

(METAL CHILDREN OF PORT KETAPANG: THE REALITY OF POVERTY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)

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Abstract

The presence of metal children at the Ketapang crossing pier is a picture of poverty. From an economic perspective, metal children were formed due to the pressure of the cost of living which was getting bigger and bigger, ultimately forming a common culture based on equal social feelings that were passed down from generation to generation. Metal children are vulnerable to physical, sexual violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and life threats. The government must be present to handle and empower it in a sustainable manner. The aim of the research is to describe and analyze the efforts of the Ketapang Village Government in alleviating child poverty through an empowerment model. Researchers applied a qualitative descriptive approach. Based on the analysis of research findings, metal children are in a condition of chronic helplessness, metal children's activities at ports have the potential to endanger safety and lives, empowerment programs have minimal access to metal children, include appropriate resource allocation, and encourage active communities involvement. This research recommends encouraging active participation in empowerment, accelerating infrastructure development, designing specific empowerment programs, the need for regular monitoring and evaluation, and increasing cooperation.

Keywords: *Poverty; Empowerment; Sustainable Development*

I. BACKGROUND

The existence of metal children at the Ketapang Ferry Port is a classic problem. The activities of metal children are carried out from generation to generation, which on the one hand is assumed to be a unique activity, but on the other hand considers that the interpretation is misleading and ignores the cause of the arrival of the metal children, namely poverty.

Poverty is a serious problem in countries around the world. In the global consensus, the sustainable development program or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an effort to overcome economic, social, environmental, and poverty issues. In Indonesia, the government's efforts to overcome poverty issues significantly by encouraging increasing growth and stability of the economic sector, so that people's income increases, and subsequently influences the Index figures Human Development Index (HDI).

One area that is also not free from poverty issues is Banyuwangi Regency. The poverty rate in Banyuwangi has decreased from year to year. This can be seen from the number of poor people in Banyuwangi Regency in 2019 reaching 7.52%, and continuing to decline in 2023 by 7.34%.

Table 1. Poverty Line, Number and Percentage of Poor Population in Banyuwangi Regency, 2014-2023

Year	Poverty Line (Rupiah Per Capita Per Month)	Number of Poor People (Thousand People)	Percentage of Poor Population
2014	285,004	147.70	9.29
2015	295.185	146.00	9.17
2016	311,722	140.55	8.79
2017	319,236	138.54	8.64

Eka Nanda Agustin et al

2018	339,891	125.50	7.80
2019	353,873	121.37	7.52
2020	373,679	130.37	8.06
2021	387,084	130.93	8.07
2022	414,879	122.01	7.51
2023	448,928	119.52	7.34

Source: Central Statistics Agency of Banyuwangi Regency (2023)

The number of poor people in Banyuwangi Regency has consistently decreased. However, the amount of expenditure of the poor is still quite large. The number of poor households in March 2023 was 4.47% of people. The amount of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) of household consumption expenditure in 2022 increased to 65.95% from the previous year of 65.49%. The GRDP value shows the amount of minimum expenditure borne by the community so as not to be classified as poor.

Table 2. Distribution of Banyuwangi Regency's GRDP Based on Current Prices According to Expenditure in 2020-2022

Source Category: GRDP Expenditure	Distribution of Percentage of Banyuwangi's GRDP Based on Current Prices According to Expenditure (Percent)		
	2020	2021	2022
Household Consumption Expenditure	66.76	65.49	65.95
LNPRT Consumption Expenditure	1.67	1.64	1.55
Government Consumption Expenditure	7.08	6.95	6.14
Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation	32.27	32.10	31.04
Inventory Changes	0.19	0.38	0.26
Net Exports of Goods and Services	-7.8	-6.56	-4.95
GRDP	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Central Statistics Agency of Banyuwangi Regency (2023)

The impact of poor households is the reality of child laborers who have to work to help meet the family's living needs. Economically active children in the 15-17 age group are counted as child laborers only when involved in hazardous activities (Hagemann, et al., 2006). Parents of poor households consider children to work as assets and additional labor to increase household income. Indirectly, children who work as a survival mechanism to eliminate the pressure of poverty. This is one of the problems that is of concern at every level. Priyanto (in Madhania, 2023:146) explains that poverty conditions in society are vulnerable to the emergence of social problems: increasing crime, the emergence of health problems in society and declining quality of education for the generation.

