

Poverty and Special Autonomy Regions in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explain poverty in the special autonomous regions which receive funds allocated for the management of regional affairs and to analyze the relevance of the special autonomy that is obtained with the level of poverty possessed by each special autonomy region. This research is important to do because one of the goals of special autonomy is to provide independence to the regions to carry out regional development according to the needs of local communities, including for poverty alleviation. Interestingly, the poverty rate in the special autonomy regions has a relatively high percentage, even exceeding the national poverty rate.

This type of research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods with a literature study approach. The documentation technique is used as the primary method for data collection. Researchers used secondary data derived from documentation data contained in related institutions such as local government, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, BPS, World Bank, ADB. In addition, data is also obtained from mass media and other literature sources such as books and journals.

Based on the findings of research in the special autonomous regions, namely Yogyakarta and West Papua which were the case studies, it shows that the implementation of special autonomy in Indonesia has not been able to significantly reduce the poverty rate. The poverty rate is still high in Yogyakarta. The programs funded by the special autonomy fund are expected to provide a leverage effect on poverty alleviation. However, the leverage effect has not been seen to be successful in implementing the special autonomy program in Yogyakarta. The granting of special autonomy in West Papua has not shown the results it should have. People are still shackled by multidimensional poverty. Education and welfare are still at the lowest rank in Indonesia. The amount of funds that continues to increase every year has not been able to change this condition. Local governments need to keep trying to design several poverty reduction programs through special autonomy funds. The performance of the bureaucracy and government is the cause of many of the resources they have unable to prosper the community because they stop at the bureaucracy and the government.

Kata Kunci: *Keywords: poverty, special autonomy, and asymmetric decentralization*