

Implementation of Public Policy to Achieve Sustainable Development: Challenges and Strategies

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze and understand various challenges and effective strategies in implementing public policies for sustainable development. The research method used is a descriptive qualitative approach, with data obtained from a review of related literature. The data is processed and analyzed to identify relevant trends and patterns. The research results show that coordination between agencies, adapting policies to local conditions, limited funding, and community participation are the main challenges in policy implementation. Effective strategies include developing cooperation, policy flexibility, innovative funding, and improving communication and public education. Technology, particularly in information and communications, has proven important in increasing transparency and efficiency. Response to climate change and adaptation to global economic and geopolitical challenges are also critical aspects. In conclusion, a collaborative and adaptive approach is needed to overcome these challenges and achieve effective sustainable development.

Keywords: Challenges, Implementation, Public Policy, Strategy, Sustainable Development.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis dan memahami berbagai tantangan dan strategi efektif dalam implementasi kebijakan publik untuk pembangunan berkelanjutan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, dengan data yang diperoleh dari tinjauan literatur terkait. Data diproses dan dianalisis untuk mengidentifikasi tren dan pola yang relevan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa koordinasi antar lembaga, penyesuaian kebijakan dengan kondisi lokal, keterbatasan dana, dan partisipasi masyarakat menjadi tantangan utama dalam implementasi kebijakan. Strategi yang efektif mencakup pengembangan kerja sama, fleksibilitas kebijakan, pendanaan inovatif, dan peningkatan komunikasi dan pendidikan masyarakat. Teknologi, khususnya di bidang informasi dan komunikasi, terbukti penting dalam meningkatkan transparansi dan efisiensi. Respons terhadap perubahan iklim dan adaptasi terhadap tantangan ekonomi dan geopolitik global juga merupakan aspek penting. Kesimpulannya, pendekatan kolaboratif dan adaptif diperlukan untuk mengatasi tantangan-tantangan ini dan mencapai pembangunan berkelanjutan yang efektif.

Kata Kunci: Tantangan, Implementasi, Kebijakan Publik, Strategi, Pembangunan Berkelanjutan.

INTRODUCTION

In this era, various countries in the world, including Indonesia, face various complex challenges in pursuing sustainable development goals. This challenge is not only economic but also includes social, environmental, and political aspects. Sustainable development itself aims to meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This demands a holistic and integrated approach to public policy (Fatimah et al., 2020). In the last decade, Indonesia has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable development (Kristian, 2022b). This is reflected in various programs and initiatives that have been launched by the government, such as sustainable

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infrastructure development, increasing access to education and health, as well as environmental conservation efforts. However, challenges in implementing public policies to achieve these goals remain a crucial issue. One of the main challenges is coordination and synchronization between government agencies which is often less effective. This problem often results in redundancy and inefficiency in policy execution (Gunawan et al., 2020).

Apart from that, there are also challenges in terms of adapting policies to local conditions. Policies designed at the national level are sometimes not always relevant to specific conditions at the regional level, given the geographic and social diversity that exists in Indonesia. This calls for a more flexible and adaptive approach to policy design and implementation. Funding is also an important challenge in implementing public policies for sustainable development (Talitha et al., 2020). There are often limited financial resources to support planned programs. This has not infrequently resulted in the postponement or even termination of several important initiatives. In addition, the importance of ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of funds is a critical aspect of gaining public trust and support from various stakeholders (Gkrimpizi et al., 2023).

Public awareness and participation are also important factors in the successful implementation of public policies. Although the government has a central role in policy-making, active support and involvement from the community are very necessary. There is often a gap between the policies made and community understanding and participation. This requires an effective communication strategy to build awareness and invite community participation in various sustainable development programs (Khorram-Manesh et al., 2021). The rapid development of technology and information in this digital era also provides opportunities as well as challenges in implementing public policy. On the one hand, technology can be used to increase efficiency and effectiveness in managing sustainable development programs. However, on the other hand, rapid changes in technology also require policies that are responsive and adaptive to these developments (Alam et al., 2021).