The mechanism used by children from poor families in Ketapang Village is to become "metal children," which is a work model by swimming on the edge of the ferry dock or docked ships. Metal children are a community formed from social interactions and economic pressures in a small part of Indonesian society (Andika, et al., 2009). Metal children ask ship passengers to throw coins into the sea to be taken. The presence of metal children at the Ketapang Ferry Port is one illustration of poverty. The existence of metal children at the Ketapang Ferry Port is not educational entertainment for ship passengers and the lives of the metal children themselves. Children who work in the port environment are vulnerable to physical and sexual violence, drug abuse, alcohol, and life-threatening. The port is not a good environment for the process of child development and realizing their full potential (Pardi & Pradhani, 2020).

The cause of the presence of metal children in general is due to low family economic factors and not getting production assets, which ultimately makes it difficult to break free from the cycle of poverty. The reality of natural resources that are controlled, monopolized, and controlled by established social structures, makes poor and minority communities such as metal children neglected. The existence of children who should be with their families, studying, and playing, is actually used to chase coins of economic value, which in fact can endanger and take their lives.

Eka Nanda Agustin et al

The existence and activities of children of metal in Ketapang Village. The Ketapang Village Government needs to organize a poverty alleviation program, through empowerment activities. Permatasari and Imaniar (2022) stated that empowerment is one of the things to improve the economy and community welfare. Regional Regulation number 2 of 2020 which is a poverty alleviation policy in Banyuwangi Regency explains the rights of the poor, such as decent housing, health services, and education that can improve their dignity and their families according to the character of local wisdom. Although policies are available, these policies have not been implemented effectively for children of metal. In the discourse of public policy, the Banyuwangi Regency Government's policy is only limited to political will whose implementation does not reach the village. If it does, of course it can address poverty, increase development, and increase Regional Original Income (PAD).

The purpose of this study is to describe and analyze the efforts of the Ketapang Village Government in alleviating poverty among metal children through an empowerment model. In addition, this study is expected to be useful as important literature in the development of administrative science, especially related to poverty alleviation policies. The practical benefits of this study are:

1. As a contribution of ideas to be used as consideration and/or input for the Ketapang Village Government in the empowerment program, in order to improve the welfare of the Ketapang Village community.
2. As a new idea for a public service program so that the Ketapang Village Government and its community can collaborate with each other to improve welfare and form ideal qualities in children.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Previous research

A review of previous research provides benefits for researchers to seek an overview and clarify the framework of thought which is then useful in discussing a study, as follows:

Table 3:
Results of Scientific Article Synthesis Analysis

Citation	Method and Focus	Results
Raintung, et al. (2021)	- Qualitative - Executor	The empowerment activities of farmer groups in Mobuya Village have not been optimally implemented, due to the lack of attention from the village government, the lack of activeness and direct involvement of the government in seeing the obstacles experienced by farmers, both in terms of capital, agricultural facilities and infrastructure, and the existence of assistance that has not been distributed evenly.
Purnamasari & Rahmawati. (2009)	- Qualitative - Program	The success of the program and family welfare in Pagentan Village is influenced by awareness, active participation, community support, adaptation to social and cultural contexts, and a deep understanding of economic aspects.
Pardi & Pradhani (2024)	- Qualitative - Target	The poor are powerless because only minority groups have difficulty organizing. Metal children are present as a poor minority group that can benefit the majority group.

Source: Analysis Results (2024)

2. Implementation of Regional Regulations by Village Government

Public policy is a government instrument, which not only concerns state apparatus, but also concerns the management of public resources. Public policy focuses on the public and its problems. There are 5 stages in the policy-making process, namely: agenda setting, policy formulation, policy adoption/legitimation, policy implementation, and policy evaluation. Dewey (in Wicaksono, 2006:63) stated that public policy discusses how public issues and problems are formulated and defined and how all of them are placed on the policy and political

agenda. Problems arise because there are public needs that are not realized. Whatever the government chooses to do and not do (Priyanto, 2023). If the government has chosen to do something, there must be a goal, and the public policy is not merely the government's desire (Priyanto & Zakiyah, 2024). The purpose and objective of public policy is to solve problems or issues that grow and develop in the public. The success or failure of a policy is determined by the implementation process. The implementation of public policy is based on the implementation of programs aimed at solving problems that occur in society. The meaning of implementing public policy itself is a relationship that allows the achievement of goals as the final result of activities carried out by the government. Priyanto & Hentika (2024) stated that supervision and evaluation of each policy that is determined is important. Because the shortcomings and errors of a public policy can be known if it has been implemented.

