

The Effectiveness of Community Poverty Reduction Programmes In the Province of Papua. Indonesia

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Abstract:

Qualitative research through a phenomenological approach, while the results showed that the problem of poverty is a problem that must be handled holistically, involving various components that must support each other, both from the aspects of economic policy, education policy, legal policies and others, besides that the mindset of the community also needs to be addressed, this condition can occur if formal and informal education patterns can be applied holistically.

Keywords: Poverty, Policy, Strategy, Community, Programme

Chapter 1. Introduction

Poverty is one of the main challenges of development in Indonesia, especially in eastern regions such as Papua Province. Despite being rich in natural resources, Papua is still classified as an area with a high poverty rate. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the poverty rate in Papua is consistently higher than the national average. This indicates serious economic inequality and demands intervention from the government and various parties to reduce poverty.

Poverty reduction programmes in Papua have been implemented by both the central and local governments, through social policies, direct cash transfers, labour-intensive programmes, and infrastructure development. However, the effectiveness of these programmes is often questioned. Despite large budget investments, the poverty rate in Papua has not decreased

significantly, and has even tended to stagnate or increase in recent years. This situation calls for an in-depth evaluation of the programmes that have been implemented, to ensure that the interventions are well-targeted and deliver sustainable results for the people of Papua. One of the government's flagship programmes that focuses on poverty reduction is the Family Hope Programme (PKH). PKH aims to provide assistance to very poor households with the hope that this assistance can improve access to health and education services, which in turn is expected to break the chain of poverty between generations. In Papua, PKH is one of the mainstay programmes that is expected to help the poor. However, implementation in the field often encounters various obstacles, such as difficult access to rural areas, lack of infrastructure, and lack of competent assistants.

In addition to PKH, the government has also launched a massive infrastructure development programme in Papua through the Special

Autonomy (Otsus) policy that began in 2001. With the budget allocated through Otsus funds, the government hopes to accelerate the development of basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, and health facilities. However, despite more than two decades of implementation, the benefits of the Otsus policy in poverty reduction are still being debated. Some believe that the special autonomy funds have not been managed optimally, so the impact on the welfare of the poor has not been significant.

Various structural challenges in Papua also affect the effectiveness of poverty reduction programmes. One of them is geographical accessibility. Papua has a very large area and most of it is tropical forest with limited transport infrastructure. Many villages and hamlets are difficult to reach by government programmes, both in terms of delivering social assistance and basic services such as health and education. This causes many poor people in remote areas to not benefit from the poverty reduction programmes that have been launched.

In addition to geographical issues, cultural challenges are also a factor that affects the effectiveness of poverty reduction programmes in Papua. Papua has a very rich cultural diversity, with hundreds of tribes that have different customs, languages, and patterns of life. Nationally designed programmes often do not fit the local context, so they are not well implemented. For example, the pattern of providing direct social assistance may not suit some indigenous communities that prioritise communal and subsistence-based living. Therefore, there is a need to adjust policies and programmes to take into account local cultural values.

On the other hand, challenges in terms of the quality of human resources are also a major obstacle. Education levels in Papua are still relatively low, especially among the poor. Many children in Papua do not complete primary education, which in turn narrows their opportunities for decent work. This limited access

to quality education is one of the factors that make poverty alleviation programmes ineffective. Although there have been scholarship programmes and school construction in various regions, the uneven quality of education is a major obstacle in the effort to break the cycle of poverty.

B. Problem Formulation:

1. what is the poverty condition of the people in Papua province?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the poverty reduction programme? Poverty programmes in Papua province?
3. What are the strategies for addressing poverty in Papua Province?

Literature Review:

A. Effectiveness:

The word effective comes from the English effective, which means successful, something that is done successfully. The concept of effectiveness is a broad concept that includes several factors internal and external to the organisation. Effectiveness is the relationship between effort expended and achieving goals.

The greater the production that contributes to goal achievement, the more effective the organisation, programme or activity is. Effectiveness is the ability to select appropriate goals and achieve them. Thus, effectiveness refers to the relationship between the outputs or results achieved or actually achieved and the goals or results set or expected in the plan. An organisation is said to be effective if the output produced meets the expected objectives.

