

## ABANDONED CHILDREN: THE LEGACY OF POVERTY THAT NEVER ENDS ITS HANDLING

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### ABSTRACT

Abandoned children have many experiences that come from harsh environments and not all of them are accepted by society. Therefore, special approaches and treatments are needed to help them develop their thinking processes, teach them how to build relationships between the past, present and future, and direct them towards patterns of behavior that are acceptable to society. This study uses qualitative research methods. This study uses qualitative data where this data is obtained from selected informants who are relevant and have the competence to provide the research data selected by the researcher. Data collection techniques were collected through documentation studies, interviews and observations. The results of this study show that the number of abandoned children in Cirebon City is around 70 people. The Cirebon city social service has a program to foster abandoned children, namely GSM, social guidance, family, understanding parenting and teaching and learning activities. This study uses the implementation theory of Van Meter and Van Horn. The implementation stage can be seen from 6 important variables when achieving an implementation, namely: objectives and policy size, attitudes (disposition) of implementers, infrastructure and human resources, characteristics of implementing agents, communication activities and implementers between organizations, as well as the political, social and economic environment. The results of this study show that the policy of the Abandoned Children Development program at the Cirebon City Social Service is not optimal because of low budget sources, so the implementation of the policy has not fully met the standards. Social protection is aimed at helping the poor and vulnerable population, especially those who experience other welfare problems.

**Keywords:** Coaching, Abandoned Children, Inheritance, Poverty, Handling

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### INTRODUCTION

Children mean trust and grace from God Almighty, which must be maintained because they have values, dignity, and human rights as human resources for the development of the country and the next generation of the nation's ideals. Therefore, children have the right to empowerment, education, and protection from all forms of discrimination. Abandoned children are synonymous with poverty so that the increase in their population can be an indicator of the increase in poor families. Poverty gives rise to homeless people and beggars (gepeng), they make any place an arena for life including markets, under bridges, sidewalks or whatever it is. The handling of children such as abandoned children is often used by irresponsible people. Some choose to be used as street beggars, some keep them to be sodomized and tragically, some mutilate them. Meanwhile, abandoned children also have the right to live, grow, develop and live in a reasonable manner, in accordance with the dignity and dignity of humanity, as well as receive protection from cruelty and discrimination (Sukadi, 2013).

Abandoned children have many experiences that come from harsh environments and not all of them are accepted by society. Therefore, special approaches and treatments are needed to help them develop their thinking processes, teach them how to build relationships between the past, present and future, and direct them towards patterns of behavior that are acceptable to society. One of the basic needs that must be met so that children can experience the process of optimal growth and development is the need for stimulation or education that affects the process of thinking, language, socializing, and becoming independent (Hurlock, 1978:257).

According to Suharto (1997:363), from an early age they need to get basic education and socialization, learning social responsibility, understanding social roles, and developing basic skills in order to become citizens of society who can provide benefits.

It is imperative that the issue of abandoned children is handled with the utmost care. In addition to the legally protected right of children to receive welfare services, this issue needs to be handled carefully to prevent unfortunate consequences if the issue of abandoned children is not addressed. We must realize that the inability to fulfill children's rights, especially for street children, can have an impact on their own survival, as well as on the Indonesian nation and state as a whole.

In a situation like this, child neglect means bad behavior because it results in the child's needs not being met. Those left in the vulnerable phase tend to grow up without normal development and are often neglected by their parents or family. Children who lack compassion and protection are often vulnerable to falling into a detrimental environment, potentially creating a negative impact on them and those around them. Therefore, it is necessary to have policies that address the problem of abandoned children, including overcoming poverty and social protection, which has been mandated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia to empower vulnerable and poor populations in line with dignity and humanitarian principles. However, the reality is that there are still many children who face social welfare problems, including abandoned children who need extra protection.

The government has implemented policies through welfare programs for children who feel that they have not received the same rights as other children. Children's social problems require serious handling and policies and programs that support society socially. Therefore, each region must have an institution that has responsibility when dealing with children's social welfare problems. Specifically, the Cirebon City Social Service has responsibility for handling this problem, especially in the Handling of Abandoned Children Development Program.

The Cirebon City Social Service faces various challenges when overcoming children's social problems, such as the high number of immigrant population, high level of living needs, and limited job opportunities. Apart from that, the low level of education is also an important factor that contributes to the increase in the number of abandoned children in Cirebon City. From this background, the author plans to carry out research related to the implementation of the program for fostering and handling abandoned children at the Cirebon City Social Service. The purpose of this research is to write a journal that discusses "Handling in the Abandoned Children Development Program at the Cirebon City Social Service".