One of the public problems is poverty. The solution to poverty carried out by children from poor families is to become metal children at the Ketapang ferry dock. The Ketapang Village Government as an actor implementing policies in poverty alleviation must refer to Regional Regulation number 2 of 2020, including through community empowerment programs. Article 18 of Law number 6 of 2014 states that village authority includes authority in the field of organizing village government, implementing village development, fostering village communities and empowering village communities based on community initiatives, original rights, and village customs. Through Banyuwangi Regency Regional Regulation number 2 of 2020, the Ketapang Village Government in poverty alleviation can involve the community and the private sector.

3. Metal Children and Poverty

The term anak logam is an emic term that refers to a group of children who spend their time hunting for coins thrown by ship passengers into the sea before the ship sails or docks. Damayanti (2016) explains that anak koin are children who work as coin collectors by jumping into the sea at the port. They learn about this job from their parents and from their surroundings. The existence of anak logam at Ketapang port is not in accordance with the state's expectations. Paragraph IV of the 1945 Constitution reads, to educate the life of the nation. This reality, if based on Paragraph 12 of Article 1 in Regional Regulation number 2 of 2020, basic rights are the rights of the community that must be protected by the regional government in order to maintain and develop a dignified life, especially economic, social, and cultural rights.

The problems faced by metal children can affect their social conditions and future security. Most of their time is spent taking advantage of opportunities to meet their living needs. The Ketapang Village Government is responsible for alleviating poverty faced by metal children through empowerment programs. Article 16 of Article 1 of Regional Regulation Number 2 of 2020 states that poverty alleviation programs are activities carried out by the government, local governments, the business world, and the community to improve the welfare of the poor through social assistance, community empowerment, and empowerment of micro and small economic businesses.

Meter and Horn (in Wahab, 2012:65) state that implementation is an action carried out by individuals, government officials or groups, and the private sector to achieve the stated goals. Parsons (in Septriana, et al., 2024) stated that in the policy formulation process, problems must be defined correctly and clearly to ensure that the proposed policy can solve the problem. Adapting the opinion of Rippley and Franklin (in Kadji, 2015:72), policy implementers should eliminate problems or violations encountered as much as possible. Every apparatus must be able to solve problems, not trigger problems. Activities that are not relevant to existing policies have the potential to cause program implementation not to empower but to create community dependency (Firdaus, et al., 2023). Therefore, efforts to achieve successful implementation must be accompanied by a work pattern that leads to goals (Sukma, et al., 2023).

Poverty is a serious problem faced by governments at all levels. Etymologically, poverty comes from the word poor which means having no property and lacking everything. Supriatna (in Islami, 2019); Yustika (in Nadhifah, 2018) stated that poverty is a state of inability of a person to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education and health, which is caused by cultural, structural and resource factors.

Poverty is a complex and complicated problem that forms a chain that is interconnected and difficult to break where it is always related to inequality and vulnerability because people who are not considered poor can become poor at any time. Vulnerability is a basic dimension of welfare, because it affects the behavior of each individual in investment, production patterns and appropriate strategies and perceptions of each situation. In addition, conditions that are considered poor can be individual or collective, and due to the inability to access economic resources and the capitalist system that occurs in lower-class groups or communities.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative methods can generate hypotheses and provide an overview of the phenomena studied in addition to collecting more detailed data. The purpose of this study was to obtain information related to the efforts of the Ketapang Village Government in alleviating poverty among metal children through an empowerment model. It is hoped that a qualitative approach can reveal the situation and problems of metal children.

The reason the researcher chose Ketapang Village as the location was because of the existence and activities of metal workers at the ferry port in Ketapang Village. Guided free interviews with informants were conducted with interview guidelines prepared in advance. Informants were selected based on purposive sampling techniques, namely having a suitability for the situation and conditions of the research background (Moleong in Ekawati, et al., 2024). Although the determination of informants was based on certain considerations, Priyanto (2018) provided informant criteria limitations, namely: aged between 17 and 65 years and not senile so that they were able to provide information in the form of representative data, not having speech disabilities, having a minimum education of elementary school level, being able to communicate, willing to be an informant, honest, and not ostracized by the surrounding community, knowing the things being researched.

