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## Implementation of New Student Admission Policy at SMPN 12 Tebo Jambi Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** the purpose of this research was to know the implementation of the policy for reception of new students at SMPN 12 Tebo regency, especially focuses on zoning policy. **Method:** The method was descriptive research with a qualitative approach. The techniques used in taking the analysis unit was purposive sampling and incidental sampling. The sample consisted of 14 (Fourteen) people. The data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and documentation. The data sources used primary and secondary data. The data analysis techniques were data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. **Results:** The implementation of the new student admission policy at SMPN 12 Tebo regency has been carried out quite well, but there were several things that still not implemented in accordance with applicable regulations, namely the placement. The inhibiting factors in the new students admission process were the unsynchronized files of prospective new students, geographical factors, and the desire of parents and prospective new students who live outside the zoning to register at SMPN 12 Tebo regency, while the efforts of the PPDB committee were synchronizing files to Dukcapil, time dispensation, and continuing to accept prospective new students. Novelty focused on policy analysis related to the contribution of research in assessing social impact and equal access to education. The research not focused on the admission system through the zoning route but discusses the admission system based on regulations.

## INTRODUCTION

The PPDB system is a system of regulating the process of admitting new students by determining the entry quota through four admission channels which are then regulated by PERMENDIKBUD Number 1 of 2021 concerning Acceptance of New Learners at the Kindergarten, Elementary School, Junior High School, Senior High School and Vocational High School education levels as an option for equalizing the quality of education and accelerating equal distribution of education quality in Indonesia, eliminating the view of favorite and non-favorite schools. According to (Grindle, 2017) policy implementation is not only related to the mechanism of translating political decisions into routine procedures through bureaucratic channels, but more than that.

New Student Admissions (PPDB) is an important stage in the national education system that aims to ensure fair, equitable, and quality access to education for all citizens. This policy aims to eliminate discriminatory practices in student admissions, reduce quality disparities between schools, and promote equitable quality of education. In addition to zoning, affirmative action, parental transfer, and achievement pathways are also provided to accommodate students from various backgrounds. The implementation of PPDB often encounters various challenges and causes controversy



among the public. It is regulated by Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024 concerning Technical Guidelines for New Student Admissions to Kindergartens, Elementary Schools, and Junior High Schools in Tebo Regency for the 2024/2025 Academic Year. The New Student Registration Mechanism Based on Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024, namely Registration, Placement, Announcement, Re-registration, and the First Day of School which divides the new student admission path into four parts, namely zoning, affirmation, achievement, parental duty transfer paths with quotas that have been determined for each pathway and the requirements that must be met during registration are also in the regulations made by the Regional Government and the determination of zones for new student candidates has also been regulated. Implementation can be interpreted as a form of process stage carried out by the government to deliver policies to the community (Langkai, J. E., Akib, H., Musa, I. C. T., & Naharia, 2019) (Suprpto, S., Pomalingo, N., & Akib, 2018) (Wati, N. K., Wijaya, A. F., & Saleh, 2015). There are several stages of activity, one of which is drafting follow-up rules which is a clarification of a policy. Thomas R Dye's public policy (Tahir, 2014) stated: "Public policy is whatever the government chooses to do or not do", this concept explains that public policy is whatever the government chooses to do or not do.

The implementation of PPDB has not fully achieved its initial objectives. Several major problems have arisen, including disparities in school capacity and quality, manipulation of domicile, limitations in technology and information infrastructure, and a lack of socialization and transparency.

Based on the observations made by the author regarding the Implementation of the New Student Admission Policy, the problems in this study were there was no socialization to parents about the purpose and type of pathway in the New Student Admission. In the Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024, the requirements of the four channels that must be met by prospective students at the time of registration are regulated, but the facts in the field researchers found that there were students who entered through the transfer of parents' duties only using a letter of transfer from the village instead of a letter of transfer from the agency or office. Then, in the Decree of the Head of the Tebo District Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024, there is already a division of zoning areas for schools, but the author found a discrepancy between the zones that have been determined in the Decree of the Head of the Tebo District Education and Culture Office and the facts in the field that the author found, namely that there are still students who go to schools that are not their zones and do not also enter through the other three channels. The emergence of the above problems has made the government's focus on education has made a breakthrough through the zoning policy in the hope of equitable distribution of education services (Badau, K. M., & Yahya, 2017).

