

Implementation of the Simultaneous Village Head Election (PILKADES) Policy in Banjar Regency, Indonesia.

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Abstracts. This study's overarching goal is to learn how the government of Banjar Regency dealt with the issue of COVID-19 prevention throughout the selection process for the position of Serentah Village Head. In addition, we want to learn how the Aluh-Aluh District and the Village Officials participating in the policy's implementation perceive the policy's communication, community economic resources, and economic status. The research methodology used in this study is qualitative. Members of the community, officials from the sub-district and village levels, and representatives from the regional government are all regarded important research informants due to their extensive knowledge of policy implementation. Aside from that, we want to learn about and depict the phenomenon of the 2022 Banjar Regency village head election happening all at once. Based on information from the Community and Village Empowerment Service of Banjar Regency, the overall findings of the field study indicated that nine villages held their village elections at the same time and that the polls were conducted peacefully and democratically. The absence of litigation and other disruptions throughout the rollout of the Village Head Election is corroborated by empirical evidence collected from the field. It's merely that the incumbent in Aluh-Aluh Besar Village, one of the losing candidates for village head, filed a lawsuit against the DPT, but the committee didn't receive the complaint and objection until beyond the deadline. As a result, the local committee decided to end the litigation. Since the elected village heads were generally trusted by the majority of local people, no lawsuits or complaints were filed by candidates for the other eight communities. The prior Village Head Election's adoption created a change that made responding to the COVID-19 pandemic scenario more difficult. A lot of adjusting and perhaps conflicting issues arise as a result of this. For a village head election to go off without a hitch, there has to be coordinated and participatory democratic strengthening on the side of regional government and local authorities.

Keywords. implementation, policy, Village Head Election, Aluh-Aluh, Head of Village.

Introduction

Village head elections, or Pilkades, are a vital part of Indonesia's democratic process and a way for local communities to take part in building the country according to the dreams of all Indonesians. As per the Banjar Regent's Regulations pertaining to the Third Amendment to the Banjar Regent's Regulation Number 21 of 2016 regarding Technical Guidelines for the Implementation of Simultaneous Pambakal Elections in Banjar Regency, the village head election replaces outgoing leaders with new ones, allowing for more progressive governance and development.

Electing a new regional head to keep the wheels of regional government turning—a process that must always be in harmony with the community—is just one part of the village head election process. The election also serves as a platform for contenders' related parties or political interests. It

is common practice to rally the community at this time so that they may cast their ballots for one of the many candidates running for village chief.

Challenges in adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic condition arose during the 2022 Simultaneous Village Head Elections in Banjar Regency because to contrasts with the prior implementation. A lot of adjusting and perhaps conflicting issues arise as a result of this. Additionally, it will not be simple to have village elections that are direct, public, free, secret, honest, and fair. For a village head election to go off without a hitch, there has to be coordinated and participatory democratic strengthening on the side of regional government and local authorities.

To ensure the implementation of responsive and participatory governance, a ground-breaking policy solution is needed to strengthen participatory democracy. This answer may be found in the formulation of a general election format design that includes the election of village chiefs. From a purely technical standpoint, this leader election structure has the potential to solve a number of election-related issues, leading to higher levels of public engagement in electoral democracy and the eventual realization of a more robust democracy.

From legislative fixes to technological procedures for choosing leaders, breakthroughs are seldom simple. Several issues have arisen during the regional head elections in South Kalimantan Province, which are held to elect regional leaders.

⁴ According to Syahrialludin, head of the Banjar Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service (PMD), there are issues with village head elections as well. After the Village Consultative Body (BPD) decided who would be elected as village head/picturer, the results of the report will be sent to the PMD Service through the district beginning on November 24, 2022.

As previously mentioned, four villages in Banjar Regency raised objections during the village elections, with one of those villages accusing "money politics" as the reason for their dissent. During the 2022 Village Head Election, four out of 117 villages in Banjar Regency lodged complaints at the same time. These villages are located in the following districts: Sungai Pinang, Mataraman, Guntung Ulin, Belimbing Lama, Aluh-Aluh Besar, and Aluh-Aluh. While the DPT is involved in Belimbing Lama Village, the procedure is governed by the regent's rules (prenup) in Mangkalawat Village, where the identical vote is held.

In order to carry out the policy for concurrent village head elections, two things must be considered: first, the policy that governs the process of conducting these elections, and second, the policy for health protocols in the presence of large gatherings or mass mobilization.

