

## Effectiveness of Implementing the Scholarship Program for North Morowali Regency Students

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### Abstract

*This research is to determine the effectiveness of the scholarship program for North Morowali Regency students. This analysis uses qualitative research with a descriptive approach. The informants for this research were the Head of the Department and Secretary of the Regional Education and Culture Service of North Morowali Regency, as well as three students who received regional scholarships. Information collection uses information techniques, interviews and documentation. In this research, data analysis uses the data condensation framework, data presentation, and drawing conclusions by Miles and Huberman. Meanwhile, the effectiveness indicators used in this research are Program Success, Target Success, Program Satisfaction, and Input and Output Levels. The conclusion of this research is that of the four indicators, target success has not gone well. The aspect of access to information by students is limited. Meanwhile, the other three indicators based on research have been running effectively.*

**Keywords** Effectiveness, Program, Regional Scholarships

### INTRODUCTION

In Law number 23 of 2014 there is an obligation for regional governments to provide guidance and development for human resources in their regions, in order to be able to increase competitiveness in the development process. A manifestation of the implementation of this Law is management arrangements, where primary education and secondary education are managed by the district/city government, while upper secondary education is managed by the provincial government. As for universities, even though their authority lies with the central government. However, regional governments still have a role to play in developing regional education. Ismail DP (et al 2022).

As quoted from Pulapdik Kemendikbudristek (2022) that providing scholarships is the government's effort to increase superior human resources and make a major contribution to reducing poverty rates. The mechanism for providing scholarships is one solution to break the chain of poverty. Generally, scholarships are given by the government and the private sector to underprivileged people to continue their studies at school and college. Meanwhile, financing comes from the central government through the APBN and for regional governments through the APBD.

Referring to Law number 20 of 2003 above, the North Morowali district government then issued Regent Regulation number 29 of 2021 concerning Technical Instructions for Implementing the Provision of Education Fee Assistance for North Morowali Regency Students. In article 3 of the Regency Regulation, it is stated that the recipients of this program are students from North Morowali as proven by KTP and Family Card as a prerequisite.

This scholarship program is a concrete manifestation of the regional government as outlined in the Regional Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMD) document for North Morowali district to achieve the regional vision for 2021 to 2026, namely "Creating a



*Healthy, Smart and Prosperous North Morowali Regency.*"In the second mission to increase the level of public education, one of the policy directions is to develop scholarships for students from poor households.

Based on the results of initial observations of problems related to the existence of this program, researchers then discovered, first, that students from North Morowali still had problems in accessing information services related to the regional scholarship program. Second, related to administrative files which were sent to the regional government manually even though the majority of students were in tertiary institutions far from North Morowali. For these two things, in 2021 the government launched a scholarship application, where one of the functions of this application is to make it easier for students to send their files online. But in practice, this application will only be used once, namely in 2023, after which students will again send administrative files manually or directly. and the third is that the limited human resources possessed by the Education and Culture Department are not accompanied by the number of students from North Morowali which continues to increase every year.

The North Morowali district government provides scholarships to students every semester to be used for payment of tuition fees, field practice fees and Real Work Lectures as well as other fees that adjust to the student's academic funding needs. For the odd semester of 2023, the North Morowali Regency Government allocated a budget of Rp. 3,150,000,000 which is intended for 2,100 students spread across universities in Indonesia from various levels of education, from D1 education programs to doctoral education programs.