Dynamic global conditions, such as climate change, economic crises, and geopolitical challenges, also have a significant impact on sustainable development efforts in Indonesia. Climate change, for example, has become a real threat that affects various aspects of life, from the availability of clean water to the stability of food production. This demands a rapid and effective policy response to address possible impacts. In this context, the importance of evaluating and formulating appropriate strategies in implementing public policies for sustainable development becomes very crucial (Halkos & Aslanidis, 2023). This study aims to not only identify the challenges faced in the implementation process but also develop strategies that can be applied to overcome these various obstacles. Through a deep understanding of the challenges faced, it is hoped that we can make an important contribution to policy makers, practitioners, and academics in realizing sustainable development in Indonesia (Kristian, 2022b).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public Policy

Policy serves as a tool for governance, encompassing not just the functions of the state machinery but also the broader aspect of administering public assets. At their core, policies represent determinations or selected strategies that oversee the allocation and control of natural, monetary, and human resources, aiming to advantage the populace, including individuals, communities, or the citizenry. It emerges as an outcome of collaboration, negotiation, or sometimes rivalry among diverse concepts, philosophies, beliefs, and agendas that reflect the political framework of a nation (Kadarisman et al., 2022).

Heinz Eulau and Kenneth Prewitt describe public policy as a steadfast decision marked by uniformity and recurrent conduct of both the decision-makers and those who adhere to it. Carl Friedrich, on the other hand, views policy as a sequence of proposed actions or initiatives by an individual, group, or government within a specific setting, particularly one characterized by challenges and opportunities. The purpose of such policy is to be effective in surmounting these obstacles to realize the desired objective (Lele, 2023).

Bridgman & Davis interpret public policy broadly as 'whatever governments opt to do or refrain from doing'. Conversely, Hogwood and Gunn define it more specifically as a series of government measures intended to attain particular outcomes. However, the concept of 'policy' is not exclusive or predominantly tied to governmental bodies. Non-governmental entities, like Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Social Organizations (such as Karang Taruna, Family Welfare Education/PKK), and other volunteer-based institutions, also develop and implement their own policies (Toshkov et al., 2022).

Bridgeman & Davis elucidate that public policy encompasses at least three interconnected aspects: as an objective or goal, as a legally sanctioned or authoritative course of action, and as a hypothesis or theoretical proposition.

1. Public policy as a goal

Public policy fundamentally focuses on accomplishing public objectives. This implies that public policy consists of various actions undertaken by the government, aimed at attaining specific outcomes that are anticipated or desired by the citizens, who constitute the government's electorate (Cashore et al., 2021).

2. Public policy as a legal choice of action

Policy decisions are deemed legal or authoritative due to their origination from institutions that possess legitimacy within the governmental framework. These decisions obligate public officials to undertake specific actions or guide the selection of activities, such as drafting proposed legislation or governmental regulations for parliamentary review, or allocating funds for the execution of certain programs (Dijkstra & Raadschelders, 2022).

3. Public policy as a hypothesis

Policies are formulated on the basis of theories, models, or hypotheses concerning causality. They invariably depend on suppositions about human behavior. Incentives are an integral part of policies, designed to motivate individuals towards certain actions. Conversely, policies also incorporate disincentives to discourage certain behaviors. It is essential for policies to integrate projections about potential successes and devise mechanisms to address any failures that might arise (Tian et al., 2022).

Based on the aforementioned definitions, we can identify several key features of public policy. Firstly, it generally concentrates on purposeful actions with a distinct aim, as opposed to arbitrary or fluctuating behaviors. Secondly, public policy encompasses sequences or patterns of activities conducted by government officials, rather than standalone decisions. Thirdly, public policy is defined by the actual actions taken by the government, such as regulating trade, managing inflation, or providing public housing, and not by its intended or future plans (Leckel et al., 2020). Fourthly, public policy can manifest in both positive and negative forms. On the positive side, it entails distinct government actions directed at addressing a specific issue. Negatively, it can mean a conscious decision by government officials to refrain from action or to remain inactive, even in situations where government intervention is crucial. Fifthly, public policy, in its positive aspect, is fundamentally based on legal grounds and represents an act of governance (Coyne et al., 2021).

