ABSTRACT

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY MARRIAGE PREVENTION POLICY IN* SULAWESI BARAT PROVINCE *(A CASE STUDY IN* MAMASA *REGENCY)

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This study discusses the implementation of the early marriage prevention policy in Mamasa *Regency of* Sulawesi Barat *Province, which was driven by a significant increase in early marriage cases, from 21 cases in 2022 to 47 cases in 2024. The main objective of this study is to identify the causes and impacts of early marriage, as well as to analyze the implementation of early marriage prevention policy throughout* Mamasa *Regency. Specifically, this study aims to examine the gap in policy implementation based on the Regulation of* Sulawesi Barat *Province No. 1 of 2020 concerning the Child Protection System through four main variables: communication, resources, disposition or implementers' attitudes, and bureaucratic structure.*

This study applied a qualitative approach with the framework of George C. Edward III's implementation theory. The data were collected through in-depth interviews with 15 informants who consisted of the apparatus of DP2KBP3A*, traditional leaders, individuals involved in early marriage, and parents, direct observations, and document reviews.*

The result shows that policy communication has not been evenly distributed and has not yet involved traditional leaders; human resources and budget availability are very limited, with a ratio of one staff member handling the increasing number of cases; the disposition of implementing officials is pragmatic and responsive toward urgent cases; as well as the bureaucratic structure remains weak with ineffective cross-sectoral coordination and the absence of binding Village Regulations. The output of this study is policy recommendations including the integration of community-based socialization involving traditional leaders, the improvement of reproductive health education, the establishment of Village Regulations, the strengthening of human resource capacity and data management digitalization, and the development of Standard Operating Procedures for integrated case management to support more effective and sustainable early marriage prevention in Mamasa *Regency.*

Keywords: Policy Implementation, Early Marriage Prevention, Mamasa *Regency, Child Protection, George C. Edward III.*

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