

Model of Policy Network in Advocacy for The Formulation of Qanun Draft on Protection and Fulfillment of The Rights of People with Disabilities

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the interaction and interdependence of policy networks, identify inhibiting and supporting factors, and formulate an effective policy network model in the formulation of the Qanun for the protection and fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities in North Aceh Regency. A qualitative approach was used in this study, with data collection methods including in-depth interviews, focus group discussions (FGD), observations, and document studies. The results of the study indicate that the interaction and interdependence among actors in the policy network in North Aceh Regency are still not optimal. The involved actors often work separately without adequate coordination, and differences in interests and priorities hinder the achievement of common goals. The main inhibiting factors include a lack of resources, differences in interests among actors, and low public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities. On the other hand, supporting factors include the commitment of the local government, support from NGOs, and initiatives from the community of persons with disabilities. An effective policy network model includes enhancing coordination among actors, establishing regular communication forums, strengthening the capacity of involved actors, and active participation from the community of persons with disabilities. By implementing this model, it is expected that the formulation of the Qanun for the protection and fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities in North Aceh Regency can proceed more effectively and inclusively.

Keywords: Policy Network, Qanun, Persons with Disabilities, North Aceh, Coordination.

Introduction

The policy network approach has experienced rapid development and has been widely discussed in agenda setting theory, policy formulation, advocacy coalitions, and iron triangles. Policy networks at the policy formulation stage make significant contributions to changes in goals by involving actors who are laden with values, motivations, and interests. The advocacy coalition approach used in this study helps explain the changes in goals that occur due to the interaction of actors and value systems within policy networks.

Law Number 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities states that a person with disabilities is anyone who experiences long-term physical, intellectual, mental, and/or sensory limitations that, in interacting with the environment, may experience barriers and difficulties in participating fully and effectively with other citizens based on equality. The existing conditions today show that people with disabilities in Indonesia, on average, still face problems related to their well-being. The average characteristics of people with disabilities are as follows: almost 89% live in rural areas; come from families with low economic, social, and health levels; have low levels of formal education; and face various barriers, including social and cultural barriers, discrimination from families and communities, and architectural barriers such as the lack of accessible public facilities. As a result, their productivity is relatively low due to lack of opportunities to participate in education and job training (Arni, 2018).

Based on this phenomenon, public organizations need policy networks in the formulation of disability protection and fulfillment policies. North Aceh Regency is the eighth province with the highest number of people with disabilities in Indonesia. In 2022, the percentage of people with disabilities in Aceh was 2.51%,

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while the national average was 2.25%. Data from the Aceh Social Service Agency in 2022 shows that there are 18,607 people with disabilities in Aceh, with various disability categories, including physical, intellectual, mental, sensory, and multiple disabilities (Jafaruddin 2023).

Based on the graph above, it can be interpreted that North Aceh Regency has the highest number of people with disabilities, with 2,315 individuals consisting of 1,274 men and 1,041 women. Meanwhile, the lowest number of disabilities is in Sabang City, namely 51 people. Social phenomena faced by people with disabilities in Aceh include low access to education, low community facilities that support the rights of people with disabilities, and limited job opportunities in formal and informal sectors for people with disabilities (Dawi et al. 2022).

Based on this empirical gap, the North Aceh Regency Government is currently in the process of drafting/formulating the discussion of the Qanun draft on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities. In this context, the Aceh Government only has Governor Regulation (Pergub) Number 53 of 2023 concerning the Regional Action Plan for Respecting, Protecting, and Fulfilling the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2024–2029. However, the contents of the Governor Regulation do not fully guarantee the fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities, because it only regulates the regional action plan and is limited by the implementation year.

Disability policy is also one of the pillars of sustainable development. Involving all members of society in the development process, regardless of physical or mental condition, is key to achieving inclusive and sustainable progress in the region. Therefore, through disability-friendly policies, the state not only fulfills its legal obligations to protect individual rights, but also shapes a more inclusive, just, and empowered society. This policy is not just a formal document, but also a symbol of moral and strategic commitment to the welfare of all citizens. Some academic journals have highlighted the importance of disability policy. In “The Importance of Disability Policy: A Human Rights Perspective” written by Smith (2018), it is emphasized that disability policy is not just about ensuring physical access, but also about promoting social inclusion and protecting human rights.

