

SOCIAL RESILIENCE OF ACEH SOCIETY IN THE POST-PEACE ERA

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ABSTRACT

Social resilience is a strategic concept for understanding the post-conflict and post-peace recovery process of Acehese society. It reflects not only the community's ability to withstand and recover from the impacts of prolonged conflict, but also its collective capacity to foster social cohesion, inclusiveness, and sustainable well-being. This study aims to analyze the implementation of social resilience programs in reducing extreme poverty in North Aceh Regency and to identify the types of programs that contribute to improving the socio-economic conditions of impoverished communities. The research adopts a qualitative descriptive approach, employing observation and interpretation of social phenomena within their natural settings. Policy evaluation focuses on indicators of extreme poverty reduction and program effectiveness, including economic empowerment, access to education and health services, and local government commitment. The findings reveal that although the North Aceh Government possesses relatively adequate resources, program effectiveness is constrained by suboptimal budget allocation, limited access to basic services, and weak coordination among stakeholders. These results underline the necessity of integrated, cross-sectoral policy frameworks to strengthen social resilience and achieve sustainable reductions in extreme poverty.

Keywords: Social Resilience, Post-Peace, Poverty Alleviation, Policy Evaluation,

INTRODUCTION

Basically, everyone in this world needs needs, whether physiological needs, security needs, love and affection needs, esteem needs or self-actualization needs or in other words, humans need primary, secondary, and tertiary needs as well as other social needs, to be fulfilled in order to live a safe and comfortable life. Considering that needs are one of the psychological aspects of every human being that drives them in carrying out various activities in daily life, needs become the basis and reason for someone to carry out various efforts.

Therefore, the government needs to pay attention to the social welfare of all members of society so that they receive adequate protection. Social welfare is the government's plan to provide social services to everyone so they can achieve a better standard of living. To date, many Indonesian citizens still have their basic needs unmet because they have not received adequate and equitable social services from the government. Social protection is essential for all parties involved in the development and empowerment process to reduce social disparities in national, state, and community life.

Regarding social protection, it is actually regulated in the preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945), that the Indonesian government needs to protect all citizens and promote general welfare and contribute to the intellectual life of the people. Meanwhile, Article 34 of the 1945 Constitution also mandates that the poor and neglected children are cared for by the state. The state is obliged to provide protection and social security for all its citizens. Referring to the opinion (Soeharto, 2007), social welfare is a condition where the material, spiritual and social needs of citizens are met so they can live decently and are able to develop themselves so they can carry out their social functions.

The implementation of social protection in Indonesia has not yet fully developed flagship programs for empowering the poor. Social protection programs continue to be promoted through various activities to improve human dignity. Furthermore, in line with the enactment of Law No. 11 of 2009 concerning social welfare, this regulation indicates the need for a targeted, integrated, continuous, and sustainable social welfare program. In line with this, the strengthening of Law No. 24 of 2011 concerning the Social Security Administration Agency (BPJS) is a crucial moment in the social protection system, so that various social assistance programs in Indonesia still require development, transformation, and transparency.

This development, transformation, and transparency aim to reduce poverty through community empowerment, ensuring the fulfillment of everyone's basic rights. Development is linked to social welfare in Indonesia, aiming to improve quality of life, achieve independence, and enhance community resilience in addressing social welfare issues. This is particularly true in Aceh Province, given its long history of conflict within the community, resulting in numerous areas of poverty that remain unresolved.

Armed conflict between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the government Indonesia Which happen in Province Aceh has result in impact Which profound impact on the people in the region. The ongoing period of conflict for decades has left deep wounds, both physically and mentally. physique and psychological, in between resident Aceh. However, with signed agreement peace between government Indonesia And GAM in 2005, Aceh entered a hopeful post-conflict phase. However, the process of community recovery and reconciliation is not running smoothly. without challenge.

Aceh is one of the provinces with the highest poverty rate in Indonesia. This condition is inseparable from the long history of conflict in Aceh, which has certainly resulted in unfavorable investment, limited access to employment, and high unemployment from year to year (Hasballah, 2021). Based on 2022 data, Aceh is one of the provinces in Sumatra that is included in the poorest provinces in Indonesia (BPS, 2023). The high poverty rate in Aceh is partly contributed by the high open unemployment rate, reaching 6.17% (Aceh Province Central Statistics Agency, 2023). According to Aceh Central Statistics Agency data, North Aceh Regency is the area with the highest number of poor people in Aceh, amounting to 106,770 people (BPS North Aceh, 2024). The urgency of this poverty has a direct impact on the level of economic growth and limited employment opportunities, so that if this is not seriously addressed, the level of decline in the community's socio-economic conditions will worsen. This is despite Aceh having received special autonomy funds from the center for a period of 15 years amounting to 95.8 trillion. This amount is very large, namely 3 times the original regional income of Aceh, but it is not yet able to buy prosperity for Aceh.

Kember in Farisa (2023) among The factors causing poverty include development policies that fail to reach the entire community and structural policies that actually deepen poverty levels. Therefore, it is crucial to implement policies that can produce integrated, non-overlapping derivative programs.

In context This, draft resilience social become important inunderstand dynamics public Aceh post peace. Resilience socialencompasses a society's ability to withstand and recover from the impacts of conflict, as well as to build harmonious and inclusive social relationships among its members. Therefore, research on the social resilience of the Acehnese community after the peace agreement is relevant and important. The social resilience of the Acehnese community after the peace agreement has become an interesting topic in scientific studies. Following the prolonged armed conflict, Acehnese society transformed into a research focus in the context of socio-economic recovery and development. The literature on social resilience in Aceh covers various aspects that contribute to the reconciliation process and stability of the region. One important study is Prasetijo's (2017) work, which explores the dynamics of social resilience in Aceh after the peace agreement. Prasetijo highlights the role of local institutions and government policies in strengthening social resilience.