Effectiveness is generally seen as the level of achievement of functional and operational objectives. Basically, effectiveness is the degree to which an organisation achieves its stated objectives. Performance is how well a job is done, how well a person produces the expected results. It can be interpreted as work done according to plan, it can be said to be effective without time, energy and change. On the other hand, the effectiveness of the implementation of regional autonomy policies is the extent to which local

government activities can implement, implement and improve services to the community and make decisions about community participation. Implementation of development and solving various problems in the implementation of regional autonomy.

Sondang P. Siagian (2001: 24) argues that effectiveness is the use of resources, facilities and infrastructure to a certain extent that has been consciously predetermined to produce some goods for the services it provides. Performance shows success based on whether or not goals are achieved. If the outcome of the activity is closer to the goal, this means greater efficiency. When one talks about effectiveness as work management, it means that the focus is on the achievement of various goals, which are determined by the timely use of certain available resources, must be determined in advance, and the results achieved by using these resources. Then the results must be achieved within the specified time.

Aspects of effectiveness must be achieved in activities. Referring to the definition of efficiency above, some of these aspects are:

- Regulatory/Contemporary Aspects

Regulations are made to maintain the continuity of the intended operation. Regulations or orders must be implemented for the action to be considered effective.

- Aspects of Tasks/Work Duties

Individuals or organisations can be said to be effective if they can carry out their duties and responsibilities properly in accordance with applicable regulations. Therefore, everyone in the organisation must know their respective duties and responsibilities to fulfil them..

- Plan/Programme Aspect

An activity can be said to be effective if it has a plan that will be implemented to achieve achievable goals. Without a plan or programme, goals cannot be achieved.

- Aspects of the goal/condition ideal

Ideal conditions or goals are those that are achieved through result-orientated actions and planned processes.

Measuring the effectiveness of an organisation is not as easy as turning a palm and giving an estimate. However, when it comes to measuring criteria, there are studies from different perspectives. It depends on who is assessing, and who is interpreting.

In terms of productivity, a production manager can give an understanding that effectiveness is the quality and quantity (output) of goods and services. In addition, it is not limited to performance measurement methods, there are also other measurement methods, namely comparing the plan made with the actual results.

However, if the efforts or results of work and actions taken are not appropriate, so that the expected goals or objectives are not achieved, it can be said to be ineffective. Based on the opinion of S.P. Siagian (2008: 77) that the criteria or measures for achieving or not achieving relative goals are:

- Achievable goals are clear, designed so that employees can achieve the goals that have been set when performing their duties and organisational goals can be achieved.
- The use of goal-oriented strategies, where strategies are the path taken to make various efforts to achieve predetermined goals, so that implementers do not get lost to achieve organisational goals.
- The process of analysing and formulating solid policies, consistent with the goals achieved and the strategies developed, so that these policies can link goals with the implementation of operational activities.
- Careful planning, deciding what the organisation will do in the future.
- In terms of correct programming, a good plan still needs to be specified in the correct application programme, because otherwise

the implementers lack instructions for action and work..

- To provide employment opportunities and infrastructure, one measure of organisational effectiveness is the ability to do productive work. If facilities and infrastructure are available and can be provided by the organisation.
- Effective and efficient implementation, no matter how good a programme is, if it is not implemented effectively and efficiently, the organisation will not achieve its goals because the implementation of the organisation will approach its goals.
- Implementation of a monitoring and control system so that it is instructive, given that human nature is imperfect, therefore organisational effectiveness requires a monitoring and control system.

B. Poverty:

Poverty according to Suparlan, quoted by Abu Ahmadi in his book *Basic Social Science*, states that poverty is: "a low standard of living, namely the existence of a level of material deprivation in a number or group of people compared to the standard of living generally accepted in the community concerned". According to Prof Emil Salim, what is meant by poverty is: "a situation described as a lack of income to meet the basic needs of life".

According to Siswanto quoted by Mawardi in his book *IAD, ISD and IBD* identifies poverty as a shortage, especially lack of clothing, food and shelter. In other words, poverty is defined as a situation where a person is unable to fulfil his basic needs so that he experiences misery in his life.