Departing from this, researchers are interested in studying this regional scholarship program from the aspect of effectiveness because it refers to the definition of Tangkilisan (2004: 242) that effectiveness is the relationship between output and objectives, or it can also be said to be a measure of how far the level of output, policies and procedures are from an institution. Effectiveness is also related to the degree of success of an operation in the public sector so that an activity has a major influence on the ability to provide community services which is a predetermined target.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Previous Researchers

Dahlana Dewi Fitri (2017) conducted research with the title "The Role of Regional Government in the Education Sector: Scholarship Assistance for Underprivileged Communities in Kuantan Singingi Regency 2013-2016". This research departs from the phenomenon that the development of the underprivileged scholarship aid budget from 2013 to 2016 experienced fluctuations. The government allocated funds from the APBD in 2013 amounting to Rp. 500,000,000, then in 2014 it increased by 941,000,000, and in 2015 and 2016 the scholarship fund became Rp. 500,000,000. Using a government management approach, Dahlana Dewi Fitri concluded that scholarship recipient students felt that the budget they received was not sufficient to support their academic activities at university. and the budget experienced fluctuations above, as a result of the large number of misuses found in administrative files by students.

Research conducted by Nurazizah Syarif (2020) with the title "Implementation of Regional Government Policy in Providing Student Scholarships as an Effort to Improve the Quality of Education in East Luwu Regency". By using a qualitative approach, Nurazizah concluded that regional government policies in terms of providing scholarships to regional students were considered to have a positive impact. This can be seen from the increase in the budget amount made by the East Luwu regional government and the number of student participants who submitted documents to receive regional scholarships.

Further research was conducted by Rejeki Noviyanti in 2022 with the title "Literature Study of the Effect of Scholarships on Learning Achievement." The aim of this research is to determine the effect of scholarships on student learning achievement. Using the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method, researchers concluded that there is a relationship between scholarships and student learning achievement in higher education. In the sense that, the tendency for students to carry out their academic studies is because they no longer think about financial issues.

The research title "Effectiveness of the Riau Provincial Government Scholarship Assistance Program and its Impact on Education Quality" was conducted by Raudhatul Jannah (2023). This research aims to determine the effectiveness of the local government scholarship program for students. Using a quantitative approach where the number of respondents who filled out the questionnaire was 82 people. Jannah concluded that the Riau Province government scholarship assistance program was considered quite effective with a respondent presentation of 70.92% and this program also had an impact on the quality of education of scholarship recipient students with a presentation score of 54.9%.

The differences in research carried out by researchers are related to the effectiveness of administering scholarship programs for North Morowali Regency students, as seen in previous literature which can be identified from two things, the first is related to the research location. The research location is important in this study because the effectiveness of a program in North Morowali is influenced by geographic and demographic factors. These are two things that previous research did not have, even though they had the same topic. The second difference is related to the use of methods, where most previous research used quantitative methods to see the effectiveness of a scholarship program. Meanwhile, researchers in this study used qualitative methods. For researchers, qualitative methods can cover the shortcomings of the subjective view of quantitative methods. What the researcher means is that when the main quantitative instrument method is a questionnaire, the answers from respondents, in this case, students receiving regional scholarships, are very limited in accordance with the questions provided in the questionnaire. Meanwhile, the qualitative method can explore respondents' answers further because it does not provide closed questions to respondents as is done by questionnaires using quantitative methods.

### **Effectiveness Concept**

Effectiveness is a level of success produced by a person or organization in a certain way in accordance with the goals to be achieved. In other words, the more plans there are successfully achieved, an activity is considered to be more effective. The effectiveness of



the program is assessment or measurement of the extent to which the activities in the programs that have been carried out can achieve the initial objectives of the program.

The success of a program can be seen from the effectiveness of achieving the goals previously planned by the relevant organization.

According to Mardiasmo (2017:134) Effectiveness is a measure of the success or failure of an organization in achieving its goals. If an organization achieves its goals then the organization runs effectively.

According to Amin Tunggal Widjaya (1993: 32) Effectiveness is the result of decisions that lead to doing something correctly, which helps fulfill a company's mission or achieve goals.

According to Ravianto (2014: 11) effectiveness is something that is the tip of the spear in measuring the goodness of the work carried out. Work carried out is considered effective if it is carried out in accordance with the concept that has been designed in terms of time, cost and quality.

According to Gibson (2013: 46) Effectiveness is an assessment made regarding individual, group and organizational achievements. The closer their achievements are to the expected achievements (standards), the more effective they are considered to be.

