

EVALUATION OF PRIORITY PATHWAYS IN THE STAGES OF ACCEPTANCE FOR THE RESILIENT YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP IN SURABAYA CITY

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Abstract

The Surabaya City Resilient Youth Scholarship Program is a strategic initiative of the Surabaya City Government in supporting the equalization of higher education for economically disadvantaged people in the orphan category. This study aims to evaluate the priority pathways in the scholarship acceptance stages using a qualitative descriptive approach. Based on William Dunn's policy evaluation theory, six main indicators, namely effectiveness, efficiency, adequacy, equity, responsiveness, and feasibility, are used as the basis for analysis. The results of the study indicate that this program has been able to reach students from orphan and poor family backgrounds in a targeted manner, there are still obstacles in the form of limited quotas and strict tiered selection and high academic requirements. The Surabaya City Government has demonstrated responsiveness through the provision of a digital information platform (BeSmart) and a needs-based field survey. Continuous evaluation and improvement efforts are still needed so that this program can provide broader and more equitable benefits for Surabaya residents.

Keywords: Resilient Youth Scholarship, Policy Evaluation, Higher Education, Education Equity, Surabaya City

A. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the planned efforts to ensure that there is equal access to quality learning (Utomo, 2023). According to the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Article 28C paragraph 1 of 1945, everyone has the right to strive for self-development by meeting basic needs. Arts, culture, science and technology will improve the standard of living and contribute to the progress of the nation (Gulo, 2022). From this law, education plays a very important role, so the government must implement it fairly. Therefore, efforts to equalize education throughout Indonesia must also be considered so that the benefits of education can be felt by people spread across various regions of Indonesia (Rosita, 2023). According to (Dimmera, 2020) Equalization of Education is a basic benchmark for regional progress with improvements in education that are carried out gradually with the hope of improving the

quality of education that is better and more equitable. In one of the regions in Indonesia, namely the province of East Java, the population is 41 million people, taken from data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of East Java Province in 2024 (Novitasari et al., 2021). East Java Province has a poor population of 4.181 million people in 2022, where the poverty rate had increased to 4.1888 million people in 2023, which is equivalent to 10% of the population of East Java Province and improved again in 2024 to 3.982 million poor people.

Table 1. Number of Poor Population in Regency/City in East Java

<i>Regency/City</i>	<i>Number of Poor Population by Regency/City in East Java (Thousand People)</i>		
	2022	2023	2024
Surabaya City	138,21	136,37	116,62
East Java	4.181,29	4.188,81	3.982,69

Source : jatim.bps.go.id

The capital city of East Java Province, namely Surabaya City, has a role as the second largest city in Indonesia, with a population of 3 million people based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Surabaya City in 2024. In implementing equal education to improve the welfare of the people of Surabaya City, it is faced with the challenge of overcoming poverty which is enough to make the Surabaya City government have to make policies that can help improve the welfare of the people (Fadil et al., 2023). Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Surabaya City, the percentage of poor people in Surabaya City in 2023 was 4.65% of the total population. This level of poverty affects the community in considering the sustainability of education, especially at the tertiary level (Rahayu, 2023).

Table 2. Population by Type of Education in Surabaya in 2024

<i>Population by type of education in Surabaya in 2024</i>			
Educational level	Male	Female	Total
High School/Equivalent	419.889	394.760	814.649
D4/S1	144.031	153.415	297.446

Source : Surabayakota.bps.go.id

Quoting directly from the data upload of the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Surabaya City in 2024 regarding the population by type of education, there were a number of high school graduates/equivalent of 814,649 people and at the next level there was a significant decrease in the number of people at the tertiary level where 297,446 people continued their studies at tertiary institutions. This number is influenced by the limited access of the community to education at the tertiary level and the lack of government role in equalizing education in order to improve the welfare of the people of Surabaya City.

Therefore, the Surabaya City government took a role in this problem by initiating a program to pursue education, namely the Resilient Youth Scholarship. The Resilient Youth Scholarship is regulated in the Surabaya Mayor's Regulation Number 135 of 2022 concerning

the Procedures for Granting Scholarships and the Surabaya City Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office was chosen as the new government agency that handles the provision of the scholarship for student groups. This program provides assistance in the form of students receiving Single Tuition Fee (UKT) financing until they graduate with a 4-year S1/D4 education period (Dwi, Isbandono, 2024). Not only that, students will also receive other rights in the form of tuition assistance of IDR 750,000.00 per semester which is used for various college needs and pocket money of IDR 500,000.00 which is given every month through the bank account of each scholarship recipient and these rights are clearly stated in the Surabaya Mayor Regulation Number 135 of 2022 Article 16.

