Empowering Poor Families through Conditional Cash Transfer in Papua

Albertina Nasri Lobo

1Social Welfare Science, Social and Political Science, 2Social and Political Science
1Universitas Cenderawasih, 2Universitas Padjadjaran
1Jayapura, 2Bandung, 1,2Indonesia
alberthinanasrilobo@yahoo.co.id

Abstract—The purpose of this research is to describe the empowerment of poor families in Jayapura city through conditional cash transfer program. This study used qualitative descriptive analysis method focusing on PKH or Family Hope Program beneficiary’s family. The results show that indicators of empowerment of poor families have turned into better welfare conditions, such as active family participation in groups, changing perspectives on poverty, broad social network connections, and behavioral changes to the utilization of education, health services and decision-making processes in family. There are factors affecting conditions above, such as human resources involved in the program, cultural systems, social and economic system, and politics in the community which largely contribute to the powerlessness of poor families. This research concludes that empowering poor families requires commitment of stakeholders towards sustainable, integrated, and culturally sensitive conditional cash transfer program.

Keywords—conditional cash program; empowerment; poor families; Papua

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a social problem that has a broad impact on society, families, and individuals. That is an issue are very interesting to studied, especially in developing countries. Some strategies continue to be developed in order to minimize and mitigate the impact of poverty. Empowerment strategies through a cash transfer as a method of handling poverty that empowers beneficiaries in poor families, supported by the international [1-5] and the impacts of the CTT on household consumption, education, health, empowerment of women and child, shows rapid growth [6,7]. The Protect poor families to obtain socio-economic security, invest of economic [8-10]. With the inclusion of selective program requirements, poor families gain socio-economic resilience to escape poverty, and direct relevance to the sustainable development [11,12]. The female has scope in power decision making, and then nothing appear to have immediately gender-status inequalities, the decreasing working rates of child boys and girl [13-15]. This positive impact, is it happening in developing countries, regions with high poverty rates and people who have a tradition of patriarchal culture, which is very strong, like in Papua. Does the empowerment of poor families and individuals in them occur? What about the factors that influence the empowerment of poor families, which have been identified can be managed as a source of strength for poor family.

The phenomenon of poverty with a long duration, as well as a low level of response to social inclusion development, generally affects the lives of poor families, in Papua. The growth of empowerment programs and the guarantee of social protection for indigenous people, are less synergistic and sustainable. Inter-ethnic conflicts that often occur also cause the condition of empowerment of poor families to be very rented with poverty. This condition can only be done by streamlining the empowerment program [16], or give assisted social cash transfer [8]. National economic survey (Susenas) report in March 2018 shows that a region of high poverty rate is Papua province with total poor population of 917, 63 people, and average expenditure per capita of 498, 640 rupiahs. This number increased if compared to average monthly expenditure per capita in 2017 i.e. 457,541 rupiahs. Furthermore, some areas in the eastern part of Indonesia are the contributor to 20% of poor population [17,18]. It occurred in poor families with low level of education and having limited access to public services, finance, and material source. Therefore, to minimize the level of helplessness of poor families, it is not enough to simple increase infrastructure facilities or reduce the price of basic commodities, but how the limitations of poor families can be changes into a force through increased access to skills, access to education and improved access to health, for poor women and his family in Papua.

Based on the Ministry of Social RI data in 2017 that cash assistance through the family hope program (PKH) has reached 29,180 poor families, and this will continue to increase every year. However, there are not many studies related to the conditions of empowerment of poor families through conditional assistance in Papua, changes in non-cash policies have been ratified. This then raises speculation, how is the condition of empowerment of the poor families who received the program, as in the conditional cash transfer policy before? Whereas the results of the research are very useful for local governments, social organizations, to play a role in enhancing the empowerment of poor individuals and families in Papua, through sustainable social policies and programs. With this description, this study examines the empowerment of poor families who receive conditional cash assistance programs, known as the family hope program in the city of Jayapura.
II. METHODS

The research uses qualitative descriptive method with the purpose of describing the empowerment circumstances of social conditional cash transfer (PKH) recipients’ family. The selection of informants for this research is done by using purposive sampling and resulted in 10 informants consisted of PKH recipients’ family and individuals involved in program implementation. Data research collection is conducted by in-depth interview and participant observation techniques, while data analysis obtained using qualitative analysis according to [19].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Family beneficiaries of PKH in Jayapura city are poor families who have different characteristics of poverty from one another. Living in poverty for quite some time make family of beneficiaries very dependent upon the availability of nature and government assistance. Isolation and inequality in every development process resulting in new social problems for family of beneficiaries, such as transmitting poverty to their children. They admitted that being poor is an unexpected situation they did not want to be in and make them fail to apply and develop family functions appropriately. Their family system functioning become more prone to malfunction. Their children are vulnerable to poverty, violence and job exploitation, dropped out of school, and have rebel character. Women become very vulnerable to acts of violence and discrimination, even family is marginalized (isolated) to urban fringe areas due to inability in competition. Male domination which has already constructed in family strengthen men power and cultural environment (kinship) become wider to other beneficiaries and public at large as the communication path to build an extensive network between families of beneficiaries and other disadvantaged groups will experience changes in their welfare if they possess the right to protection [20]. Family beneficiaries said they have received supports in financial, mentoring, complementary program, small business, educational, health, and social.

Some aspects of helplessness experienced by KPM PKH are (1) knowledge and skills which did not develop dynamically due to the absent of PKH activities affiliated to the process of improvement, such as trainings with economic and social benefits. PKH is still focused on cash transfer management only which make its recipients have nothing to think of rather than how to get cash transfer every month. It triggers the potential of helplessness in a family which slowly comes up, (2) control of access to self and public services have not yet generated meaningful changes for women since their activities mostly revolve around domestic and reproductive roles, economic source in markets and gardens, and having the same types of commodities [17]. Some factors affect empowerment of PKH beneficiaries in Jayapura are (1) PKH stimulus by providing financial guarantee for KPM for five years, (2) Guarantee to prevent women and children from (and control) discrimination, subordination, exploitation and violence, (3) guarantee of education and health of PKH families beneficiaries, (4) motivation and social support from PKH family members, (5) public service on education and health which sensitive to cultural values, (6) knowledge, attitudes, and skills of PKH family beneficiaries.

IV. CONCLUSION

Family hope program (PKH) is a very effectively improving the empowerment situation of family’s beneficiaries. Empowerment of poor families in Jayapura city is strongly influenced by the presence of PKH and its implementation. Families beneficiaries can take advantage of PKH as a means to enhance access to public services, improve the quality of education and health of family members, increase social support, improve family’s economic activities, and increase patterns of problem solving in the family. Aspect of cultural construction can potentially create family’s helplessness economically, socially, and psychologically. The impact of poverty due to helplessness can be overcome by performing a synergy of policies and social assistance programs which put the characteristics of target based on their respective culture, particularly in the provinces of Papua.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank the head of the Dinas Sosial province Papua and Dinas Social Kota Jayapura, Facilitator PKH (Program Keluarga Harapan), and beneficiary family. I would also like to thank LPPM Bandung Islamic University, who has accepted us as participants of the first Conferences Social and Humanities (SoRes) 2018, and will publish this paper in the form of proceedings.

REFERENCES