The problems related to disability policy in Aceh today still require maximum handling with cross-sectoral involvement. This research is very interesting to study because there have been no previous studies that have researched policy networks in the formulation of the Qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities, especially in the fields of education and employment. Some previous studies analyzed the inclusion training for people with disabilities and social advocacy in fulfilling the rights of people with disabilities, but none have examined policy networks for the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities. The involvement of various community groups, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector can form a network to allow the exchange of information, experiences, and resources needed to design better policies. Each stakeholder brings a perspective in addressing the complexity of policy issues faced. This research is expected to be a guide in helping the North Aceh Regency Government to continue to prioritize public interests, especially the disability group.

Problem Identification The optimization of cross-sectoral networks in advocating for the making of disability policies in North Aceh Regency has not fully played an optimal role, especially in integrating various stakeholders to achieve common goals. This has resulted in a lack of coordination and synergy in efforts to protect and fulfill the rights of people with disabilities. Accommodation of Disability Group Interests, The process of forming a network for formulating disability protection and fulfillment policies in North Aceh Regency has not fully accommodated the interests of the disability group, especially in terms of access to education, facilities and infrastructure, and job opportunities in the formal and informal sectors. This causes people with disabilities to still face various barriers in their daily lives.

Interaction and Interdependence of Actors The policy network in the formulation of the disability protection and fulfillment draft qanun in North Aceh Regency has not yet shown effective interaction and interdependence among the actors involved. Changes in the value system among actors often lead to changes in goals in the policy formulation process, which hinders the implementation of consistent and

effective policies. This study formulates some problems related to: First, Interaction and Interdependence of Policy Networks, How do policy networks among actors interact and interdependent in the formulation of the Qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities in North Aceh Regency, Second, Inhibiting and Supporting Factors in policy networks

Study Objectives It is expected to provide significant contributions in the formulation of more inclusive and effective policies to protect and fulfill the rights of people with disabilities. The formulation of objectives describes the interaction and interdependence of policy networks and describes how policy networks among actors interact and interdependent in the formulation of the qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities, the study objective is to analyze the dynamics of relations among actors in the policy network and how this interaction influences the policy formulation process. In addition to analyzing interactions and interdependence, it also analyzes inhibitors and supporters in the formulation of the draft qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities.

Literature Review

Policy Network Theory

A policy network is a concept that describes the interactive relationship between various actors involved in the policy-making process. These actors can be government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society. Policy network theory emphasizes the importance of collaboration and interaction between these actors to achieve effective policy goals.

- *Definition and Basic Concepts*

Policy networks describe the structure and processes of interaction between actors involved in policy-making. This includes formal and informal relationships that influence the decision-making process (Ali et al. 2021) (Gong et al. 2018) (溢群 2020).

- *Application in Disability Policy*

In the context of disability policy, policy networks can help identify and address barriers faced by people with disabilities. Case studies in Malaysia show that policy networks can play a role in transforming disability policy from a welfare perspective to a sports perspective (Endo, Funahashi, and Mano 2021).

- *Case Studies and Implementation*

Research on health insurance reform in China shows that policy networks can be used to understand the policy-making process in different contexts, including cultural differences and political systems (Zheng, de Jong, and Koppenjan 2010).

Advocacy Coalition Framework

The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) is a theory that explains how coalitions of actors with shared beliefs and values work together to influence policy. ACF emphasizes the importance of interaction between advocacy coalitions and how changes in value systems can affect policy goals.

- *Definition and Basic Concepts*

Describes how coalitions of actors who share common beliefs and values work together to influence policy. This includes analysis of how changes in value systems and beliefs can affect the policy-making process (Giordano 2019) (Jin 2023).

- *Application in Disability Policy*

Research in the United States shows that ACF can be used to understand changes in disability policy at the state level. This study found that stakeholder mobilization, strategic framing, and bureaucratic activism play important roles in policy change (Giordano 2019).

- *Case Studies and Implementation*

Research on disability sports policy in Malaysia shows that ACF can be used to understand how advocacy coalitions can influence policy change, especially in the context of developing countries (Endo et al. 2021).

