

The Identification of Scientific Findings of Strategic Public Policies on The Prohibition of Using Plastic Bags in Stores, Markets and Supermarkets: A Lesson For Biak Numfor Regency

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Abstract

This qualitative study aimed to understand the relevance of scientific evidence and the effect of local government policies on the prohibition of using plastic bags in shopping centers in Biak Numfor Regency. As a government, it can make regional policies to continue the sustainable development of all sectors, including developing a healthy environment free of plastic waste. To understand this effect, we have collected data from various literature and scientific studies of publications that also voice the importance of local government policies to keep the environment healthy from plastic waste. After we found the data, we analyzed it with a descriptive approach through coding, in-depth interpretation, and concluding. For our study to answer this study's questions, we pay attention to data validity and reliability principles. We follow the suggested data design. Our study found that the policy to prohibit plastic bags has maintained the cleanliness of the residential environment where people live. However, on the other hand, there are still parties who are still disadvantaged by this policy. Thus, this result will be the initial stage of government efforts to preserve a healthy Biak Numfor Regency environment.

Keywords: administration, organization, policy

Abstrak

Penelitian kualitatif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui identifikasi bukti ilmiah dan pengaruh kebijakan pemerintah daerah terhadap larangan penggunaan kantong plastik di pusat perbelanjaan di Kabupaten Biak Numfor. Sebagai pemerintah, dapat membuat kebijakan daerah untuk melanjutkan pembangunan berkelanjutan di semua sektor, termasuk membangun lingkungan yang sehat bebas sampah plastik. Untuk memahami dampak tersebut, kami telah mengumpulkan data dari berbagai literatur dan kajian ilmiah dari publikasi yang juga menyuarakan pentingnya kebijakan pemerintah daerah untuk menjaga kesehatan lingkungan dari sampah plastik. Data yang didapat kemudian dianalisis dengan pendekatan deskriptif melalui pengkodean, interpretasi mendalam, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Untuk penelitian kami untuk menjawab pertanyaan penelitian ini, kami memperhatikan prinsip validitas dan reliabilitas data. Kami mengikuti desain data yang disarankan. Studi kami menemukan bahwa kebijakan pelarangan kantong plastik berdampak pada terjaganya kebersihan lingkungan hunian tempat tinggal masyarakat. Namun di sisi lain, masih ada pihak yang dirugikan oleh kebijakan ini. Dengan demikian, hasil ini akan menjadi langkah awal dari upaya pemerintah dalam menjaga lingkungan Kabupaten Biak Numfor yang sehat.

Kata Kunci: administrasi, organisasi, kebijakan

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INTRODUCTION

The enactment of the Regional Regulation on the Prohibition of the Use of Plastic Bags since June 1, 2019, in Biak Numfor Regency, Papua, has effectively reduced waste in residential areas. The policy to prohibit plastic bags has resulted in maintaining the residential environment's cleanliness where the community lives; for example, there is less garbage dumped in the tub. The government hopes that residents and business actors, including kiosks and supermarkets, support regional regulations to reduce single-use plastic waste. The Department of Environment hopes that the various elements of Biak Numfor residents will play an active role in socializing the prohibition of using plastic bags. Apart from prohibiting single-use plastic waste, the Regional Regulation also requires public transportation and private vehicles to provide trash cans in vehicles. The provision of a place to dispose of trash in the car is one of the regulations contained in the Perda; if it is not available, then a fine may be applied. Today, several stalls and convenience stores and cakes no longer provide single-use plastic bags for buyers according to the provisions in Biak Numfor Regency's regional regulations. For those regulations, we will identify and understand how this public policy has

influenced the community on the Prohibition of Using Plastic Bags in Stores, Markets and Supermarkets: a lesson for the Biak Numfor Regency Government.

If looking at the pros and cons of this policy, it can be examined in the DKI Jakarta governor's policy when he issued a policy to ban single-use plastic bags in shopping places such as shops, supermarkets, and public markets starting yesterday, July 1, 2020. Even though it has been passed, the regulations stated in Pergub Number 142 of 2019 concerning the Obligation to Use Environmentally Friendly Shopping Bags still triggers pros and cons. The government explained that the policy was carried out because single-use plastic bags constituted a significant waste. Approximately 34 percent of the 39 million tons of waste in landfills, Bantargebang are single-use plastic bags. According to environmental scientists, plastic waste is also a global problem, and Indonesia is one of the most significant contributors. Based on a report from the Jambeck Research Group, Nwafor & Walker, (2020) plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, in 2015, Indonesia was ranked second as a contributor to plastic waste. The country produces 1.3 million tonnes per year. The problem is getting worse because plastic waste takes a very long time to break down.

