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## **Implementation of BAZNAS Policy Overcoming Poverty and Realizing Community Welfare in Karawang District West Java Province**

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### ***Abstract:***

*This research discusses the implementation of BAZNAS policies in overcoming poverty and realizing community welfare in Karawang Regency. The aim is to discuss the collection of zakat by BAZNAS to reduce the gap between the zakat obtained and the existing zakat potential, as well as to find new strategies and patterns in the implementation of BAZNAS policies. The research method used is a descriptive qualitative approach. The results of the study indicate that the implementation of BAZNAS policies is quite optimal. This can be seen from the execution of the organization that is supported by competent and integrity Human Resources, the understanding of policy implementers and recipients about the importance of BAZNAS implementation, and the support of an up-to-date integrated system. The new concept generated is about the implementation of structured and patterned policies in the collection and distribution of zakat, as well as the integration of zakat beneficiary data with a priority on effectiveness, ability, and adaptation.*

**Keywords:** *Policy Implementation, BAZNAS, Poverty*

## **1. Introduction**

The social phenomena arising from the Covid-19 pandemic have not only had a broad impact on the lives of individuals, families and community groups but have also given rise to extraordinary events in the lives of society, nation and state. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is not only visible from the emergence of frightening health problems and deaths, but also shows other impacts that cause various business activities to decline, the number of unemployed to increase drastically, the number of poor people increasing, and the purchasing power of people decreasing (Ishikawa 2020).

Sadukh et al. (2023) explained that the provision at the beginning of the year was that the government had to update data on poor people (integrated social welfare data/DTKS) as a whole. This strategy is to increase the accuracy of social assistance recipients. "So the poverty target in 2021 is still transitional, namely 9.2 percent to 9.7 percent at the end of 2021," he explained. This target of course refers to the condition of poverty and the number of poor people in Indonesia.

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West Java Province, which has the most populous population in Indonesia based on BPS data, with a population of 48.27 million people, saw its poverty rate also increase from 6.82% in 2019 to 8.43% in 2020. Likewise, the poverty rate in Karawang Regency increased from 7.39% in 2019 to 8.26% in 2020 where there was an increase in the poor population from 173,660 people to 195,410 people in 2020. In other words, as a result of the pandemic, the poor population of Karawang increased by 21,750 people.

The Muslim population in Karawang Regency is the highest population compared to other religions. Adherents of Islam (Muslims) in Karawang Regency according to BPS data reached 2,170,347 people or the equivalent of 98.39% of the entire Karawang population of 2,205,195 people based on 2021 data. This demographic majority of the Muslim population gives rise to the potential for large community funds to be managed. This potential is related to the obligation of Muslims to fulfill zakat and the Hajj pilgrimage. This is related to fulfilling the third Pillar of Islam (paying zakat) and the fifth, namely performing the Hajj pilgrimage to Baitullah.

Zakat management in Indonesia is regulated in Law number 23 of 2011 concerning Zakat Management and Government Regulation number 14 of 2014 concerning Implementation of Law Number 23 of 2011 concerning Zakat Management, in the implementation of which the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Indonesia has been issued number 8 of 2001 concerning National Zakat Amil Agency and issued Presidential Instruction Number 3 of 2014 concerning Optimizing Zakat Collection through the National Zakat Amil Agency which aims to optimize zakat collection.

The public interest in question is of course related to efforts to empower Muslims which are carried out by exploring and utilizing the potential of Muslims themselves. This means that by issuing Presidential Instruction Number 3 of 2014, the Government intervened to strengthen the implementation of the zakat management function within the government. The implementation of zakat management functions is entrusted to the National Zakat Amil Agency (Bazanas). For this reason, Baznas was instructed by the President to register muzakki for officers/employees in Ministries/Institutions.