Aceh Province, located on the western tip of Sumatra Island, has long been a focus of international attention due to the protracted armed conflict between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the Indonesian government. This conflict, which began in the early 1970s, has resulted in significant economic and social losses, resulting in thousands of deaths among the Acehnese population. This

period of conflict has also created deep social trauma within the community.

However, on August 15, 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed. The understanding between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) marked the beginning of the peace process in Aceh. This peace agreement was followed by the promulgation of the Special Autonomy Law for the Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (UUPNA) in 2006. These steps marked the beginning of the post-conflict period in Aceh, which was expected to be a time of recovery and reconciliation for the community. Despite the declaration of peace, the Acehnese people still face a number of problems that hinder the recovery and reconciliation process. One important aspect of the post-peace process is the community's social resilience. Social resilience refers to a community's ability to withstand and recover from social stress and crises without compromising its social structure or function. It encompasses aspects such as security, well-being, social cohesion, and adaptability.

Hasan (2021) explores the impact of peace on the local economy and its implications for the social resilience of Acehnese communities, providing insights into the relationship between economic stability and social stability. Research by Fitriani (2022) investigates the role of education in building social resilience, highlighting educational efforts as key to strengthening social awareness and active community participation in post-conflict development processes.

This research aims to investigate the social resilience of post-peace Acehnese communities. By understanding the challenges and potentials faced by the Acehnese community, as well as the efforts made to strengthen their social resilience, this research seeks to provide a better understanding of social dynamics in post-peace Aceh.

To understand the challenges and opportunities faced by Acehnese people in achieving social resilience post-peace, it is important to examine the historical context of the conflict in the region. The armed conflict in Aceh has complex historical roots, encompassing political, economic, and identity issues.

The conflict's history began in the early 20th century, when Aceh became a center of resistance against Dutch colonialism. After Indonesia gained independence in 1945, Aceh remained a region with strong feelings of autonomy. Modern armed conflict erupted in 1976, when the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) was founded to fight for Aceh's independence from Indonesia. This conflict lasted for decades, with devastating consequences for the Acehnese people. Human rights violations, economic losses, and psychological trauma were among the consequences.

However, in 2005, a peace agreement was signed between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), marking the end of the armed conflict and beginning the reconciliation process in Aceh. Despite the peace agreement, the Acehnese people still face various challenges in building their social resilience. One of the main challenges is the process of reconciliation and reintegration of former GAM members into society. Despite efforts to support reintegration, including economic and social development programs, tensions and mistrust remain between some community members and former GAM combatants.

Furthermore, political, cultural, and religious differences are also potential sources of conflict in Aceh. For example, issues related to the implementation of Islamic law in Aceh have sparked controversy and tension between different groups in society. In response to these challenges, it is crucial to promote intergroup dialogue and build greater tolerance and understanding among the Acehnese people.

Another aspect of social resilience that is vulnerable to disruption is security. Although the armed conflict has ended, Aceh still faces security-related challenges, including organized crime, radicalism, and ethnic tensions. Strengthening security forces and promoting participation

Community involvement in crime prevention efforts are some steps that can be taken to increase social resilience against this security threat. Furthermore, research by Rahmawati (2019) focuses on community participation in post-conflict development, emphasizing the importance of social inclusion in the development process. Furthermore, a study by Wirawan (2020) examines the role of local culture in strengthening the social resilience of the Acehnese community, underscoring the importance of cultural heritage in strengthening social identity and solidarity.

Although the Acehnese people face a number of challenges, there is also great potential to build strong social resilience. One such potential is the spirit of mutual cooperation and solidarity that has long been a hallmark of Acehnese culture. The Acehnese people have demonstrated their resilience and resilience in the face of severe trials during the conflict, and this spirit can provide a strong foundation for building social resilience post-peace.

Furthermore, Aceh's abundant natural resources also offer potential for inclusive and sustainable economic development. By utilizing these resources wisely and equitably, the Acehnese people can improve their well-being and reduce economic inequality, which can fuel conflict.

Education and human resource development are also crucial factors in building social resilience. By providing broader access to quality education and skills training, Acehnese people can improve their ability to compete in the global labor market and contribute to sustainable economic development.

Various efforts have been undertaken by the government, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to strengthen the social resilience of the Acehnese people post-peace. Economic development programs supported by the government and international donors have helped reduce poverty and improve community well-being.

In addition, peace and reconciliation programs have been launched to promote intergroup dialogue, build trust, and support the reintegration of former GAM combatants into society. These programs often involve various stakeholders, including former combatants, conflict victims, and local community leaders.

The granting of special autonomy in Aceh by the state is intended to provide increased development, especially in the economic sector of the community, poverty alleviation. This special autonomy was first in effect from 2008 to 2022, which has been running for fifteen years. After that, in 2023, the Aceh special autonomy era will enter a new phase with the reduction of special autonomy funds to only 1% of the national general allocation funds.

Previously, for 15 years, Aceh received 2% of its special autonomy funds. This was preferential treatment from the central government amidst an era of bureaucratic disruption and decentralization. However, throughout its implementation, Aceh's special autonomy has left behind "homework," particularly regarding public welfare and the persistently high poverty rate. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of poor people in Aceh actually increased by 16,000 from March to September 2021, to 850,000, or 15.53%. Unemployment among the working-age population, which reached 207,000, is a major factor in the increase in poverty in Aceh.

According to data from the Ministry of Finance and the APBA (Regional Budget) documents, Aceh has received 95.93 trillion rupiah in special autonomy funds from 2008 to 2022. (Ministry of Finance, 2023). However, this amount of funds has not yet been sufficient to improve the welfare of the people. Ironically, the large amount of special autonomy funds has not yet provided significant benefits to the community. In fact, from 2013 to 2020, the Ministry of Finance recorded the remaining management of special autonomy funds reaching 7.7 trillion rupiah.