The government needs a policy to deal with this problem. Gradually the government started limiting single-use plastic bags. There are many substitutions for this type, so the government believes it will not be a problem for the community. One of the substitutes for disposable plastic bags is an environmentally friendly shopping bag. If they do not bring it when shopping, business people usually sell it too. Because business actors who comply with this policy. In this case, the government will undoubtedly provide regional fiscal incentives such as tax reduction or relief. Meanwhile, those who do not run will be given three reprimands until their business license is revoked. This policy reduces businesses' costs to prepare disposable shopping bags, and consumers can use environmentally friendly materials that can be used repeatedly. In this case, the Biak district government has been highly committed and has carried out socialization since 2019. Socialization was carried out by directly visiting shopping centers, hundreds of more supermarkets, and dozens of people's markets and the associations that shelter them. The Biak district government also distributed posters and banners about the implementation of socialization and education to managers. Apart from directly, the government also socializes with the public through news media, print,

online, and TV. The government has conducted formal and informal socialization to market traders. Various socializations in the form of printed media have also been distributed in all market areas. It is hoped that the visitors and market traders will be ready to implement the plastic ban in early July.

Pros and Contra Over Policy

This policy proposal has been surfacing for a long time. Since then, this policy has triggered the pros and cons. For example, a representative from one of the mini-market companies that has gone national, Wiwiek Yusuf, the managing company in charge of retail, admits that he does not object to the regulation. The ban on single-use plastic bags has no impact on sales. However, he emphasized that adjustments need to be made. One of the things that the company will do is to continue educating the public to offer environmentally friendly bags and familiarize consumers with carrying them in shopping. In line with this national retail company, other companies, as managers of national retail outlets, support this policy. He admits that the companies they manage have been running a plastic bag reduction campaign both in outlets and in outdoor activities through his corporate affairs director. Besides, their company has also provided paid plastic bags. The point is

they are very supportive of a better living environment; of course, plastic bags must be reduced.

What the Association of the Indonesian Shopping Center in Biak Regency said in welcoming the existence of this policy is an essential effort from the government's commitment. The government admits that this policy is risky. Therefore, they need socialization to the public so that retailers and consumers can provide shopping bags that can be used repeatedly. The government also provides oversight of tenants and gives warnings. Pro support has also come from a non-governmental organization engaged in environmental issues, Greenpeace Indonesia. Urban Greenpeace Indonesia campaigner Muharram Atha Rasyadi, for example, thinks this policy is a potential step to reduce plastic waste. To be maximized, he asked the Biak Regional Government to be more aggressive in socialization efforts, especially business actors.

However, environmentalists also question why this policy has not been implemented in the past. Apart from the Biak district, DKI Jakarta is slower than other regions that have implemented this earlier, such as Balikpapan, Banjarmasin, and Bogor. One of those who disagree with this regulation is the Indonesian Association of Micro, Small and Medium

Enterprises (MSMEs). Akumindo stated that this policy would make small business actors worse. The economic issues should have been improved during COVID-19, then the environment should be improved. The UMKM asked the policy to be reviewed and evaluated. Don't because they cannot manage plastic waste to make this policy. They also disagreed because Biak's local government did not provide an alternative, let alone for packaging liquid or fruit products. If anything, he doubted there was an alternative as cheap and easy as plastic. Eventually, the traders will find it difficult because they are forced to sell more expensive and may be abandoned by customers. In line with this UMKM, the Indonesian Plastic Industry Association has admitted its objection. According to him, this ban will hit the industry and potentially make thousands of people out of work. He obtained this figure from the government's calculations, especially the Biak Regional Government.

To understand the impact and influence of the Biak Regional Government policy on the prohibition of using plastic bags in shops, markets, and supermarkets, we will explore the evidence from previous studies that have discussed policy issues in particular.