Research Methodology

Study Approach uses a qualitative approach. This approach is chosen because it allows researchers to gain a deeper understanding of complex social phenomena, especially related to policy networks in the formulation of the disability protection and fulfillment draft qanun in North Aceh Regency. The qualitative approach also allows researchers to explore the interactions between actors and the dynamics that occur within policy networks. The methodology used in this research uses several data collection methods to obtain comprehensive and in-depth information: in-depth interviews conducted with various stakeholders, including officials from the Social Service Agency, NGO representatives, the community of people with disabilities, and community leaders. These interviews aim to explore their views, experiences, and perceptions regarding policy networks and the formulation of the Qanun. FGDs are conducted to obtain collective views from specific groups, such as the community of people with disabilities and non-governmental organizations. These FGDs aim to identify problems, needs, and expectations regarding disability policies. Observations are carried out to understand the social context and dynamics of interaction between actors in the policy network. This observation includes direct observation of activities related to policy formulation at the Social Service Agency. Document studies are conducted by collecting and analyzing official documents, such as regulations, reports, and meeting minutes related to disability policies in North Aceh Regency.

Data analysis in this research is carried out in several stages, namely, Data obtained from interviews, FGDs, observations, and document studies are processed temporarily to identify relevant patterns or categories. This process involves transcription of interviews, data coding, and grouping findings based on specific themes. Then, the results of the temporary data processing are used to develop a substantive theory that explains the relationship between several relevant concepts. This substantive theory helps in understanding the dynamics of policy networks and the factors that influence the formulation of the draft qanun. The final step is to draw conclusions from the results of the overall data compilation. This conclusion includes the main findings of the research, policy implications, and recommendations for improving policy networks in the formulation of the draft qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities.

Result and Discussion

Interaction and Interdependence of Policy Networks

Interaction and interdependence among actors in the policy network in North Aceh Regency are still not optimal. The findings interpret that The actors involved, including the Social Service Agency, NGOs, the community of people with disabilities, and the private sector, have already formed an adequate coordination network. Although there are efforts to collaborate, differences in interests and priorities often hinder the achievement of common goals.

- *Strengthening Coordination Among Actors*

Efforts are needed to strengthen coordination among the actors involved in policy formulation. This can be done by forming a cross-sectoral working group responsible for ensuring that all actors work towards the same goal.

Establishing Regular Communication Forums

Establishing regular communication forums where all actors can meet, discuss, and share information routinely. This forum will help address differences in interests and ensure that everyone has the same understanding of policy goals and processes.

Strengthening the Capacity of Involved Actors

Strengthening the capacity of the actors involved through training and skills development. This includes training on the rights of people with disabilities, advocacy techniques, and policy network management.

Active Participation from the Community of Persons with Disabilities

Emphasizing the importance of active participation from the community of people with disabilities in the policy formulation process. This participation is not only as beneficiaries but also as active contributors to decision-making.

Inhibiting and Supporting Factors

Inhibiting Factors

Inhibitors and supporters of policy networks in the formulation of the draft qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities in North Aceh Regency. These factors influence the effectiveness of policy networks and the ability of actors involved to work together to achieve common goals. Based on the Data Konsolidasi Bersih (DKB) Semester I 2020 of Aceh Province, there are 960 people with disabilities based on the type of disability. In North Aceh Regency, there are 950 people with disabilities with various types of disabilities. Based on data collected from the Office of the Social Service Agency for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2020, the number of people with disabilities in North Aceh Regency is 918 people from 27 sub-districts. With the highest number of people with disabilities, namely Baktiya with 58 cases, Dewantara with 47 cases, Sawang with 16 cases, Banda Baro with 13 cases, and followed by other sub-districts with lower numbers.

Problems related to disabilities in Aceh today still require maximum handling with cross-sectoral involvement. Some of the existing problems include low access to education, inadequate medical personnel, low community facilities that support the rights of people with disabilities, and limited job opportunities in the formal sector for people with disabilities. So far, the network formed between actors in the formulation of the disability draft qanun has been hampered, where the formulation of the qanun has not fully accommodated local wisdom in Islamic Sharia in the Aceh province, where the contents included in the draft qanun still refer to Law Number 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities.

Another obstacle related to the weakness in providing facilities for the role of people with disabilities in conveying their aspirations in general elections, where there are no disability-friendly facilities available. However, it has been included in the bill that includes 1%, but it has not been articulated. In addition, there is no representation of the Aceh Disability Commission to oversee the fulfillment of disability rights.

Actors in the policy network, including the Social Service Agency and NGOs, face limitations in human resources and financial resources. This hinders the ability of actors to implement programs and initiatives needed to support people with disabilities.

Differences in interests and priorities among the actors involved often lead to conflict and a lack of coordination. For example, some actors focus on health aspects, while others emphasize education or employment.

Public awareness of the rights of people with disabilities is still low. This causes a lack of social support and often results in discrimination against people with disabilities.

