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## **PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE DISTRIBUTION POLICY OF FREE BICYCLES TO THE STUDENTS IN BLITAR CITY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to determine the implementation of distribution of free bicycles for all students in Blitar City. This program is carried out as government concern to the quality of education in Blitar City with the hope to improve and supporting the quality of education in Blitar City. The regional government through the Education Office has provided supporting facilities to improve education. The method used is a qualitative research approach by interviewing teachers and student guardians and looking for information from news related to the distribution of free bicycles. Then the data from the informant is checked to find the truth of the information. The results showed that the provision of free bicycles had been carried out in 2 periods, first in 2017 and in 2018. Distribution of free bicycles was carried out using a borrow-and-use system, it means after students graduated the bicycles were returned to the school. Distribution of free bicycles with a borrow and use system has received positive responses from parents.

**Keywords:** *APBD Pro Rakyat; Free Bicycle; Blitar City*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

According to Maharani (2016) the government often makes efforts to overcome poverty, these efforts are carried out with both direct and indirect strategies. Efforts to tackle poverty directly by the government like in the form of Social Assistance (Bansos) such as direct cash assistance (BLT), giving poor rice (raskin) and giving financial assistance for micro and small business capital. Whereas the government's efforts to address poverty indirectly through the provision of facilities and infrastructure to support social economic activities, community empowerment, and institutional strengthening and social protection.

Furthermore, in Maharani's research efforts to reduce poverty should be aimed at poor families who have children and need education both at elementary / junior high school / senior high school / equivalent education levels. The government needs to assist empowerment through adequate education for children of poor families who need such education so as to cope with the increase in new poor families. Education can be used as an investment to get a better life in the future and be involved in the development process. If education is well programmed and reaches all groups, education will be the most effective instrument to cut the poverty chain.

Education is very important because one of the determinants of the quality of human resources is education (Satrio, 2016). Along with the progress of time learning efforts began

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to be made to deal with increasing knowledge and skills. Now the superiority of a nation is no longer marked by the amount of natural wealth it has, but it is seen from the superiority of human resources that is positively correlated with the quality of education. In an effort to improve the process of national development in the field of education, the government must cooperate with the community in a planned and systematic manner so that students are active in developing their potential to have spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed by themselves, the community , nation and state.

Educational services take place in three stages, namely education for children in the family infrastructure environment, education for children in formal school infrastructure, and education for adults in the environment of the wider community in the formal education system. Social infrastructure is not only limited to the role system and social norms, but includes the equipment and people who carry out these roles (Irianto, 2012). So in the socio-cultural perspective, education is expected to bring forth educated people who have an important role in the process of social transformation in society.

The provision of education services by improving the quality of good education is expected to be able to bring forth educated of society, so as to be able to find economic solutions in the future and will contribute greatly to the progress of national development. In the opinion of Makmur et al Satrio (2016) Good conditions, qualifications, and all components that must be contained in education are often indicated as the quality of education. These components are inputs, processes, outputs, education personnel, facilities and infrastructure as well as costs. Input consists of basic education, educational goals and students. Whereas the process consists of continuous components between educators and non-educators as well as curriculum (educational material). For the output of the education system is the presence of graduates who are the result of the education process.

Education is the key to improve the welfare of the nation, but to advance education is necessary to reform education. Previously, in Satrio's research (2016), it was discussed about education reform, namely the response to the development of global demands as an effort to adapt the education system that is able to develop human resources to meet the demands of a developing era. So in realizing education reform, education must be future-minded so it can

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provide guarantees for the realization of human rights to develop all its potential optimally for the welfare of life in the future.

The growing demand of the community's needs for the quality of education services is a new challenge for every institution or educational institution in the midst of increasingly fierce competition. To maintain its existence, every region and every educational institution must have the competitiveness shown by improving the quality of its services (Hardjosoedarmo, 2004). Therefore, the strategy in the process of reforming an education needs to be done so that the quality of education can run as expected.

The role of the regional government in the strategy of improving the quality of education is very important, where the regional government is a decisive indicator of the progress of a region. The importance of quality education is increasingly being realized, because the creation of a quality human being and the quality of a developed and independent Indonesian society can only be realized if community education is successfully improved. The quality of human resources and the competitiveness of the nation are closely related to the quality of national education, while large national education is influenced by the development of education in each region such as provinces / districts / cities. So to improve these conditions must be done with the right strategy to improve the quality of education from the smallest scope of the region.