METHOD

This qualitative study's primary objective on environmental protection is to examine and understand the scientific evidence on the Biak Regional Government's policy of prohibiting the use of plastic bags in shops, markets, and supermarkets. We will explore evidence from previous studies that address specific policy issues as mentioned above. After searching the data electronically, various literature, and international publications on similar policies, we then reviewed ten publications as the primary data to see the relevance between the previous study data findings and similar policies implemented in Biak District. Our data is analyzed using a coding, evaluation, and in-depth interpretation system through a phenomenological approach and ensures the analysis results are valid and reliable. This qualitative analysis design follows the direction of qualitative scientific study experts such as Ritchie et al., (2013). We conducted a data search process with the help of the Google search engine and Cendikia Cendikia with keywords such as "plastic bag policy," "relevance of policies to save the environment," "environmental problems in the COVID-19 era," "and" qualitative studies."

RESULT

In this section of results, we will present a literature review of the relevance of international journals' findings and the strategic public policy of prohibiting the use of plastic bags in shops, markets, and supermarkets. This study is a lesson for the people of Biak Numfor Regency. Because this section is part of explaining the results of the study, we only present the results, while the discussion will be described in the next section.

Policy and Scientific Evidence

There have been occasional ad hoc efforts to influence consumer behavior by imposing product taxes that reflect external costs imposed by such products that are not initially included in their price. In the spirit of this idea, in 2002, Ireland introduced a 15 Euro cent tax on plastic shopping bags, previously provided free of charge to customers at points of sale. The tax on the use of plastic bags in retail outlets has been dramatic—a reduction in use in the order of 90%, and an associated gain in reduced littering and harmful landscape effects. Costs of administration have been low, amounting to about 3% of revenues, because it was possible to integrate reporting and collection into existing Value Added Tax reporting systems. Response from the main stakeholders: the public and

the retail industry, has been overwhelmingly positive. Central to this acceptance has been a policy of extensive consultation with these stakeholders. The fact that a product tax can influence consumer behavior significantly will be of interest to many policymakers in this area. This paper analyses the plastic bag levy success story and provides insights and general guidelines for other jurisdictions planning similar proposals.

Evidence of a similar study on plastic bag management by Xanthos & Walker, (2017). They said that international policies are to reduce marine plastic waste from single-use plastic bags and microbeads. Their findings confirm that ocean plastic pollution has become a global issue that has continued to blow over the last few decades. Plastic bags and microbeads are a significant source of pollution, especially in water. Although each country's policies are different, the ways and policies to unravel the environmental, social, and economic impacts of plastic pollution in the ocean continue to increase; few findings have made policymakers aware of reducing plastic pollution, especially plastics from the market. Their findings reviewed current international market-based policies and measures to reduce the use of plastic bags. While state policy to reduce microbeads was appropriate in 2014,

plastic bags' intervention was new in 1991. Indeed, several findings have identified or evaluated the effectiveness of these plastic reduction strategies and policies.

Scientific evidence from the study of Nwafor & Walker, (2020) regarding the ban's official regulation on the use of plastic bags is successful about the initial legality, which aims to reduce marine pollution by plastics in Nigeria. Improperly managed single-use plastics on land entering the oceans are a global problem. So the plastic bag ban policy is following environmental protection laws in Africa. However, this problem is a prohibition by a sanctioned policy. There is ample scientific evidence proving the policy effectiveness of statutory bans in inhibiting marine pollution in Africa. In 2019 Nigeria scrapped its plastic bag ban regulations, which penalize the use, production, and export of all commercial plastic products. Bills proposed by the government are based on rules and penalties that apply elsewhere. The legislative products which are enforced nationally are compared to the passed Nigerian rules and the boundaries identified. They highlighted how the bill could be re-passed to put forward public policies to improve marine sustainability. Drafting the bill must cover proactive stages, such as business-based tools, proper design, cooperation, application, and assurance before it is passed into law,

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protecting the marine environment from the dangers of plastic waste.

Wagner, (2017) findings have on reducing dependence on plastic grocery bags in the US. His study of plastic waste management in the US has the prime responsibility for urban waste management. The federal government does not have the power to explicitly managing costs or fines for waste producers. One of the most dangerous wastes for the environment is a single-use plastic bag. In 2014, in the US, 103,465 billion bags were included. Due to their very little recycling, these plastic bags remain significant land and marine debris and destroy water management systems. According to this study, the effect of this plastic can reduce the effectiveness of automatic recycling. The government has adopted various policies specifically to reduce the consumption of shopping bags at the store level in 5 categories: prohibition, the imposition of taxes, designing minimum bag products, requiring consumer education, and mandating a withdrawal program.