Supporting Factors

Commitment of the Local Government

The local government demonstrates a strong commitment to improving the well-being of people with disabilities through various policies and programs. This commitment includes allocating special funds and forming cross-sectoral working groups.

Support from NGOs

NGOs play an important role in advocacy and service provision for people with disabilities. They often serve as a bridge between the government and the community of people with disabilities, helping to overcome existing barriers.

Initiatives from the Community of Persons with Disabilities

The community of persons with disabilities themselves demonstrate strong initiatives in advocating for their rights. They are active in various forums and advocacy activities, which help raise awareness and support for disability issues.

Effective Policy Network Model

This study proposes an effective policy network model for the formulation of the Qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities in North Aceh Regency. This model is designed based on the findings of the interaction and interdependence among actors and the inhibiting and supporting factors that have been previously identified.

Strengthening Coordination Among Actors

The formation of a cross-sectoral working group responsible for ensuring that all actors work towards the same goal. This team will serve as a coordination and decision-making center, ensuring that everyone is actively involved and informed.

Establishing Regular Communication Forums

Regular communication forums where all actors can meet, discuss, and share information routinely. This forum will help address differences in interests and ensure that everyone has the same understanding of policy goals and processes.

Strengthening the Capacity of Involved Actors

Training and skills development for the actors involved, including training on the rights of people with disabilities, advocacy techniques, and policy network management. This will ensure that everyone has the skills and knowledge needed to contribute effectively.

Active Participation from the Community of Persons with Disabilities

Emphasizing the importance of active participation from the community of people with disabilities in the policy formulation process. This participation is not only as beneficiaries but also as active contributors to decision-making.

Discussion of Research

Interaction and Interdependence of Policy Networks

Policy Network Theory explains that interaction and interdependence among actors are crucial to achieve effective policy. In this context, the policy network in North Aceh shows that formal and informal relationships between actors still need to be strengthened. The case study of health insurance reform in China shows that a strong policy network can help address differences in interests and achieve common goals.

Strengthening Coordination Among Actors

In North Aceh, strengthening coordination among actors can be done through the formation of cross-sectoral working groups and regular communication forums. Cross-sectoral working groups can ensure that all actors work towards the same goals and address differences in interests. Regular communication forums will allow actors to meet, discuss, and share information routinely, which will help address differences in interests and ensure that everyone has the same understanding of policy goals and processes.

Strengthening the Capacity of Involved Actors

Strengthening the capacity of the actors involved through training and skills development is also important to ensure that everyone has the skills and knowledge needed to contribute effectively. Training on the rights of people with disabilities, advocacy techniques, and policy network management will help actors to better understand their roles and how they can work together to achieve common goals.

Active Participation from the Community of Persons with Disabilities

Active participation from the community of people with disabilities is key to ensuring that the resulting policies truly reflect their needs and interests. This participation is not only as beneficiaries but also as active contributors to decision-making. The case study of disability sports policy in Malaysia shows that active participation from the community of people with disabilities can help overcome barriers and achieve significant policy changes.

Inhibiting and Supporting Factors

The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) helps identify inhibiting and supporting factors in the policy network. ACF emphasizes the importance of understanding changes in values and beliefs that can affect the policy-making process. This research shows that inhibiting factors such as a lack of resources and differences in interests can be addressed by increasing awareness and commitment from all actors involved.

Lack of Resources

Lack of financial and human resources is a major obstacle faced by many actors in the policy network in North Aceh. The case study of disability sports policy in Malaysia shows that resource limitations are also a major obstacle in the policy formulation process in that country. To address this obstacle, adequate budget

allocation and enhancement of human resource capacity through training and skills development are needed.

Differences in Interests Among Actors

Differences in interests and priorities among the actors involved often lead to conflict and a lack of coordination. This is in line with findings in studies on alcohol policy in South Africa, where differences in values and interests among government departments hindered policy development. To address this obstacle, efforts are needed to improve communication and collaboration among actors, as well as building an understanding of common goals.

Low Public Awareness

Public awareness of the rights of people with disabilities is still low, which causes a lack of social support and discrimination. Studies on air protection policy in China show that low public awareness is also a barrier to policy implementation. To address this obstacle, intensive public awareness campaigns and education about the rights of people with disabilities are needed.

Commitment of the Local Government

The commitment of the local government is a significant supporting factor in the policy network in North Aceh. The local government shows a strong commitment through the allocation of special funds and the formation of cross-sectoral working groups. Studies on the two-child policy in China show that strong government commitment can help overcome obstacles and achieve policy goals.