Literature review

Policy Implementation

The first element that affects the implementation of policies, ¹ according to Edward III's theory of policy implementation, is:

Communication

If we accept Edward III's claims as stated in Agustino (2006:157), then we can say that communication is a key component in the success or failure of public policy implementation. When decision-makers possess the necessary expertise, successful implementation is guaranteed. The good is the only way to get the knowledge that decision-makers need. Edward III also separated the three components that comprise communication aspects in policy implementation. The effectiveness of communication variables may be evaluated using these three factors:

a. Data transfer

One definition of transmission offered by Edward III in Agustino (2006:157) is the dissemination of information. A well-established line of communication will also lead to effective execution. Misunderstandings and other forms of misinterpretation are common in the communication process because of all the bureaucracy that must be jumped through before the intended message can reach its intended recipient.

b. Clarity

According to Edward III, clarity is the next indication included in the communication component. One definition of clarity in this context is the absence of ambiguity or confusion in the messages received by the people tasked with putting policies into action, who are often bureaucrats on the front lines. A policy's implementation could be slowed down if the message sent to those responsible for carrying it is unclear. It is essential that the rules guiding the execution of this policy be well-defined in the law.

c. Be consistent

³ Edward III's theory of policy implementation concludes that the communication component contains one last indication, the consistency indicator. One definition of consistency is the need for clear and consistent instructions in order for their execution to be decided upon or carried out. Orders issued may easily throw field implementers for a loop if they change too often. The next step in ensuring policy consistency must be to address the issues raised by the relevant legal documents.

Resource

Edward III in Agustino (2006:158-159), citing him, states that resources are crucial for carrying out sound programs. Edward III states that under this resource component, four factors are employed to determine the amount to which resources impact the policy's implementation:

a. Staff

Personnel (i.e., bureaucrats on the ground) are the primary indication within the resource element. When personnel or workers aren't up to snuff or just plain inept, policy implementations typically fall through. To address issues with policy implementation, it is vital to have enough staff members who are skilled in doing so, rather than just adding more staff and implementors.

According to the findings, there are many steps involved in holding village elections. ¹ In the 2022 Simultaneous Village Head Election in Aluh-Aluh District, Banjar Regency, these steps include screening, implementation, and post-implementation.

b. Information

¹ The resource factor also includes information as an indication. knowledge comes in two ways, according to Edward III's theory of policy implementation. The first is knowledge on the policies themselves. And secondly, details on how well implementers adhere to preexisting laws and regulations.

How does the process for verifying the qualifications of applicants for the position of village head work? ¹ One of the prerequisites is the legitimacy of the diploma. Has it included knowledgeable people like professors, the regional coordinator, or the department of education?

c. Regulatory Power

For the most part, in order for commands to be properly executed, authority must be official. Having authority means that those tasked with carrying out policies that have been decided upon by politicians also have the legitimacy to do so. A lack of authority undermines the legitimacy of implementers' power in the eyes of the public, making it more difficult to put governmental policy into action. Using village ordinances and related legal goods, sub-district and village parties may be more actively involved in implementing Simultaneous Pilkades.

d. Construction Site

Facilities are the last signal that Edward III's hypothesis includes in the resource component. The significance of physical facilities in carrying out policies is highlighted by this indicator. No amount of qualified, skilled, or adequate personnel can guarantee a policy's effective execution in the absence of corresponding infrastructure and accompanying facilities.

From the data shown above, it is clear that the various implementers' levels of coordination vary according to the specific tasks they are responsible for. The Voting Committee and Field Technical Personnel are involved at the highest degree of coordination.

Bureaucratic Structure

George C. Edward III posits that the third critical component of any strategy for carrying out public policy is the mentality or outlook of those tasked with carrying it out. Effective policy

implementation requires that those tasked with carrying it out be well-versed in the intended actions and possess the necessary skills to ensure that they are not thwarted. In addition, Edward III distinguished between two crucial criteria pertaining to this attitude or disposition. In cases when these two factors are relevant to the implementation's outcome, specifically:

Bureaucratic appointments

a. Selecting Government Officials

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In Edward III's view, the nomination of bureaucrats is the first indication included in the disposition factor or attitude of the implementer. If current staff do not execute the policies that higher-ups want, the attitude or disposition of those responsible for carrying them out might pose serious challenges to the execution of policies. As a result, those entrusted with carrying out the policies must be staunch advocates for those policies and, more especially, for the welfare of the community at large.

b. Incentive

⁵
Edward III's theory of policy implementation also includes incentives as the last indication in the disposition component. To get around the issue of policy implementers' views, this incentive is one of many proposed strategies for modifying incentives. Since people behave in response to their interests, policymakers may affect the behavior of those tasked with implementing their policies by adjusting their incentives. The executors may be more motivated to carry out instructions properly if they stand to gain or lose money by doing so. Doing so serves the interests of the individual or the group.

