



Evaluation Of The Implementation Of The Decent Housing Assistance Policy In Minahasa Regency North Sulawesi Province

Femmy C, M, Tasik; Michael Mamentu; Joyce J, Rares*:

Sam Ratulangi University, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

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* Corresponding author; joy.rares09@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The housing assistance program is a government program aimed at repairing uninhabitable houses. This program aims to improve the welfare of the poor. The assumption is that with the availability of livable housing, the poor can concentrate more on earning a living for their families. Poverty Severity data released by the North Sulawesi Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2024 shows that Minahasa Regency is at the top with a figure of 0.41%, followed by Talaud Islands Regency at 0.28% and Bitung City at 0.25%. In 2018, the Minahasa Regency government issued a policy on housing assistance through Regent Regulation Number 22 of 2018. However, in reality, this policy was only implemented in 2023. In the following year and until 2025, housing assistance was no longer implemented. This policy turned out to be direct assistance from the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs in that year. Field observations revealed that this program was highly beneficial for the recipients, effectively targeting them, and operating as expected. This means that families who previously lacked adequate housing were finally able to own homes through this program. The reality on the ground is that many extremely poor families in Minahasa Regency are still in dire need of their own, decent homes. Therefore, the government is strongly encouraged to continue this affordable housing assistance program.



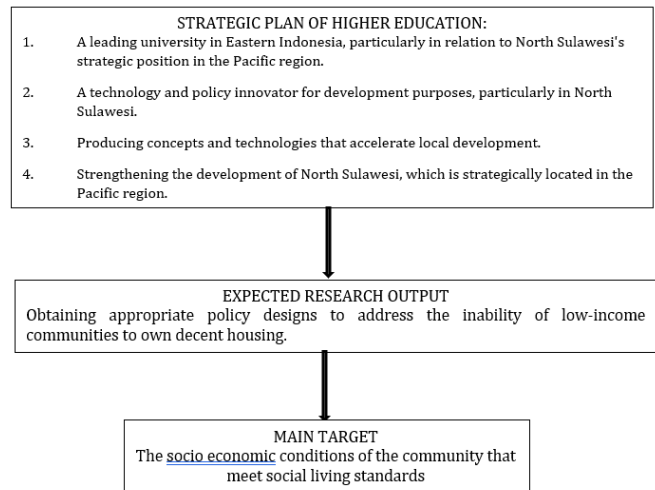
INTRODUCTION

One of the strategies undertaken by the government in order to reduce the national poverty rate is to implement a program of assistance for decent housing for the poor or underprivileged. The assumption is that if the poor have a decent house, they will be more able to concentrate on efforts to earn a living for their families. In 2018, the Minahasa Regency Government issued Minahasa Regent Regulation Number 22 of 2018 concerning Assistance for Decent Housing” which is intended for low-income Minahasa residents. The policy on assistance for decent housing for the poor in this regency has not yet been obtained initial data on how many residents are eligible to receive this program, how much budget is prepared by the Minahasa government, how many decent houses have been built since this policy was established, and what percentage of the total number of recipients who are eligible to receive this assistance.

According to data from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (PUPR) in 2023, Minahasa Regency is slated to receive 495 units of this program (<https://www.kompas.com/>). This demonstrates the central government's policy support to address this issue. This evaluation study is considered crucial to obtain a picture of the achievements of the Minahasa government's policies regarding affordable housing assistance. Therefore, it is hoped that this study will provide comprehensive information related to the program's implementation.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Correlation between the research to be carried out with the RIP and the Higher Education Research Road



The Concept of Policy Evaluation. Howlet and Ramesh (1) explain that policy evaluation depends on the evaluator of the policy itself, as they explain below:

“The presence of distinct types of policy evaluators results in several distinct types of policy analysis and evaluation. At a general level, policy evaluation can be classified into three broad categories: administrative evaluation, judicial evaluation, and political evaluation. Which differ in the way are conducted, the actors they involve, and their effects. In what follows, the key venues for this kinds of policy evaluation are set out; along with a description of the actors involved in these processes and their activities”.

The explanation from Howlet and Ramesh above essentially illustrates that the diversity of policy evaluators results in varying policy analysis and evaluation results. Meanwhile, policy evaluations can generally be classified into three categories: administrative, legal/judicial, and political evaluation. The differences between the three lie in:

1. The mechanism of the analysis or evaluation activities carried out.
2. The people or actors involved in the activities.
3. The resulting impact, which ultimately ensures that the evaluation can be carried



out in accordance with the plan created by the program planner.

From the conceptual explanations above, it is clear that the essence of public policy issues concerns the following:

1. When the results of the policy do not align with the desired objectives.
2. The question of why the public policy cannot be implemented as intended.
3. Or whether the policy fails or cannot be implemented.