According to Tachjan in (Maharani, 2020) concluded that public policy implementation is a process of administrative activities carried out after the policy is implemented and approved, this activity is between policy formulation and policy evaluation. policy implementation contains top-down logic, namely reducing or interpreting alternatives that are still abstract or macro into concrete or micro alternatives. Therefore, this policy implementation must be carried out because the problems formulated in the formulation of a policy require problem solving through action (Nida, P.E and Hariyati, 2019).



According to Edward in (Syahrudin, 2019) policy communication has several dimensions, including the following:

1. The transmission dimension requires that policies be conveyed not only to policy implementers but also to policy target groups and other interested parties.
2. The clarity dimension requires that policies are transmitted to implementers, target groups and other interested parties clearly.
3. The consistency dimension so that the policies taken are not confusing.

According to (Suhardi, 2023) there are two types of New Learner Admission systems including:

#### 1. Promotion System

The promotion system is a system of admitting students whose acceptance does not go through a selection process and for registration through this promotion system all students who register are automatically accepted as a whole, this system applies in schools where registration is less than the capacity that has been determined.

#### 2. Selection System

This selection system uses the Pure Ebta value (DANEM), based on Interest and Ability Search (PMDK) this selection is carried out with an overall assessment of the achievements of students in previous schools, this selection system requires students to take a test if they can complete the test based on predetermined criteria then the students are declared qualified.

(Ibrahim et al., 2021) states that the effectiveness of implementing a policy is fulfilled if there is a clear strategy for achieving goals, a policy is a decision taken by an institution to solve a problem or to achieve a certain goal. In implementing this policy, it is based on the objectives of implementing student admissions through the zoning system. Meanwhile, Wulandari, Hasyim and Nuralisa (2018) conducted research on the effect of new student admission through the zoning system on student learning achievement. The research design used quantitative descriptive method that aims to analyze the effect of new student admissions through the zoning system on student learning achievement. Then, (Nurlailiyah, 2019) analyzed an analysis of the zoning system policy on student behavior. The research design used qualitative method. This study aims to analyze the effect of new student admissions through the zoning system on student learning achievement which shows that the zoning system is a complaint for teachers in dealing with student behavior that is getting worse or undisciplined, this lack of discipline causes student learning achievement to be low. (Mustari, Herman, 2021) stated that the analysis of policy implementation variables falls into the "very good" category and service quality falls into the "good" category. The research that has been conducted by (Ardi, Danil, M., & Murni, 2023) show that several main problems in the implementation of zoning-based new student admissions. This policy helped provide a more inclusive and quality education for all students by analyzing and overcoming the problems that arise when implementing zoning-based admissions.

Zoning-based student admissions in Indonesia refers to a policy or system used in determining the admission of new students in schools by prioritizing the area or zone where students live (Purwanti, 2019). Zoning-based admission is a policy adopted by many countries and regions to ensure fairer and more equitable access to education (Prasetya, R. A., & Pribadi, 2021). The implementation of the zoning system aims to create equal access to education (Afiefa, N. K., & Liyanawati, 2023) and reduce the gap





between urban and rural areas, as well as between rich and poor areas (Risna, Lisdahlia, & Edi, 2020). By following the zoning system, students can enter schools that are close to where they live and have equal opportunities to obtain proper education. In the zoning system, local governments or educational institutions set criteria such as residential addresses or zone boundaries (Syusilayarni, S., Isjoni, I., & Azhar, 2021). Several problems that must be overcome in analyzing the problems of implementing zoning-based student admissions, namely social justice (Joni et al., 2020) transportation availability (Rachmadhany, F., Martin, 2021). The existence of education services seems to provide different treatment where there are certain schools called superior schools or favorite schools (Dewi, K. E., & Septiana, 2018) (Hoerudin, 2019) (Sirait, E. J. M., Arhas, S. H., & Suprianto, 2019).