According to Shirazi and Pramanik, poverty is defined as a situation faced by an individual where they do not have sufficient resources to fulfil the needs of a comfortable life, both in terms of economic, social, psychological, and spiritual dimensions.

According to Ravallion, poverty is hunger, homelessness, sickness and lack of funds for treatment. Poor people generally cannot read because they cannot afford to go to school, do not have a job, are afraid of the future, and lose their children due to illness.

Poverty is powerlessness, marginalisation, and lack of freedom. Poverty is a condition where a person or group of people are unable to fulfil their basic rights to maintain and develop a dignified life. Poverty is a situation where there is an inability to fulfil basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and health. Poverty is a situation where a person is unable to fulfil his basic needs and is unable to develop his life so that it will cause misery..

Poverty has a broad definition and is not easy to measure. However, in general, there are two types of poverty measures, namely:

- a. Absolute poverty can be measured by comparing a person's income level with the income level required to obtain their basic needs. The minimum income level is the barrier between being poor and not being poor, or often called the poverty line. This concept is often referred to as absolute poverty, which is intended to determine the minimum level of income that is sufficient to fulfil physical needs such as clothing, food, and housing to ensure survival.
- b. Relative poverty is a person who already has a level of income to fulfil basic needs but is still much lower than the situation of the surrounding community, so that person is still considered poor..
- c. Structural poverty is poverty suffered by a group of people because the social structure of the community does not participate in using the sources of income that are actually available to them. Some of the indicators used to look at poverty include per capita income, nutrition, food sufficiency and the level of family health, which is often measured by the average infant mortality rate. Poverty can also

be seen outside of food and clothing, which includes lack of education, lack of communication with the surrounding world, and often lack of protection from the law and government..

Poverty is divided into two types, namely subjective poverty and objective poverty. Firstly, subjective poverty is poverty that applies individually. This type of poverty has absolutely nothing to do with the ownership of a number of assets or with the ability to spend money to meet needs.

This subjective poverty is related to feelings. A person is said to be poor if that person feels poor, and is said to be rich if that person feels rich, not because other people say so. No matter how little one has, if one feels that one has enough and does not need much more, then one is actually rich. Similarly, no matter how much wealth a person has, if he feels that he does not have enough and that he still has many unmet needs, he is actually poor.

Subjective poverty cannot be measured, and can only be felt by the person concerned. Thus, although it contains truth, subjective poverty (or wealth) cannot be analysed. Secondly, objective poverty is poverty that can be analysed because it is a visible social symptom. Objective poverty is related to the views of many people. That is, a person is said to be poor because people see him as destitute, and a person is said to be rich because people see him as rich. There are several factors that cause poverty to arise, namely:

1. Too Low Education

Low education causes a person to lack certain skills needed in life. The limited education/skills possessed cause limitations to enter the world of work. On the basis of the above he is poor because he is unable to do anything.

2. Lazy Work

Lazy attitude is a problem that is quite alarming, because this problem involves a person's mentality and personality. There is this lazy attitude that someone is indifferent and not passionate about

working. Or be passive in his life (attitude of leaning on fate). This lazy attitude tends to depend on other people, either from family, or relatives who are considered to have the ability to bear the needs of their lives..

3. Labour Issues

Labour issues are very real and close to our environment. In fact, labour problems can lead to new economic and non-economic problems. A high unemployment rate leads to low income, which in turn triggers poverty.

4. Capital Limitations

Capital constraints are a reality in developing countries, bringing poverty to most of the people in those countries. A person is poor because they do not have the capital to equip tools or materials in order to apply the skills they have with a view to earning an income. Capital scarcity for developing countries can be likened to an endless circle both in terms of the demand for capital and the supply of capital.

5. Family Burden

The number of household members is an indication in determining whether a household is poor or not. The greater the number of family members, the greater the income spent on living expenses. So according to the poor, the large number of family members will result in poorer conditions. According to Rivani in her research, the number of household members affects poverty. The reason for the large number of family dependents can be caused by several causes, among others, many children, there are family members who are not productive (old age or other reasons) and difficulties in obtaining work for family members who have actually reached productive age.