With the availability of the Surabaya City Government in implementing this Resilient Youth Scholarship program, there is a complex problem between the quota provided for students and students in need (Irianto et al, 2024). The quota covered by the Surabaya City Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office is 3,500 students, but according to the Head of the Youth Division of the Surabaya City Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office, he explained that when conducting a field survey there were 8,500 quotas that needed and met the category of student selection provisions in 2025. With several aspects considered by the Surabaya City Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office, the first category is orphans, orphans, and orphans. The second category is economic limitations with the Disbudporapar conducting a direct field survey to consider which students are prioritized. The third category has an academic value based on a cumulative achievement index above 3.5. And the last category is that students are studying at 14 universities that have implemented a cooperation agreement with the Surabaya city government.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Public policy according to Thomas R. Dye, in his writing entitled "Understanding Public Policy" states that public policy is everything that the government wants to do or not do. The government does various things, starting from the government organizing society, managing conflicts in society, providing services to the community, distributing symbolic awards, and collecting taxes from the community (2013).

(Dunn, 2003) explains that evaluation is the process of assessing the level of achievement of goals. Policy evaluation, in this case, is a process that combines interpretation, assessment, and measurement of a policy with the aim of assessing its value and usefulness (Subianto, 2020). According to (Dunn, 2003) the main function of policy evaluation is to provide valid information about the performance of a policy.

(Dunn, 2003) formulated six main criteria in evaluating policies, namely effectiveness, efficiency, adequacy, equity, responsiveness, and feasibility:

1. Effectiveness measures the success of a policy in achieving its goals.
2. Efficiency is the optimal use of resources to achieve effectiveness, with a comparison between effort and results measured financially.
3. Adequacy indicates the extent to which a policy can meet needs or expectations in solving problems.
4. Equity emphasizes fairness in the distribution of policy benefits and burdens so that the results are fair to the community.

5. Responsiveness reflects the ability of a policy to adapt to the needs and aspirations of the community.
6. Feasibility assesses the suitability of values, goals, and assumptions in choosing the most appropriate policy alternatives.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach to deeply understand the implementation of the Resilient Youth Scholarship program in the city of Surabaya. This approach was chosen in order to describe social reality based on the experiences, perceptions, and interactions of related parties. As stated by (Moleong, 2018), qualitative methods allow researchers to study complex and specific phenomena in more depth without excessive intervention. The data in this study were obtained from primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews with scholarship recipient students, representatives from the Head of the Youth Section of the Culture, Youth, and Sports Office, and staff of the Surabaya City Government. Meanwhile, secondary data came from policy documents, previous research, and related news.

The sampling technique used the non-probability purposive sampling method, which was chosen because this study focused on informants who were directly related to the scholarship policy. Data collection techniques were carried out through interviews, observations, and documentation in order to gain a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of the program (Mardiah et al., 2024). In-depth interviews were applied to explore challenges in the scholarship selection and registration system, while observations were used to directly observe the implementation of the program in the field. The collected data were analyzed using the Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014) model. This model includes data reduction, data presentation in descriptive form, and drawing conclusions to produce policy recommendations. With this approach, the study is expected to contribute to the evaluation of priority applicant pathways in the Surabaya City Youth Scholarship acceptance stage.

D. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Surabaya City Resilient Youth Scholarship is based on the ideals of the state as stated in the 1945 Constitution, paragraph 4, which states "enlightening the life of the nation" which is manifested in the form of Educational Assistance based on law, namely Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System which emphasizes equal education by providing opportunities to receive education for all Indonesian citizens. In addition, the Surabaya City Government also issued Surabaya City Regional Regulation No. 3 of 2018 concerning the Governance of the Resilient Youth Scholarship. Through this policy, the Surabaya City Government wants to realize equal education for Surabaya residents by supporting Surabaya residents who have the potential to build Surabaya City but are constrained by finances, so that the Resilient Youth Scholarship was issued to help young men and women in Surabaya who are less fortunate financially to continue to higher education with the standards determined by the Surabaya City Government, by determining the requirements for prospective recipients of the Resilient Youth Scholarship that must be met such as economic status, academic and non-academic achievements, domicile, and also

registered in a collaborating university. From the results of the researcher's observations where the researcher conducted an interview with Mr. Erringgo Perkasa, SE, M.Si as the Head of the Youth Section of the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism of the City of Surabaya.