The other researches showed that admissions policies have changed significantly over the years. Basically, the changes are obvious and there has always been a lack of attention to the learning approach. Admissions policy is important because the learning approach has the potential to provide more desirable outcomes for the higher education system so that policymakers can have more appropriate policies for admissions policy. (Marziyeh, A., Mehraban, H., Akbar, 2021). (Cecep, 2019) stated that the implementation of the new student admission policy with the zoning system in Indonesia is generally still running well but not yet effective. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct an evaluation for future improvements so that new student admissions can run well in accordance with its objectives. The research not focused on the admission system through the zoning route but discusses the admission system based on regulations.

(Iqbal et al., 2021) stated zoning system is a system of organizing new student admissions based on the area of residence. Based on the background description of the problem above, the problem formulation in this research was as follows:

1. How was the implementation of the student admission policy at SMPN 12 Tebo regency?
2. What were the inhibiting factors faced by the new student admission committee at SMPN 12 Tebo regency?
3. What were the efforts made by the PPDB Committee in overcoming obstacles related to the admission of new students at SMPN 12 Tebo regency?

Based on the formulation of the problems that researchers put forward, the objectives of this study were to find out the implementation of the new student admission policy at SMPN 12 Tebo regency, to find out the inhibiting factors faced by the new student committee at SMPN 12 Tebo regency, and to find out the efforts made by the PPDB committee in overcoming existing obstacles.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This type of research was descriptive research with a qualitative approach, namely data collected in the form of words, pictures, not numbers. According to Bogdan and Taylor quoted by Moleong, qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior. The purpose of descriptive research is to make a systematic, factual and accurate description of the facts and characteristics of a particular population or area (Lexy., 2017). The sampling methods used in this study were purposive sampling and





incidental sampling. The sample in this study consisted of 14 people, including the principal, the vice principal in charge of curriculum, three teachers who were the committee chair, members, and operators of the new student admission process, two parents, and eight students (two students from the zoning pathway, two from the affirmation pathway, two from the achievement pathway, and two from the parent transfer pathway). This sample was selected based on its suitability as a data source and its representativeness of the population being studied, so that the data obtained could be generalized. The data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and documentation. The data sources used primary and secondary data. The data analysis techniques were data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Result

In general, the implementation of the PPDB policy has followed the regulations, particularly those related to the application of the zoning system, affirmative action, academic achievement, and parental relocation. Schools have carried out the registration process online, supported by an information system from the local education office. The inhibiting factors in the PPDB are the lack of synchronization of the files of prospective new students, geographical factors, and the wishes of parents and prospective new students. The school committee plays an important role in bridging communication between parents, schools, and education agencies. Some of the efforts made by the school committee in overcoming PPDB issues include Complaint Facilitation and Mediation, Additional Socialization in the School Environment, and Administrative Assistance. The result are explain below;

1. One of the policies that has been implemented at SMP Negeri 12 is the government policy regarding the admission of new students. To observe the implementation of the new student admission policy at SMPN 12 in Tebo Regency, the researcher used the policy outlined in the Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024 concerning technical guidelines for the admission of new students at the kindergarten, Elementary School, and Junior High School levels in Tebo Regency for the 2024/2025 academic year as a reference for researchers to observe the implementation of the policy at SMPN 12 Tebo Regency, which states that the mechanism for accepting new students in junior high schools is registration, placement, announcement, re-registration, and the first day of school. Registration consists of PPDB quotas, registration times, and registration requirements. The registration mechanism at SMP Negeri 12 Tebo Regency has been running almost in accordance with the applicable policy, starting from the zone quotas that have been fulfilled, the dates and times of registration are in accordance. At SMP Negeri 12 Tebo Regency, there are three registration channels for new student admissions, namely Zonation, Achievement, and the last one is divided into two sub-sections, namely Affirmation and Transfer/Parent Transfer. The highest registration quota is Zonation with a quota of 70%, then the remaining 30% is divided between the other two channels. The announcement results show that the announcement for accepted students was made in accordance with the date set by the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office, which was July 9, 2024.



