in Singkawang City. This success will not only have an impact on the welfare of children, but

also on overall community development. This study examines the policy of a CFC based on six aspects, namely the interests of the target group, the type of benefit, the contents of the policy, the location of decision making, the implementation of the program, and the resources used.

First, about interests of the target group. The entire information obtained from informants shows that although CFC policies in Singkawang City have been designed with good intentions to meet the needs of children, there are several challenges that need to be overcome to ensure that the interests of all target groups, especially children from low-income families and Persons with disabilities, really considered. The heads of offices and government emphasize their commitment to the provision of supporting facilities and services, but community leaders underline that the implementation of this policy is still not evenly distributed and often does not cover all children fairly.

Furthermore, the importance of community involvement in the process of formulating and evaluating policy is in the spotlight, where the voices of children and their specific needs must be heard and accommodated. Collaboration between the government, society, and non-governmental organizations is considered crucial to create inclusive and responsive policies to the challenges faced by children. Thus, to achieve the goals of CFC policy, a sustainable joint effort and commitment are needed to ensure that all children, without exception, can feel the benefits of this policy.

Second, about type of benefit. Implementation of CFC policies, it is important to identify the interests of target groups, such as children from low-income families and people with disabilities, because meeting their needs not only contributes to individual welfare, but also provides long-term benefits for the community as a whole, such as improving the quality of education, mental health, and social integration. By ensuring that this policy effectively accommodates the specific needs of the target group, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment, where every child has the same opportunity to develop and contribute positively to their community.

The implementation of CFC policies in Singkawang City shows the commitment of the government and the community in creating an environment that supports the development of children, especially for vulnerable target groups, such as children from low-income families and people with disabilities. Expected benefits, such as increasing access to education, health services, and protection from violence, are recognized as an important step to improve the quality of life of children and the community as a whole. However, although many benefits have been felt, there are still challenges in ensuring the distribution of fair benefits among all children, especially for those who are in less favorable socio-economic conditions.

Collaboration between the government, children's organizations, and the community is the key to overcoming this inequality and ensuring that every child can feel the positive impact of the policy. The active participation of children in the decision making process is also considered important to create policies that are more responsive to their needs. With a focus on continuous evaluation and adjustment, it is hoped that this policy can provide significant short-term and long-term benefits, create an independent, creative, and empowered generation, and contribute to inclusive and sustainable community development in Singkawang.

Third, the contents of the policy contain the targets of the change to be achieved on a clear and gradual scale. The Singkawang City Government is committed to creating the desired degree of change in CFC policy by increasing access to education and health services for all children, as well as protecting them from violence and exploitation, which in turn will create a safe and supportive environment. In addition, the active involvement of the community and children's participation in decision making is very important to ensure this policy is responsive to their needs. Women's empowerment is also a focus, which involves them in the decision

making process and economic empowerment programs are expected to strengthen child protection.

The government is committed to developing inclusive programs that are responsive to the needs of children from vulnerable groups, as well as conducting an ongoing evaluation and monitoring to ensure policy effectiveness. With this holistic approach, it is expected that all children in Singkawang, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, can feel the equal benefits and grow in a safe and prosperous environment.

Fourth, the location of the right decision making according to the stated policy goals and objectives. The aspect of the location of decision making in the Singkawang City Government includes various factors that influence how strategic and operational decisions are taken in order to achieve development goals, including the implementation of CFC policy. This decision making process involves various levels of government, ranging from high-ranking officials such as the Mayor and Head of Service, to lower staff involved in the implementation of policies.

The location of decision making in the City Government of Singkawang shows that this process involves various parties, ranging from high officials to civil society, in an effort to realize CFC policies. Collaborative commitment between government, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders is very important to ensure that decisions taken are inclusive and responsive to the needs of children and women. Through the stages of situation analysis, public consultation, and discussion forums, community voices, especially children, effectively accommodated. Although there are participatory mechanisms that have been formed, there are still challenges in increasing transparency and community involvement in the decision making process. Therefore, it is important to continue to improve and expand access to the community in order to be able to actively contribute. With an inclusive approach and constructive dialogue, it is hoped that the resulting policies can create a safe and supportive environment for children, as well as support overall community development.