All government agencies/institutions are obliged to collect zakat from muzakki within the government environment. This can be said to be one of the Government's strategies in optimizing zakat receipts from Muslims. The aim is clear, namely to overcome the problem of poverty and at the same time overcome the low level of welfare of Muslims. This goal is based on the Government's prediction that the level of underprivileged citizens will increase due to Covid-19. Without social assistance intervention through the national economic recovery program, the increase in the number of underprivileged citizens could certainly be greater, namely up to around 4 million people, according to the Director of Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare of the Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia. The increase in the number of poor people in question certainly includes the Muslim population in Indonesia

## **2. Theoretical Background**

Implementation studies sit at the crossroads of public administration, organizational theory, public management research, and political science studies (Weible & Carter 2017). As per Howlett's view (2018), effective public policy implementation necessitates specific conditions. The policy implementation process can only commence once the originally general goals and targets have been specified, action programs have been designed, and a certain amount of costs have been allocated to achieve these goals and targets. This is the fundamental prerequisite for any public policy implementation.

Implementation signifies the execution of basic policy decisions, typically embedded in a statute, but it can also take the shape of significant executive orders or court decisions (Hahn & Sustain 2002). Ideally, such a decision identifies the problem(s) to be addressed, determines the objective(s) to be achieved, and somehow 'structures' the implementation process. The process typically progresses through several stages, starting with the passage of the basic statute, followed by the policy outputs (decisions) of the implementing agencies, the target groups' compliance with those decisions, the actual impact – both intended and unintended – of those outputs, the perceived impacts of agency decisions, and finally, significant revisions (or intended revisions) in the basic statute (Wu et al., 2017).

Implementation refers to the actions that occur after laws are enacted, authorizing a program, a policy, a benefit, or some kind of tangible output (DeLeon & DeLeon 2002). It encompasses actions (and inactions) by a variety of actors, particularly bureaucrats, aimed at putting the program into effect, ostensibly to achieve goals (Hart et al., 2000).

Policy implementation involves a series of activities that occur after the adoption of state policy guidelines (Fowler 2022). The last phase of implementation establishes a link that allows the goals of public politics policies to be realized as outcomes of governmental activity (Mettler & Soss 2004). It thus entails creating a "policy delivery system", where specific means are designed and pursued with the expectation of achieving particular ends. Consequently, public policies—broad statements of goals, objectives, and means—are translated into action programs aimed at achieving the policy's stated ends. It's clear, therefore, that various programs may be developed in response to the same policy goals. Action programs themselves may be broken down into more specific projects for administration (Thompson 2003). The intent of action programs and individual projects is to induce a change in the policy environment, a change that can be considered an outcome of the program (Ndou 2004).

Before policy implementation begins, the issues that need to be identified are the management and technical problems of policy implementation by policy implementers (Datnow & Park 2012). If the policy implementers are members of the police and police work units, then the issue before the policy is implemented is how members of the police and police work units plan and coordinate various programs and program resources to make policy implementation effective (Schofield 2001).

### **3. Methodology**

This research design was created by choosing a research approach and research performance design as follows: a quantitative approach, which is referred to as traditional, positivist, experimental, or empirical paradigm.

The qualitative approach is referred to as a constructivist or naturalistic approach, an interpretive approach, or a post-positivist or postmodern perspective. This approach began as a counter-movement against the positivist tradition in the late 19th century through writers such as Dilthey, Weber, and Kant.

According to experts, quantitative is referred to as a traditional, positivist, experimental, or empirical paradigm. Quantitative thinking comes from the empirical tradition established by authorities such as Comte, Mill, Durkheim, Newton, and Locke, among others. According to Lincoln and Guba, the qualitative approach is a constructivist or naturalistic approach, according to Smith, an interpretive approach, according to Quantz, a post-positivist or postmodern perspective. This view began as a counter-movement against the positivist tradition in the late 19th century through writers such as Dilthey, Weber, and Kant.

Creswel explains that quantitative researchers view reality as "objective," beyond the "independence" of the researcher (Cresswell & Poth 2016). Something can be measured objectively using a questionnaire or instrument. For qualitative researchers, the only reality is the one constructed by the individuals involved in the research situation. Therefore, multiple realities exist in any given situation: the researcher, the individuals being investigated, and the reader or audience interpreting the study. Qualitative researchers need to faithfully report these realities and rely on the voices and interpretations of informants.