C. Community:

Many descriptions have been written by experts on the definition of society. In English, the term society is used, which comes from the Latin word *socius*, meaning "friend". The term society itself comes from the Arabic root word *syaraka*, which

means "to participate". Society is a group of humans "getting along", or in scientific terms, "interacting" with each other (Koentjaraningrat, 2009: 116). According to Phil Astrid S. Susanto (1999: 6), society is human as a social unit and an order that is found repeatedly, while according to Dannerius Sinaga (1988: 143), society is people who occupy an area either directly or indirectly interconnected as an effort to fulfil needs, related as a social unit through feelings of solidarity due to the same historical, political or cultural background.

From some of these definitions, it can be interpreted that society is a unit or group that has a relationship and some similarities such as attitudes, traditions, feelings and culture that form an order. The kinds of society are:

a. Modern society:

Modern society is a society that is no longer bound by customs. Customs that hinder progress are immediately abandoned to adopt new values that are rationally believed to bring progress, so they easily accept new ideas (Dannerius Sinaga, 1988: 156).

Based on the view of the law, Amiruddin (2010: 205) explains that modern society has organic social solidarity. According to OK. Chairuddin (1993: 116), organic solidarity is based on specialisation. This solidarity arises because of a sense of functional interdependence between one another in one community group. Specialisation and functional differences as expressed are often found in modern society.

In addition to organisational solidarity, Amiruddin (2010: 206) also explains that the law contained in modern society is a restructive law, namely the law functions to restore the situation as before and to reshape difficult or chaotic relationships towards or into normal. So modern society is one that is no longer fixated on customs and tends to have organic solidarity because they need each other and the existing laws are restructive.

b. Traditional society:

Traditional society is a society that is still bound by habits or customs that have been passed down

from generation to generation. This attachment makes people easily suspicious of new things that demand a rational attitude, so that the attitude of traditional society is less critical (Dannerius Sinaga, 1988: 152). According to Rentelu, Pollis and Shcaw quoted in (P. J Bouman. 1980: 53) traditional society is a static society with no changes and dynamics arising in life.

From this understanding, it can be concluded that traditional societies are societies that live their lives based on the benchmarks of customs and habits that exist in their environment. Their lives have not been too influenced by changes that come from outside their social environment, so traditional community life tends to be static.

According to P. J Bouman (1980: 54-58) the thing that distinguishes traditional societies from modern societies is the dependence of society on the surrounding natural environment. The factor of traditional society's dependence on nature is characterised by the process of adjustment to the natural environment. Therefore, traditional societies have certain characteristics that distinguish them from modern societies. The characteristics of traditional society include:

1. Orientation to the value of belief in custom and natural law is reflected in the pattern of thinking
2. Economic activities of the community are based on the agrarian sector
3. Educational facilities and education levels are low
4. Tend to belong to an agrarian society and in their lives depend on the surrounding nature
5. Family ties and solidarity are still strong
6. Patterns of social relations based on kinship, familiarity and knowing each other
7. The average population density per kilometre is still small
8. Leaders tend to be determined by the personal qualities of individuals and heredity

The characteristics of traditional society based on social views are different from the characteristics of society based on legal views. The characteristics of traditional societies based on law can be seen in the opinion expressed by Amiruddin, that traditional societies tend to have mechanical social solidarity. Mechanical solidarity is solidarity that arises from similarity (likeness),

consensus and interchangeability between one individual and another individual in the group. There is no specificity in each individual

In contrast to Selo Soemardjan's opinion, the legal discipline of traditional communities towards state law is weak. However, discipline towards customary law is quite strong. Social control and customary law discipline will be used by the community to regulate the order of its social life. From this explanation, it can be interpreted that community uniformity is often found in traditional societies that are more obedient to customary law than state or national law. In traditional societies the existing law is repressive. Law with repressive sanctions derives its main legal statement in crime and punishment. Violation of social rules means crime and incurs punishment.

