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Government Intervention in Poverty Alleviation in Indonesia

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Abstract

This study discusses government intervention in poverty alleviation in Indonesia by placing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses economic, educational, health, infrastructure, and socio-cultural aspects. Using a descriptive qualitative method based on literature studies, this study examines various government policies and evaluates challenges and formulates strategies to strengthen them. The results of the study show that government intervention has made a significant contribution to reducing poverty rates, but its effectiveness is still hampered by inaccurate targeting, weak inter-agency coordination, infrastructure limitations, and low community participation. In addition, Islamic values such as justice, trustworthiness, and mutual assistance reinforce the urgency of transparent and empowerment-oriented governance. The implications of this study emphasize the importance of optimizing technology, strengthening institutional capacity, and participatory community empowerment models as the basis for formulating poverty alleviation policies that are more adaptive, targeted, and sustainable.

Keywords: *Poverty, Government Intervention, Social Programs, Governance*

Introduction

Poverty is a condition in which an individual or group of people is unable to meet and ensure the sustainability of their lives. A person is considered poor if their needs — whether physical, mental, or social — are not fulfilled (Endang, 2025). Poverty is a social problem that requires cooperation among individuals, communities, and the government to eradicate it. Poverty has become one of the most feared issues in every developing country, including Indonesia (Sulastomo, 2011). Poverty is not merely an economic issue related to low income or purchasing power. It is a multidimensional phenomenon that includes limited access to education, health, infrastructure, decent employment, and participation in social and political life. The complexity of poverty creates systemic impacts that hinder national economic growth, reduce the quality of human resources, increase crime rates, and potentially create social and political instability. Efforts to alleviate poverty must be carried out comprehensively, covering various aspects of community life and implemented in an integrated manner. Without serious commitment to addressing poverty, Indonesia will experience backwardness.

The persistently high poverty rate in Indonesia indicates that government intervention through its programs still needs evaluation, from the regional to the national level. The Indonesian government has demonstrated commitment to poverty alleviation through various forms of fiscal policy interventions and development programs. Government intervention is realized through diverse instruments, ranging from direct social assistance programs such as Rice for Poor Families (Raskin) in the food sector, Health Insurance for Poor Families (Askeskin) in the health sector, and Direct Cash Assistance (BLT). In addition, the government has made massive investments in basic infrastructure development, expansion of access to education and health, and policy reforms favoring vulnerable groups. Despite the numerous poverty alleviation programs, the number of poor people remains high, necessitating an integrated evaluation (Devita et al., 2024).

From an Islamic perspective, poverty alleviation is not only a moral obligation but also a collective responsibility that must be borne by the state and society. Allah SWT states in QS. Al-Hasyr (59): 7:

... كَيْ لَا يَكُونَ دُولَةًۢ بَيْنَ ٱلْأَغْنِيَآءِ مِنكُمْ...

"…so that wealth does not circulate only among the rich among you…"

This verse emphasizes the importance of equitable economic distribution as the foundation of societal welfare. Furthermore, QS. At-Taubah (9): 60 explains the mechanism of wealth redistribution, identifying groups entitled to assistance, including the poor and needy. These principles align with the modern welfare state concept, which positions the state as the primary actor in ensuring the welfare of all citizens.

The government faces various challenges in implementing poverty alleviation programs, including limited state budgets, inter-agency coordination problems, and inaccuracies in targeting and distributing assistance. Other challenges include weak institutional capacity at the regional level, corruption and budget leakage, and Indonesia's vast and diverse geographical conditions, which complicate program outreach, especially to underdeveloped, remote, and border areas. Although the government has allocated substantial budgets for poverty alleviation programs, questions remain regarding their effectiveness in sustainably reducing poverty rates. Evaluation of program impacts, systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and continuous improvement are key to ensuring that government interventions truly deliver optimal benefits to the poor.