In September 2017, there are approximately 271 local governments in the US with plastic bag regulations of 9.7% of the national population. The majority (95%) of the rules ban plastic bags; 56.9% of this prohibition on mandatory fees and reusable bags. The fee

rule is \$ 0.10 in one; Tax regulations allow retailers to reduce all costs. Local governments continue to step up their plastic bags, and eleven federal states have adopted legal prohibiting the federal government from making single-use plastic bags. With the success of single-use bags, the federal government has also applied similar regulations to single-use expanded polystyrene products and any single-use plastic products.

Jalil et al., (2013) proved that plastic bags and their impact on the environment had become an alternative proposal towards environmental conservation policies by prohibiting excessive use of plastic bags. Millions of plastic factories produce hundreds of tons of plastic bags because plastic is popular with single-use. Because it is cheap and the convenience of its use. However, the impact is risk has never been discussed, at least, studied easily understood seriously. Developed countries have banned excessive plastic bags because of the negative impact on environmental and biological life, especially in agricultural continents, such as Indonesia, India, and South Africa. This paper has used thinking based on literature reviews and interviews from experts to identify the effectiveness of scientific findings from the public policy on the prohibition of plastic use. This study focuses on environmental sustainability

and economic development by understanding alternatives to plastic bags that are not harmful to both the environment and humans themselves.

The findings of Clapp & Swanston, (2009) have been successful in how to clean plastic bags. A global pattern of emerging ethics and policymaking. Their rapid and broadening of the ethics of anti-plastic shopping and the policy of reducing plastic bag use globally in recent years have forced the re-thinking of policies on the dynamics and implementation of plastic bag ban policies. This movement pattern explores and characterizes a series of events, non-networked and multi-scalar, representing the global emergence of new environmental norms. This study also shows that differences in policy patterns as ethics in different countries and at different country levels are related to material interests' effectiveness in understanding norms into state policies on plastic bag prohibition. These various interpretations of domestic norms, in turn, have an impact on the dynamics of norms internationally.

Sung, (2010) has successfully examined how to ban plastic bags - is this the right step? This empirical study discusses the assumptions and thoughts, and practices of consumers. The environmental impact of consumers continues to be exacerbated by plastic bags that have become an impact. This study

explores the value and efficacy of reducing the environmental impact of buyers by examining the policy of reducing plastic bags. Plastic bags have had significant impacts on wildlife, landscapes, and litter management. Alternatives such as bags made from environmentally friendly materials, plastic bags rot quickly, or recycling is not healthy alternatives to replace plastic bags because the cost or environmental impact is getting worse. This paper describes three types of plastic bag reduction policies. In South Africa, a dramatic decline in the sale and purchase of plastic bags and the risk of job losses in the plastic waste industry. In Suginami, he succeeded in reducing about 40 percent of plastic bags using a voluntary approach, then facing limited funds. A levy on plastic bags in Ireland reduces more than ninety percent of plastic bags in recent years. Other findings in this paper found that economic disincentives are the most appropriate and effective policies to reduce the plastic bag public's environmental impact. These studies have side effects and will often invite a continuous increase in costs to continue the effect. Therefore, the plastic bag tax must be harmonized voluntarily, and the state and citizens must understand that reducing plastic is only a provoking step to change a more significant lifestyle to be healthier and more environmentally wise.

He, (2012) succeeded in researching the impact of a plastic-free healthy environmental policy on consumption, a lesson from plastic bag regulations in China. To reduce plastic bag waste, China created a state-specific policy prohibiting all kiosk retailers and convenience stores from collecting taxes on plastic shopping bags starting June 1, 2008. By adopting an experimental policy and the natural collection of data from individuals after application, he investigated the impact of regulations on usage bag. He found that the regulation's application led to a 50 percent decrease in the use of new bags. Apart from law enforcement, consumer attitudes towards regulation and buyers' socio-economic characteristics also influence bag consumption. However, regulation is very different between market consumer groups and between regions, and shopping events in each place are under the control of national regulations.