Public Policy Implementation

Implementation represents a critical phase in the public policy process and typically occurs after the policy has been formulated with defined objectives. From the viewpoint of the cyclical theory, implementation is recognized as a crucial stage in the policy cycle, particularly following the conclusion of formal legal discourse. This discourse usually manifests in various forms such as laws, regulations, decrees, or other official documents, and is considered complete once the implementation phase begins (Chaves-Avila & Gallego-Bono, 2020).

In its widest scope, implementation is frequently viewed as a process of operationalizing or executing activities that have been established by law and agreed upon by a range of stakeholders. This involves various actors and organizations, both public and private, as well as specific procedures and synergistic techniques. These elements are collectively mobilized to collaboratively execute policies in certain desired directions (Koff et al., 2020).

Daniel A. Mazmanian and Paul A. Sabatier, explain the meaning of this implementation by saying, "Understanding what happens after a program is declared effective or formulated is a factor of concern for policy implementation, namely events and activities that arise after the enactment of public policy guidelines which include both efforts to administer them and to cause real consequences/impacts on society or events" (Mintrom & True, 2022).

Beyond these definitions, policy implementation can also be understood as a process, an output, and an ultimate result. Following this line of reasoning, policy implementation can be conceptualized as a process comprising a sequence of decisions and actions. These are specifically geared towards enacting government decisions or state legislative decisions that have been previously made or formulated (Ayuningtyas et al., 2021).

According to Van Meter and Van Horn, policy implementation involves actions executed by individuals, officials, government entities, or private groups, all aimed at realizing the objectives set forth in policy decisions. On the other hand, Daniel Mazmanian and Paul Sabater view policy implementation as the enactment of fundamental policy decisions, which are typically manifested in the form of laws. However, it can also encompass significant executive orders or decisions, or judgments from judicial bodies. Commonly, such a decision clearly defines the problem that needs addressing, explicitly outlines the goals or objectives to be met, and details various methods for structuring or organizing the implementation process (Nutbeam & Muscat, 2021).

Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development is a combination of four development theories, namely; Balanced development theory which emphasizes the balance of society between agriculture, mining, industry, etc. The development theory of fulfilling basic needs which emphasizes fulfilling basic human needs, namely food, clothing, shelter, education, and health. Equity theory emphasizes equal distribution of income and reducing disparities. Quality development theory emphasizes improving environmental quality and human quality to obtain quality of life (Javanmardi et al., 2023).

The World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainable development as a character of development that meets current needs without disrupting equal opportunities for future generations to obtain opportunities like today. Its emergence cannot be separated from the 1992 Rio de Janeiro meeting at the Earth Summit. At that summit, participants reached a consensus to define it as development that is focused on fulfilling human needs through the prudent and effective utilization of

natural resources, while also taking into account the sustainability of their use for both current and future generations (Hummels & Argyrou, 2021).

Beker and Elliot contend that, over the past two decades, sustainable development has emerged as a principal guideline in policy formulation at both international and national levels. Krysiak further observes that this issue has gained significant attention and has become a guiding principle in the business or corporate sector. The fundamental concept of sustainable development revolves around the fulfillment of basic human needs and the recognition of limitations. It underscores the necessity to meet human needs, while acknowledging that nature's provision for these needs is finite. Therefore, it is imperative for humans to utilize these resources optimally and judiciously (Ruggerio, 2021).

Several things must be considered in sustainable development, namely; The development process should continue continuously. The better the quality of the environment, the better the influence on the quality of life. The use of non-renewable natural resources is carried out as economically as possible and other alternative resources are sought. The development carried out makes it possible to improve the welfare of the current generation without reducing the opportunities of future generations (Mamirkulova et al., 2020).