Support from NGOs

NGOs play an important role in advocacy and service provision for people with disabilities. They often serve as a bridge between the government and the community of people with disabilities, helping to overcome existing barriers. Studies on disability sports policy in Malaysia show that support from NGOs can help overcome barriers and achieve significant policy changes.

Initiatives from the Community of Persons with Disabilities

The community of persons with disabilities themselves demonstrate strong initiatives in advocating for their rights. Active participation from the community of people with disabilities is key to ensuring that the resulting policies truly reflect their needs and interests. The case study of disability sports policy in Malaysia shows that active participation from the community of people with disabilities can help overcome barriers and achieve significant policy changes.

Effective Policy Network Model

A combination of Policy Network Theory and Advocacy Coalition Framework is used to formulate an effective policy network model. Policy network theory helps understand how interaction among actors can be strengthened, while ACF helps identify factors that need to be considered to achieve policy goals.

Strengthening Coordination Among Actors

In North Aceh, strengthening coordination among actors can be done through the formation of cross-sectoral working groups. This team will serve as a coordination and decision-making center, ensuring that everyone is actively involved and informed. The case study of the two-child policy in China shows that good coordination among actors can help address differences in interests and achieve policy goals (Jin 2023).

Establishing Regular Communication Forums

Regular communication forums will allow actors to meet, discuss, and share information routinely. This will help address differences in interests and ensure that everyone has the same understanding of policy goals and processes. Studies on disability sports policy in Malaysia show that effective communication forums can help overcome barriers and achieve significant policy changes (Endo et al. 2021).

Strengthening the Capacity of Involved Actors

Strengthening the capacity of the actors involved through training and skills development is also important to ensure that everyone has the skills and knowledge needed to contribute effectively. Training on the rights of people with disabilities, advocacy techniques, and policy network management will help actors to better understand their roles and how they can work together to achieve common goals. Studies on air protection policy in China show that strengthening actor capacity can help improve the effectiveness of policy implementation (Endo et al. 2021).

Active Participation from the Community of Persons with Disabilities

Active participation from the community of people with disabilities is key to ensuring that the resulting policies truly reflect their needs and interests. This participation is not only as beneficiaries but also as active contributors to decision-making. The case study of disability sports policy in Malaysia shows that active participation from the community of people with disabilities can help overcome barriers and achieve significant policy changes (Endo et al. 2021).

This research shows that an effective policy network model includes strengthening coordination, establishing regular communication forums, strengthening the capacity of involved actors, and active participation from the community of people with disabilities. By implementing this model, it is expected that the formulation of the Qanun for the protection and fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities in North Aceh Regency can proceed more effectively and inclusively.

Conclusion

Interaction and interdependence among actors in the policy network in North Aceh Regency are still not optimal. The actors involved, including the Social Service Agency, NGOs, the community of people with disabilities, and the private sector, do not have a comprehensive understanding of the formulation of the draft qanun on the fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities without adequate coordination. Although there are efforts to collaborate, differences in interests and priorities often hinder the achievement of common goals. Strengthening coordination, establishing regular communication forums, strengthening the capacity of involved actors, and active participation from the community of people with disabilities are important steps that need to be taken to achieve effective and inclusive policies.

This research identifies several inhibiting and supporting factors in the policy network. The main inhibiting factors include a lack of resources, differences in interests among actors, and low public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities. On the other hand, supporting factors include the commitment of the local government, support from NGOs, and the presence of initiatives from the community of persons with disabilities. To address these obstacles, adequate budget allocation, improved communication and collaboration among actors, and intensive public awareness campaigns are needed.

An effective policy network model includes four main elements: strengthening coordination among actors, establishing regular communication forums, strengthening the capacity of involved actors, and active participation from the community of people with disabilities. By implementing this model, it is expected that the formulation of the Qanun for the protection and fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities in North Aceh Regency can proceed more effectively and inclusively. This model is designed to address specific issues identified in the research, focusing on strengthening coordination, communication, capacity building, and active participation from the community of people with disabilities.

This research provides a deep insight into the dynamics of policy networks in the formulation of the Qanun on the protection and fulfillment of the rights of people with disabilities in North Aceh Regency. By identifying interaction and interdependence among actors, inhibiting and supporting factors, and formulating an effective policy network model, it is hoped to make a significant contribution to improving the effectiveness of disability protection and fulfillment policies in North Aceh Regency.

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