Based on the explanations of the experts provided by Creswel, a qualitative research approach was chosen to reveal and analyze the implementation of policies to optimize zakat collection through the West Java Province Baznas to realize and overcome poverty due to the Covid-19 pandemic in Karawang Regency. This qualitative research approach was carried out using descriptive analysis methods. Next, research performance is designed by creating a conceptual framework.

### **4. Empirical Findings/Result**

#### **Organizational Analysis of Baznas in Karawang Regency**

Referring to Perbup no. 179 of 2023, the aim of managing Professional Zakat carried out by Baznas at the Regency level certainly requires human resource conditions to implement the Baznas Policy in overcoming poverty and realizing community welfare in Karawang Regency; So an effort to reorganize human resources is needed to optimize the implementation of this policy. Therefore, to put forward this policy, Informant 1 said:

"Currently the condition of human resources in the BAZNAS organization, especially in BAZNAS Kab. Karawang is quite accommodating in implementing all forms of rules or regulations that have been issued. However, in several forms of implementation of BAZNAS policies in realizing community welfare, there needs to be adjustments in carrying out its duties and functions."

Informant 1 explained that Human Resources (HR) at the BAZNAS organization in Karawang Regency still needed to be improved to support the achievement of organizational goals. The important role of human resources who can support and explain policies is a dominant aspect in realizing organizational goals, especially at BAZNAS Kab. Karawang does not prioritize profit so that every human resource involved is to further maintain the effectiveness of all programs that have been launched through policy. In line with this, Informant 2 also revealed: "the condition of human resources at BAZNAS Kab. Karawang is quite good in terms of knowledge and also good. "From another point of view, the need for increased education is also needed so that BAZNAS can run well in accordance with its aspirations, namely being able to help others and realize maximum community empowerment."

Once again, it is revealed that organizational effectiveness is determined by HR's ability to describe and understand the policies contained in a rule or regulation. In Karawang Regency, Karawang Regent Regulation Number 179 of 2023 concerning Management of Professional Zakat, Infaq and Alms from Employees within the Karawang Regency Government and Regional Owned Enterprises has been issued in Article 1 paragraph 12 which reads "The Regency Amil Zakat Agency, hereinafter referred to as Regency BAZNAS, is institutions that manage zakat nationally at the district level."<sup>3</sup>

The tasks carried out by BAZNAS Kab. Karawang is quite difficult considering that managing this requires the ability to be able to properly manage the funds of donors or benefit givers and must distribute them to the beneficiaries and BAZNAS, therefore it is deemed necessary periodically for BAZNAS Kab. Karawang, together with the Regional Government, is carrying out capacity building for BAZNAS District administrators. Karawang to make it even better, so that organizational effectiveness can be achieved.

The implementation or implementation of the Karawang Regency BAZNAS policy in realizing the welfare of the people of Karawang Regency can be reflected in the effective condition of human resources in the Karawang Regency BAZNAS organization. The role of HR who have good competence is expected to support the creation of good organizational performance and can support the realization of an organizational life cycle that runs in the same direction as all planned programs.

In addition, allocation support to an organization cannot be seen as weak. Because without a budget, any organization, be it a profit-oriented organization or an organization that prioritizes the benefit of the community, of course needs to be supported by a budget. The Karawang Regency BAZNAS organization has been optimally supported for budget allocations from the APBD as well as through a

continuous mechanism for collecting funds taken from civil servants within the Karawang Regency government.

Effectiveness can also be seen from the policy support carried out by the Karawang Regency regional government by coordinating and collaborating between the Karawang Regency Regional Government and the DPRD and other BUMDs. So that the program can realize community welfare in Karawang Regency. For this reason, the Regional Government of Karawang Regency has provided maximum support for the wheels of life of BAZNAS in Karawang Regency in the form of regulations and policies that provide legal protection for BAZNAS Karawang Regency to implement these policies.

In this regard, in carrying out the life cycle of BAZNAS Karawang Regency, it is hoped that the effectiveness of managing BAZNAS funds in Karawang Regency will be prioritized in order to realize the welfare of the people in Karawang Regency. This effectiveness can be achieved through various supports from parties directly in contact with BAZNAS Karawang Regency. Support in maintaining effectiveness includes human resource support, regulatory support, and facilities and infrastructure support.

