

The Context of Child Poverty Policies in Indonesia

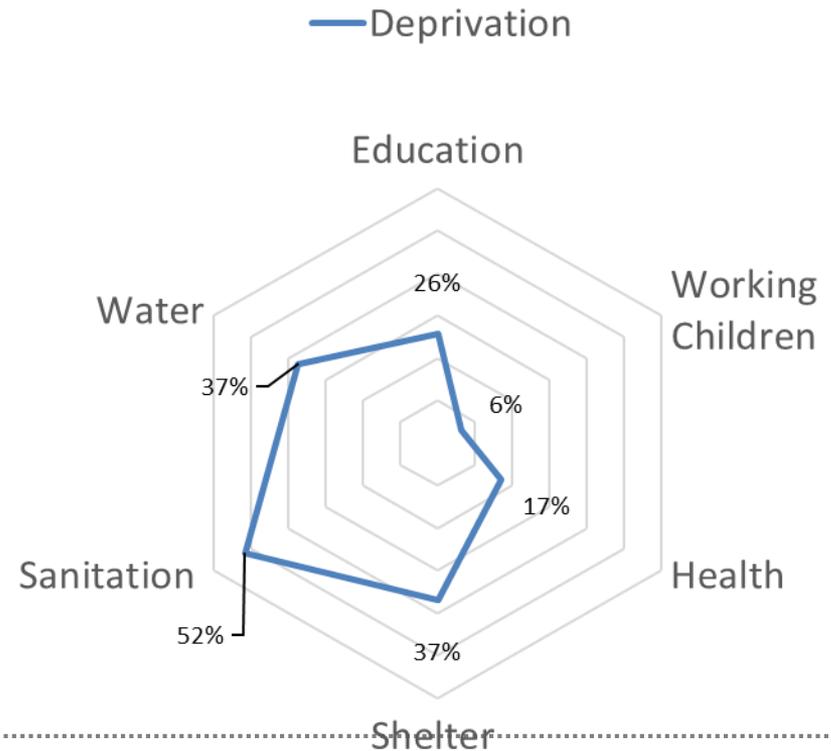
Erlangga Agustino Landiyanto
PhD Student, School of Policy Studies
University of Bristol

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

Deprivations Experienced by Indonesian Children (%)



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-measures (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