## *ABSTRACT*

***THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN OVERCOMING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DROPOUTS AT* BUDONG-BUDONG *DISTRICT OF* MAMUJU TENGAH *REGENCY***

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*School dropout children still become a quite serious issue of education in* Mamuju Tengah *Regency, particularly in* Budong-Budong *District. The high number of school dropouts in this area is caused by several factors, including limited family economic conditions, low learning motivation, lack of parents' awareness, and the policy of local government, which has not been implemented optimally. This study aims to describe the role of* Mamuju Tengah *Regency Government in overcoming the problem of school dropouts in* Budong-Budong *District.*

*This study applied a qualitative descriptive method. The data were obtained through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentations. The research informants consisted of the apparatus of the local government, village officials, teachers, parents, and dropout children. The technique of data analysis was conducted through the process of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion.*

*The result shows that the Government of* Mamuju Tengah *Regency has performed three main roles in overcoming school dropouts, namely (1) conducting a socialization for the people about the importance of education and the provided programs; (2) providing financial assistance for education and school supplies for the children from underprivileged family; and (3) conducting* Gerakan Kembali Sekolah (Taki Sola) *program to reintegrate children to school. Nevertheless, the implementation of these programs still faces varied challenges such as incomplete data collection on school dropouts, a lack of people's awareness, and limited education facilities in remote areas.*



***Keywords****: Dropout children, Government's Role,* Mamuju Tengah*, Basic Education*


*Translated by:*
***The AgencyES***
*Language Institute*
*File No.: 569-S2-225012*