It is important to be aware of the tangible and immaterial incentives that policy implementers get while carrying them out.

Disposition

¹
According to Edward III, the bureaucratic structure is the last ingredient in the theory of policy execution. Weaknesses in the bureaucratic system might prevent a policy from being implemented or realized, even when the means to do so are available and the policy implementers are knowledgeable and motivated to carry it out. Here, therefore, we see how Edward III split the characteristics pertaining to bureaucratic organization into two categories:

a. Processes for Regular Operations (SOP)

In Edward III's view, SOPs are the day-to-day operations that allow workers (or policy implementers, administrators, or bureaucrats) to do their jobs according to the standards that are in place (or the minimal standards that citizens demand). Seek out further information on the Aluh-Aluh District's SOPs.

b. Splitting up

The third and last sign in Edward III's implementation theory about bureaucratic organization is fragmentation. Fragmentation is an approach to work that aims to divide up tasks and responsibilities across different departments or teams.

Research Methods

In order to better comprehend and portray events occurring in the Banjar Regency Government's sub-districts and villages, this study used a qualitative research strategy. Research of this kind, known as descriptive research, aims to provide a detailed picture of the issues under investigation. In this study, researchers documented their findings in addition to collecting data via observation, interviews, and a review of relevant literature. A method for data analysis that incorporates all three steps from Miles and Huberman (1992) at the same time: data reduction, data display, and conclusion. In 2022, in the context of the Simultaneous Village Head Election Policy (PILKADES) in Banjar Regency, specifically in Aluh-Aluh District, which comprises of Aluh Aluh District and comprises nineteen villages, the study site was selected based on existing occurrences. In 2022, the Banjar Regency Government implemented the Simultaneous Village Head Election (PILKADES) Policy. This research aims to understand the political and governmental phenomena surrounding this election by examining the role of regional, sub-district, and village governments as well as community members participating in the election.

Results and Discussion

One of the most crucial aspects of every government is its public policy. For the purpose of regulating and enforcing compliance with government mandates, policies are formulated. Many individuals, particularly the community, stand to benefit from this strategy. Following the formulation of a policy, its effective or successful implementation in society is the subsequent phase. Actions taken by people, authorities, public or private organizations with the purpose of accomplishing the stated objectives constitute policy implementation, as stated by Van Meter and Van Horn (1975) in Agustino (2012: 139). while deciding on policies. That apart, there is a wide range of policy options available. The Regent's rules are one example; lower-level government agencies turn to these regent regulations when they need to accomplish certain responsibilities.

The policy implementation model proposed by Edward was the basis for this study. The name of Edward's approach for implementing public policy was Direct and Indirect Impact on Implementation. Success or failure in implementing a policy is dependent on four factors, according to Edward's theory: 1.) Communication. Secondly, assets. 3.) Bureaucratic Structure and 4.)

Disposition.

For all Indonesians, but notably those living in more remote locations, holding elections for village heads (Pilkades) is a crucial step toward realizing the promise of democracy and building a stronger country. According to the Banjar Regent's Regulations, which are a part of the Third Amendment to the Banjar Regent's Regulation Number 21 of 2016 regarding Technical Guidelines for the Implementation of Simultaneous Pambakal Elections in Banjar Regency, the purpose of the village head election process is to elect new leaders for a specific area so that development and democracy can advance. Electing a new regional head to keep the wheels of regional government turning—a process that must always be in harmony with the community—is just one part of the village head election process. The election also serves as a platform for contenders' related parties or political interests. It is common practice to rally the community at this time so that they may cast their ballots for one of the many candidates running for village chief.

Challenges in adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic condition arose during the 2022 Simultaneous Village Head Elections in Banjar Regency because to contrasts with the prior implementation. A lot of adjusting and perhaps conflicting issues arise as a result of this. Additionally, it will not be simple to have village elections that are direct, public, free, secret, honest, and fair. For a village head election to go off without a hitch, there has to be coordinated and participatory democratic strengthening on the side of regional government and local authorities.

To ensure the implementation of responsive and participatory governance, a ground-breaking policy solution is needed to strengthen participatory democracy. This answer may be found in the formulation of a general election format design that includes the election of village chiefs. From a purely technical standpoint, this leader election structure has the potential to solve a number of election-related issues, leading to higher levels of public engagement in electoral democracy and the eventual realization of a more robust democracy.