The re-registration mechanism at SMP Negeri 12 Tebo Regency was carried out properly and in accordance with the re-registration dates set by the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office, namely from July 9 to July 13, 2024. Students who did not re-register were considered to have withdrawn. In the First Day of School mechanism, the school start date was set for July 15, 2024, in accordance with the applicable regulations, as stipulated in the Decision of the Head of the Education and Culture Office of Tebo Regency No. 65 of 2024, which states that the first day of school is on July 15, 2024.

2. Several issues have been identified, such as students who enrolled through the zoning system but did not reside in the designated zone. Researchers also found discrepancies in the requirements for enrollment through the parent transfer system, which, according to the Decree of the Head of the Tebo District Education and Culture Office, should only apply to prospective students whose parents have transferred from an institution. However, in the field, researchers found that the requirements for the transfer route only used a certificate of change of domicile from the village, and students who registered through the transfer route only worked as farmers and did not work in agencies or offices. Placement consists of the zoning pathway, the affirmation pathway, the achievement pathway, and the parent transfer pathway. The placement of prospective students is not in accordance with the applicable provisions, as researchers found data on students who were placed in the zoning pathway but did not reside in the zone specified in the Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024. The inhibiting factors in the New Student Admission process were not synchronizing the files of prospective new students, geographical factors, and the desire of parents and prospective new students who live outside the zoning to register at SMPN 12 Tebo Regency. While the efforts of the PPDB committee are were synchronizing files to Dukcapil, time dispensation, and continue to accept new student candidates.

## Discussion

From the parents' perspective, the zoning system is considered to limit educational choices and reduce opportunities to choose top schools. Meanwhile, from the schools' perspective, this system is considered to help equalize access. In addition, variations in understanding of the mechanisms of zoning-based PPDB, affirmation, and parental job transfers indicate that the information received by the public is not yet fully equitable. This creates a perception of injustice, especially among communities that do not have adequate access to digital information. Theoretically, the results of this study contribute to education policy. The differences in perception found in this study emphasize the need for a hybrid approach that combines the principles of spatial justice and substantive justice in educational policy theory. Furthermore, the implications of the public's uneven understanding of the PPDB policy indicate that the theory of public participation in the formulation and implementation of educational policy needs to be expanded to include aspects of policy literacy and access to information.

To see the implementation of the new student admission policy at SMPN 12 Tebo Regency, researchers made the policy of the Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024 concerning technical guidelines for the admission of new students at kindergartens, elementary schools, and junior high



schools in Tebo Regency for the 2024/2025 academic year as a reference for researchers to see the implementation of the policy at SMPN 12 Tebo Regency, which states that the mechanism for admitting new students in junior high schools is registration, placement, announcement, re-registration, and the first day of school.

In the Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024, which contains the percentage quota of the four available channels, namely the four available channels, namely 75% zoning, 15% affirmation, 5% achievement, 5% transfer of parental duties (official mutation) and specifically for border area schools with Batanghari district, a maximum of 5%. The time for registration stipulated in the Decree of the Head of the Tebo District Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024 starts from July 1 to July 6, 2024. Registration requirements are provisions that must be met by someone to be able to take part in a certain process. These requirements can be in the form of documents, qualifications or criteria that must be met by the applicant, in the Decree of the Head of the Tebo District Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024 there are registration requirements for the admission of new students from the zoning, affirmation, achievement, and mutation or transfer of parents.

Placement in the process of admitting new students is a determination for prospective students where they will be accepted and through what pathway placement they are accepted. And in the Decree of the Head of the Education and Culture Office of Tebo Regency Number 65 of 2024 there is already a division for the placement of each pathway, namely zoning is based on ranking the distance of the residence of prospective students to the school they choose, placement is based on online / offline distance ranking in accordance with a predetermined zone, prospective students have the same distance to school then placement is based on who registered earlier, prospective zoning pathway students can only choose one public school option in the zone. The affirmation pathway is intended for students who come from poor families / special needs who come from the zoning area, prospective students are placed based on the distance of residence to the school of fellow affirmation pathway prospective students and if the affirmation pathway does not meet the predetermined quota, the remaining quota will be transferred to the Zoning pathway quota. Achievement pathway placement is based on ranking the total score of awards and championship certificates in the same field and competition award winners (OSN, O2SN, FLS2N, POPNAS, MTQ, Tahfidz) or similar achievements under the Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Religion, prospective students have the same achievement score then the placement is based on the closest distance from the school, can only choose one school option outside the zone and if the quota is not met the rest will be transferred to the zoning pathway quota. The placement of the parental duty transfer pathway is based on the ranking of the distance of prospective students to the school they choose, the placement is carried out based on the ranking of distance offline and online, prospective students who have the same distance are placed based on the earliest registering and if the registrants of the parental duty transfer pathway do not meet the predetermined quota will be transferred to the zoning pathway.