With the aim of conducting a more in-depth observation of the systematic registration of the Surabaya City Resilient Youth Scholarship Program, which is intended for scholarship recipient students with certain groups. The group in question is the recipients who are prioritized, namely recipient students with economic limitations in pursuing higher education.

"The obligation of the Regional Government is to provide education to the people of Surabaya City, where we have a BeSmart page which is specifically for Surabaya residents for 2025 with the opening of a new wave of scholarships on February 16-21, 2025, 14,000 prospective scholarship recipients were registered with an available quota of 300 scholarship recipients, which finally made a policy that focused on the limited quota to prioritize Orphans, Half-Parents, and Orphans & Half-Parents. From the results of the sorting, the results were found to be around 8500 students who were included in this category, then carried out Sorting with PTN that had partnered with the Surabaya City Government, namely 14 State Universities in Indonesia, and Sorted again with a Cumulative Achievement Index (IPK) of at least 2.75.

With the final results of the selection of 350 prospective recipients of the Resilient Youth Scholarship who are still being considered to become Scholarship recipients, so that the Head of the Youth Section of the Surabaya City Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office (Mr. Erringgo) launched a team to survey the conditions the economy of prospective recipients to focus on the quota of recipients of the February 2025 Scholarship of 300 Prospective Recipients with economic limitations, so that the survey team looked at several points where it could be stated that they were unable, namely 1. Condition of the house floor 2. Condition of the house walls 3. Condition of the living room & kitchen 4. Condition of the roof of the house 5. Condition of parents (living or dead). So that 197 Orphans, Orphans, Orphans & Orphans were found with a minimum GPA of 3.6.

The lower limit of IP is 2.75 based on the opinion of the Education Council, Mr. Yuliansyah, but the Head of the Youth Section of the Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office of Surabaya City focuses on a higher lower limit of IP and prioritizes students who are orphans, half-orphans, and half-orphans. With a target of 3500 scholarship recipients per year, with a plan to accept 300 prospective recipients in February and also 300 prospective recipients in August with the assumption that registration will open at each graduation ceremony".

Based on the results of interviews with researchers, the resource person provided an answer regarding the existence of a special category for students, which of course must go through administrative regulations that have been determined by the Surabaya City Government. Through the Surabaya City Regional Regulation No. 3 of 2018 concerning the Governance of the Resilient Youth Scholarship, it explains that the main criteria determined in accepting the Resilient Youth Scholarship is having proof of a Certificate of Inability (SKTM).

In this study, researchers analyzed the evaluation of the Priority Path in the Resilient Youth Scholarship Acceptance Stages of the City of Surabaya with the help of policy evaluation theory from the idea (Dunn, 2003). The idea of this theory examines six policy evaluation criteria, namely effectiveness, efficiency, adequacy, equity, responsiveness, and accuracy. These various criteria are used as a basis for assessing the policies implemented to achieve the desired goals and meet the needs of the community groups targeted by the Resilient Youth Scholarship program policy with the Priority Path. These aspects will be evaluated with various indicators that has been determined by researchers, namely:

In the evaluation of the Resilient Youth scholarship policy in the City of Surabaya, the results of the interview transcript with Mr. Erringgo as the Head of the Youth Section of the Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office of the City of Surabaya showed that the selection process for scholarship recipients was carried out by considering various types of relevant indicators in accordance with William Dunn's policy evaluation theory.

Effectiveness

First, in terms of effectiveness indicators, the Resilient Youth Scholarship Selection has succeeded in recruiting 14,000 prospective scholarship recipients into 300 student recipients who have met the criteria, by prioritizing the target groups of students categorized as Orphans, and Orphans & Orphans as well as students registered in state universities that have collaborated with the Surabaya city government. This shows that the Resilient Youth Scholarship policy is able to achieve the goals that have been set, which is to provide opportunities for educational access to groups of students who have economic limitations by meeting the specified criteria.