Blitar City is one of the regions that carry out strategies to improve the quality of education. Through the *APBD Pro Rakyat*, especially in the field of education, the government was able to launch a 12-year compulsory education program which a program that has become the Blitar city government's strategy to improve the quality of education in Blitar city. This strategy is carried out by the city government by providing free school assistance in the form of tuition fees, providing assistance in the form of free uniforms and a variety of student equipment for schools, various facilities are also provided to support the school's enthusiasm for students by providing free bicycles which are provided in addition to facilitating students transportation to school, giving free bicycles also aims to teach students to live a healthy life with a bicycle and reduce air pollution in the Blitar City.

The strategy undertaken by the Blitar City government to improve the quality of education is in accordance with the objectives of national education listed in Law No. 20 of

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2003 chapter II article 3 states that:

"The function of National education is to develop and shape the character and civilization of the nation that is useful in the context of educating the life of the nation, aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who have faith and devoted to God Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and become citizens of a democratic and responsible".

The program that has been implemented by the Government of Blitar City in its strategy to develop the quality of human resources in the field of education is already good, where the quality of education is prioritized. All students' needs are fully borne by the government, and the sharing of assistance such as the distribution of free bicycles to all these students makes the program from the government of Blitar city very confiscating public attention.

From the background above, the researcher is interested to conduct a study entitled "Public Response to the Policy of Blitar City in Distributing Free Bicycles to the Students".

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative approach. The research location in the Blitar City based on the people of Blitar city who have received free bicycle assistance. Research subjects are those who are considered to have competence related to the research. After determining the research subject, the researchers must enter social situations by observing and interviewing predetermined research subjects or people who knows about the situation. It also reviews the publication of online reporting in addition to the references.

## **3. DISCUSSION AND RESULT**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF *APBD PRO RAKYAT* IN BLITAR CITY**

The Government of Blitar City has effort maximally to advance the world of education. Remembering Education is an important thing in human life (Montolalu, 2015). This is confirmed again by the opinion of Fitri & Amin (2017) in his research that education is an important thing for human development; science without education will be a waste of time because there is no learning process as the process of educating. Exemption from tuition fees from elementary to senior high school is one concrete step and proof of the seriousness of the government to improve education of its people. As stated by Astawa

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(2017) that in order for education to be carried out for every citizen from the age of seven to the age of fifteen, the government and regional governments must guarantee the availability of funds for education.

The Government of Blitar City believes that with the advancement of education the world can form a strong and competent next generation of the nation. Education plays an important role in building the nation's civilization (Rahmat, 2016). One of the efforts made by the Blitar City Government to support education is the implementation of *APBD Pro Rakyat*. According to Jolianis (2015) The education sector is a public sector which is a priority in development, this can be seen from the allocation of the State Budget (APBN) and the Regional Budget (APBD) to the education sector. The *APBD Pro Rakyat* program in Blitar City applies to all children who live in Blitar City. The *APBD Pro Rakyat* applies to high school and vocational schools in both public and private schools in Blitar City. All students who live in Blitar City without exception, vocational or private children, all get help evenly from the *APBD Pro Rakyat* program in Blitar City (Yanti, 2018).

According to Irawati and Susetyo (2015) in their research the *APBD Pro Rakyat* is oriented to 5 pillars namely:

1. *APBD Pro Rakyat* is oriented so the people of Blitar City to become religious, faithful and devoted people to God Almighty.
2. *APBD Pro Rakyat* is oriented so the people of Blitar City are not hungry or prosperous.
3. *APBD Pro Rakyat* is oriented so the people of Blitar City are not sick and stay healthy.
4. *APBD Pro Rakyat* is oriented so the people of Blitar City are not stupid or smart.
5. *APBD Pro Rakyat* is oriented so the people of Blitar City are always in a safe and conducive atmosphere because all the activities of the government and the people of Blitar City will only proceed in an orderly and smooth manner if there is a safe, conducive atmosphere.

With the program that has been implemented appropriate based on Blitar Mayor Regulation Number 15 of 2011, a 12-year compulsory education program is implemented. All costs are borne by the regional budget. Besides that, the form of *APBD Pro Rakyat* in improving Human Resources (HR) in Blitar City in the field of education, starting from the distribution of free uniforms, free shoes, free socks, free belts, free bicycles, and free school

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bags. The program that has been implemented by Blitar City Government in its strategy to build the quality of human resources in the field of education is already good, where the quality of education is prioritized (Satrio, 2016).