The relationship between forest management approaches and sustainable development makes it possible for future generations to participate in making current policies. So that there is the same opportunity for them to use the forest as the current generation. Sustainable forest development requires preserving forests from existing ecosystems so that the benefits of forests can be felt by future generations (Kristian, 2022a). Where forests are not only utilized optimally but also maintained. So that it can realize sustainable benefits by providing added economic value, benefiting communities around forest areas, and maintaining the potential of natural resources. This is a manifestation of the ideals of forestry development in Indonesia; sustainable forestry development or sustainable forest development (Sheppard et al., 2020).

Sustainable development refers to a process of growth (whether in land, community, village, region, business, etc.) that adheres to the principle of "satisfying the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The term is a translation of the English phrase "sustainable development." A key challenge in achieving sustainable development is the task of addressing environmental degradation without sacrificing the imperative for economic development and social justice (Adamowicz & Zwolińska-Ligaj, 2020).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is designed to provide an in-depth understanding of the implementation of public policies to realize sustainable development, by facing a series of challenges and implementing various strategies. To achieve this aim, this research will be carried out using a descriptive qualitative approach. This method was chosen because of its ability to explore and understand complex phenomena related to public policy and sustainable development. This approach allows researchers to capture the nuances and in-depth context of the issues at hand, as well as understand the various perspectives involved in the policy implementation process. The data sources in this research come from various research results and previous studies that are relevant to the topic discussed (Subagyo et al., 2023). This data will be collected through an extensive literature review, including academic journals, and research reports. After the data has been successfully collected, the next step is to process the data systematically. This process will be carried out with analysis that can help in understanding the dynamics of public policy implementation in the context of sustainable development. It is hoped that the results of this analysis will provide new

insights and valuable recommendations for policy makers, practitioners, and other stakeholders in realizing effective and inclusive sustainable development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Challenges in Implementing Public Policies for Sustainable Development

Implementation of public policies for sustainable development often encounters various complex and multidimensional challenges, one of which is coordination between government agencies. This challenge arises because of the need to synchronize policies and actions between various agencies, both at the central and regional levels. Effective coordination between various government institutions is key to implementing sustainable development policies as a whole. However, the reality that often occurs is that there are policy silos that are isolated and not integrated, which causes redundancy and inefficiency. For example, environmental policies made by one agency may not be in sync with economic policies made by other agencies, thereby hindering sustainable development efforts. This ineffective coordination is often also caused by differences in vision, mission, and priorities between agencies, as well as limitations in sharing information and resources.

Furthermore, the challenge of adapting policies to local conditions is another important aspect. Policies created at the national level are often designed based on general views and needs, which may not be completely relevant or effective when implemented at the local level under specific conditions. Indonesia, for example, is an archipelagic country with very wide geographical, cultural, and social diversity. Policies that are effective in one area may not apply or even be counterproductive in other areas. This challenge calls for a more flexible and adaptive approach to policy design and implementation, where a deep understanding of local conditions is critical. Policy-makers need to continuously evaluate and make adjustments to the policies that have been made to better suit the specific conditions and needs of each region.

In the context of sustainable development, limited funding is also a significant challenge. Policy implementation often requires substantial financial resources, but in reality, many sustainable development programs experience funding limitations. This not only slows down the implementation process but can also reduce the scope and quality of the planned program. These funding limitations can come from various factors, such as limited government budgets, lack of support from the private sector, or insufficient aid funds from international institutions. This situation requires the government to be more creative and innovative in finding financing solutions, for example through public-private collaboration, utilizing corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds, or developing new financial instruments that are attractive to investors.

Finally, the challenge of building public awareness and participation is no less important. Sustainable development requires support and active involvement from all levels of society. However, there is often a gap between the policies made and the level of community understanding and participation. Many people do not realize the importance of sustainable development or do not understand how they can contribute. Therefore, building effective communication and providing adequate education to the public is very important. The policies designed must be accompanied by effective communication and outreach strategies to increase public awareness. In addition, providing space for community participation in the process of making and implementing policies can increase the sense of ownership and commitment to sustainable development.