The large amount of surplus in the management of special autonomy funds is suspected to be due to a lack of correlation between budget planning and expected results. This problem recurred in 2021, when the 2022 Regional Budget (APBA) document recorded a budget surplus of 3.41 trillion rupiah (Aceh Province APBA, 2023).

The Aceh government is reportedly still struggling to manage special autonomy funds to generate new regional revenue, a crucial step in increasing regional self-reliance. This is evident in the 2022 budget composition: regional revenues totaled 13.35 trillion, with PAD contributing only 2.56 trillion. Meanwhile, central government transfer revenues reached 10.77 trillion, of which 7.50 trillion was allocated to special autonomy funds.

Strengthening community capacity is also a key focus in efforts to build social resilience. This includes skills training, local leadership development, and women's empowerment. By increasing community capacity to peacefully manage conflict and participate in development, these efforts can help create a stronger foundation for social resilience in Aceh.

The social resilience of Acehnese communities, particularly those receiving priority, is poverty

alleviation, both through poverty reduction and poverty eradication through unemployment reduction and job creation. This is evident in Aceh, as evidenced by the implementation of the Regent's Regulation , which aims to reduce poverty in several regencies/cities within Aceh Province. The table below shows that extreme poverty has occurred for several years , particularly in North Aceh, with a percentage of 106.77%, a decrease from the previous year's 109.49% compared to other regions.

Extreme poverty is a condition where people are unable to meet basic needs, namely food, clean water, proper sanitation, health, shelter, education, and access to information on income and social services. The Ministry of Social Affairs has also attempted to provide social assistance that needs to consider geospatial- based policies in carrying out poverty interventions . Social assistance implemented by BPS cannot intervene in extreme poverty that is resolved only through social assistance because the causes can be systemic , one of which is infrastructure problems. Access to village offices, health facilities, and business premises are also factors causing extreme poverty . In terms of the accuracy and speed of social assistance distribution and future policy steps to quickly reach the extreme poor out of poverty. The government really hopes that BPS can be more precise and can quickly implement extreme poverty policy programs . Extreme poverty is a condition of inability to meet basic needs that has been attempted every year this district tries to reduce the extreme poverty rate to the poverty rate . There has been no progress in escaping poverty and can be seen in the table below.

Table 1. Total Poor Population According to Regency /City in Aceh Province (Thousand) 2019-2023

Regency /City	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Simeulue	17.67	17.34	18.25	17.86	17.62
Aceh Singkil	25.66	25.43	25.48	24.33	24.62
South Aceh	31.06	30.91	32.25	30.78	30.36
Southeast Aceh	28.93	28.98	29.31	28.42	27.96
East Aceh	62.79	62.34	63.69	62.16	60.63
Central Aceh	32.78	32.48	32.72	31.05	31.68
West Aceh	39.29	39.06	39.83	38.46	38.84
Great Aceh	58.90	59.07	60.26	58.18	58.94
Pidie	86.29	86.39	88.53	85.87	86.79
Bireuen	63.60	62.42	63.02	60.29	59.21
North Aceh	107.34	106.41	109.49	107.02	106.77
Southwest Aceh	24.36	24.21	25.06	24.00	24.31
Gayo Lues	18.63	18.42	18.61	18.09	18.24
Aceh Tamiang	39.35	38.93	40.03	38.25	38.37
Nagan Raya	29.93	29.99	30.71	29.63	29.78
Aceh Jaya	12.35	12.11	12.63	12.13	12.22
Bener Meriah	28.45	28.38	28.69	27.93	28.19
Pidie Jaya	30,97	31,39	31,79	30,41	30,74
Banda Aceh	19,42	18,97	20,95	19,09	19,94
Sabang	5,43	5,27	5,33	5,14	5,14
Langsa	18,62	18,65	19,78	19,41	19,50
Lhokseumawe	23,05	22,69	23,38	23,03	23,10
Subulussalam	14,56	14,46	14,46	14,06	13,80
Aceh Province	819.44	814.91	834.24	806.82	806.75

Source: BPS Data 2024

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public Policy Theory

Basically, the government function of a country includes the allocation, distribution and stabilization functions. The existence of these functions is to maintain and guarantee the integrity and survival of the country, the creation of equitable distribution of development results and the realization of aggregate public welfare, one of the policies in question is public policy, namely a policy formulated and developed by the government in regulating the life of the country or can also be interpreted as a direction or action taken by the government to overcome a problem in the country, such as the provision of quality human resources in facing the era of globalization and the demands of increasingly basic and complex public service needs, however, according to Christopher Pollit (1979: 23) states "every discussion or thought and analysis about *public policy* must always be centered on *balance of three central principles* , namely between *formulation* , *implementation* and *evaluation* ".

Hal yang sama dikemukakan oleh David Easton (1963 : 129) yang merumuskan *public policy* "the *authoritative allocation of value for the whole society but it turns out that only the government can authoritatively act on the whole society, and everything the government chooses to do or not to do results in the allocation of value*".

Meanwhile, George C. Edward III and Ira Sharkanky (1978:2) stated that " *is what governments say and do , or do not do. It is the goals or purpose of governments* " *Program e* " means what the government states and does or does not do. State policy is in the form of the targets or objectives of government programs. Naturally, what the government does will be a result or *output* in the form of policies that will then be implemented and then evaluated, which will later provide *feedback* to produce new *outputs* or policies. Therefore, David Easton reminds us that *public Policy* is not just *an output* of what the government does but more of an *outcome* .

Examining several views and opinions on public policy, it can be concluded that public policy is: a series of interrelated action choices made by the government to address emerging issues within the policy environment. Public policy is the product of interactions between policy actors who directly or indirectly influence or are influenced by public policy. The interactions among these many policy actors are involved in understanding problematic situations in society and in formulating appropriate public actions to address public problems.