Researchers use primary data sources, namely research data obtained directly from the original source without intermediaries; and secondary data sources, namely data obtained indirectly through intermediary media or obtained and recorded by others and are useful as support for primary data (Murdiyanto in Pitaloka, et al., 2024).

Data is collected by researchers to be used to test theories, and solve problems being studied. In qualitative data collection, researchers rely on observation, interviews, documentation and triangulation or a combination. After the data is collected, the researcher processes and analyzes the data using qualitative data analysis. According to the type of research, the researcher uses descriptive analysis, where after the data is collected, it is processed and analyzed by providing an interpretation in the form of a description. The researcher's systematics are adjusted to the theory of Miles and Huberman (in Safinah, et al., 2024), namely: data reduction, data presentation, and verification or drawing conclusions.

Accountability for the validity of data to prove that the research conducted is scientific research and at the same time test the researcher's data that has been obtained from the research results. In this regard, researchers are guided by the principles of trust, transferability, dependence, and certainty. These principles are important to help identify potential bias and minimize the risk of data misinterpretation.

Based on a combination of qualitative approaches, Ketapang Village as the research location, observation, use of guided free interviews, analysis, and data triangulation, this study aims to provide an understanding of the efforts of the Ketapang Village Government in alleviating child poverty through an empowerment model. In the principles of public administration, the implementation of the Ketapang Village Government in serving the community through empowerment programs as a shift from the old paradigm of public administration to a new paradigm, namely the concept of New Public Service (NPS), which emphasizes community participation to be involved in the role of the Government in making policies for the provision of public services and focuses on information programs and public access (Denhardt & Denhardt in Anjarwati, et al., 2023).

In terms of public policy, Article 1 of Article 2 of Regional Regulation Number 2 of 2020 explains that the target of poverty alleviation is aimed at individuals, families, groups, and/or communities. Article 16 of Article 1 states that poverty alleviation programs are activities carried out by the government, regional governments, the business world, and the community to improve the welfare of the poor through social assistance, community empowerment, and empowerment of micro and small economic businesses. This is supported by Law Number 6 of 2014 which states that village community empowerment is an effort to develop community independence and welfare by increasing knowledge, attitudes, skills, behavior, abilities, awareness, and utilizing resources through the establishment of policies, programs, activities, and assistance that are in accordance with the essence of the problem and the priority needs of the community.

IV. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Shackles of Poverty for Metal Children

The poverty situation that oppresses metal workers at the Ketapang ferry port has attracted public attention. The existence of metal workers in the social order of society is a condition of helplessness, such as lack and low resources in the utilization of production factors so that it is impossible for them to achieve a more decent standard

of living; lack of access to education, information, capital, motivation, and a social system that places metal workers in a marginal position, while making it difficult for them to develop and compete.

Based on the results of field research, the activities of metal children have several motives. In addition to helping with household needs, also for school needs, such as school fees, purchasing uniforms and books, and pocket money (interview results, 2024). Researchers argue that the reality of poverty has become a culture that arises from the perspective of society. The limitations of the natural resources they have, place the children of metal as individuals or minority groups. The existence of a pattern of power that arises in society allows them to receive unfair treatment in obtaining assets or equal access to develop. The activities of children of metal are considered commonplace in the community around the Port, because the activities of children of metal have been cultured from generation to generation. According to Kartasmita (in Sartika, et al., 2016), poverty in an area can be classified as persistent poverty, chronic or hereditary poverty.

The results of field research explain that the work activities of metal workers are due to the difficulty of getting other jobs, even though there are various life needs that must be met (interview results, 2024). In the researcher's view, although it aims to meet the needs of life, that work activities such as those carried out by metal children actually place them in uncomfortable situations and have the potential to threaten safety. The sensitivity of the government at every level in dealing with poverty is greatly needed. As stated in Paragraph 1 of Article 34 of the 1945 Constitution, the poor and neglected children are cared for by the state. This means that the rights of metal children should be fulfilled by the government. The rights in question are to obtain access and opportunities to various production factors, so that the existence of metal children is not exploited by aspects of conditions and the environment.

The Ketapang Village Government must be present with the concept of empowerment and/or assistance. The Ketapang Village Government as the organizer of government carried out by the village head and assisted by village officials as elements of the village government organizer. In national life, the government is very much needed to regulate the people, protect, and meet the needs of the people. With the government, all areas, activities, and boundaries can be easily controlled and supervised. Noviana & Priyanto (2023) stated that implementation is a transformation from plan to practice to achieve goals. Priyanto, et al. (2021) explained that community participation is needed in programs owned by the government as the designer, organizer, and payer of development activities. Participation can have an impact on community welfare (Priyanto & Noviana, 2023).