Effectiveness

Furthermore, the effectiveness indicator (efficiency) can be seen from the utilization of existing resources in the selection process (Samsudin et al., 2024). The survey team formed by the Head of Youth Affairs (Mr. Erringgo) in collaboration with the Surabaya City Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism Office and the Surabaya City Social Service conducted a survey of prospective recipients of the tough youth scholarship by assessing the economic conditions of prospective scholarship recipients considering the physical condition of the house and the income conditions of the parents. With the survey activities carried out by the joint survey team, the Surabaya City Government can ensure that the recipients of the benefits of the tough youth scholarship program are given right on target to students who have economic difficulties with predetermined criteria, so that the resources used in this scholarship program can be maximized.

Adequacy

Next, in terms of Adequacy Indicators (adequacy) is a concern in this Resilient Youth Scholarship Policy, where the minimum limit of Cumulative Achievement Index (IPK) set by the Education Council is 2.75, but the Head of Youth Affairs of the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports and Tourism of Surabaya City chose to set a higher minimum limit of Cumulative Achievement Index (IPK) of 3.6. This indicates that the Surabaya City Government is trying not only to provide scholarships to students in need but also to provide students with economic difficulties with better academic achievements, so that the quality of scholarship recipients can be maintained.

Equity

In terms of equity indicators, this Scholarship policy shows the commitment of the Surabaya City Government to provide equal opportunities to all prospective recipients, especially for students who have economic limitations in pursuing higher education. By conducting a survey of economic conditions, family conditions of prospective recipients and also the amount of Cumulative Achievement Index (IPK), the joint survey team found 197 Orphans, Half-Orphans, and Orphans & Half-Orphans who met the criteria, thus ensuring that this tough youth Scholarship assistance is right on target.

Responsiveness

The responsiveness indicator can be seen from the efforts of the Surabaya City Government in responding to the needs of the community for the need for special information media regarding the Resilient Youth Scholarship. With the formation of the Resilient Youth Scholarship page called "BeSmart", Surabaya residents can easily access information about scholarships, starting from an explanation of the objectives of the Resilient Youth Scholarship, complete and overall information for registering for the Resilient Youth Scholarship, thereby increasing community participation in this program.

Appropriateness

Finally, the appropriateness indicator is reflected in the plan to determine the target for admission per year that has been determined, with an annual target of 3,500 scholarship recipients and the opening of scholarship registration which is carried out in a structured and gradual manner, with a target of 300-350 students per semester for each registration opening. This shows that the Surabaya City Government has a sustainable plan for the Resilient Youth Scholarship Program to help Surabaya residents who have economic limitations in pursuing higher education.

Overall, the implementation of the Resilient Youth Scholarship program in the City of Surabaya has shown success in achieving its main objective, namely increasing equal access to education for students who have economic limitations and orphan backgrounds. This policy has been designed and implemented by considering indicators of effectiveness, efficiency, equity, responsiveness, and feasibility, thus demonstrating the city government's commitment to responding to community needs holistically. However, challenges related to limited quotas and a tiered selection process still require attention and improvement so that this program can be more optimal in providing maximum benefits to the community in need..

E. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that this article shows that the Resilient Youth Scholarship Program in Surabaya City is a very strategic and comprehensive government initiative in order to realize equitable education. This program is based on the principles of policy evaluation based on six main indicators, namely effectiveness, efficiency, adequacy, equity, responsiveness, and feasibility. Through these indicators, the implementation of this program has proven to be able to attract students from limited economic backgrounds, such as orphans and underprivileged families, so that they gain access to higher education which has been a major challenge.

The evaluation shows that the selection and scholarship award process is carried out in a targeted manner, taking into account the economic aspects, academic achievement, and social background of the recipients. This allows the program to not only meet academic needs but also pay attention to aspects of social justice and economic empowerment. The ability of the Surabaya government to provide easily accessible information pages and determine realistic annual targets adds to the indicators of responsiveness and sustainability in program implementation.

However, there are obstacles in the form of limited quotas and high levels of competition, so that not all students in need can be met. These challenges demonstrate the need for better communication and coordination so that policies can reach wider and be fairer. In addition, the determination of fairly high academic requirements to ensure the quality of scholarship recipients also shows the government's commitment to maintaining quality, but must be balanced with policies that can reach more people. Overall, this program shows that public policy is very relevant and has a positive impact in supporting human development and equal education in the city of Surabaya. This program also reflects the government's commitment to maintaining social justice and making people independent by increasing access to higher education. Despite facing a number of challenges, the ongoing evaluation and improvement efforts carried out show that this policy is able to provide great benefits and is an example in developing education policies based on data and clear indicators.

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