Indonesia Journal of Public Administration and Government
Volume 1, Issue 2, Pages 187 – 198 October 2024 e-ISSN : 3063-2374
https://journal.xsolusi.com/index.php/ ijpag /article/view/xxxx DOI : 10.70074/ijpag.v1i1

The Implementation of the New Electricity Installation Assistance Program by the Department of Energy and Mineral Resources for Bukit Tunggal Subdistrict, Jekan Raya District

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Keywords:
Electrification;
New Electricity Installation Assistance (BPBL);
Program Implementation.

Received: September 2024
Accepted: October 2024
Published: October 2024

Abstract

Electrification is a crucial element of infrastructure development that significantly contributes to improving the quality of life for communities. However, despite the increasing electrification ratio in Indonesia, there are still areas that have not been fully reached by electricity services, including urban regions. To address this issue, the government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM), launched the New Electricity Installation Assistance Program (BPBL), aimed at providing free electricity access for underprivileged households. This research aims to analyze the implementation of the BPBL program in Bukit Tunggal Subdistrict, Jekan Raya District, Palangka Raya City. This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach, with data collection techniques including interviews, observations, and document analysis. The primary focus of the study includes evaluating program implementation, identifying field constraints, and analyzing its impact on community welfare. The results of the research indicate that the BPBL program in Bukit Tunggal Subdistrict has delivered tangible benefits, such as improved household lighting, easier use of electronic devices, and increased economic productivity within the community. However, the implementation still faces several challenges, including infrastructure limitations, minimal community socialization, and insufficient coordination among stakeholders. The study concludes that although the BPBL program has positively contributed to improving electricity access in Bukit Tunggal Subdistrict, optimizing program execution is necessary to enhance its effectiveness. Recommendations from this research include improving public awareness campaigns, strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and enhancing coordination among relevant stakeholders. The findings of this research are expected to serve as valuable input for the development of more inclusive and sustainable electrification policies in the future.

INTRODUCTION

Electrification is one of the key elements in infrastructure development that directly impacts the improvement of people's quality of life, particularly in urban areas. The availability of electricity access not only supports economic activities but also advances education, health, and social welfare sectors. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), equitable electrification can boost productivity, open new economic opportunities, and reduce poverty levels (IEA, 2020). Furthermore, Sari (2020) highlights in her research that the industrial sector and small enterprises heavily rely on stable electricity supply. She argues that sound electrification policies can drive local economic growth and create new job opportunities. On the other hand, Prasetyo (2021) suggests that the development of renewable energy sources and increased electrification can help Indonesia reduce its dependency on fossil fuels, aligning with global commitments to address climate change.

However, while electrification offers numerous benefits, its implementation faces several challenges. One significant issue is the lack of public understanding regarding the benefits and procedures for electricity installation. Limitations in supporting infrastructure, such as an uneven electricity distribution network, and

administrative challenges in the registration process also pose obstacles. Social and economic factors, such as education levels and household income, further influence participation in electrification programs. Sari (2020) finds that public awareness of the importance of electricity access significantly affects the success of electrification programs. Prasetyo (2021) emphasizes the need for improved policies to make electrification programs more effective in reaching underserved communities.

In Indonesia, although the electrification ratio has significantly increased, some areas, including urban regions, remain underserved by electricity networks. This infrastructure gap adversely affects the quality of life. To address this issue, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) introduced the New Electricity Installation Assistance Program (BPBL), as outlined in Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Regulation No. 3 of 2022. The BPBL program aims to provide free electricity installations for low-income households that meet specific criteria.

Through BPBL, the government offers free electricity installation services, including in-house wiring with three primary installation points, such as lamps and electrical outlets. This initiative has significantly impacted communities, especially in areas where commercial electricity services are hard to reach. Throughout 2023, the program successfully provided free electricity connections to 131,600 households across Indonesia. This achievement reflects the government's commitment to expanding energy access to underprivileged communities.