Discussion:

A. Poverty conditions of people in Papua province:

Papua Province, located at the eastern tip of Indonesia, has its own uniqueness both in terms of culture, ethnicity, and geography. However, behind these natural and cultural riches, Papua is also faced with major challenges related to poverty. Papua is one of the regions with the highest poverty rate in Indonesia. This condition is influenced by various factors such as regional isolation, lack of infrastructure, low quality of education, and limited access to health and economic services.

According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the poverty rate in Papua is recorded as the highest in Indonesia. In 2023, the poverty rate in Papua will reach 26.8%. This number is far above the national average of around 9.2%. This condition shows that there is a significant inequality between Papua and other regions in Indonesia.

Poverty in Papua is not only seen in terms of income, but also from limited access to various basic services such as health, education, and infrastructure. Many areas in Papua are still difficult to reach, especially inland areas that are

isolated by geographical conditions in the form of mountains and dense forests. This makes it difficult for the distribution of services and development programs from the central government to reach people in remote areas.

Some of the main factors that cause the high poverty rate in Papua include:

1. Hard-to-Reach Geography:

Papua has very tough terrain, with many areas only accessible by air or river transportation. The limitations of road infrastructure hinder the mobility of goods and people, which in turn has an impact on the community's economy. This isolation also exacerbates people's access to education, health, and decent jobs.

2. Low Quality of Education:

Education is one of the keys to reducing poverty. Unfortunately, in Papua, the quality of education is still very low compared to other provinces in Indonesia. The high dropout rate, low quality of teachers, and lack of educational facilities and infrastructure in remote areas are challenges in themselves. As a result, many young Papuans do not have adequate skills to compete in the job market, making it difficult to get out of the poverty trap.

3. Poor Public Health:

Access to health services in Papua is also still very limited, especially in remote areas. Many Papuans have to travel long and expensively to get adequate health services. In addition, the stunting rate (chronic malnutrition in children) in Papua is also quite high, which has a direct impact on the quality of human resources in the future.

4. Economic and Social Inequality:

Although Papua is rich in natural resources, such as gold and gas mines, this wealth has not been equally enjoyed by the local community. Many of the benefits of the mining and natural resources sectors are enjoyed by large companies and do not have a significant impact on the welfare of local communities. This economic disparity creates a sense of injustice among the community,

especially the indigenous Papuan tribes, who feel that they do not get a fair benefit from the natural wealth that their land belongs to.

5. Limitations of Infrastructure Development:

Infrastructure development in Papua is still far behind compared to other regions in Indonesia. The limitations of roads, bridges, electricity, and clean water are major obstacles in poverty alleviation efforts. Without adequate infrastructure, people's access to markets, education, and health services remains hampered, ultimately making it difficult for them to get out of poverty.

The Government of Indonesia has made various efforts to reduce poverty in Papua. One of them is through the Special Autonomy (Otsus) programme which gives Papua greater authority in managing resources and designing development programmes that suit local needs. Special Autonomy also provides significant allocation of funds for infrastructure development, health, and education.

However, even though there has been a Special Autonomy programme for more than 20 years, the results have not been fully optimal. There are still many problems in the field, such as corruption, slow bureaucracy, and lack of participation of local communities in the development process. In addition, the large allocation of funds from the central government is sometimes not on target due to coordination and transparency issues.

In addition to Special Autonomy, the government has also launched national programmes such as the Family Hope Programme (PKH) and Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) to help the poor in Papua. However, major challenges remain in terms of the distribution of this aid, especially in hard-to-reach areas

Although the challenge of poverty in Papua is enormous, the region has tremendous potential for development. Abundant natural resources, if managed properly and involving local communities, can be a significant resource to improve the economic conditions of the community. In addition, Papua's rich culture also has its own attraction for the development of the

tourism sector, which, if managed properly, can open up new jobs for the local community.

Poverty in Papua is a complex problem that requires a holistic approach. Factors such as geographical isolation, low quality of education, poor access to health, and economic disparities must be addressed through targeted policies. If the government and the community can work together to address these challenges, the hope of seeing Papua rise from poverty will become a reality in the future.

