The Context of Child Poverty Policies in Indonesia

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Rationale

Background

- Child poverty is becoming an important issue globally
  - Causes of various disadvantages
  - Higher risk of intergenerational poverty
- Studies on Child Poverty in Indonesia shows concerning evidences
- Policy analysis of child poverty in Indonesia is limited
Objectives

Explore the Context of the policies on child poverty in Indonesia
Contexts of Child Poverty Policies

• International Policy Frameworks
  • General Overviews and Issues
  • Child Rights as Policy Instrument

• National Policy Frameworks
  • General Overviews and Issues
  • The concepts of children and childhood
  • Child Poverty Definition and measures

• Poverty Reduction Interventions
  • General Overview
  • Targeted interventions for the poor
International Policy Frameworks: General Overviews

- Indonesia internalise global development goals into policies (planning, monitoring and evaluation), i.e.:
  - Millennium development goals MDGs
  - Human Development Indexes (HDI)
- As developing countries, Indonesia received many technical assistances from international organisation
  - Policy Transfer
  - Learning and Capacity Building
- Indonesia ratified many international instruments relevant to child rights (Including UNCRC)
International Policy Frameworks: General Issues

- There is no global standard for the concept and strategy to dealing with child poverty
- Child poverty are not included in globally accepted development goals such as millennium development goals (however, child poverty included in the newly sustainable development goals)
- Debates about the contribution of child rights instrument for dealing with child poverty
International Policy Frameworks: Child Rights and Child Poverty

- Policy Instruments to Eradicate child poverty
  - Poverty is important issues on realisation of child rights
  - State responsibility as duty bearer
- Conceptualisation of child poverty
  - UNCRC does not clearly mention about child poverty
- Measurement of child poverty
  - Guidance on identify the dimensions of child poverty
National Policy Frameworks: General Overviews

- **Regional Autonomy**
  - Implementation some key sectors related to children are the responsibility local government

- **Improving child well being and also reducing poverty are articulated in national regulations and institutional settings.**
  - **Policy attention on children**
    - Regulation that focus on children (i.e. Child Protection law)
    - There is a ministry for that focus on child protection
    - Key ministries have units that focus on children
  - **Policy attention poverty reduction**
    - Poverty reduction is one of national goals
    - Establishment of special government unit for poverty reduction
National Policy Frameworks: General Issues

- National Policies are not necessarily followed and implemented properly by provinces and districts
- Inequality of input and outcomes
- Diverge focus
  - Focus on poverty and focus on children, but not comprehensive focus on child poverty
- Some specific issues
  - Concepts of children and Childhood
  - Defining and Measuring Child Poverty
National Policy Frameworks: Children in Indonesian Society

- Nationally, Indonesian regulation follow the UNCRC definition to define under 18 years old children, however, it includes children who are in womb it concern of its interest.
- some specific purposes, children defined differently
  - Juvenile Justice: the age threshold for children who are breaking the law and liable to punishment is 12 years old
  - Education: compulsory education until 15 years old
  - Working age: Children can start work at age 14 years old
- Social Perspectives
  - Akil Baliq: Able to think, know right and wrong and experiences puberty (Based on Islamic Concept)
  - Marriage: It be use to identify the maturity.
National Policy Frameworks: Definition of Child Poverty in Indonesian Context

• There is no formal definition.
  • Government does not distinguish child Poverty as separate entity.
  • The existing concepts focus of household poverty does not distinguish adult and children
  • It means Indonesian concept of child poverty does not exist.

• However, possible strategy to define child poverty based on local concepts are into applying the existing concepts of poverty into children as targeted population
National Policy Frameworks: Measurement Issues

• The existing measures focus on household poverty (There is no official child poverty measures). The measurement methods are:
  • BKKBN ➔ Measure household welfare
  • Statistical Office
    • Macro measures ➔ Basic Needs
    • Micro Measures ➔ Proxy Means Test

• Additional Evidences:
  • Supplementary data collection: IDHS, MICS, IFLS
  • Ad-hoc Studies: i.e. Global Study of Child Poverty ➔ Bristol Method
Poverty Reduction Interventions: General Overviews

- Direct ➔ Directly related to child poverty
  - Targeted Intervention to the Household
- Indirect
  - Targeted Intervention to the communities
  - Small business Enterprise strengthening
  - Improvement and Expansion of Pro-People Program (Supply Side Intervention)
Poverty Reduction Intervention: Targeted intervention Poor Households (1)

Overviews

• Child Relevant Interventions:
  • Conditional Cash transfer (PKH)
  • Scholarship for the poor (BSM)
  • Rice for the Poor (Raskin)
  • Health Insurance for the poor (Jamkesmas)

Issues

• Miss-targeting/ exclusion
• high operational cost of intervention such as rice for the poor in remote area.
• Additional issues (Debatable)
  • Negative Effect to social capital
  • Stimulate local conflict
Poverty Reduction Intervention: Targeted intervention Poor Households (2)

Overviews
• Data Strengthening:
  • Developing the Unified Database of poor households (covering 40% poorest households) based on poverty census ➔ identified based on micro-meaures (Proxy-means test method)

Issues
• The measurement method, proxy means test, are developed based on monetary poverty concepts, that focus on monetary poor household and ignoring deprived children from non-monetary-poor households
Implications

• Putting child poverty in national policy framework
  • Concepts
  • Measures

• Better policies
  • More holistic framework
  • Better actions

• More specific research on child poverty
  • Generating better evidence
The End