Nevertheless, despite the program's benefits, several challenges persist in its implementation. Previous research identifies key issues such as limited accessibility and infrastructure (Sari, 2020), ineffective risk management (Prasetyo, 2021), minimal stakeholder involvement (Wibowo, 2022), limited funding (Nugroho, 2021), lack of socialization and education (Setiawan, 2020), and weak monitoring and evaluation (Hidayat, 2021).

Limited accessibility often arises from geographical conditions or electricity distribution networks that have not yet reached remote areas. Furthermore, a lack of understanding among communities regarding the program's benefits and registration procedures remains a challenge. Other factors include poor coordination between central and local governments, as well as electricity providers like PLN, which hinders the program's implementation at the local level. In terms of funding, while the BPBL budget is allocated through the State Budget (APBN), the amount remains insufficient to cover all areas in need. This often limits the program's reach, particularly in regions with minimal electricity infrastructure.

A lack of socialization and education to the public is also a primary challenge. Many residents are unaware of the program's benefits or the registration process to become beneficiaries. Insufficient education efforts result in low community participation, particularly among those who need it most. Additionally, weak monitoring and evaluation of program implementation delay the identification of challenges in the field, thereby affecting the program's overall effectiveness.

In Kelurahan Bukit Tunggal, Kecamatan Jekan Raya, the BPBL program is expected to deliver tangible benefits to the community. This area is one of the targeted regions in Palangka Raya City for the program's implementation. Through BPBL, local residents are expected to experience direct benefits, such as improved

household lighting, easier use of electronic devices, and increased economic productivity. In daily life, adequate electricity access influences various aspects, from children's learning activities to household health improvements and opportunities for starting small businesses that support family economies.

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the New Electricity Installation Assistance Program (BPBL) in Kelurahan Bukit Tunggal. The primary focus of this research is to assess the extent to which the program has achieved its intended goals, identify on-the-ground challenges, and examine the program's impact on the local community. With comprehensive analysis, the findings of this study are expected to provide recommendations for improving the BPBL program's effectiveness, both in terms of planning and execution.

In the context of national development, the BPBL program is not merely an effort to increase the electrification ratio but also a strategic step to support equitable development. By expanding electricity access to low-income households, the government not only helps communities meet their basic needs but also opens opportunities for them to improve their living standards. Adequate electricity access enables communities to be more productive and innovative, thereby contributing to inclusive economic growth. Therefore, analyzing the implementation of the BPBL program is crucial. The evaluation results can serve as input for refining electrification policies in the future, ensuring the program effectively reaches those in need. In the long run, the program is expected not only to increase electricity access but also act as a catalyst for equitable development and poverty alleviation in Indonesia.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

According to Van Meter and Van Horn, the implementation of public policy is a series of steps that transform policy decisions into operational actions within a specific timeframe (Budi Winarno, 2008:146-147). These steps aim to achieve desired changes, whether significant or minor, through policy decisions and public organizations to meet certain targets.

Daniel A. Mazmanian and Paul Sabatier (1979) define implementation as the process of understanding what happens after a program or policy is adopted or activated, as cited in Solihin Abdul Wahab's book (2008: 65). Policy decisions determine the goals and direction, while activities carried out by various stakeholders to achieve these results are referred to as policy implementation. Implementation also includes events and activities that occur after national policy guidelines are enacted.

As stated by Edwards (in Budi Winarno, 2008:181), critical elements in policy implementation include the provision of authority and resources needed to transform written plans into effective public services and the presence of competent workers with the necessary skills to perform their duties. Merilee S. Grindle (in Subarsono, 2011:93) explains that two key components influencing implementation success are the policy content and the implementation environment. These factors include the involvement of target groups, the benefits received, the degree of change expected, the suitability of program location, and the clarity of the policy.