### **Program Concept**

The program concept is a statement that contains the conclusion of several interdependent and interrelated hopes or goals, to achieve the same target. Usually, a program includes all activities that fall under the same administrative unit, or interdependent and complementary targets, all of which will be implemented simultaneously or sequentially.

According to Hans Hochholzer (2012:11) A program is a collection of real, systematic and integrated activities carried out by one or several government agencies in the framework of cooperation with the private sector and the community to achieve the stated goals and means.

Program effectiveness is an assessment or measurement of the extent to which the activities in the programs that have been carried out can achieve the initial objectives of the program. The level of effectiveness can be measured by comparing the plans that have been determined with the real results that have been realized. However, if the results of the work and actions taken are not appropriate, causing the goal not to be achieved, then it is said to be ineffective. Assessment of the level of program suitability is one way to measure program effectiveness.

### **Regional Scholarship Program**

Through a legal umbrella in the form of a mandate in the 1945 Constitution, the IV Amendment of 2002, the government then issued Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, where the provision of scholarships is one of the education financing instruments allocated by the government through the APBN and APBD.

On this basis, the North Morowali district government then issued North Morowali Regent Regulation number 29 of 2021 concerning Technical Instructions for Implementing

the Provision of Education Fee Assistance for North Morowali District Students. This education cost assistance comes from the North Morowali Regency Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget.

The targets of this scholarship program are active students who come from or reside in the North Morowali district who are currently studying at a university. For prospective recipients of the scholarship program, students are required to complete requirements such as Resident Identity Card (KTP), Family Card (KK), SPP/UKT Payment Slip, savings book, Student Identity Card (KTM), and Active Study Certificate.

The verification team formed by the North Morowali Regency Regional Education and Culture Service will select based on the administrative requirements above to determine regional scholarship recipients and then determine this through a Regent's Decree. The distribution of funds as mandated by Perbup number 29 of 2021 is carried out by the Regional Financial and Asset Management Agency to the accounts of each scholarship recipient student.

To monitor and evaluate the progress of this program, the regional government through the Education and Culture Service periodically monitors the responsibilities of scholarship recipient students. The form of accountability is regular study results reports (every six months/semester) submitted by recipient students to the North Morowali Regency Education and Culture Office. If the recipient does not fulfill these obligations, the regional government decides to no longer distribute the funds, meaning that the person concerned will be canceled as a regional scholarship recipient.

## **METHOD**

The type of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative, namely the data collected is in the form of words, images, not numbers. According to Bogdan and Taylor, as quoted by Lexy J. Moeleng, qualitative research produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior. The informants in this research are:

- a. Head of the North Morowali Regency Regional Education and Culture Service.
- b. Secretary of the Regional Education and Culture Service
- c. Regional Scholarship Recipient Students

The indicators used in this research are 1) Program Success. 2) Target Success. 3) Satisfaction with the Program, 4) Level of Output and Input.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Program Success**

The most important thing in seeing the success of this scholarship program for students from North Morowali is related to the effectiveness of this program in its realization. The main indicator studied is the ease of services that can be accessed and felt by the wider community, especially among students who are going to and are currently studying. This is in accordance with Campbell JP's statement (1989) where a program can be said to be effective if it meets one indicator, namely ease of accessing services.



Since 2021, the North Morowali district government has launched an application via the Regional Education and Culture Service website. One of the functions of this application is that apart from being a medium for sending files online, this application is also a place to distribute information related to regional scholarships.

However, until 2024, this application has only been used once, namely in the first year this application was launched. For students from North Morowali, especially those who want to access regional scholarship information, so far, they have only relied on information obtained through online forums, such as WhatsApp groups and Facebook.

The next indicator in the success of the regional scholarship program is meeting the needs of students who receive regional scholarships. For the North Morowali district government, in accordance with its vision, the aim of holding this program is '*Creating a Healthy, Smart and Prosperous North Morowali Regency*'. as expressed by Ridwan Dg. Malureng, S.Ag. as Head of the North Morowali Regency Regional Education and Culture Service.