Jones further explained that the analytical method in policy evaluation is a way of using collected information to draw conclusions about whether government programs are effective or ineffective, and whether they have had a positive or negative impact. Recommendations, the final stage of policy evaluation, determine what should be done in the next period. Jones (1991:359) also explains that there are essentially three types of objectives for implementing policy evaluation:

1. Political Evaluation (evaluation for political purposes). Policy evaluation activities are conducted to answer the questions "will the program being implemented benefit the entire country?" Will the program be implemented to increase political support in re-election campaigns? Will the program be implemented to increase media support.
2. Organizational evaluation. Evaluation for the benefit of the organization. Organizational evaluation begins with the question of whether the program being implemented will receive support from existing institutions or implementing agencies. Will the benefits to implementing agencies outweigh the costs? Will the program be able to provide expansion for implementing agencies.
3. Substantive evaluation (substantive or real evaluation) Substantive evaluation aims to determine whether the program achieves its objectives as stipulated (in law or in specific specifications). What impact will the program have on the problem.

Based on the policy evaluation tools described above, Jones (1984:4) further explains that policy evaluation can be used for two purposes:

1. To assess events throughout the policy process. Policy evaluation is a tool for reviewing, then anticipating, or assessing all progress achieved by government policies formulated and then implemented.
2. It is a systematic effort to assess the benefits of specific government programs. This involves identifying systematic methods for assessing government programs, such as experimental methods, comparative methods, replication, or cost-benefit analysis.

Furthermore, according to Anderson, policy evaluation is essentially "the appraisal or assessment of policy, including its content, implementation, and impact." Policy evaluation can be defined as an activity involving the assessment or testing of a policy, including its content, implementation, and impact. Policy evaluation is a functional activity, meaning that policy evaluation is conducted not only at the final stage but throughout the entire policy process. Therefore, policy evaluation encompasses the formulation of policy problems, proposed programs to address policy problems, implementation, and the policy's impact. Therefore, according to Anderson, as a functional activity, policy evaluation is as important as the policy itself. What is meant by a functional activity is that policy evaluation is not only conducted at the final stage, but throughout the entire policy process. Therefore, policy evaluation will encompass the entire process, starting from the formulation of policy problems, proposed programs to address them, implementation, and the policy impact stage.

The results of this interpretation (based on the concepts presented above) can be correlated with the thinking of Mustopadidjaja who further explains policy evaluation, namely that public policy evaluation in public policy studies is one stage of the public policy process. He further states that policy evaluation is an activity to



assess or observe the success and failure of a policy.

According to Dunn (1990:609), evaluation plays several key functions in policy analysis, as follows:

- a. Evaluation provides valid and reliable information about policy performance, namely the extent to which needs, values, and opportunities have been achieved through public action. In this case, evaluation reveals the extent to which specific goals (e.g., health improvement) and targets have been achieved.
- b. Evaluation contributes to the clarification and critique of the values underlying goals and targets. Values are clarified by defining and operationalizing goals and targets. Values are also critiqued by systematically questioning the appropriateness of goals and targets in relation to the problem at hand. In questioning the appropriateness of goals and targets, analysts can examine alternative sources of values (interest groups, civil servants, and client groups) as well as their basis in various forms of rationality (technical, economic, legal, social, and substantive).
- c. Evaluation contributes to the application of other policy analysis methods, particularly for "problem formulation" and "recommendations." Information about the adequacy of policy performance can contribute to the reformulation of policy issues by indicating the need for defining goals and targets. Evaluation can also contribute to the definition of new policy alternatives or policy revisions by indicating that previously favored policy alternatives need to be discarded and replaced with others.

Below are the policy criteria according to Dunn :

Table 1
Types of Policy Evaluation According to Dunn

Criteria Type	Question
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Effectiveness	Have the desired results been achieved?
Efficiency	How much effort is required to achieve the desired results?
Adequacy	How far the desired outcome is achieved solving the problem
Alignment	Are the costs and benefits distributed evenly across different groups?
Responsiveness	Do policy outcomes satisfy the needs, preferences, or values of particular groups?
Accuracy	Are the desired results (goals) actually useful or valuable?.

Source : Dunn (1990:610)

According to Dunn, policy evaluation has two most interrelated aspects: the use of various methods to monitor the results of public policies and programs, and the application of a set of values to determine the usefulness of the results. Dunn further divides policy evaluation into three based on the evaluation time: "before implementation," "during implementation," and "after implementation." Evaluation during implementation is generally referred to as process evaluation, while evaluation after the policy is implemented is referred to as policy consequence (output) evaluation or policy outcome evaluation, or also called summative evaluation.

RESEARCH METHODS

The author uses a qualitative research method with an emphasis on a qualitative descriptive approach. The goal is to describe and summarize various conditions, situations, or phenomena of existing social reality, then attempt to bring reality to the surface as a characteristic, character, nature, model, sign, or depiction of a particular condition or phenomenon. This format focuses on a specific unit of various phenomena.

