

ABSTRACT

Political legitimacy at the village level is an important issue in the implementation of social welfare policies because decisions concerning who receives and does not receive policy benefits require public acceptance of government authority. This study aims to explain how the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT-DD) builds political legitimacy at the village level by comparing Condongcatur Village in an urban context and Wiladeg Village in a rural context in the Special Region of Yogyakarta. The study employs Weber's theory of legitimacy, particularly legal-rational legitimacy, as its theoretical foundation and populist technocracy as an analytical perspective for examining the character of implementation practices. This qualitative study uses a comparative case study design with a Grounded Theory-oriented analytical approach. Data were collected through interviews, observation, and documentation, and analyzed through within-case analysis, cross-case comparison, and theoretical abstraction.

The findings show that BLT-DD implementation constitutes a practice of populist technocracy that combines an orientation toward the welfare of poor and vulnerable communities with technical knowledge and expertise, data, regulations, policy instruments, and bureaucratic procedures. Political legitimacy is built when legal-rational authority is translated by actors while considering the social, economic, and characteristics of the communities, thereby gaining public acceptance. In Condongcatur, acceptance is more prominently built through procedural consistency, data, and hierarchical bureaucratic work, whereas in Wiladeg it is built through procedures combined with communication, explanation, and actors' social knowledge. This difference indicates that context shapes different pathways to public acceptance rather than different bases of legitimacy. The study concludes that political legitimacy is built through the contextual translation of legal-rational authority through practices of populist technocracy, with legitimacy accumulating in the village bureaucratic structure.

Keywords: *Political Legitimacy; Legal-Rational Legitimacy; Populist Technocracy; Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT-DD).*

ABSTRAK

Legitimasi politik di tingkat desa menjadi persoalan penting dalam implementasi kebijakan kesejahteraan-sosial karena keputusan mengenai siapa yang menerima dan tidak menerima manfaat kebijakan memerlukan penerimaan masyarakat terhadap kewenangan pemerintah. Penelitian ini bertujuan menjelaskan bagaimana praktik implementasi Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa (BLT-DD) membangun legitimasi politik di tingkat desa dengan membandingkan Kalurahan Condongcatur sebagai konteks urban dan Kalurahan Wiladeg sebagai konteks rural di Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. Penelitian menggunakan teori legitimasi Weber, khususnya legitimasi legal-rasional, sebagai landasan teoretis dan populisme teknokratis sebagai perspektif untuk membaca karakter praktik implementasi. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus komparatif dan orientasi analitis *Grounded Theory*. Data diperoleh melalui wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi, kemudian dianalisis melalui analisis kasus, perbandingan antarkasus, dan abstraksi teoretis.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa implementasi BLT-DD merupakan praktik populisme teknokratis yang mempertemukan orientasi kesejahteraan masyarakat miskin dan rentan dengan pengetahuan dan keahlian teknis, data, regulasi, instrumen kebijakan, dan prosedur birokrasi. Legitimasi politik terbentuk ketika kewenangan legal-rasional diterjemahkan oleh aktor dengan mempertimbangkan konteks sosial, ekonomi, dan karakteristik masyarakat sehingga memperoleh penerimaan. Di Condongcatur, penerimaan lebih menonjol melalui konsistensi prosedur, data, dan kerja birokrasi berjenjang, sedangkan di Wiladeg melalui prosedur yang disertai komunikasi, penjelasan, dan pengetahuan sosial aktor. Perbedaan tersebut menunjukkan bahwa konteks membentuk jalur penerimaan yang berbeda, bukan basis legitimasi yang berbeda. Penelitian menyimpulkan bahwa legitimasi politik dibangun melalui penerjemahan kewenangan legal-rasional secara kontekstual melalui praktik populisme teknokratis, dengan legitimasi terakumulasi pada struktur birokrasi pemerintahan kalurahan.

Kata Kunci: *Legitimasi Politik; Legitimasi Legal-Rasional; Populisme Teknokratis; Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa (BLT-DD).*