Overcoming challenges in implementing public policies for sustainable development requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, involving various stakeholders, from government, the private sector, and society, to the international community.

Effective Strategy in Policy Implementation

In efforts to realize sustainable development through public policy, the importance of effective strategies cannot be underestimated. One key strategy is the development of collaborative frameworks that enable increased coordination and cooperation between government agencies, as well as between government, the private sector, and civil society. This collaboration is important to ensure that sustainable development policies and programs are integrated and mutually support each other. Collaborative frameworks enable the sharing of resources, knowledge, and expertise, and facilitate more effective problem-solving. Through this collaboration, each party can contribute according to its strengths and capacities, while ensuring that sustainable development policies reflect the needs and aspirations of various groups in society.

Furthermore, policy flexibility and adaptation are important in dealing with changing conditions and challenges in various regions. Policies that are rigid and unable to adapt to local environmental, social, and economic changes will be less effective and can even be counterproductive. Therefore, sustainable development policies must be designed in such a way that they can adapt to specific local conditions. This includes considering factors such as geographic, demographic, cultural, and economic conditions. This adaptive approach also allows policies to be more responsive to feedback and input from the community so that they can continue to be refined according to changing needs and conditions.

Innovative funding mechanisms are also key in implementing sustainable development policies. Given the limited government budget and the need for sustainable funding sources, innovative approaches such as public-private partnerships, fundraising through alternative financial instruments, and utilization of CSR funds are highly relevant. These approaches not only help in financing policies and programs but can also increase the involvement and ownership of the private sector and society in sustainable development efforts. Additionally, these innovative funding mechanisms can trigger investment in green technologies and sustainable practices, which in turn can help in achieving sustainable development goals.

Finally, strengthening communication and public education is another important strategy. Effective communication is important to build public awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainable development, and how they can contribute. Public education can be carried out through various channels, including mass media, social campaigns, workshops, and educational programs in schools. By increasing public understanding and awareness, it is hoped that they can encourage their active participation in various sustainable development initiatives. Apart from that, good communication between the government and the community is also important for collecting input and feedback, which can be used to improve and adjust sustainable development policies and programs.

Effective strategies in implementing public policies for sustainable development must include collaborative approaches, policy flexibility and adaptation, innovative funding mechanisms, and strengthening public communication and education. Through this approach, strong synergy can be created between the government, the private sector, and society, which will ultimately encourage the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development.

Use of Technology in Policy Implementation

The use of technology in the implementation of public policies, especially in the context of sustainable development, is a crucial aspect that offers great potential to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the process. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in particular, plays an important role in modernizing the way governments and public institutions work. The use of ICT in government, often referred to as e-governance, opens up opportunities to increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency in policy implementation. An integrated information system enables the collection, processing, and dissemination of information more quickly and accurately, facilitates coordination between government agencies, and strengthens data-based decision-making capacity. In addition, the digitalization of public services can improve access and quality of services for the public, as well as minimize the risk of corruption and bureaucratic errors.

In addition, technological innovation is not only important in administrative and management aspects but also in direct application in various sectors to support the achievement of sustainable development goals. For example, in the energy sector, the development and use of renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines, and bioenergy can help reduce dependence on fossil energy sources, which has an impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment. In the agricultural sector, technologies such as smart irrigation systems, the use of drones for crop monitoring, and data-driven precision farming applications can increase the efficiency of natural resource use and agricultural productivity, while reducing environmental impacts.

Technology also plays an important role in overcoming the challenges of urbanization and sustainable city development. Smart city development that utilizes information and communication technology for more efficient city management, including aspects of transportation, waste management, and energy efficiency, is the key to creating a sustainable, comfortable, and inclusive urban environment. On the other hand, digital technology and big data can be used to monitor and evaluate the implementation of sustainable development policies, providing valuable insights for the continuous improvement of policies and programs.

