

## Implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program and Its Implications for Public Social Education

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### ABSTRACT

The implementation of the Rantang Simpati (Simpati Food Container) policy in North Sumedang District, Sumedang Regency, has not been optimal, despite being regulated by Sumedang Regent Regulation Number 13 of 2020. This study aims to analyze the implementation of the Rantang Simpati program and identify supporting and inhibiting factors. The research method used a descriptive qualitative approach, with data collection techniques through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. Informants included sub-district officials, village heads, the Family Welfare Movement (TP PKK) program administrators, and beneficiaries. Data analysis was conducted using an interactive model that included data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results indicate that the implementation of the Rantang Simpati program policy is not optimal, characterized by weak socialization, limited resources, low commitment among implementers, and the absence of written operational procedures (SOPs). Therefore, strengthening policy communication, increasing resources, and improving bureaucratic coordination are needed.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Old age is the final stage in human life, after passing through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. According to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 13 of 1998, a person is categorized as elderly if they are 60 years of age or older. Entering this phase often presents challenges, especially when older people are no longer productive. Therefore, efforts to improve the well-being of older people are crucial through the provision of social protection to anticipate potential neglect and other social risks.

Indonesia has now entered a phase of an aging population structure. This phenomenon began in 2021. Over a period of more than a decade, between 2010 and 2022, the proportion of older people in Indonesia increased by approximately 4 percent, reaching 11.75 percent in 2022.

The increase in the proportion of older people and the rise in life expectancy reflect the success of development in health and social welfare. However, this situation also demands policies that are

responsive to the needs of the elderly, particularly in terms of social protection and welfare services at the regional level.

According to data from the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs (Kemensos, 2023), the number of elderly people reached 11.75 percent of the total national population, or approximately 31.3 million people. This figure is projected to increase to 19 percent by 2045. In Sumedang Regency alone, the number of elderly people in 2023 was recorded at approximately 145,000, or approximately 11% of the total population, and experienced an increasing trend in 2024 (Sumedang Regency Statistics Agency, 2024). This number continued to grow to 203,406 people based on the Clean Population Data (DKB) for the first semester of 2025. Meanwhile, in North Sumedang District, there were 16,210 elderly people. This situation illustrates that attention to the welfare of the elderly is a strategic issue in regional social development.

This demographic development presents social challenges that must be addressed seriously, particularly regarding meeting basic needs and improving the welfare of the elderly. One of the most vulnerable groups is single or solitary elderly people, those who live alone without family support, and therefore often experience difficulties meeting their daily needs, both physically, emotionally, and socially.

In general, single elderly people face limited mobility, limited income, and difficulty accessing adequate and nutritious food. If left untreated, these conditions can negatively impact their health, ranging from the risk of malnutrition and depression to a reduced overall quality of life. Furthermore, they often experience social isolation and receive less attention from their surroundings in their daily lives.

To address these challenges, the Sumedang Regency Government, through Sumedang Regent Regulation Number 13 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of the Rantang Simpatti Program for Poor and Neglected Elderly, launched an innovative policy known as the Rantang Simpatti Program. This program provides a social service in the form of distributing nutritious ready-to-eat meals to single elderly people who are considered poor and do not have family support. The primary goal of this program is not only to ensure the nutritional needs of the elderly are met, but also to increase social awareness, reduce loneliness, and strengthen the community's commitment to the elderly.

Normatively, this policy is highly relevant to the mandate of Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, which emphasizes the role of local governments in providing social welfare and community empowerment. The Rantang Simpatti program is a concrete manifestation of the function of local welfare policy, implemented through a public service approach based on empathy and social equity. However, in practice, particularly in North Sumedang District, there were some issues that did not align with the previously established guidelines. Based on initial observations, researchers found several conditions that illustrate the suboptimal implementation of Sumedang Regent Regulation Number 13 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of the Rantang Simpatti Program for Poor and Neglected Elderly in the field, namely: Delays in the delivery of the Rantang Simpatti to beneficiaries occurred in some areas, particularly remote villages; The program was not properly socialized to the community, resulting in low community participation in oversight; Monitoring and evaluation activities were not carried out routinely and periodically; Unequal distribution of program targets across sub-districts. Based on the Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS), it is recorded that in North Sumedang District, there are 1,267 single elderly people, and only 30 have been beneficiaries of the Rantang Simpatti Program, or approximately 2.4% of those who have benefited from it; Budgetary limitations impact the program's reach and sustainability.

North Sumedang District was selected as the research location because it possesses several characteristics relevant to the study's focus on the implementation of the Rantang Simpatti Program policy, particularly in terms of equitable distribution of beneficiaries. Geographically and administratively, North Sumedang District represents an urban area in Sumedang Regency, with a relatively high population density and a wide variety of socioeconomic conditions. These conditions allow researchers to comprehensively observe how the Rantang Simpatti Program policy is implemented amidst a heterogeneous community. Furthermore, based on data from the Sumedang Regency Social Service, North Sumedang District is one of the areas with a significant number of poor elderly living alone

compared to other districts. This makes the region important to study because of the potential for inequality to arise in determining and distributing program recipient targets.