According to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old, including a child who is still in the mother's care. A child is a boy or woman who is immature or has not experienced puberty (President of the Republic of Indonesia, 2002).. Based on Marriage Law Number 1 of 1974 Article 47 (1), it is stated that a child is "a person who has not reached the age of 18 years or has never been married, is under the authority of their parents as long as they are not deprived of their power." (President of the Republic of Indonesia, 1974).

In Law Number 4 of 1979 concerning Child Welfare, a child is someone who has not reached 21 years old and has never been married (President of the Republic of Indonesia, 1974). The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child in general as an individual who has not reached the age of 18 years in general, but provides recognition of the different

age limits that may be applied in national legislation. So, in Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old, including those who are still in the womb (President of the Republic of Indonesia, 2002).

Abandoned children are children aged 5-18 years who spend most of their time working or hanging out in public places or streets are considered abandoned children. Article 1 paragraph (6) of UIUI No. 23 of 2002 which regulates child protection defines abandoned children as those whose physical, mental, spiritual, and social needs are not met properly. According to Law No. 4 of 1979, No. 7 defines an abandoned child as an abandoned child whose parents fail to fulfill their responsibilities, so that it is impossible for the child's needs to be met reasonably at the spiritual, physical, and social levels (Witanto, 2012).

The Great Dictionary of Indonesian Edition Kel 3 of 2005 means that abandoned children are actually children who are in the vulnerable category or children in need of special protection. A child is said to be abandoned not just because he no longer has one or both parents (Ministry of National Education, 2005). When a child loses one or both of his parents, it is not the only reason he or she is considered abandoned. However, due to carelessness, parental ignorance, incompetence, or willfulness, a child's right to healthy growth and development and adequate medical care is not fulfilled. For example, a child whose birth is unwanted is usually very vulnerable to abuse (child abuse) and even abandonment. Parental neglect can take many forms, such as throwing their children into the woods, sewers, trash cans, and other unhealthy places, either to hide their shame or as a result of a lack of parental readiness to have children and raise them responsibly. In this sense, it is possible to draw the conclusion that abandoned children are those whose carelessness or inability of their parents prevents them from accepting the necessities of life (Suyanto, 2010).

Etymologically, the term "poor" refers to someone who lacks many things and has no material assets. According to the Central Statistics Agency, defining a person's health condition is determined by their capacity to meet their basic needs and live a respectable life. An individual or group is considered to be in poverty if their standard needs (both food and non-food insecurity) are below what is known as the poverty line or threshold.

Poverty is a limited situation that occurs without the intention of the individual concerned. A person is considered poor when they have low levels of education, low work productivity, low income, and poor health and nutrition problems, all of which indicate a cycle of inadequacy. Poverty can be caused by limited human resources, both through formal and non-formal education, which ultimately has an impact on the low level of informal education (Supriatna, 1997:90). According to Yacoub (2012) In his research, poverty is one of the fundamental problems because it is related to the fulfillment of basic needs in the service. Poverty is also a global problem because many countries in the world are facing it.

According to Adisasmita (2005), commonly used poverty indicators include wage levels, income, consumption, infant mortality rates under five, immunization, child malnutrition, fertility rates, maternal mortality rates, average life expectancy, child participation rates in basic education, proportion of government expenditure to meet basic community needs, food literacy (calorie/protein), access to clean water, population development, illiteracy rate, urbanization rate, per capita income, and income distribution. The benchmark of poverty not only looks at the condition of food shortages and low incomes, but also involves aspects of health, education, fair treatment before the law, and other factors (Adisasmita, 2005).

### **Causes of Poverty**

According to Kuncoro (1997:131), the population in the country experiences poverty because it is too dependent on the agricultural sector which is a subsystem, using traditional production methods, accompanied by apathy towards the environment. According to Sharp, et al. (in Kuncoro, 1997:131), efforts to identify the causes of poverty are viewed from an economic perspective. First, at the micro level, poverty arises due to inequality in the pattern of resource ownership which results in an uneven distribution of income. Second, poverty arises due to differences in the quality of human resources. The low quality of human resources means low productivity, which in turn results in low wages. The low quality of human resources is caused by low levels of education, unfortunate fate due to discrimination, or due to the factor of authenticity. Third, poverty arises due to differences in access to modes (Khumayah & Hardjowikarto, 2020).