### **Interpretive Analysis**

To support poverty alleviation and improve community welfare in Karawang Regency. A translation or approach to the language used by Baznas Karawang Regency is needed in interpreting and conveying the substance of the zakat collection, use and utilization policy so that it can be accepted by all parties to overcome poverty and realize community welfare. This was also stated by Informant 1, namely "the officers who collect and distribute the benefits collected at BAZNAS Karawang Regency use good grammar and prioritize local (regional) grammar so that the beneficiary community can understand all forms of BAZNAS benefit programs." This was also expressed by Informant 2, namely "in distributing benefits or ZIS in Karawang Regency, officers have the ability to translate all forms of rules or regulations that have been issued, as a form or manifestation of the officers' ability to work well.

In line with the above, Informant 3 also believes "The language conveyed by zakat administrators in socializing the collection, use and use of zakat is quite understandable and understood by the zakat targets." Informant 4 also expressed more details, namely "Management of Baznas Kab. Karawang during this period has been very massive in conveying the substance of Baznas policy and zakat literacy to the people of the district. Karawang, either through audiences with the regional government or private companies and also through talk shows on regional radio and roadshows through campuses in the district's student environment. Karawang.

Understanding of the use of zakat is known by all levels of society, as stated by Informant 4, namely "The collection of Baznas funds in the Pedes District area is a mandate from zakat givers which is authorized by the Baznas management to be conveyed to the Regency Baznas management and distributed back for use to those who entitled according to analysis and criteria."

Informant 6 also stated that "Baznas Karawang has not yet fully reached all groups, only the regional government bureaucracy and BUMD are effectively served. There needs to be a variety of "languages" delivered so that it can reach all groups." 82 More information about zakat management has been understood. society, as stated by Informant 7, "the socialization must be more massive because zakat is not just zakat fitrah, there are many other zakat such as zakat from harvests, etc." In line with the opinion above, Informant 8 also stated "The management of Stimulant Baznas distribution in the Pedes District area is a mandate from the zakat giver which is authorized by the Baznas management to be conveyed to the Regency Baznas management and distributed back for use to those who are entitled according to the analysis and criteria."

Furthermore, the understanding of zakat management has been understood, this is as stated by Informant 9, namely "On the basis of the collection of Baznas funds in the Pedes District area, it is a trust from the zakat giver which is authorized by the Baznas management to be conveyed to the Regency Baznas management and distributed back for use. to those who are entitled according to analysis and criteria."

## **5. Conclusions**

Based on the description of the research that has been carried out, it can be concluded that: 1) The implementation of the BAZNAS policy in overcoming poverty and realizing community welfare in Karawang Regency appears to be quite optimal. This can be seen from organizational implementation which has been supported by competent Human Resources and integrity so that it can support the performance of the BAZNAS organization in collecting and distributing zakat; The interpretation of policy implementers and recipients has been to understand the importance of implementing BAZNAS which can reduce poverty and create community welfare; The existing integrated system support application really supports BAZNAS' performance in facilitating data collection on beneficiary communities, as well as smooth distribution channels for the use of zakat from BAZNAS. 2) The new concept which is composed of the results of discussions on the Implementation of the BAZNAS Policy in Overcoming Poverty and Realizing Community Welfare in Karawang Regency, West Java Province is about the Implementation of a patterned and structured Policy in the implementation of zakat collection and distribution as well as integrating data on recipients and the benefits of zakat which are realized by prioritizing Effectiveness, Capability and Adaptation based on information systems. Referring to this definition, it can be developed into three dimensions, namely the Effectiveness Dimension; Ability Dimensions and Adaptation Dimensions. (1) The Effectiveness Dimension is success or influence after doing something with the intended achievement; (2) Ability shows the relatively stable capabilities that people have to realize certain activities that are different, but related to achieving organizational goals; (3) Adaptation is a manifestation of adjusting oneself to the surrounding environment to be able to see, feel and contribute to realizing the welfare of society.

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