Zen et al., (2013) report that there is no day without an anti-plastic bag campaign in Malaysia and government policy implications. The plastic bag-free campaign day consists of an additional fee of IDR 1000 per plastic bag at shopping centers and food wrapping stores. To reduce the use of plastic bags and protect the environment. However, the campaign has provoked many public reactions, including consumers, governments, nature

and environmentalists, and the plastic wrapping industry. Consumers as the main consequence, this study assesses the impact of the campaign on citizen awareness, consumer knowledge, attitudes, and public behavior of plastic users and examines and discusses various applications of the policy. The study surveyed questionnaires from 262 households in Johor and conducted semi-structured interviews with relevant stakeholders. However, it still needs support from regulatory or legislative makers who will provide clear guidelines and mechanisms for plastic consumers, mini-market retailers, and the plastic bag industry. The implication of using plastic bags for garbage collection bins as a prime part of waste management reveals the urgency of seeing plastic bag tax collections from a waste management perspective so that they do not impact the environment.

DISCUSSION

The Biak Regional Government, through the Biak Numfor Environmental Service, enacted a Regional Regulation on the Prohibition of the Use of Plastic Bags since June 1, 2019, effectively reducing waste in residential areas. The policy to prohibit the use of plastic bags has resulted in maintaining the residential environment's cleanliness where the

community lives. Through this policy, the government and residents, and business actors, including owners of kiosks and supermarkets, have fully supported the implementation of regional regulations to reduce single-use plastic waste. Apart from prohibiting single-use plastic waste, the Regional Regulation also requires public transportation and private vehicles to provide trash cans in vehicles.

As mentioned above, the policy of prohibiting plastic bags ends up in the sea and is very risky for the survival of animal ecosystems. When plastic is dumped into landfills, it will take centuries to decompose, releasing pollutants fumes into the air and becoming toxic pollution for land and air animals. With the government's awareness of various policies, there will be many goals and good reasons why the government should make a policy to prohibit excessive use of plastic bags. CHUA et al., (2018) said that as a temporary substitute, paper can be used as a biodegradable material and can avoid several risks such as plastic, which increases the amount of paper very large, together with an increase in plastic waste bags, which means banning the use of plastic shopping bags increases gas emissions. Even so, this government prohibition policy does reduce the risk of non-biodegradable waste. Hard and expensive plastic bags are recycled and

often end up in landfills, where they take hundreds of years to break down naturally. Bags of leather break down into toxic particles that pollute the soil and waterways and enter the food chain of plants when animals accidentally ingest them, leading to poisoning of human life.

Studies from several international publications have made aware of the waste from plastic waste, which is increasingly endangering Indonesia's environment, which is increasing day by day and can disrupt the sustainability of the environment both land, sea, and air. Therefore, the Indonesian government, especially, Biak district, has implemented a new policy in an excessive ban on plastic bags. Empirical data shows that there are regions that have applied the policy. Indeed, a government like the city of DKI Jakarta is actively formulating policies in the form of a ban on plastic bags. Since the last six months, the Biak Regency government has conducted socialization on the policy. (Andriyati, 2020).

However, Artiningsih, (2008) noted that data in the field shows that the policy to ban plastic bags has been implemented since 2019. As an alternative to environmentally friendly bags, it has also been socialized as a replacement. For this reason, researchers are interested in identifying the effectiveness of policy information applied by the community in

the Biak district. This study will make it easier to find out information and policies on the Prohibition of Plastic Bags for environmentally friendly materials. Respondents from the ten scientific reports we studied support and are in line with the studies we carry out, which will later be used in other environmental studies. Meanwhile, the analysis of the ten data on the findings of environmental studies and the dangers of plastic bags observed the correlation between information on the policy on the prohibition of plastic bags and residents' reception in Biak Numfor district.

CONCLUSION

As mentioned above, this policy study aims to identify the Biak Numfor Regency government policy towards the environment from the dangers of unlimited use of plastic bags. This study is considered very important because it has paid attention to environmental sustainability from plastic bags' dangerous risks. The ten publications of scientific publications on plastic bag policies in several countries that have discussed policy issues, in particular, are all very relevant to our research questions where we both want to understand and identify the extent to which it is relevant in practice in the field, especially in Indonesia, both in Biak district and other big cities. The

findings include that the policy of prohibiting the use of plastic bags in any country has begun to receive a welcome from citizens. All of the ten publications we studied were very responsive and started to understand long before implementing it in Indonesia.

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