Citing Arif's view (in Raintung & Sumampow, 2021), the role of the village government in community empowerment is divided into 4 things: (1) Regulator. The Ketapang Village Government as a regulator, namely preparing a direction to align development, by providing basic references to the community as an instrument to regulate the implementation of metal child empowerment at the Ketapang Ferry Port; (2) Dynamizer. As a driver of multi-party participation, the Ketapang Village Government can synergize with the community and the private sector to realize the metal child empowerment program. The participation of village officials and community institutions and cooperation in various parties is very much needed, both in the fields of mentoring, training, and empowerment of metal children themselves in order to encourage the community in ideal development; (3) Facilitator. The Ketapang Village Government needs to create conducive conditions for various community interests in village development. Thus, the Ketapang Village Government must facilitate the implementation of the metal child empowerment program by providing supporting tools for safety and comfort for metal children, and supporting them in mentoring activities, education, and skills training as program targets; And (4) Catalyst. The Ketapang Village Government is in a position as an agent that accelerates the development of village potential and becomes social capital to build village community participation. The village government which functions as a catalyst also has an obligation to the village community as an instrument to regulate all program implementation activities including empowerment programs for metal children by creating an orderly, safe, and comfortable atmosphere.

2. The Concept of Empowerment in Eradicating Child Poverty Metal

The Ketapang Village Government needs to overcome the poverty that shackles metal children. Metal children are citizens whose rights must be fulfilled so that they can improve their standard of living. The Ketapang Village Government through its policies can provide metal children with space to move, public facilities, and opportunities that are conducive to the lives of metal children to overcome their various problems. Increasing the contribution and quality of compliance of the apparatus in implementing a policy must be accompanied by participation, monitoring, and evaluation (Priyanto, 2024).

Researchers in analyzing the contribution of the Ketapang Village Government through the concept of empowerment use Tachjan's (2006) thinking, which consists of implementing elements, programs, and targets. First, Implementer. Implementer as a determining aspect of a policy objective. Because the policy implementer is the party that carries out the policy consisting of determining organizational goals and objectives, analysis and formulation of organizational policies and strategies, decision making, planning, program preparation, organizing, mobilizing people, operational implementation, supervision and evaluation (Dimock (in Tachjan, 2006:28). The Ketapang Village Government is the peak of control in the implementation of poverty alleviation policies in Ketapang Village, especially for the lives of metal workers in Ketapang port. The village government and its apparatus as administrators of government, development, and community (Utami, et al., 2023). As the implementer of government, the village government is a government institution that is responsible for the situation that occurs in society, especially in terms of poverty. As a facilitator, the Ketapang Village Government is also active in the field of community empowerment.

The results of field research show that the policies of the Ketapang Village Government have not reached all aspects of needs, including for metal children in Ketapang Port (interview results, 2024). Thus, the Ketapang Village Government needs to be more aggressive in utilizing various potential resources to accelerate the process of poverty alleviation. Because the purpose of the government's existence is to improve the standard of living of the community by paying attention to the conditions of poor community groups. The low resources and facilities available make it difficult for them to get access to education and employment.

Article 19 of Article 1 of Regional Regulation Number 2 of 2020 explains that the Village/Sub-district Poverty Alleviation Task Force, hereinafter abbreviated as Satgas PKDes/Kel, is a task force to accelerate poverty alleviation in villages/sub-districts. This means that the Ketapang Village Government has the authority to provide and protect the basic rights of the poor, accelerate the reduction in the number of poor people, and encourage the community and the private sector to work together in fighting poverty so as to have a positive impact on the children of metal at the Ketapang Ferry Port.

Researchers argue that the condition of metal children is certainly related to the role of the Ketapang Village Head as a leader in the village government institution. The village government is the leading government institution that has a greater opportunity to be closer to the community, especially the village community. Therefore, it is hoped that the contribution of the Ketapang Village Government can be more optimal in ensuring the future of metal children.

Second, Program. The policy implementation process itself will only begin if the goals and objectives have been set, the activity program has been arranged, and the funds have been prepared and distributed to achieve a target. In detail, the program needs to discuss the allocation of resources needed, the work methods and procedures that must be taken, and the standards that must be adhered to. Terry (in Tachjan, 2006:31) states that a program can be defined as a comprehensive plan that includes the future use of resources in an integrated pattern and forms a sequence of actions needed and a time schedule for each in order to achieve the stated goals.