In this study, the author uses Merilee S. Grindle's approach to analyze the BPBL policy implementation in Kelurahan Bukit Tunggal, Kecamatan Jekan Raya, emphasizing two main components: the implementation environment and policy content. This approach is selected because it provides a comprehensive

understanding of the factors influencing the program's success or failure. Grindle's approach emphasizes the importance of implementation environments, which involve stakeholders such as governments, local communities, private entities, and other institutions. Additionally, Grindle highlights the need for clear policy content tailored to local contexts to ensure effective implementation. Overall, Grindle's approach is suitable for analyzing BPBL implementation in Kelurahan Bukit Tunggal, as it thoroughly examines environmental and policy-related factors, considers community participation, and assesses the adequacy of available resources.

METHOD

Qualitative research is a type of study that adopts a holistic approach to understanding contexts and individuals within a phenomenon. This approach produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words, as well as observable behaviors from research subjects. According to Bogdan and Taylor (as cited in Abdussamad, 2021: 30), subjects in qualitative research possess ideas, perceptions, opinions, or beliefs related to the research topic. Unlike the quantitative approach, which relies more on numerical data, qualitative research collects data through various techniques, such as in-depth interviews, observations, documentation, and literature reviews.

Figure 1. One of the Researcher's Interview Activities

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Policy Implementation

a. Interest Affected

The Electricity New Connection Assistance Program (BPBL) focuses on providing electricity access to underprivileged households previously unserved by the electrical grid. The main target of this policy is poor households registered in the Integrated Social Welfare Database (DTKS). The program aims to address disparities in energy access, which have exacerbated social and economic inequalities. In this context, the beneficiaries are households previously hindered in accessing essential electrical resources.

Apart from underprivileged communities, other affected parties include local governments, which play a role in collecting beneficiary data and overseeing program implementation at the local level. Technical implementing agencies, such as PLN (the national electricity provider), have a primary role in preparing and ensuring smooth installation of electricity connections on the ground. PLN is also responsible for maintaining the installed electrical network to ensure program sustainability.

For the government, this policy is part of broader efforts to reduce poverty, achieve equitable infrastructure distribution, and improve the quality of life. Additionally, electricity providers like PLN carry added responsibilities in managing increasingly complex technical and administrative tasks. The positive impact of this policy extends not only to direct beneficiaries but also to the broader local community, as improved electricity access enhances quality of life, boosts economic productivity, and supports social activities such as education and healthcare.

b. Type of Benefits

The primary benefit of the BPBL policy is providing free electricity connections for low-income households, including basic installations with a capacity of up to 450 VA. The assistance provided under the BPBL program includes:

1. Electrical installation;
2. Installation costs;
3. Operational Feasibility Certification (SLO) costs;
4. New connection fees to PT PLN (Persero);
5. Initial electricity token top-up.

This policy is designed to alleviate economic barriers faced by underprivileged households, particularly the high initial cost of electricity installation, enabling them to access electricity without significant financial burden. Direct benefits include better lighting, improving household comfort and security.

Additionally, electricity access creates opportunities to improve quality of life. Households can utilize electronic devices for daily needs, such as cooking, studying, or managing small businesses, which contributes to increased productivity and economic well-being. On a broader scale, the policy has long-term impacts on reducing infrastructure inequality in Indonesia, particularly in underserved areas, and contributes to improving electrification rates, which is a critical step toward equitable development.

c. Extent of Change Envision

This policy is designed to bring significant changes in improving national electrification, particularly for underprivileged households previously unserved. By targeting low-income communities, the program aims

to increase the overall electrification ratio and reduce the number of families living without access to electricity. Access to electricity provides not only better lighting but also serves as a catalyst for enhancing social and economic productivity.