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the Rantang Simpati program and identify supporting and inhibiting factors. The research indicates that the implementation of the Rantang Simpati program policy is not optimal, characterized by weak socialization, limited resources, low commitment among implementers, and the absence of written operational procedures (SOPs). Therefore, strengthening policy communication, increasing resources, and improving bureaucratic coordination are needed.

## 2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive design, chosen to gain an in-depth understanding of the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy in North Sumedang District, Sumedang Regency. This approach is relevant for examining the policy process, the behavior of implementing actors, and the social context that influences policy implementation at the local level.

The object of the research is the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy as stipulated in Sumedang Regent Regulation Number 13 of 2020. The research subjects included North Sumedang District officials, Village Heads/Lurahs, Family Welfare Movement (TP PKK), program managers, and the community as beneficiaries. Informants were selected purposively, taking into account their involvement and knowledge of the Rantang Simpati Program implementation.

Data collection techniques included field observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. Observations were used to observe the actual implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program in the field. In-depth interviews were conducted semi-structured to gather information on policy communication, resource availability, implementer attitudes, and bureaucratic coordination. Documentation studies were used to examine policy documents, activity reports, and other relevant supporting data. Data analysis was conducted using an interactive analysis model that includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The analysis focused on four dimensions of policy implementation: communication, resources, implementer disposition, and bureaucratic structure, enabling researchers to systematically identify supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy in North Sumedang District, Sumedang Regency, focusing on communication, resources, implementer disposition, and bureaucratic structure. Overall, the results indicate that the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy has been running well but still faces various structural and cultural obstacles that affect the program's effectiveness.

### **Results of the Rantang Simpati Program Policy Implementation**

The results indicate that the communication aspect of the policy has not been optimal. The socialization of the Rantang Simpati Program policy, which was only carried out at the Subdistrict Minggon Meeting, was limited and unsustainable, resulting in relatively low understanding of the policy's substance among implementers. This condition has resulted in low participation of implementers and the community in assistance, verification, and program oversight.

In terms of resources, the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy in North Sumedang District faces budget constraints, a lack of supervisory personnel, and a lack of supporting facilities such as cooking utensils. These limitations prevent optimal and consistent implementation and oversight.

The disposition of implementers indicates that, despite a normative understanding of the Rantang Simpati Program policy, their commitment has not been fully reflected in its implementation on the ground. The lack of incentives for program implementation is one of the causes of weak motivation.

Meanwhile, regarding the bureaucratic structure, research results indicate the absence of a specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) related to the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program and weak coordination between the agencies involved. This situation results in partial and unintegrated policy implementation. A summary of the results of the Rantang Simpati Program policy implementation based on four main aspects is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Results of the Rantang Simpati Program Policy Implementation in North Sumedang District

Implementation Aspects:	Key Findings
Communication:	Limited and unsustainable socialization, weak coordination between agencies
Resources:	Limited budget, Limited facilities, Inaccurate targeting of beneficiaries
Disposition:	Lack of incentives, Data asynchronous
Bureaucratic structure:	No standard operating procedures (SOPs), weak program evaluation

The findings of this study indicate that the initial objective of the Rantang Simpati Program policy, which was to create a healthy public environment, has not been optimally achieved in North Sumedang District. The low effectiveness of policy communication directly impacts low levels of community compliance, indicating that the policy has not been fully translated into public understanding. This results in information about the program not being widely and effectively disseminated, resulting in low community participation in assistance, the verification process, and program oversight.

Limited resources are a key factor explaining the weak oversight and enforcement of the policy. Without adequate budgetary support, personnel, and facilities, policy implementation tends to be symbolic and unsustainable. This interpretation reinforces previous research findings that public policies at the local level often face implementation obstacles due to limited institutional capacity.

Furthermore, the lack of strong commitment among program implementers is primarily due to a lack of incentives to motivate program implementation. Furthermore, the amount of assistance is disproportionate to the number of targeted elderly, creating disparities between regions. These findings are consistent with other research that suggests that implementer commitment is a determining factor in the success of policy implementation at the field level. From a bureaucratic structure perspective, the absence of specific SOPs and weak inter-agency coordination indicate that the Rantang Simpati Program policy has not been firmly institutionalized. The interrelationship between these four aspects suggests that the failure of one aspect can weaken the entire policy implementation process.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study confirms that the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy in North Sumedang District has been ineffective due to weak integration between policy communication, resource capacity, implementer commitment, and bureaucratic structure. These findings enrich the study of public policy implementation by demonstrating that the sub-district level faces different institutional and social challenges than urban areas. Practically, the research findings can serve as a basis for formulating strategies to strengthen the implementation of the Rantang Simpati Program policy based on the local context. Future research is recommended to test a cross-sectoral collaborative model or a quantitative approach to more comprehensively measure the level of compliance and impact of the Rantang Simpati Program policy.

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