Fifth, the program implementer has been clearly determined by ensuring the quality of implementing that is committed, competent, flexible and able to coordinate well.

Overall, the implementation of the program in Singkawang reflects efforts to create responsive and effective policies. By involving various agencies and the community, it is hoped that these programs can provide significant benefits for the welfare of children and women, as well as increasing public confidence in the government.

The implementation of the CFC program in Singkawang City shows a strong commitment from the government to create a child-friendly environment through structured collaboration between various agencies, including the Social Service, the Education Office, and the Regional Development Planning Agency. Although there are significant progress, such as increasing access to basic services and the success of certain programs, challenges such as limited resources, community resistance, and gaps between plans and implementation still need to be overcome. Community involvement, including children, program planning and evaluation is very important to ensure that this policy is responsive to their needs. By monitoring and evaluating regularly, as well as increasing socialization and training, it is hoped that these programs can continue to be adjusted and have a significant positive impact on the welfare of children in Singkawang. The close collaboration between the government, the community, and non-governmental organizations is the key to overcoming the challenges that exist and ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of CFC policies in the future.

Sixth, the availability of adequate resources to support the implementation of the policy. The Singkawang City Government utilizes various resources, including trained human resources from various agencies such as the Social Service and the Education Office, to support the implementation of the CFC program. In addition, they also face challenges in terms of financial resources, which encourage efforts to find alternative funding through partnerships

with the private sector and non-governmental organizations. In addition, the development of material resources, such as child-friendly educational and health facilities, is a priority, although there are still obstacles in providing its provision in certain areas. Close collaboration with various parties, including civil society, is very important to create innovative and responsive programs to the needs of children. Finally, monitoring and evaluation carried out regularly ensures that all resources used can be optimized, so that these programs can have a significant positive impact on the welfare of children and the community in Singkawang City.

Implementation of CFC policy based on environment

This explains about (a) the power, interests and strategies of the actors in line with the policy objectives so that the policy implementation will run more optimally, (b) the characteristics of the institution and regimes that are in power strong and effective so that policies are more easily implemented, and (c) target groups obey and respond well to the implementation of the policy.

First, the power, interests and strategies of the actors in line with the policy objectives so that the policy implementation will run more optimally. The government as the main actor has the power to formulate and implement policies, while various other actors such as non-governmental organizations and the community have diverse interests, which encourage them to be actively involved in the decision making process, through collaborative strategies and constructive negotiations, are expected to be created A mutually beneficial agreement, so that this policy can be implemented effectively and has a positive impact on the welfare of children in the city.

It is important to understand that the success of this program is very dependent on effective collaboration between various key actors. Every party, ranging from local governments to educational institutions and local communities, has a significant role in creating an environment that supports the welfare of children. However, challenges often arise due to differences in interests and priorities among these actors. Therefore, a proper strategy is needed to manage conflicts of interest and ensure that all votes are heard in the decision making process.

Various actors have a complementary role to create a safe and friendly environment for children. Local governments, educational institutions, civil society organizations, parents, and children's communities, including children's forums, are the main pillars in supporting this policy. Each actor has a strategic interest and role that affects the success of implementation, ranging from providing regulations, program facilitation, to empowering children. Although strong support can be seen from various parties, obstacles such as lack of understanding and limited resources are still a challenge that must be overcome. In dealing with this, children's forums play a key role by interacting directly through campaigns, discussions, and education, as well as conveying children's aspirations actively. The community participation of children not only provides a unique perspective, but is also able to motivate actors to be more committed in implementing policies, making them important partners in creating a CFC in Singkawang.

The government acts as the main manager who regulates communication and mediation between these actors, with an inclusive and transparent approach. Collaborative strategies, such as advocacy, partnerships, and discussion forums, are expected to create mutually beneficial agreements and overcome the challenges that arise. In addition, active participation from the community of children and community leaders is also an important factor in ensuring that this policy can be integrated into the daily lives of the community.

Thus, to achieve the goal of creating a safe and friendly environment for children, strong synergy is needed between all parties, as well as directed strategies to manage diverse interests and ensure that all votes are heard in the decision making process.