Public Policy Evaluation Theory

Evaluation is the final stage in the policy process. Lester and Stewart (2000) stated that policy evaluation essentially studies the consequences of public policy. Policy evaluation as a functional activity has been carried out for a long time, since public policy began to be known. Anderson (1979) argued that policy evaluation focuses on the estimation, assessment, and prediction of the implementation (process) and consequences (impact) of a policy. As a functional activity, policy evaluation is conducted throughout all stages, not just at the final stage. This is in line with Sadhana's opinion (2011: 247), who states that comprehensive policy evaluation has three meanings, namely:

- 1) Initial evaluation ; from the policy formulation process until the time before it is implemented (*ext -ante*) *evaluation*). Some call it pre -evaluation, which is an evaluation carried out when the program is not yet operational/running at the planning stage, usually focused on preparation issues for an activity.
- 2) Evaluation in the implementation or *monitoring process* . *Monitoring* The aim is to ensure that policy implementation meets planned targets. *Monitoring* is expected to identify any errors or discrepancies resulting from a lack of information during policy formulation or unexpected changes in the field, which can be promptly corrected and adjusted.
- 3) Final evaluation , which is carried out after the policy implementation process is completed (*ext - post*) *evaluation*). A final evaluation is needed to identify various weaknesses in a policy as a whole, both weaknesses in the policy strategy and weaknesses in implementation. The purpose of the final evaluation is none other than to build and improve the policy.

On the other hand, William Dunn (2000:339) points out the difference between *monitoring* in the implementation process with performance evaluation/post-implementation evaluation. Dunn argues that *monitoring* The evaluation aims to answer questions about what happened during the implementation process, how, and why. The information generated is empirical, based on existing facts. Meanwhile, the final evaluation addresses the question of what changes occurred. The resulting information is an assessment of how to meet needs, opportunities, and/or solve problems.

Charles Lindblom (1986, in Budi Winarno 2004:32) argued that the public policymaking process is complex because it involves many processes and variables that must be examined by policymakers. Therefore, several political scientists interested in studying public policy divide the public policymaking process into several stages. The purpose of this division is to facilitate the analysis of public policy.

Social Resilience Theory

Social resilience theory is a conceptual framework used to understand how communities survive and adapt to various challenges, such as conflict, disasters, and social change. Social resilience encompasses a community's ability to maintain cohesion, solidarity, and support among its members, enabling them to better cope with crises. In the context of post-peace Acehese society, this theory is particularly relevant, given the region's long history of armed conflict.

One key element of social resilience is social capital, which encompasses the networks, norms, and trust that exist within a community. Social capital serves as a bond between individuals and groups, facilitating collaboration and support in difficult situations. In Aceh, strong inter-community ties and a culture of mutual cooperation are essential foundations for building social resilience. Research can explore how these elements contribute to strengthening solidarity at the local level.

In addition to social capital, the capacity of local institutions also plays a crucial role in social resilience. Strong and responsive institutions can help communities organize resources, respond to needs, and resolve conflicts peacefully. In Aceh, strengthening local institutions post-peace is key to managing resources and creating spaces for constructive dialogue. This can include the role of local governments, NGOs, and civil society organizations in establishing participatory mechanisms that engage communities.

Social resilience theory emphasizes the importance of sustainable development as a foundation for greater resilience. Inclusive economic development, access to education, and adequate healthcare contribute to social stability. In the Acehese context, efforts to integrate various aspects of development, including culture and the environment, will be crucial to ensuring long-term social resilience. With a holistic approach, Acehese communities can build a more resilient and prosperous future after a long period of conflict.

The social resilience of a community describes the ideal condition of a community regarding how they are capable, resilient, and resistant in navigating the ship of social life without significant disruption to their social functionality in facing various risks. caused by the flow of social, economic, or political change. A community is considered to have social resilience if: First, it is able to effectively protect its members, including vulnerable individuals and families, from the waves of social change that affect them, such as poor families and those with social problems. Second, it is able to make social investments in profitable social networks. Third, it is able to develop effective mechanisms for managing conflict and violence. Fourth, it is wise in preserving natural and social resources.

Previous Research

No	Researchers	Title	Results
1.	Noor, Zuhdiyaty, et al.	Analysis of Factors Influencing Poverty in Indonesia Over the Last Five Years. Journal: JIBEKA Vol 11	The results of the study show that there is an influence between the HDI (Human Development Index) and poverty, while economic growth and TPT have no

		Number 2 February 2017. ASIA Institute Malang.	influence on poverty.
2.	Ronaldo Putra Pratama Sinurat	Analysis of Factors Causing Poverty as an Effort to Alleviate Poverty in Indonesia. Journal: e-journalIPDN.ac.id	The causes of poverty can be effectively studied using the Human Development Index, inflation, and unemployment, which are linked to poverty in Indonesia. The poverty rate in Indonesia has been shown to be influenced by the Human Development Index (HDI), the index, and unemployment. The HDI has been shown to have a negative and statistically significant relationship with poverty. Meanwhile, inflation and unemployment do not have a significant impact on poverty alleviation in Indonesia.
3.	Andri Herdiana and Fajar Kurniawan.	Case Study of Poverty in Indonesia at the Provincial Level and Its Influencing Factors Using Multiple Linear Regression Journal: UIN Alauddin Journal House Vol 10 Number 1 January-June 2022 Edition	Efforts to eradicate poverty have always been a matter of great concern, especially in Indonesia. Based on the results of multiple linear regression analysis, economic growth and the human development index have a significant influence on the poverty rate at the provincial level in Indonesia.
4.	Sa'diyah El Adawiyah	Poverty and Its Causative Factors. Journal : Of Social Work and Social Service Vol 1 Number 1 April 2020	Poverty alleviation efforts do not need to be trapped in causal factors alone, which may be specific or specific cases, but should be based on empowering and developing the potential of available natural resources and resources and supporting them to be utilized continuously.
5.	Erwan Agus Purwanto.	Examining the Potential of Small and Medium Enterprises for Anti-Poverty Policy Making in Indonesia Journal: Social and Political Sciences Vol 10 Number 3 March 2007. UGM Yogyakarta.	By seeing the potential of SMEs, the government can pay better attention to SMEs by creating policies that can empower SMEs so that in the future SMEs can be used as a mainstay for absorbing labor and alleviating poverty.
6.	Yusri Kasim	Social Resilience of Acehese Society Post-Peace (Evaluation Study of Poverty Alleviation Policy Based on Regent Regulation Number 20 of 2023 Concerning Regional Poverty Alleviation in North Aceh Regency for 2023-2026)	In the research process.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a case study design, focusing on several communities in Aceh. By selecting diverse locations, such as Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, and North Aceh, researchers can explore how social

and economic conditions influence social resilience in each region. This approach also allows researchers to understand differences in local contexts and community responses to post-peace changes.

Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and participant observation. The in-depth interviews involved key informants from various backgrounds, including community members, community leaders, and NGO leaders. The FGDs provided a collective perspective, while participant observation provided a richer context of social interactions within the community. This combination of methods aimed to collect comprehensive and diverse data.

Data analysis was conducted thematically, identifying themes and patterns that emerged from the collected data. This approach enabled researchers to highlight key factors influencing social resilience and understand the relationships between social, economic, and cultural aspects. The results of the analysis will be compared with existing theories on social resilience, ensuring this research makes a meaningful contribution to the existing literature.

This research prioritizes ethics in data collection, ensuring that all informants provide informed consent and that their identities are kept confidential. With a sensitive approach and respect for local norms, this research is expected to provide constructive insights into the social resilience of the Acehese community, as well as recommendations for strengthening resilience in the future.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Basically, policy evaluation is an examination of the implementation of a program that has been carried out which will be used to predict, calculate, and control the implementation of the program in the future so that it is much better. Thus, evaluation is more forward-looking than looking at past mistakes, and is directed at efforts to increase opportunities for program success. Evaluation is an effort to measure and objectively assess the achievement of previously planned results where the results of the evaluation are intended to be feedback for future planning (Yusuf, 2000:3).

The term evaluation has related meanings, each referring to the application of some scale of values to policy and program outcomes. Generally, the term evaluation has been equated with appraisal, rating, and assessment — words that express the attempt to analyze policy outcomes in terms of their value units. More specifically, evaluation concerns the production of information about the value or usefulness of policy outcomes. When policy outcomes actually have value, it is because they contribute to goals or objectives. In this case, the policy or program is said to have achieved a meaningful level of performance, meaning that policy problems are clarified or addressed (Dunn, 2000:11).

public policy cannot be simply released without evaluation. Policy evaluation is conducted to assess the extent to which public policy is effective in being accountable to the public in order to achieve predetermined goals. Evaluation is needed to see the gap between expectations and reality. A policy outcome is said to have value because the result contributes to the goals or objectives. In other words, the policy or program has achieved a meaningful level of performance, which means that policy problems are identified and addressed (Sadhana, 2013:143). At this conceptual level, William Dunn explains that evaluation is one of the processes or cycles of public policy after the formulation of policy problems, policy implementation, and monitoring or supervision of policy implementation (in Sadhana, 2013:243).

Anderson views evaluation as a process of determining the results achieved by several activities planned to support the achievement of objectives. Meanwhile, Stufflebeam states that evaluation is the process of describing, searching for, and providing useful information for decision-makers in determining alternative decisions (in Arikunto, 2002:1). Patton and Sawicki (in Arikunto, 2002:14) classify the approach methods that can be used in evaluation research into 6 (six), namely:

- 1) *Before and after comparisons*, this method examines a research object by comparing the conditions before and after a policy or program is implemented.
- 2) *With and without comparisons*, this method examines a research object by using a comparison of

conditions between those who do not receive and those who receive a policy or program, which has been modified by including a comparison of relevant criteria at the scene of the incident (TKP) with the program against a TKP without the program.

- 3) *Actual versus planned performance comparisons*, this method examines a research object by comparing existing conditions (*actual*) with existing planning provisions (*planned*).
- 4) *Experimental (controlled) models*, this method examines a research object by conducting controlled or managed experiments to determine the conditions being studied.
- 5) *Quasi experimental models*, this method studies a research object by conducting experiments without controlling or managing the conditions being studied.
- 6) *Cost oriented models*, this method examines a research object which is only based on cost research on a plan.

Meanwhile, James Anderson (in Sadhana, 145) says that:

“ Police evaluation as a functional activity , is a old as policy itself , policy makers and administrators have always made judgments concerning the worth or effects of particular policies , programs and projects ” (Policy evaluation as a functional activity is a policy in itself. Policy makers and administrators constantly make assessments of the success or impact of specific policies, programs and projects implemented).

From the policy process above , it can be seen that there is always a policy evaluation aspect to every public policy . However, most people understand public policy evaluation as merely evaluating policy implementation. In reality, public policy evaluation has three meanings: evaluation of policy formulation, evaluation of policy implementation, and evaluation of the policy environment. These three components determine whether a policy will be successful or not. However, the concept of evaluation itself is always tied to the concept of performance, so public policy evaluation encompasses all three meanings of post-implementation activities. Therefore, public policy evaluation concerns not only its implementation but also the public policy environment itself.

According to Winarno (2008, 225), if policy is viewed as a sequential activity, then policy evaluation is the final stage in the policy process. However, some experts argue that evaluation is not the final stage of the public policy process . Essentially, public policy is implemented with a specific purpose, to achieve specific goals that stem from previously formulated problems. Evaluation is conducted because not all policy programs... public policy achieves desired results. Public policies often fail to achieve their stated goals or objectives. Therefore, policy evaluation aims to identify the reasons for a policy's failure or to determine whether the implemented public policy has achieved its intended impact. In short, evaluation is an activity aimed at assessing the "benefit" of a policy.