Figure 2. Electricity Installation in Bukit Tunggal Subdistrict

Source: Author's Data

Households previously relying on non-environmentally friendly energy sources, such as kerosene lamps, can now transition to more efficient and cleaner electricity. This not only improves public health by reducing harmful emissions but also enables optimization of daily activities such as studying, working, and running small businesses. The policy promotes equitable energy access, which is a crucial foundation for equitable development and improving quality of life across Indonesia.

d. Site of Decision-Making

The primary decision-making for this policy lies at the national level, specifically under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM), which is responsible for policy formulation, budgeting, and program oversight. The ESDM plays a strategic role in setting policy directions, ensuring program goals are met, and addressing administrative or technical challenges. However, implementation cannot be carried out solely through centralized management.

Coordination with local governments, particularly the regional ESDM offices, is crucial, especially in the process of identifying and verifying eligible low-income households. Local governments play an essential role as they have direct access to relevant local data and better understand the specific needs of their communities.

Figure 3. Socialization Process for the Electricity New Connection Assistance Program

Source: Author's Data

Additionally, PLN, as the electricity service provider, plays a vital role in the technical aspects, such as site surveys, electricity installation, and network maintenance. Effective collaboration among ESDM, local governments, and PLN is key to the successful implementation of this policy.

e. Program Implementers

The implementation of the BPBL program involves collaboration among PLN, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM), and regional governments. As the primary executor, PLN is responsible for technical aspects, including installing electricity connections in beneficiary households. Moreover, PLN ensures that the installations meet safety standards and that the serviced households enjoy optimal electricity access.

The Ministry of ESDM acts as the primary regulator and supervisor. Through its technical units, the ESDM monitors and evaluates program implementation to ensure it aligns with the established targets and objectives. This evaluation is crucial for identifying challenges in the field and providing relevant solutions. At the regional level, local governments play a central role in identifying eligible low-income households. Local governments provide supporting data, such as the Integrated Social Welfare Database (DTKS), to ensure the assistance reaches the intended recipients. Synergy among these parties is key to the program's success in expanding electricity access to underprivileged communities throughout Indonesia.

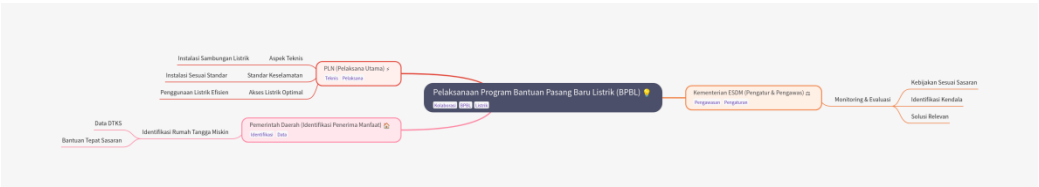

Figure 4. BPBL Program Implementers

Source: Author's Analysis

In the verification and validation process, data on BPBL candidate beneficiaries is cross-verified with data from PT PLN Persero UP3 Palangka Raya, Social Services (DTKS), villages/subdistricts, and targeted BPBL household locations (e.g., house photos, nearby PLN networks, and proposal lists). In Bukit Tunggal Subdistrict, Jekan Raya District, the beneficiary data includes 29 individuals.

f. Resources Committed

The implementation of the BPBL program involves various resources to ensure its success and sustainability. The primary resource is funding sourced from the State Budget (APBN), allocated through the Ministry of ESDM for financing free electricity connections for low-income households. This funding covers installation, procurement of electrical equipment, and other technical operations.

Table 1. BPBL Activity Budget

Source: BPBL Activity Presentation, January 22, 2024, by ESDM Office of Central Kalimantan Province

Activity Description	Budget	Implementation	Time
BPBL Planning Consultancy	Rp. 80,000,000	PL	Quarter I
BPBL Supervision Consultancy	Rp. 370,000,000	Selection	Quarter I
BPBL Implementation	Rp. 13,750,000,000	E-Catalogue	Quarter II-III

Technical personnel from PLN are key elements in the implementation, tasked with conducting electricity installations according to safety standards and maintaining installed infrastructure. Additionally, administrative resources such as the DTKS database are utilized to identify and verify beneficiaries, ensuring the program is on target. The existing electricity infrastructure, such as distribution networks, is also leveraged to minimize additional costs. By optimizing these resources, the program not only supports equitable electricity access but also strategically improves policy implementation efficiency.