B. Advantages and disadvantages of poverty alleviation programmes in Papua province:

Poverty alleviation programmes in Papua Province have become one of the main focuses of the Indonesian government in efforts to reduce social and economic disparities in the region. Although there are various initiatives designed to improve the welfare of the community, this programme has advantages and disadvantages that need to be considered so that its effectiveness can continue to be improved.

Advantages of the Poverty Alleviation Programme in Papua:

1. Improving Infrastructure and Accessibility

One of the main advantages of poverty alleviation programmes in Papua is the focus on infrastructure development, such as roads, bridges, and health facilities. This infrastructure development opens accessibility to remote areas that were previously difficult to reach. With better access, the distribution of goods and services becomes easier, which can trigger economic growth in the region. In addition, local communities also have easier access to health and education facilities.

• Social Protection Programmes

Programmes such as Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), the Family Hope Programme (PKH), and the Healthy Indonesia Card (KIS) have succeeded in providing direct assistance to the underprivileged. These programmes serve as a social safety net that can ease the economic

burden of the poor in Papua, especially in emergency situations or economic crises.

- **Human Resource Development (HR)**

The government also focuses on human resource development through education and skills training. Scholarship programmes, vocational training, and the establishment of schools in remote areas aim to increase the capacity of Papuan human resources. In the long term, this is expected to be able to reduce poverty levels through improving the quality of a more competitive and productive local workforce.

- **Local Economic Empowerment**

Community-based economic empowerment programmes, such as the development of agriculture, fisheries, and small industries, provide opportunities for local communities to increase their income independently. Support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is also one way to reduce people's dependence on government assistance.

Weaknesses of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Papua

1. Lack of Effectiveness in Programme Implementation

One of the main weaknesses is the lack of effectiveness in the implementation of programmes in the field. Although policies have been well designed, their implementation is often disrupted by convoluted bureaucracy and corruption. Some social assistance programmes are not even on target, so people who really need them do not benefit to the maximum. In addition, these programmes are often short-term, so the impact on poverty reduction is only temporary.

1. Community Dependence on Government Assistance

Intensive social assistance programmes such as BLT and PKH do help communities in the short term, but they can trigger dependence on government assistance. This reduces people's motivation to seek more sustainable economic solutions, such as increasing productivity or

creating independent businesses. In the long term, this dependence can hinder regional economic development.

2 Uneven Infrastructure Development

Although infrastructure in Papua has developed, development is still uneven across the region. Remote and mountainous areas are often still difficult to access and do not enjoy the benefits of adequate infrastructure. These inequalities exacerbate economic inequality between regions, and communities in underserved areas by development remain lagging behind in economic and social aspects..

3 Lack of Local Community Participation in Planning

Another significant weakness is the low level of local community participation in programme planning and implementation. Many programmes are designed without directly involving the local community, so they are not fully in accordance with local needs and potential. This makes these programmes less relevant and do not have a significant impact in the long run..

4 Corruption and Budget Abuse

One of the biggest problems in poverty alleviation programmes in Papua is corruption and budget abuse. In some cases, funds allocated for poverty alleviation programmes do not reach their intended targets, or are used for other purposes by irresponsible parties. The misuse of Special Autonomy funds, for example, has been in the media spotlight several times. This corruption slows down poverty alleviation efforts and causes public distrust of the government.

Poverty alleviation programs in Papua have various advantages, such as infrastructure improvement, social protection, and human resource development. However, the program also faces various challenges, including lack of implementation effectiveness, community dependence on aid, uneven development, and lack of local participation. To be more effective, there needs to be improvements in the implementation of programs and a more participatory and

sustainable approach to poverty alleviation in Papua.

C. Strategies for handling community poverty in Papua province

Papua Province is one of the regions in Indonesia that faces major challenges in handling poverty. Poverty in Papua is not only influenced by economic factors, but also by various complex social, political, and geographical factors. The hilly and remote geographical conditions make it difficult to access basic services such as education, health, and markets. In addition, social factors such as lack of job skills, low education levels, and political instability also exacerbate the situation. Often fragmented social structures and local conflicts also affect poverty alleviation efforts.