"This Student Assistance Program really helps the North Morowali Community in improving human resources and is based on the vision and mission of the North Morowali district, namely "Creating a Healthy, Smart and Prosperous North Morowali Community".

As we all know, the existence of scholarships plays a crucial role in ensuring fair access to education for society, especially for those who are economically disadvantaged, the existence of scholarships can be the main driver in realizing their dreams of pursuing higher education. It can be said that the existence of scholarships comes from several aspects, first, educational accessibility allows students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to continue their education without having to be burdened by high costs at university.

*Second*, Encouraging Achievement makes it possible to focus on academic and non-academic achievements. Third, Equalizing Opportunities enables all levels of society without exception to be able to access higher education. Fourth, long-term investment requires soft skills and hard skills which are very much needed in an era where development is quite massive, and scholarship recipients will ultimately contribute to regional development when they finish their studies. Ultimately, the existence of scholarships for students who come from economically disadvantaged families will not only provide individual benefits for scholarship recipients but will have a positive impact in creating an inclusive society.

The researcher's conclusion regarding the success aspect of the scholarship program for students from North Morowali, if viewed from the ease of access to services, is that the presence of the regional government through WAG helps students to be able to access services even though the application launched by the regional government can only be used in 2023. Apart from that, collaboration between the government and regional student associations provides an alternative solution for students who experience problems in 'going home' to submit administrative documents for applications to obtain scholarships. On the other hand, this program helps students to focus on carrying out their study activities without thinking about financial issues.

### Goal Success

Another indicator seen in relation to the regional scholarship program for students from North Morowali district is the success of the program. This indicator emphasizes effectiveness where an organization must consider the targets and objectives of this regional scholarship program. Simply put, how the targets of this program are in accordance with established policies. Therefore, researchers will first start the analysis related to the target problem and then continue with the objectives of this program.

If you refer to the technical instructions for implementing the provision of educational assistance funds, North Morowali Regent Regulation Number 29 of 2021 in article 2, regional scholarships are given to students who have the required documents: a) photocopy of student identity card which proves that the student concerned comes from the region. b) photocopy of the family card of the student whose status is a child. If the student has the status of an adopted child, this must be accompanied by a certificate from the court. c) photocopy of the current semester tuition fee payment slip. d) photocopy of bank savings book in the name of the student concerned e) photocopy of student card. f) certificate of active study signed by the Chancellor/Dean of the Institution (University/Academy/High School). g) photocopy of Study Plan Card. h) photocopy of the Study Results Card or Letter of Information to Replace the Study Results Card for students in semester 2 and above. i) a statement letter of willingness to accept and use/make use of assistance according to the provisions. And j) certificate of passing the college entrance test for new students.

Next, submit the proposed file to the Regent through the Head of Service. The files are then screened to determine whether the person concerned is eligible to take part in this program or vice versa by a verification team formed by the department.

For student aid recipients in 2023, the regional government has budgeted Rp. 3,150,000,000 which was distributed to 2,100 students studying at various universities in Indonesia. The number of students varies between sub-districts, the details of which can be seen from the following secondary data.

#### 2023 Odd Student Assistance Recipients

No	Subdistrict	Number of Students	Amount Received	Total number
1	Upper Mori	262	Rp. 1,500,000	Rp. 393,000,000
2	North Mori	134	Rp. 1,500,000	IDR 201,000,000
3	Lembo	284	Rp. 1,500,000	Rp. 426,000,000
4	Lembo Raya	104	Rp. 1,500,000	Rp. 156,000,000
5	Soyo Jaya	99	Rp. 1,500,000	Rp. 148,500,000
6	North Bungku	238	Rp. 1,500,000	Rp. 357,000,000
7	Mamosalato	165	Rp. 1,500,000	Rp. 247,500,000
8	Petasia	491	Rp. 1,500,000	IDR 736,500,000
9	West Petasia	113	Rp. 1,500,000	Rp. 169,500,000
10	East Petasia	210	Rp. 1,500,000	IDR 315,000,000
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>2100</b>		<b>IDR 3,150,000,000</b>