Meanwhile, Chambers (1983:149) revealed that poverty can be caused by several factors, such as loss of rights or wealth that is difficult to recover. This may be due to the pressure of needs that exceed the individual's capabilities, such as pre-planned but large expenses, or being faced with a sudden crisis. Usually, the needs that drive a person to become poor are related to five things: customary obligations, calamities, physical incapacity, unproductive spending, and extortion. From this explanation, it can be seen that poverty is caused by several factors, both internal and external. Internal factors include urgent needs that cannot be met due to lack of ability to manage the resources owned, such as inadequate skills and low education (Siswoyo, Hidayat, & Sutarjo, 2019). In addition, external factors such as natural disasters or economic crises can also be causes of poverty, exacerbated by the lack of policies that support and provide opportunities for the poor.

### **Characteristics of Poverty**

According to Kartasasmita (1993:4), poor people generally have limitations in business and limited access to economic activities. As a result, they tend to lag far behind other societies that have greater economic potential. On the other hand, according to Soelmardjan (in Sumodiningrat, Santosa, & Maiwan, 1999:81), there are different ways to measure poverty by different standards. But in general, there are two categories of poverty levels: First, absolute poverty, which is a condition in which a person's income is insufficient to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, board, health, and education. Second, relative poverty, which measures poverty based on the proportion of income distribution in an area. This type of poverty is called relative because it is related to the distribution of income between social layers.

Furthermore, according to Supriatna (1997:82), there are five characteristics possessed by the poor, including not having their own production factors. It does not have the possibility to acquire production assets by its own strength. The level of education is generally low. Many of them do not have facilities. Among them, many are relatively young and do not have adequate skills or education.

### **METHOD**

This study uses qualitative research methods. This study uses qualitative data where this data is obtained from selected informants who are relevant and have the competence to provide the research data that the researcher chooses. Meanwhile, data collection techniques were collected through documentation studies, interviews and direct observations at the Cirebon City

Social Service and the Fostered Point in Pekalipan where it became a coaching place for Abandoned Children in Cirebon City. Based on the method chosen by the researcher, to support the research, the researcher used the Van Meter & Van Horn theory (in Subarsono, 2005:99), namely: the objectives and the size of the policy, the attitude (disposition) of the implementers, infrastructure and human resources, the characteristics of the implementing agents, communication activities and implementers between organizations, as well as the political, social and economic environment. The policy implementation process includes a series of activities and activities carried out by the government to implement a policy.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of this study show that the number of abandoned children fostered by the Cirebon City Social Service is around 70 children who are in 2 assisted points, namely Pekalipan and Bedeng. The researcher took a study in the Bedeng area, Cirebon City with a total of about 30 abandoned children. They range in age from 5-15 years, some of them still have parents, some are orphans, orphans or orphans and some of them are victims of broken homes. At the fostered point, they are taught various kinds of knowledge, such as creativity, handicrafts, school lessons, religion, and so on.

The Cirebon City Social Service has several coaching programs for abandoned children, including:

### **1. GSM (Community social movement)**

The community social movement consists of several students in Ciayumajakuning, they provide guidance to children once every 1 week. The fostering provided is in the form of knowledge, learning schoolwork, and also other creativity.

### **2. Social coaching**

Social guidance is provided by the Cirebon City Social Service and also by GSM in the form of services, guidance and skills from an early age which aims to help children in developing the thinking process to solve and overcome problems so that when they grow up they will be able to adjust well and reasonably in their social environment. Thus they can live a decent and responsible life both to themselves, their families and the community.

### **3. Family**

Kinship here means that they are not differentiated from each other, even though they do not have parents and there are also those who still have parents but have obstacles in the economy so it means that here they are well educated in the fostered place, and no one considers them strangers, they respect each other and consider them family. For children who still have parents, the social service also provides briefings to their parents in guiding their children so that children get good attention from their parents, because the family is the initial medium of a socialization process for children and is a good first example for their children.

### **4. Understanding parenting**

The parenting pattern provided by the Cirebon City Social Service and also GSM for children includes how parents treat, educate, guide, discipline, and protect children in the process of adulthood. The purpose of this pattern is to shape children's behavior in accordance with good norms and values, as well as in accordance with community life.

### **5. Learning activities such as general and religious lessons**

The activities such as holding tutoring (tutoring) by focusing on the subjects taught at school, for example, GSM assists them in doing schoolwork (homework) and materials taught at school. For religion, they are not only taught to recite in the prayer room, pray 5 times, but they are taught how important good manners and morals are.