The data in this study comprises primary and secondary data. Primary data is data directly recorded in the field through in-depth interviews and obtained through observations conducted by the researchers themselves. Meanwhile, secondary data is processed or officially



published data obtained from media reports, documentation, and archives of other relevant institutions.

1. Primary Data.

Data obtained from field observations and in-depth interviews with all informants in this study.

2. Secondary Data.

Written data or official documents from the Minahasa district government and other official social media platforms.

The informants in this study were:

1. The Regent or Secretary of Minahasa Regency or their representative
2. The Head of the Minahasa Regency Public Works and Housing Agency or their representative
3. Three sub-district heads from sub-districts receiving RTLH program assistance
4. Five heads of families or their representatives who are recipients of RTLH assistance

Thus, the planned number of informants in this study is 11.

The research instruments in this study were the researchers within the research team. They used tools such as a digital recorder, a video recorder, writing instruments, and a laptop to store the research data. Interview and observation materials were developed from various references presented in the proposition.

The data collection technique for this study was in-depth interviews. The in depth interviews conducted in this study were essentially unstructured, although a guideline was prepared. Interviews with informants were conducted in different locations, as agreed upon. The researchers visited each informant individually in different locations. The data validity testing conducted in this study used triangulation techniques. The data and new findings obtained were tested by cross-checking the data, then analyzed by combining the researcher's interpretation with the reference theory and other theories related to the research findings.

The next stage involves interpretation and explanation of the interaction patterns between categories, properties, and attributes, which in

turn will yield a pattern of relationships and influences between the phenomena being investigated. The next step is to interpret all the facts found according to the categories, properties, and attributes obtained from the perspective established based on the conceptual framework and literature review. Qualitative interpretation is also directed at discovering patterns of interaction between phenomena.

The final stage of this section is drawing conclusions, which involves drawing propositions, postulates, or hypotheses based on the tendencies of interactions between attributes. Essentially, conclusions, which are aimed at answering the research problem, will explain the correlation patterns between categories and properties.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Field research findings indicate that the housing assistance program in Minahasa Regency was only implemented in 2023 and has been discontinued. Ten families were proposed to the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs for housing assistance, but only nine were approved. One family was rejected due to invalid data in the national database system known as the National Socioeconomic Single Data (DTSEN). From the perspective of Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Beneficiaries, it can be concluded that the housing assistance policy or program has been greatly beneficial to the recipients (families receiving housing assistance). Furthermore, this policy has been effective in reducing poverty (difficulties) among the extreme poor and has been implemented efficiently. This means that the policy is targeted. The success of this program is supported by appropriate selection, implementation, and monitoring mechanisms. The eligibility of applicants to receive this assistance will first be reviewed in the "National Socioeconomic Single Data (DTSEN)" system. The DTSEN is based on integrated data that combines data from various sources, such as the DTKS (Central Statistics Agency), Regsosek (Regional Social Security Agency), and P3KE (Economic and Community Empowerment Agency), to create more accurate and targeted socioeconomic data.



The goal is to support the distribution of social assistance (bansos) and empowerment programs to ensure they are more targeted.

Field observations indicate that the affordable housing assistance program remains highly needed by the majority of poor families in Minahasa Regency. The number of families receiving this assistance does not reach 10% of the total poor population in the regency (see DTSEN data). Therefore, it is highly recommended that the government immediately continue this policy to accelerate poverty alleviation in Minahasa Regency.

CONCLUSION

From the research activities that have been carried out, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the aspects of effectiveness, efficiency, accuracy, and responsiveness:

1. Effectiveness.

The Decent Housing Assistance Program is effective in assisting poor communities in Minahasa. Based on direct field observations, it appears that the recipients of this program are poor communities who previously lacked housing. Receiving the assistance allows them to focus more on earning a living for their families.

2. Efficiency.

The funds provided are sufficient for them to build their own land, and the project is carried out under the supervision of Field Supervisors.

3. Accuracy.

The program is well-targeted, as evidenced in the field that the recipients are truly poor families.

4. Responsiveness.

The program's managers and supervisors have proven highly responsive to all the challenges and needs of the poor recipients during the construction of their homes. Direct field observations revealed that the field supervisors consistently communicated with the recipient families, acknowledged all complaints, and sought to provide solutions.

SUGGESTION

1. The Decent Housing Assistance Program should be continued, as field observations indicate that many poor families in several sub-districts still lack decent housing. Some still live on community land, while others live in homes that do not meet the standards for decent housing.
2. The amount of assistance funds should be increased to reflect the ever-changing and increasingly high prices of building materials.
3. The Minahasa Regency Government must monitor the development of socio-economic data on its community. This will ensure that future programs have accurate data on the poverty map in the regency.
4. The government should provide technical training from relevant agencies to equip poor communities with the skills to carry out construction work. This will reduce the costs of building simple, habitable homes.

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