In addition, cultural and linguistic differences between ethnic groups in Papua add complexity to the delivery and implementation of aid programmes. Political uncertainty and inconsistent policies often hinder the implementation of effective poverty alleviation programmes. Limitations in terms of coordination between the central and regional governments, as well as lack of community participation in the planning and implementation of the programme, are also challenges.

To effectively address the problem of poverty, a comprehensive and sustainable strategy is needed. This means integrating different approaches to address the factors that lead to poverty, as well as ensuring that the solutions implemented are appropriate to local needs and specific conditions in Papua. This approach should involve collaboration between various parties, including governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and local communities, and pay attention to the social, economic, and political aspects that interact with each other. Thus, poverty alleviation programmes can be more effective in achieving the goals and providing significant benefits to the Papuan people. The following are some strategies that can be implemented to address poverty in Papua.:

1. Improving Access to Education

Education is key to reducing long-term poverty. Programmes that focus on improving the quality of education in Papua are very important. This includes building more schools, training teachers, and providing scholarships for students from poor families. Quality education can improve job skills and open up economic opportunities for future generations.

2. Local Economic Empowerment:

To overcome poverty, it is important to empower the local economy through various programmes. This could involve skills training, support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the development of local superior products. For example, facilitating training for local farmers and artisans can help them improve their productivity and product quality, which can ultimately increase their income. Provide training for village leaders, community groups, and individuals in terms of village management, technical skills, and entrepreneurship. It aims to improve their ability to design and manage development projects.

3. Social Security Programme:

Social security programmes such as direct cash assistance (BLT), food assistance, and health insurance can provide temporary support to poor and vulnerable families. In Papua, the programme needs to be tailored to local needs and developed to ensure that the aid reaches those who really need it.

4. Health Improvement:

Health is an important aspect of poverty management. Healthy people are better able to work and contribute to the economy. Therefore, there needs to be programmes to increase access to health services, such as the construction of health centres, health counselling, and immunisation programmes. Addressing public health issues also includes providing access to clean water and adequate sanitation.

5. Strengthening Local Government:

Local governments must have sufficient capacity and resources to design and implement poverty management programmes. Strengthening the capacity of local governments through training, managerial improvement, and adequate budget allocation can improve the implementation and evaluation of these programmes.

6. Collaboration Between Stakeholders:

Poverty management requires collaboration between various parties, including the central government, local governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector, and the international community. Through this partnership, various resources and expertise can be combined to create more effective solutions.

Overall, poverty management strategies in Papua require a holistic and integrated approach. With a focus on infrastructure development, education, economic empowerment, social security, health, community participation, strengthening local government, and collaboration among stakeholders, it is hoped that poverty in Papua can be significantly and sustainably reduced.

Closing:

A. Conclusion:

Papua faces a deep poverty challenge with the poverty rate reaching 26.8% in 2023, well above the national average. This problem is triggered by factors such as hard-to-reach geography, low quality of education, limited access to healthcare, and a large economic gap between natural wealth and people's welfare. Although the government has launched various programmes, such as Special Autonomy (Otsus), PKH, and BLT, challenges such as corruption and bureaucracy still hinder their effectiveness. Papua's potential natural and cultural wealth offers opportunities for development that can improve economic conditions, but requires a holistic approach and cooperation between the government and local communities to achieve optimal results.

Poverty alleviation programs in Papua have advantages such as infrastructure improvement,

social protection programs, human resource development, and local economic empowerment, which contribute to improved accessibility, direct assistance, and community capacity building. However, significant challenges such as lack of implementation effectiveness, community dependence on government assistance, uneven infrastructure development, low local community participation, and corruption problems hinder the positive impact of the program. To increase its effectiveness, improvements are needed in program implementation, a more participatory approach, and efforts to address corruption and development inequalities.

Poverty management in Papua Province requires a holistic and integrated approach, given the complex challenges faced, including difficult geographical conditions, social, political, and cultural factors. Effective strategies must include increasing access to education, empowering local economies, social security programmes, improving health, and strengthening local government. In addition, collaboration between the government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and local communities is essential to ensure that the programmes implemented are tailored to the specific needs of the Papuan community. With this comprehensive approach, it is hoped that poverty in Papua can be significantly and sustainably reduced.

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