## **Discussion**

Implementation theory of Van Meter & Van Horn, (in Subarsono, 2005:99) mentioned that there are 6 variables in it. The results of this study found several findings and obstacles in the implementation of the Abandoned Children Development Program at the Cirebon City Social Service based on several 6 Van Meter & Van Horn variables, (in Subarsono, 2005:99).

### **1. Policy Objectives and Scope**

From the existence of the abandoned child development program policy at the Cirebon City Social Service, the implementation of the program policy is quite good. The obstacle to its implementation is monitoring employees to be more effective and efficient in handling MSMEs (People with Social Welfare Problems). The implementation of the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service, people can complain to the Village Office or RT/RW in the area where they live. Although the public can report directly to the Social Service, they must still follow the applicable procedures, including being included in the waiting list. This is because the abandoned child development program has been calculated and carefully planned by the Social Service. Although it takes more time, the regulation is considered good because it is neatly arranged.

### **2. Resources**

The resources available for the implementation of the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service are still inadequate. One of the obstacles faced in this program is the quality of human resources that provide administrative services to abandoned children, as well as related cost constraints. Therefore, to hold an event or activity, it is often necessary to gather donors first. One of the efforts planned for the future in the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service is to increase the available resources.

### **3. Characteristics of the executing agent**

Communication between agencies in Cirebon City is fairly good, which helps prevent misunderstandings. The implementation of the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Social Service has a significant influence on the success of achieving the policy goals. One of the efforts made in the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service is as follows: The characteristics of the implementation of this program involve handling people with social welfare problems, especially the abandoned child development program, which is directly handled by the Social Service and known by the Head of Kesra in coordination with RT/RW. After being checked, the data was submitted to the village level and then submitted to the Social Service through Musrenbang. The data is then deliberated and processed through efforts such as Student Social Movement (GSM) activities, Clean and Healthy Living Strategies (PHBS), social guidance through family, understanding parenting, learning activities for example general and religious lessons. The program was initially established as a preventative measure.

#### **4. Communication between Organizations**

Communication and coordination between the Social Service and the community has been maximized, especially through direct socialization to abandoned children, making them more independent and aware of their lives. The implementation of the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service has gone well. Until now, efforts to improve communication with the community in the implementation of the program continue to be optimized to make it easier for the community. The obstacle to the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service, namely when coordinating, must be clear and well conveyed. The efforts carried out in the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service, namely when conveying information or a program on the implementation of the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service, must be clearly conveyed well, with clarity of goals and policy standards, policy implementers can see what they want from them and what they are obliged to implement. In this case, the main implementers of the policy, namely the implementers and agencies that have attachments, also coordinate with each other.

#### **5. Social, economic and political conditions**

Policy implementation must pay attention to external environmental conditions, including political, social and economic conditions. This condition affects the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service. The implementation of the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Social Service in Cirebon City is enough to influence the implementation of the policy. The obstacles to the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service are the number of parents who do not understand the growth and development of children and many poor people who need help. The efforts carried out in the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service are the implementation of a socialization which is a policy that will be implicated to the lower-level implementing organization and monitored continuously.

#### **6. Disposition of the attitude of the implementers**

The successful implementation of the policy of the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service is certainly mandatory along with awareness of the policy and until now it is quite maximum because the attitude of conveying has been good. Obstacles in the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service are often caused by inconsistencies from the implementers of the policy. The efforts carried out in the abandoned child development program at the Cirebon City Social Service are when the service of handling MSMEs (people with social welfare problems) or anything has important characteristics that must be possessed by policy implementers, for example high commitment, honesty and friendliness, there are implementers who agree on the content of the policy, then the implementers should carry out their duties and functions wholeheartedly.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Cirebon City Social Service handles various issues related to child welfare, especially in child protection programs. This includes tackling child poverty, tackling high living needs,

and reducing child labor. The Cirebon City Social Service also emphasized the importance of promoting children's rights, including the right to life, education, and personal identity. This program covers child protection, community development, health and safety, social education, and child learning. And the Cirebon City Social Service has an important role in promoting children's rights, such as bearing education, providing social welfare to abandoned children. The results of the study show that the policy of the Abandoned Children Development program at the Cirebon City Social Service has not run optimally because of low budget sources, so that the implementation of the policy has not met the standards. Social protection is aimed at helping the poor and vulnerable population, especially those who experience other welfare problems. Social protection encompasses various actions from the community, the private sector and the government to meet and protect basic needs, especially for the vulnerable poor, so that they can survive the uncertain risks of life. The government has implemented policies through welfare programs for children who feel that they have not received the same rights as other children.

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