The education aspect is an aspect that has a major contribution to the Human Development Index (HDI) in North Morowali district. One of the supports is the existence of this scholarship program which is intended for students who will or are currently studying at university. This has been proven, the HDI value of North Morowali district has increased and is currently in sixth place out of 12 districts and one city in Central Sulawesi Province as stated by researchers at the beginning.

### **Satisfaction with the Program**

The next aspect studied by researchers related to the regional government scholarship program for students is satisfaction with this program. The higher the quality of the program provided, the higher the satisfaction felt by the recipient, which can lead to a good assessment of the sustainability of local government programs.

Scholarships are an important instrument that has a significant impact on students in supporting academic activities and self-development. With scholarships, students can experience various benefits which directly or indirectly have a positive impact on the development of their education and careers in the future. Apart from easing the financial burden, this regional scholarship program also provides encouragement for students to excel.

From several information and statements from informants, the existence of regional scholarships for North Morowali students is generally satisfied. Even though the nominal amount received is Rp. 1,500,000, for the recipients this is not that important, at least they are helped by this program. Apart from that, the response from parents of regional scholarship recipients was also positive regarding the existence of this program.

### **Input and Output Levels**

Next, researchers will examine the effectiveness of the input and output of the regional scholarship program for students from North Morowali. According to (Campbell JP, 1989) Input and output levels can be studied by comparing input and output. If the output is greater than the input, then the program can be said to be efficient and if it shows otherwise that the input is greater than the output, then it is certain that the program has failed or is inefficient.

To get a comparison of the two, the researcher then asked the government what obstacles were faced in implementing this program. According to the Secretary of the Regional Education and Culture Service, there are several points to note regarding the implementation of this program. First, the slowness of students in submitting files is caused by two factors, namely access to information and students' habits of collecting files before registration closes. Second, sending files not on time. And third is related to the completeness of the files.

In anticipating these obstacles, the regional government does not require students to come directly to the Disdikbud office, meaning that the collection of files can be done by relatives if the student is far from North Morowali. Apart from that, the government is building a partnership relationship with the North Morowali student association organization to assist the government in socializing this program as well as acting as an intermediary for



the government. For those whose files are deemed incomplete, the local government will contact the person concerned directly via the WhatsApp Group to immediately complete the files.

From the statements and observations of researchers in the field to see the suitability of input and output, the researcher can say that this regional scholarship program has been running effectively because the obstacles faced, both from the government and students as the target of this program, can be overcome from the solutions offered as stated by the Department Secretary. on.

## **CLOSING**

### **Conclusion**

The effectiveness of implementing the regional scholarship program for North Morowali Regency students is effective if you look at three aspects, namely target success, satisfaction with the program, and the level of input and output. While the success aspect of the program can be said to be effective, it is accompanied by several notes as input for improving this aspect.

From the results of the researchers' research, the availability of access to information related to regional scholarships is still limited. Informants confirmed that the majority of students from North Morowali received information related to regional scholarships relying on information from friends. For prospective recipients and scholarship recipients, the obstacle faced is the problem of sending files. Indeed, in 2023, they will be helped by the availability of student assistance applications via the website to send files, but after that they will not use.

### **Suggestion**

Based on the conclusions from the results of research conducted by researchers regarding the effectiveness of providing scholarships for students at the Regional Education and Culture Office of North Morowali Regency, in this thesis the researcher provides two suggestions as input for the effectiveness of this program, namely.

1. For the North Morowali Regency government, according to research conducted by researchers, this program really helps students in carrying out their academic and non-academic activities.
2. The improvement needed is the problem of reactivating the scholarship application. So that the public and students as the targets of this program can get information directly, as well as making it easier to send files.

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