The make up of a program may include objectives, policies, procedures, methods, standards, and budget. This means that every program implemented by the Ketapang Village Government must include the use of resources to have an impact on improving people's lives. Increasing participation in community empowerment aimed at community welfare is something that must be considered by the village government. Community empowerment is a government initiative as a harmonious step to overcome the problems of metal children.

A program designed by the government will not achieve its goals without action. As stated by Priyanto (in Hidayat 2021:4), policies must be implemented. Implementation is a link between policy objectives and their realization with the results of government activities and involves various stakeholders. In this case, the implementation of programs that lead to the empowerment of metal children must be carried out consistently so that the objectives that have been set in the implementation process can be implemented properly.

Table 4: Ketapang Village Government Activity Program 2024

Program	Executor	Target	Target Result
Socialization of TB Handling	Health Facilitator, TB Cadre	TB Market (35 participants)	Providing public understanding of the dangers of TB
Family Planning Village Socialization	Ketapang Health Center	Ketapang Village Community (50 participants)	Balancing and educating population density

(METAL CHILDREN OF PORT KETAPANG: THE REALITY OF POVERTY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)

Eka Nanda Agustin et al

Socialization of Legally Aware Families	Banyuwangi District Attorney's Office, Ketapang Police	Students of SMPN 1 KALIPURO	Building a law-abiding society
Adolescent Reproductive Counseling	Ketapang Village Midwife and Integrated Health Post	Ketapang Village Community (youth and children) (Krajan Hamlet 40 participants, Pancoran Hamlet 25 participants, Gunung Remuk Hamlet 25 participants, Selogiri Hamlet 25 participants, Kaliselogiri Hamlet 20 participants)	Raising awareness of reproductive health among young people and students in Ketapang Village
PMT Biscuit Making Training (TODDLERS)	Youth and Cadres of Ketapang Village	Toddlers at the Integrated Health Post in Ketapang Village	Increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles for toddlers and pregnant women in Ketapang Village
Cracker Making Training	PKK Ketapang Village	Ketapang Village Community (25 participants)	Improving the creativity and economy of the local community of Ketapang Village
Modin Training, and Handling of Deaths of Men and Women	Banyuwangi Religious Affairs Office (KUA)	Modin from Ketapang Village (70 participants)	Improved understanding of Modin

Source: Ketapang Village Government (2024)

The Ketapang Village Government's indicators in empowering children of metal refer to Point E in Article 7 of Banyuwangi Regency Regional Regulation Number 2 of 2020, the poor have the right to receive social services through social security, social empowerment, and social rehabilitation in building, developing and empowering themselves and their families. Thus, the Ketapang Village Government has the right to facilitate empowerment activities provided for the poor including children of metal who are at the Ketapang Ferry Port.

Community empowerment efforts by the Ketapang Village Government need to be carried out to increase development while realizing the independence of metal children. The success of the community empowerment program that has been carried out by the Ketapang Village Government will reduce the number of poor and underdeveloped people in Ketapang Village.

Researchers argue that the Head of Ketapang Village has an important role in improving the welfare of the village community by providing guidance and training for metal children in Ketapang Village. Guidance carried out by the Ketapang Village Government includes 3 aspects: (1) Health. The existence of Posyandu activities for toddlers, teenagers and the elderly, is expected to educate families and metal children including teenagers so that children who become cadres in the future also participate in improving lifestyles and education in the health sector; (2) Economy. This activity involves community elements such as LPMD, LPKK, and the village Karang Taruna to provide training in the fields of fisheries, micro-businesses and skills possessed by metal children; and (3) Education. The role of the village government in this program is still not visible in reaching the needs of metal children. In terms of education, the involvement of the private sector is needed, such as the Ketapang Ferry Port. Because the port is also a place for the growth and development of metal children. Moral support and job opportunities provided by related parties can provide new hope for the lives of metal children in the future.

The basis of the researcher's opinion, because the community empowerment program organized by the Ketapang Village Government is a program aimed at improving the standard of living of the Ketapang Village community. This activity is carried out so that the guidance provided by the Ketapang Village Government can continue and can be re-developed by the community including metal children in Ketapang Village. The importance of community and government participation must also be more optimal so that empowerment activities can run in line with expectations.