However, the use of this technology must also pay attention to aspects of data security and privacy, as well as accessibility for all levels of society. Not all regions have the same access to technology, so the government needs to ensure that digital initiatives do not leave out certain groups of society. Apart from that, increasing the capacity of human resources in managing and utilizing technology is also an important factor in the successful use of technology for implementing sustainable development policies.

The use of technology in implementing public policies for sustainable development offers many advantages. Information and Communication Technology can increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency, while technological innovation in various sectors supports the achievement of sustainable development goals. However, it is also important to ensure that the use of this technology is inclusive, safe, and sustainable.

Facing the Impact of Global Change on Sustainable Development

Facing the impact of global change, particularly related to climate change and economic and geopolitical fluctuations, is the main challenge in implementing sustainable development. Response to climate change, as a critical issue, requires a comprehensive strategy in designing public policy. These policies must not only focus on mitigating the impacts of climate change, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and using renewable energy but also on adapting to existing and future impacts, such as increasing resilience to natural disasters and changing weather patterns. This requires cross-sector

collaboration, from more sustainable urban planning, and wise management of natural resources, to initiatives in the fields of agriculture and more environmentally friendly energy.

In addition, global economic and geopolitical challenges also affect the sustainability of development. Global economic uncertainty, such as commodity price fluctuations, financial crises, or changes in global supply chains, requires flexible and adaptive public policies. In this case, economic diversification is the key to reducing dependence on certain sectors and increasing national economic resilience. Additionally, in a geopolitical context, relationships between countries and economic blocs influence access to resources, markets, and technology. Smart foreign policy and effective economic diplomacy are crucial to ensure that countries can safeguard their national interests in the context of sustainable development.

Responses to these global challenges require a holistic and integrated approach. In designing public policies, the government needs to consider various factors, including environmental, social, economic, and political impacts. Policies that focus too much on one aspect may create new problems or increase vulnerabilities in other aspects. Therefore, policy makers need to analyze comprehensively and continuously monitor global developments, both in terms of the environment, economy, and geopolitics, to ensure that the policies designed are sustainable and effective in the long term.

Developing public policies that are responsive to global change also requires active participation from various stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and the international community. Collaboration and dialogue between various parties can help in identifying the most appropriate and sustainable solutions. In addition, investment in research and development, as well as education and public awareness, is key to building national capacity to face global change and effectively implement sustainable development.

Facing the impact of global change in the context of sustainable development requires comprehensive, adaptive, and integrated policies. Responses to climate change and adaptation to global economic and geopolitical challenges must be managed in a way that takes into account various aspects and involves all stakeholders, to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of these policies in the long term.

CONCLUSION

Implementing public policies to realize sustainable development is a complex and challenging process. These challenges include coordination between government agencies, adapting policies to local conditions, limited funding, and community participation. To overcome these challenges, effective strategies are needed that involve developing collaborative frameworks, flexible and adaptive policies, innovative funding mechanisms, and strengthening public communication and education. The use of technology, especially in the field of information and communication, also has an important role in increasing the transparency and efficiency of policy implementation. Technological innovation can support various sectors in achieving sustainable development goals. Furthermore, facing the impacts of global change, especially climate change and economic and geopolitical dynamics, requires a comprehensive and adaptive response from public policy. The strategy taken must be able to respond effectively to climate change and adapt to global economic and geopolitical challenges. In all these aspects, the importance of collaboration between sectors and the involvement of various stakeholders is the main key. Thus, integrated efforts from the government, private sector, civil society, and the international community are needed to ensure the successful implementation of public policies for sustainable development. Future research could explore the development and effectiveness of cross-sectoral

partnerships in public policy for sustainable development, focusing on how these collaborations can address the challenges of climate change, economic, and geopolitical dynamics. This research should investigate best practices for facilitating such partnerships and their impact on policy outcomes.

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