Second, the characteristics of the institution and regimes that are in power strong and effective so that policies are more easily implemented. The Singkawang City Government has the characteristics of institutions and authorities that greatly influence the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of public policies, including CFC policies. In this context, an integrated organizational structure is one of the key aspects. Each service and agency in the city government has clear duties and functions, which allows better coordination between institutions. Clarity in this organizational structure is very important, because it helps in making decisions that are fast and responsive to the needs of the community.

In addition, work culture in the Singkawang City Government tends to prioritize collaboration and participation. This can be seen from the government's efforts to involve various actors, including civil society and the private sector, in the process of planning and implementing policies. This inclusive work culture creates space for dialogue and exchange of ideas, which are very important in overcoming the challenges faced in policy implementation. Commitment for transparency and accountability is also part of a work culture that supports the success of government programs.

The capability of human resources in the Singkawang City Government also plays a crucial role in the implementation of policies. The quality and competence of government employees in understanding and implementing policies greatly affects the results achieved. Therefore, training and capacity building are a priority to ensure that employees have the necessary knowledge and skills. The Singkawang City Government seeks to recruit quality and experienced workers, so as to improve the performance of the institution.

A good relationship between the government and the community and other stakeholders is also an important aspect in the characteristics of this institution. The Singkawang City Government is trying to build effective communication with the community, listen to the aspirations and input which forms the basis in the formulation of policies. Community involvement in the decision making process not only increases policy legitimacy, but also creates a sense of belonging among the people of the programs implemented. In addition, collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector strengthens the support network for policy implementation.

However, despite having supportive characteristics, the Singkawang City Government also faces various challenges. One of them is the limited budget that can affect the implementation of planned programs. In addition, differences in interests between actors and lack of understanding of policies in the community can also be an obstacle. Therefore, an effective strategy is needed to overcome this challenge, such as improving communication, training, and strengthening the capacity of the institution.

Thrid, In the Singkawang City Government, this compliance can be seen from the extent to which each department and related agencies follow the guidelines and regulations set in the CFC policy. This compliance not only includes administrative aspects, but also the implementation of programs designed to meet the needs of children in the city.

Implementing responses in the field are also a key factor in the success of policy implementation. This response includes how government employees, especially at the operational level, respond to and implement established policies. The level of responsiveness of implementing to the needs of the community, especially children, will determine the effectiveness of policy. If the implementer is able to respond quickly and precisely to the issues that arise, then the policy will be more easily implemented and have a positive impact.

However, challenges in aspects of compliance and implementing responses often arise. Some of them include lack of understanding of policies among implementing, limited resources, and bureaucratic barriers that can hamper the decision making process. In addition, there are differences in interpretation of policies among the institutions involved can also cause discrepancy in implementation. To increase the level of compliance and implementing

response, sustainable efforts are needed in terms of training and developing human resource capacity. In addition, it is also important to build effective communication between the government and the community, so that the aspirations and needs of the community can be well accommodated in the implementation of policies.

CONCLUSION

Policy implementation of CFC in Singkawang City during 2022-2023 shows significant progress, although it is still faced with various challenges. This policy aims to create an environment that supports the growth and development of children optimally, with a focus on fulfilling children's rights and protection from violence and exploitation.

The implementation of CFC policies in Singkawang City shows a strong commitment from the government to create an environment that supports children's growth and development. Although there are good intentions in formulating this policy, the challenges in its implementation still need to be overcome, especially related to meeting the needs of children from vulnerable groups, such as those who come from low-income families and people with disabilities. Community involvement in the process of formulating and evaluating policies is very important to ensure that children's voices are heard and their specific needs are accommodated.

Collaboration between government, community, and non-governmental organizations is the key to creating inclusive and responsive policies. The heads of regional agency emphasize the importance of providing facilities and services that support children's welfare, but community leaders underline that the implementation of this policy is not evenly distributed and often does not cover all children fairly. Therefore, a sustainable joint effort is needed to ensure that all children, without exception, can feel the benefits of this policy.

With a focus on achieving long-term benefits, such as increasing access to quality education and better health services, it is hoped that CFC policies can have a positive impact not only for children but also for overall community development. The success of the implementation of this policy will greatly depend on the commitment of all parties to work together in achieving common goals for the welfare of children in Singkawang City.

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