2. Context of Implementation Approach

a. Institution and Regime Characteristic

The implementation of Ministerial Regulation of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) No. 3 of 2022 takes place under a government regime focused on improving community welfare through equitable energy access. The Indonesian government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) and PLN (the state electricity company), holds the authority to implement this policy. The implementing institution, PLN, has extensive experience in providing electrical services but faces technical and administrative challenges in expanding the electricity grid to remote and underprivileged areas. Additionally, the ESDM, as the policy regulator, plays a significant role in determining budget allocation, beneficiary targets, and program evaluation and supervision. The bureaucratic structure at both central and regional levels also plays a vital role in coordinating the implementation of this policy. Resource management must adapt to the characteristics of targeted areas, considering infrastructure differences and regional readiness to receive the program.

At the regional level, the BPBL implementation involves the following steps:

1. Drafting a Governor Regulation regarding the Electricity New Connection Assistance (BPBL) for 2024;
2. Conducting benchmarking studies in provinces that have implemented BPBL using regional budgets (APBD), such as West Kalimantan and East Java;
3. Conducting manufacturer price surveys;
4. Coordination and synchronization with relevant parties, including:

    - PT PLN (Persero) UP3 Palangka Raya and UP3 Kapuas;
    - Regional Social Affairs Office (DTKS);
    - Village/Subdistrict administrations;
    - Verification and validation of BPBL household data (house photos, nearby PLN networks, and proposed beneficiary lists).

b. Compliance and Responsiveness

The success of the BPBL program largely depends on coordination among key stakeholders, namely the Ministry of ESDM, PLN, and regional governments. In the implementation at Bukit Tunggal Subdistrict, the target data of beneficiaries has been 100% fulfilled. Generally, the ESDM and PLN demonstrate a strong commitment to the program's success, despite challenges related to beneficiary data accuracy and infrastructure readiness on the ground. For example, issues include:

1. Inaccurate beneficiary addresses that do not match BPBL program data during field verification.
2. Homes located far apart, where the distance between electrical poles and houses exceeds 60 meters, making them ineligible based on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
3. Duplicate NIK/KTP data used during BPBL central data collection in 2022.

The responsiveness of implementers, particularly PLN, is critical in addressing technical or administrative challenges during the installation process. Prompt responses to field issues, such as power outages or connection problems, ensure smoother program implementation. However, the most significant challenge remains addressing data mismatches and delays in coordination between regional governments and PLN, which can hinder policy execution. Therefore, the program's success relies heavily on adherence to established procedures and responsiveness to problems encountered in the field. Effective monitoring and timely resolution of challenges will further enhance the BPBL program’s impact on improving energy access for underserved communities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion above, the researcher concludes that the implementation of Motor Vehicle Tax collection, including registration, assessment, payment, and submission, has been carried out effectively and aligns with Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 5 of 2015 concerning the administration of the one-stop motor vehicle system. However, the Kasongan Samsat Office still faces several challenges, including:

1. Low taxpayer awareness,
2. The long distance of taxpayers' residences from the Kasongan Samsat Office,
3. Transfer of ownership without updating ownership records, and
4. Discrepancies between vehicle registration addresses and the owners' ID cards (KTP).

To address these issues, the Kasongan Samsat Office has implemented various initiatives, including providing tax services through the One-Stop Integrated Service (PTSP) and conducting programs such as:

1. Mobile Samsat Services,
2. Special Samsat Services for subdistricts,
3. Tajak Kanas (Official Vehicle Tax Billing), and
4. Super PKB Lapangan (Supel) to enhance taxpayer education and compliance.

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