### **The Implementation of the Policy in Distributing Free Bicycle**

All students who live and school in Blitar City, feel the direct positive impact of the policy. It is hoped that the program will bring prosperity to the nation's successors. As for one form of the *APBD Pro Rakyat*, it is giving free bicycles. The free bicycle administration program carried out by the Blitar City Government continues to be maximized. Previously in 2017 only 8th and 9th grade junior high school students got bicycles for free, now 7th grade will also get free bicycle education programs from Blitar City Government.

In 2018 a total of 5,633 State Junior High School students in Blitar City received free bicycle facilities from the Blitar City Government. This bicycle is given specifically for Blitar City residents who attend the Junior High School in the City of Blitar with a borrow and use system. The policy of distributing free bicycles has two purposes. First, school children become healthier by cycling. Second, reducing the level of air pollution in Blitar City. (source: [kaki2rakyat.com](http://kaki2rakyat.com))

The model of bicycle given to students is also uniform, which is a mini bike with a basket at the front. The color of the bike is also uniform with red and white patterns. This is consistent with what Santoso said in Beritasatu (2018), namely "In order not to cause jealousy, the bicycle model is uniformed in the form of a mini bicycle with a basket at the front. Also the color, all is red and white uniform. "

In the first phase, 4,398 bicycles were distributed to students in grades 8 and 9. The budget from the APBD for the first phase of bicycle procurement reached Rp 11 billion. While in the second stage 1,262 bicycles were distributed to 7th grade students in six state junior high schools in Blitar City, namely SMPN 1, SMPN 2, SMPN 3, SMPN 4, SMPN 5, and SMPN 6. The budget spent on the second stage of the bicycle is in the amount of Rp 2.3 billion.

Every bicycle that will be given to students is labeled first. The label says the inventory number and the name of the user student so it will make it easier for the school to

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control the use and maintenance of the free facility. However, because the system is borrowed, students who have graduated from junior high school must return the bicycles to their original school. For the budget related to bicycle maintenance, the Education Office as the technical implementer of the policy has also provided a bicycle maintenance budget and given to each school. The amount of bicycle maintenance costs is IDR 50 thousand per year.

### **Public Response Related to the Provision Free Bicycles**

The response is basically the process of understanding what happens in the environment with humans and their behavior, is a reciprocal relationship, interrelated and influence each other (Banaty, Siswoyo, and Nurfalah, 2018). The response to the process according to Setiawan (2017) is preceded by a person's attitude, because attitude is a tendency or a person's willingness to behave when faced with a particular stimulus. So attitude is what determines someone responding or not responding to something.

Related to the free bicycle delivery program the community showed a positive response and supported the sustainability of *APBD Pro Rakyat* program. Even though the system of giving bicycles is in the form of a borrow and use, these bicycles are considered to greatly reduce the burden on parents because they do not need to take their children to school. Furthermore Samanhudi as a Mayor of Blitar said that the free bicycle giving program also received support from various parties. Especially student guardians who are support if their children go home and go to school by bicycle (Memontum, 2017). This was also conveyed by Agus as the guardian of students from one of the students of SMPN 1 Blitar City, said:

"It's good program. Children are also more independent and healthier. I also order to take good care of them, so that next year they can use their younger siblings," (source: kaki2rakyat)

## **4. CONCLUSION**

The program that has been implemented by the Government of Blitar City in its strategy to develop the quality of human resources in the field of education is already good, where the quality of education is prioritized. Exemption from education fees from elementary to high school is one concrete step and proof of the seriousness of the

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government to improve the education of its people. In 2018 a total of 5,633 State Junior High School students in Blitar City received free bicycle facilities from the Blitar City Government. The model of bicycle given to students is also uniform, which is a mini bike with a basket at the front. This system of giving bicycles is a loan, so students who have graduated from junior high school must return the bicycles to their original school. For the budget related to bicycle maintenance, the Education Office as the technical implementer of the policy has also provided a bicycle maintenance budget and given to each school. Even though the system of giving bicycles is in the form of a borrow and use, these bicycles are considered to greatly reduce the burden on parents because they do not need to drop off and pick up their children to school.

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