From legislative fixes to technological procedures for choosing leaders, breakthroughs are seldom simple. According to Syahrialludin, head of the Banjar Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service (PMD), there are issues with both the regional head elections and the village head elections in South Kalimantan Province. According to Syahrialludin, once the Village Consultative Body (BPD) chooses the elected village head or baker, the results will be sent to the PMD Service through the district beginning on November 24, 2022. Gunung Ulin and Mangkalawat

Villages in the Mataraman District were two of the four villages that staged protests during yesterday's implementation of the Village Head Election results. Aluh Aluh Besar Village in Aluh Aluh District and Belimbing Lama Village in Sungai Pinang District. On the other hand, the village committee is the place to handle all of that. Hence, Syahrialludin is willing to take risks to guarantee a safe and seamless execution of the 2022 Village Election, also known as the second wave, which includes all aspects related to the COVID-19 Health Protocol (Prokes).

In light of the above, two policies are crucial to the execution of the plan for the concurrent election of village chiefs: first, the policy governing the procedure for electing the chief of the village, and second, the policy pertaining to health precautions in the presence of large gatherings or mass mobilization. Village chiefs in Aluh-Aluh District, Banjar Regency, are primarily responsible for community organizing and development as well as general government concerns, such as maintaining peace and order. Beyond that, it is the responsibility of the village chief to shape the community's outlook by encouraging the growth of a sense of shared purpose and a strong sense of familial and commercial ties among its members. The first step is to conduct experiments to find out which technique makes the most efficient use of time and resources while making sure everyone is safest. In addition, the successful execution of village head elections requires active and organized political participation.

Overall, this study's findings pertain to the policies and actions made by the Banjar Regency Government regarding the selection of the Serentah Village Head in Banjar Regency and their impact on the prevention of COVID-19. In addition, we look into the community's and implementers' inclinations and behaviors, as well as communication factors and sources, with a focus on community economic resources and conditions, educational institutions, and other similar entities. The Banjar Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service reports that, out of a total of nineteen villages in the Aluh-Aluh District, nine are now having village elections at the same time, and that these elections are being conducted in a peaceful and democratic manner. Field data shows that the 2022 Village Head Election went off without a hitch, with no major disruptions or lawsuits. The incumbent in Aluh-Aluh Besar Village was the only one of the defeated candidates for village head who took legal action; the other candidates just lodged a formal protest against the DPT. including those brought up after the committee has set a deadline. As a result, the local committee decided to end the litigation. Since the elected village heads were generally trusted by the majority of local people, no lawsuits or complaints were filed by candidates for the other eight communities.

In some villages, there were more than five candidates for the position of village head. In order to ensure that the village election committee remained impartial, a group of academics from Lambung Mangkurat University, Banjarmasin, conducted the selection process. Community campaigns also get attention from the village committee. The bulk of village head election victors come from backgrounds of religious community leaders and ulama, therefore there is limited dispute among voters as well.

Conclusion

In 2022, when Banjar Regency had its Simultaneous Village Head Elections, the results showed that the changes compared to the previous year's elections made it harder for residents to adapt to the COVID-19 epidemic. A lot of adjusting and perhaps conflicting issues arise as a result of this. Additionally, it will not be simple to have village elections that are direct, public, free, secret, honest, and fair. For a village head election to go off without a hitch, there has to be coordinated and participatory democratic strengthening on the side of regional government and local authorities. In carrying it out, each party does what is required of them in accordance with their authority, and observers, including members of the police force and the TNI, keep an eye on the voting machines and vote boxes in accordance with the rules and regulations that are in effect.

Since the Simultaneous Village Election core committee in Banjar Regency is from the PMD Service, which uses typical urban tactics, the PMD Service plays a significant role in the success of this election. In the end, it's a collection of rural towns where farming and fishing are the main sources of income. Round 1 of the Banjar Regency's simultaneous village elections took place in 2016, in 20 villages in 2018, and in 140 villages in 2020 and 2021. After the 2024 national general election, the rules for the 2025 simultaneous village head elections will be fine-tuned in 20 villages out of 140 that will be holding the second round of elections, as well as in 117 villages out of 20 sub-districts in Banjar Regency, all while the COVID-19 pandemic is raging. To ensure the District runs smoothly in 2022 in accordance with the COVID-19 health protocol, the Village Head Election will begin with two rounds of socialization: first, with the Village Consultative Body, to discuss committee formation; and second, with the Village Committee, which has been formed by the BPD. The content alludes to Regent Regulation 57 of 2016 and Regent Regulation 66 of 2020, which deal with committee circulars during the COVID-19 epidemic, according to the Regional Regulation on Village Head Elections.

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