From these various definitions, it can be concluded that program evaluation is an activity to gather information about the performance of a government program, which is then used to determine the right alternative or choice in making a decision. By conducting an evaluation, facts about the implementation of public policy in the field will be discovered, the results of which can be positive or negative . A professionally conducted evaluation will produce objective findings, namely findings that are as they are, both data, analysis and conclusions are not manipulated, which will ultimately provide benefits to policy makers, policy makers, and the public.

In general, policy evaluation can be defined as an activity involving the estimation or assessment of a policy, encompassing its substance, implementation, and impact. In this context, policy evaluation is viewed as a functional activity. This means that policy evaluation is not only conducted at the final stage, but also throughout the entire policy process. Thus, policy evaluation can encompass the stages of formulating policy problems, proposing programs to address them, implementation, and policy impact .

A. Public Policy Evaluation Model

From Thomas Cook and Frank Scioli , in an *impact study Analysis in Public Research* (1975:98), after modifying the impact evaluation model scheme, it can be illustrated that William Dunn (in Keban , 2008:143) put forward several public policy evaluation models consisting of:

- 1) *The adversary model*. The evaluators The first team is tasked with presenting positive program

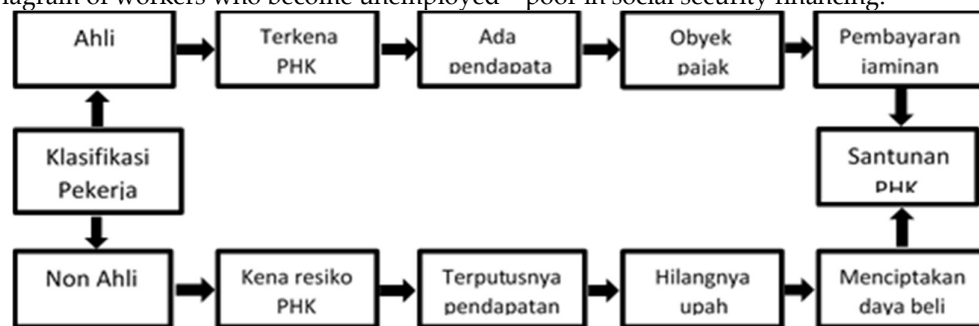
evaluation results, including those that demonstrate effective and positive policy impacts. The second team is responsible for identifying negative, ineffective, failed, and off-target program evaluation results. These two groups are intended to ensure the neutrality and objectivity of the evaluation process. Their findings are then assessed as evaluation results. According to this evaluation model, there is no efficiency in the data collected.

- 2) *The transaction model*. This model pays attention to the use of case study methods, is naturalistic and consists of two types, namely responsive evaluation (*responsive evaluation*), which is carried out through informal, repeated activities so that the planned program can be described accurately: and illuminative evaluation (*illuminative Evaluation*) aims to examine innovative programs by describing and interpreting the implementation of a program or policy. Therefore, this evaluation model will attempt to reveal and document the parties participating in the program.
- 3) *Good Free model*. This evaluation model aims to determine the actual impact of a policy, not simply to determine the expected impact as defined in the program. In seeking actual impact, the evaluator does not need to conduct a comprehensive and in-depth study of the program's objectives. This allows the evaluator (researcher) to freely assess and maintain objectivity.

Public policy evaluation is often interpreted as an activity that only evaluates policy results, then evaluates the budget, both (routine/development). However, public policy evaluation also discusses other development activities or activities. Policy evaluation is often equated with program evaluation, namely a comprehensive evaluation of the entire system. In addition, there is also an evaluation called problem evaluation or procedure evaluation (using the term implementation evaluation), namely an assessment only on parts of the system. As described by Sadana (2011:257).

From the results of the evaluation of the policy regarding termination of employment from oil, plantation and palm oil companies, it can be described as follows:

- 1) Diagram of workers who become unemployed – poor in social security financing.



Source: Processed Research Results (2025)

The diagram above shows the consequences of the government's provision of social security benefits due to economic pressures. The provision of social security demonstrates what companies and the Acehese government have done to employ workers in Aceh. Empirically, social security benefits are actually very sensitive to layoffs. *off*) are those who are classified as non-skilled workers, indirectly the loss of income for non-skilled workers will be assisted by skilled workers, namely through tax deductions. Skilled workers as permanent taxpayers, one of the taxes collected is distributed for the payment of social security benefits in the form of *an imploimant benefits* or temporary disability benefits. The assumption is that skilled workers are not at risk of termination of employment, so they have income, and because this income is continuous, it is taxable.

A small portion of the tax is distributed to workers affected by *layoffs. off* In other words, spending on social security is routine spending aimed at maintaining purchasing power and/or alleviating poverty.

- 2) employer's obligations and rights

The consequences of implementing a purely social security program result in an increase in routine government spending, which is roughly estimated for those affected by layoffs who need compensation, this is what is called the employer's obligation, so the implementation of the social security program can be shifted to a social insurance program that includes work accident insurance, health insurance, and death insurance and old age insurance. The loss of income due to risk or death and old age is entirely the burden of the employer. Exemption from the cost of providing compensation that is treated as mandatory can be categorized as an extra tax on the use of labor, because it is an obligation as shown in the diagram.

Social security, in this case, is a program like savings, pension, and health programs, and is not viewed solely in terms of the scope of participation . Social security programs are limited to pension benefits, primarily for employees who leave their jobs without risk of layoffs. Even if layoffs do occur , the benefits provided can be a lump sum, but the amount is relatively small.

Figure 5.2 Causes The Occurrence of Extreme Poverty

Source: Processed Research Results (2025)

Regarding the causes of poverty in rural Aceh, so far, it has been pointed to factors related to the quantity or quality of natural resources and the technology used to utilize them, thus leading to poverty for the population who depend on them for their livelihood. This phenomenon is called natural poverty. Meanwhile, structural factors refer to the conditions of the social structure that limit economic opportunities for certain social groups, resulting in them experiencing poverty. This phenomenon is called structural poverty (Sinaga and White, 1984: 142-4). In reality, it is possible for social groups in a region at a certain time to experience both natural and structural poverty.