Re-registration is the final process after registering the re-registration is carried out by students who have been declared accepted, this process is for file verification and submission of the required files this is done to ensure that students are officially



registered and meet the administrative requirements required by the school. In the Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024, the re-registration date has been set until the provisions if you do not re-register. 1. Re-registration is carried out on July 9 to 13, 2025. 2. Learners who do not re-register are considered to have resigned.

After the new students re-register and have legally become school residents, then the students will enter school and take part in activities in their school. In the Decree of the Head of the Tebo Regency Education and Culture Office Number 65 of 2024, the first day for new students to enter school is on July 15, 2024.

Inhibiting factors in this study were the documents for registration are certainly an important part for schools to record prospective new students, especially in the new student admission system all have been determined through applicable regulations. Geographical factors that include location, area, shape of the earth's surface, climate, natural resources, water conditions that simultaneously affect human life and activities in the region. Geographical factors such as climate or weather cannot be controlled by humans, the location of SMPN 12 Tebo Regency is indeed in an easily accessible place but several zone areas that enter this SMP starting from Sepakat Bersatu to PTP for road access are still dirt so that when it rains it will be difficult to pass and there are students who live outside the zone and live quite far from SMPN 12 so it will take time to get to SMPN 12 on time. In the new learner admission system, there are several provisions such as the establishment of zoning areas for prospective students even though there are other channels such as Affirmation, Achievement, and Mutation or Transfer of Parents, but the largest admission quota is through zoning channels, so that the quota outside the channels is limited. However, the committee is often faced with parents who insist on enrolling their children at SMPN 12 Tebo Regency because their children threaten that if they do not enter SMPN 12 they will not continue their schooling.

The efforts made by the PPDB committee to overcome the obstacles of the unsynchronized files of prospective new students is to ask the parents of prospective new students to synchronize the files to Dukcapil and after they have been corrected then submit the copy back to SMPN 12. The efforts made by the committee to overcome the obstacles from geographical factors are to provide time dispensation with the consideration that they have come all the way to register and must still be served properly. The committee still accepts new prospective students even though they do not live in the zone area and are not included in the criteria of the available pathways with special considerations so that prospective students continue their schooling.

## CONCLUSION

The fundamental finding were new policies such as the new student admission system have succeeded in reducing inequality in access to education, especially in remote areas. However, these policies have also revealed disparities in infrastructure and educational quality between schools, as not all zones have equal access to facilities and qualified teachers. After implemented this regulation, successful aspects of PPDB include the implementation of a zoning system, digitization of PPDB, the availability of various admission channels, and clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This implication showed that the new student admission policy is implemented, 1) the government needs to ensure equal quality of education across schools. Otherwise, students in areas with low-quality schools will be disadvantaged, even though the





policy aims to provide equitable access, 2) the limitation of this policy is that uneven school quality (facilities, teachers, curriculum) is a major obstacle to its success. Although access has been made more equitable through the zoning system, educational outcomes remain uneven due to differences in quality between schools.

The implementation of the New Student Admission policy at SMPN 12 Tebo Regency has been carried out quite well, but there are several things that are still not implemented in accordance with applicable regulations, seen from the PPDB policy mechanism. The inhibiting factors in the New Student Admission process were not synchronizing the files of prospective new students, geographical factors, and the desire of parents and prospective new students who live outside the zoning to register at SMPN 12 Tebo Regency. While the efforts of the PPDB committee were synchronizing files to Dukcapil, time dispensation, and continue to accept new student candidates.

The future research was suggested that researchers examine the long-term impact of this policy, particularly on student academic achievement and social integration across backgrounds. The focus should also be given to disadvantaged or rural areas that may not yet have been optimally reached by this policy.

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