Third, Target. The process of change can continue if driven by the community. As explained by Tachjan (2006:35), the target group is a group of people or organizations in society who will receive goods or services whose behavior will be influenced by the policy. This means that the community is the beneficiary who is influenced by the policy. Thus, every policy aimed at the public must have clear and measurable targets. Researchers argue that communication greatly influences the information received by the target group. Poor communication will affect the implementation of a policy and the suitability and compliance of the target group will be influenced by the content or program of the policy (Salsabila, et al., 2024). Article 1 of Article 4 of Regional Regulation Number 2 of 2020 explains that the target of poverty alleviation is aimed at individuals, families, groups, and/or communities. The empowerment program organized by the Ketapang Village Government must be right on target, and children of the poor must be included in the community empowerment program.

Table 5: **Ketapang Village Government Assistance Program 2024**

Program	Target
Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT-DD)	17 KPM
Non-Cash Government Assistance-Family Hope Program (BPNT-PKH)	576 KPM
BULOG Rice Food Assistance (BAPANG)	1,270 KPM

Source: Ketapang Village Government (2024)

The Ketapang Village Government needs to be directly connected with the metal children at Ketapang Port. With communication, the Ketapang Village Government can establish good relations with the metal children. Because the purpose of communication is to convey information so that the empowerment program that is being held can be conveyed clearly. In addition, the Ketapang Village Government must ensure that government policies related to poverty alleviation can be accepted by the community. If the policy is communicated well, it will generate positive feedback from the community (Shiddiqi, et al., 2024).

The researcher argues that the consistency of the Ketapang Village Government regarding policy implementation, which is manifested through community empowerment programs, so that the Ketapang Village Government can influence, lead, and serve the target community. The implementation of public policies raises many questions regarding the right government strategy, organizational structure, role and power of the government, financial allocation, and the appropriate methodological framework for implementing a policy (Kotnik& Kovac, 2018). Communication is able to answer questions and connect community groups with program organizers, and can help drive community activities to be productive and sustainable.

The involvement of metal children in the policy implementation process is very important, considering that they are users of a policy program. This view is because metal children as part of society are a dynamic social structure and can change a condition according to policy and its environment. The Ketapang Village Government is expected to be able to reach services that lead to the welfare of the community including metal children in Ketapang Port.

V. CLOSING

1. Conclusion

The situation of poverty and helplessness that oppresses metal children amidst massive development policies has become a public concern. The following are the conclusions formulated by researchers:

1. Metal children are in a state of helplessness due to chronic poverty, limited access to education, information and resources needed to improve their standard of living.
2. The activities of metalworkers in the port are often seen as a normal part of the lives of people living around the port, even though they have the potential to endanger safety and lives.
3. The Ketapang Village Government has a responsibility to improve this condition through the concept of empowerment. They need to act as regulators, dynamicators, facilitators, and catalysts in programs that support metal children. This includes providing access to education, skills training, and social support.

4. The empowerment program that is designed and implemented must include appropriate resource allocation and involve community participation, considering that the success of a sustainable empowerment program is highly dependent on good communication between the Ketapang Village Government, the community, and other stakeholders, especially the metal children as the target group.
5. Active involvement of the community and metal children in the process of implementing the empowerment program is very important, to ensure that the program is right on target and can provide real benefits for the lives of metal children.

2. Recommendation

Researchers formulated recommendations that were adjusted to the strategic steps that need to be taken by the Ketapang Village Government and the community, so that the living conditions of metal children can be improved, and they have the opportunity to develop better in the community, as follows:

1. It is necessary to mobilize active participation from the community in empowerment programs. The community needs to be involved in the planning and implementation of programs to ensure that the needs of metal children are met effectively.
2. It is necessary to massively develop infrastructure that supports the safety and comfort of metalworkers while working, such as providing protective equipment, safe work areas at the Port, and even prohibiting them from working as beggars for coins from ship passengers.
3. The Ketapang Village Government must design a specific empowerment program for metal children, including skills training, access to education, and social support. This aims to improve their abilities and open up better job opportunities.
4. It is necessary to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program periodically to ensure its effectiveness and adjust the strategy if necessary.
5. There is a need for increased cooperation with educational institutions and the private sector to provide better access to education for metal children, including the provision of scholarships and adequate learning facilities, while ensuring that there is good communication between the village government and metal children so that information about empowerment programs can be conveyed clearly, they can be involved, and feel that they have hope for a better future.

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- 38.