In a development context characterized by, among other things, superior technology, it is more appropriate to focus the causes of poverty on structural factors rather than natural factors. This is because natural limitations can be overcome to some extent by leveraging technological advantages. However, such solutions will not provide equitable benefits unless structural barriers are first addressed, or if efforts to address these natural barriers do not reinforce or exacerbate structural barriers.

The fundamental question then is why and how social structures limit economic opportunities for certain social groups, leading to poverty. Various approaches exist to answer this question. Here, we will use the concept of the development process as a framework. In this context, the development process is ideally understood as a dialogue between the forces of "societal control." (*Social Engineering*) by the government and the power of "social control" by the people. The guiding hypothesis for this study is that the symptoms of structural poverty in a segment of society can be explained as the implications of a monologue development process in which the power of societal control appears to dominate the power of social control. This dominance has implications in the form of the formation of a new social structure that does not reflect justice for all groups in society. In terms of economic opportunities, this new social structure is advantageous for certain social groups but detrimental to others.

B. Community Control, Social Supervision, and Structural Poverty

Efforts to formulate a theoretical link between the phenomenon of structural poverty, on the one hand, and the phenomenon of social control and social oversight, on the other, must begin with a conceptual explanation of these two latter social phenomena. Referring to Susanto-Sunario's explanation, social control is essentially a form of formal social oversight, supported by tools such as law or authority. The more advanced a society, the more closely societal control overlaps with government control. Therefore, today's analysis of social control is focused on government policies and actions toward society, including all national development activities. It is seen as a manifestation of the government's efforts to establish a specific social system relatively quickly, easily, and systematically (Susanto-Sunario, 1990:7, 14 and 1989:141).

On the other hand, social control is an informal form of societal control. According to K. Young, the concept of social control refers to "group behavior" aimed at establishing conformity, solidarity, and group survival in society (Susanto-Sunario, 1990: 7, 14, and 1989: 141). This group behavior, as W.G. Sumner put it, is determined, among other things, by customs (*folkways*), one of the main components of social control within the group (Susanto-Sunario).

The power of custom as a component of social oversight is primarily directed in the areas of government and the community economy. This is observed in *political* -economic practices within communities or customary law associations. The social structure of customary law associations typically includes the customary elite and the common people. The customary elite are the ruling class and hold ownership rights to customary land (economic assets). Meanwhile, the common people are the controlled (governed) group and do not hold ownership rights to customary land. However, this does not mean that the common people are excluded from access to land. The customary government system provides guarantees in this regard. One function of government is to ensure the welfare of the people, and this is realized in the form of granting use rights, harvest rights, land rights, and land lease

rights to the common people. From one perspective, this can be seen as an effort to foster conformity and solidarity for the survival of the community. With such efforts, the risk of disintegration is also minimized, as each social group has relatively fair economic opportunities. In this kind of social context, the symptoms of structural poverty do not appear as a serious problem.

Custom actually contains the power to overcome structural problems in a society. Taum's study (1994: 408) in the Aceh region, for example, concluded that the bureaucratic system and traditional power (customary patterns) point to a tendency to form more cohesive and effective "joint organizations" to overcome structural weaknesses in society. That within the structure of indigenous (native) communities, agricultural and livestock systems contain internal mechanisms that prevent the possibility of widening the gap between those who have and those who do not have economic assets. However, these various advantages of custom generally do not receive adequate recognition within the framework of national development, as long as that framework refers to the paradigm of modernization.

In the context of modernization, there is a view that considers that the fading of traditional cultural elements is a variable cost (cost) that must be paid for the continuation of social transformation towards modern culture. In this regard, a view is proposed which outlines that in an effort to find alternatives to traditional authority structures (traditional authority), it is impossible to reconcile the traditional basis of legitimacy with the rationalism or materialism of reformist ideologies such as bourgeoisie or socialism (Turk, 1982: 260). The modernist view then outlines that traditional authority cannot survive in the context of modern authority structures. This is indicated by, among other things:

- 1) The dominance of secular thought and ways of thinking over ideological/religious thought
- 2) The dominance of individualism over collectivism
- 3) achievement-based over ascription-based in achieving social status levels
- 4) Technological innovation advances capital-intensive economic activities as a replacement for labor-intensive economic activities.
- 5) Goods and services increase for certain groups at the expense of other groups.
- 6) High and increasing productivity stimulates ethnocentric conflict between different groups or between individual group members.

This modernist proposition is clearly based on the assumption that traditional culture is anti-reform and therefore incompatible with the ideology of modernization. Therefore, there is no place for elements of traditional culture in modernization projects or development programs. With this assumption, the government, as the agent of modernization, then designs and implements development itself, without involving community elements. This is what is known as a "top-down" approach to development. The history of rural development in Indonesia during much of the New Order era, as noted by Sayogyo (1991: 58), was characterized by the dominance of this approach. This "top-down" approach subordinated the local context to the desires of the national government. This manifested itself in development programs that did not always align with the interests of each group within rural society. This problem arose because this approach, which prioritized national (modern) initiatives, neglected local (traditional) initiatives, namely the community's ability to be independent by adhering to the traditional paradigm. Yet, before the modernization paradigm was presented as an alternative, traditional practices had long been accepted as the paradigm for organizing rural social life.

In the context of the "top-down" approach, development no longer occurs as a dialogue process, but rather as a monologue process in which the power of societal control appears dominant over the power of social control. In this process of domination, various social forces in society are prevented or limited in their development. Custom, a native social control force, is generally included among the types of social forces whose development is limited or subordinated to social control. In the context of rural development in Indonesia, the dominance of the power of societal control by the government over the power of social control by the community must be understood in the context of political and economic stabilization after the September 30, 1965 movement. In a study of the relationship between the state and farmers during the New Order era, Trijono (1994: 78-9) explains that after the failed coup in 1965, the New Order government appeared with a priority of political and economic stabilization. In

rural areas, this stabilization effort was realized in two main steps of societal control: first, the "floating mass" strategy (*the floating mass strategy*) that closes the opportunity for any social power , other than government power, to regulate rural political and economic life. The second step is an agricultural development strategy oriented towards achieving rice self-sufficiency, considering that rice is a commodity that determines the achievement of not only economic stability but also political stability .

Various activities packaged in the annual program of the provincial and district governments , especially North Aceh district, according to the results of research evaluations of various programs that have been implemented in 2024, showed that 70% of the programs from the plans that have been implemented could only run because the budget that has been budgeted was affected by budget efficiency so that it could not be implemented in its entirety, which was further caused by the program also being able to be transferred and programmed in the following years, including empowerment programs and mentoring to the community. Meanwhile, in terms of the mentoring function, it can actually help the implementation of organized and systematic programs from training programs to MSMEs to be able to improve the quality and quantity of their products. So in the empowerment pattern, it can only provide direct assistance or assistance with additional business capital whose aim is to stimulate the enthusiasm of MSMEs and the community to increase the economic improvement of the community, but because it cannot be continued with mentoring, the local government is only halfway in fostering small entrepreneurs so that the absorption of labor in several sub-districts cannot be absorbed properly.

An evaluation of public policies regarding extreme poverty in North Aceh Regency shows a significant reduction in extreme poverty rates , but implementation still faces various challenges. The North Aceh Regency Government has established a policy of accelerating poverty eradication. extreme poverty as a program priority in 2024. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) shows a positive downward trend , but this decline indicates that various government intervention programs, particularly in the form of social assistance and economic empowerment, have not yet begun to show positive results. Despite progress, the policy evaluation identified several critical obstacles:

- 1) Accuracy of target data, the problem of out-of-date extreme poverty databases often causes aid programs to be inaccurately targeted .
- 2) extreme poverty alleviation programs are spread across many institutions so that they require tighter coordination for effective implementation.
- 3) extreme poverty is caused by multidimensional factors , environmental quality, education, health which requires integrated and sustainable intervention, not just financial assistance alone.
- 4) Regional disparities, there are still several sub-districts with relatively high levels of extreme poverty, this requires more intensive local support and approaches.

In general, policies focused on social protection are considered quite effective in reducing poverty rates, but the biggest challenge lies in program synchronization and data accuracy to ensure aid reaches the most vulnerable groups.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of poverty alleviation programs in North Aceh Regency still faces several challenges. These challenges are caused by:

1. Resource Which No o optimal . The North Aceh Regency Government has quite large resources, but has not been optimal in allocating the budget for poverty alleviation programs because the budget for poverty alleviation programs in North Aceh Regency has not been optimal due to budget limitations, the North Aceh Regency Government has limited available budget for poverty alleviation programs. The government needs to determine budget priorities for poverty alleviation programs and other development, so to overcome this, the North Aceh Regency Government needs to seek alternative development financing from various sources other than the APBA and APBN. In addition, the government also needs to increase synergy between stakeholders in sustainable development to achieve the goal of poverty reduction.

2. Limited access to source Power . Poor communities in North Aceh Regency still face limited access to resources such as education, health care, and employment. The lack of employment opportunities can be attributed to slow economic growth due to a lack of investment and business development. Lack of investment can lead to a lack of employment, due to a lack of business development and new job creation.
3. Lack of synergy between stakeholders . Synergy between stakeholders in sustainable development remains weak and needs to be improved to achieve the goal of poverty reduction .
4. Poverty rate Which still high . The poverty rate in North Aceh Regency is still high, namely 16.86% above the national and provincial average.
5. Poverty alleviation strategy. The North Aceh district government needs to develop a more effective poverty alleviation strategy , such as increasing budget allocation, improving access to resources, and enhancing synergy between stakeholders .
6. Several programs that have been implemented by the Aceh district government include the Aceh Kaya program, UMi financing , KUR (People's Business Credit).

A. Suggestions – Practical Implications

From the results of the overall evaluation of the program that has been implemented, the following recommendations can be made:

1. village government should seek solutions for poor people who cannot access assistance from the state or provincial government because their residency is unclear.
2. The sub-district government continuously collaborates with local companies or business units established in the sub-district so that it can assist in funding products produced by small entrepreneurs or craftsmen.
3. For district governments, they can coordinate intensively with the central government, in this case several ministries , to increase the budget for extreme poverty .
4. stakeholders to work together to help overcome the budget shortfall in solving the problem of extreme poverty .

B. Theoretical Implications

A public policy cannot be simply abandoned; it must be monitored, and one such monitoring mechanism is public policy evaluation . Evaluation is typically aimed at assessing the effectiveness of a public policy in order to be accountable to its constituents . To determine the extent to which goals are achieved, evaluation is necessary to identify the gap between expectations and reality (Rian Nugroho, 2008). The premise here is that every policy must be evaluated before being replaced, so there needs to be a clause in every public policy that states that it can be replaced after evaluation . There are two main reasons why this must be adhered to:

1. Avoiding the bad habits of Indonesian public administration , namely changing officials means changing regulations.
2. Every policy cannot be changed immediately because of the wishes or tastes of the officials who at that time hold public authority.

The primary goal of evaluation is to determine the extent of the gap between the achievements and expectations of a public policy . The next task is how to reduce or close this gap. Therefore, public policy evaluation should be understood as something positive; it aims to identify and address deficiencies. The characteristics of policy evaluation are:

1. To improve policy performance.
2. Evaluators are able to distance themselves from policy makers, policy implementers, and policy targets.
3. The procedure can be accounted for methodologically.
4. Done in an atmosphere of hostility or conflict.
5. Covers the formulation, implementation, environment and performance of policies (Nugroho, 2008)

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