The verse “ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتّٰى يُغَيِّرُوْا مَا بِاَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ (Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves)” (QS. Ar-Ra’d: 11) emphasizes the importance of empowerment and active community participation in the process of change toward welfare. Therefore, government intervention must be designed not only as short-term assistance but as an empowerment instrument capable of enhancing the capacity and independence of the poor to escape poverty permanently. Social assistance programs without accompanying empowerment can create long-term dependency. Thus, future poverty alleviation strategies require a comprehensive, measurable, and sustainable approach, supported by evidence-based policies and synergy between the government, community, and private sector.

Previous studies have stated that government policies based on Islamic economic principles can benefit the wider community; however, the implementation of poverty alleviation programs still faces constraints in funding, infrastructure, education, and low community participation (Endang, 2025). Meanwhile, Saskia et al. (2025) note that progress in poverty reduction efforts occurs in policy formulation, where the government must consider long-term impacts. Public policy serves as an important instrument in monitoring and evaluating poverty trends in Indonesia.

In contrast to previous studies, this research presents novelty by integrating modern policy approaches and evidence-based methods in poverty alleviation efforts, particularly through the utilization of digital technology to improve targeting accuracy and program effectiveness. Thus, this study not only enriches the literature on poverty alleviation strategies in the digital era but also provides practical contributions to the government, community, and private sector in realizing more equitable, targeted, and sustainable interventions.

Based on the above description, this study examines how poverty in Indonesia is a multidimensional phenomenon influenced not only by economic aspects but also by limited access to education, health, decent employment, and social participation. Poverty alleviation requires government intervention that is not merely short-term assistance but addresses structural changes for equitable development. The process includes target identification, data improvement, program design, implementation, and evaluation. The effectiveness of interventions is influenced by targeting accuracy, governance, inter-agency coordination, and regional government capacity. The government generally prioritizes social assistance and improvement of basic services by considering the needs of the poor and the state's fiscal capacity.

In addition, this study shows that the success of poverty alleviation programs is heavily influenced by the quality of data collection, accuracy of distribution, cross-sector policy integration, and active community participation. The main factors driving the effectiveness of government programs include implementation transparency, strong supervision, economic empowerment of communities, and adequate infrastructure support. This study also highlights the role of social, cultural, and religious values in shaping assistance distribution patterns and social dynamics within society.

Literature review

As a theoretical foundation and to deepen the understanding of previous research findings, the following presents a summary of various studies relevant to this research topic.

No.	Researcher(s)	Research Title	Key Findings
1.	(Endang Susanti, 2025)	Peran Pemerintah dalam Pengentasan Kemiskinan Perspektif Ekonomi Islam	Government policies align with Islamic economic principles (oneness of God, justice, moral responsibility, and public benefit), but implementation faces constraints in funding, infrastructure, health and education access, employment, and low community participation.
2.	(Devita et all., 2024)	Kebijakan Pemerintah Indonesia dalam Pengentasan Kemiskinan Perspektif Ekonomi Islam	Poverty alleviation has not been optimal because it focuses only on economic aspects without addressing deeper root causes. From an Islamic perspective, poverty is a test that must be faced through improving quality of life and strengthening

			social solidarity through zakat, infaq, and sedekah.
3.	(Komang & Wayan, 2025)	Pola Intervensi Pemerintah Melalui Kebijakan Pengentasan Kemiskinan di Indonesia	Government intervention can be observed at central and regional levels. The central government tends to adopt universal macro policies, while regional governments engage in micro interventions tailored to local characteristics and needs.
4.	(Imam & Jamaliah, 2023)	Analisis Kebijakan Publik dalam Mengatasi Kemiskinan di Indonesia	Evolution of public policy from the New Order to the Jokowi era, aligned with the 1945 Constitution and Pancasila. Policies always consider long-term impacts.
5.	(Saskia et all., 2025)	Analisis Kebijakan Publik dalam Mengatasi Kemiskinan di Indonesia	Public policy is a key instrument in monitoring and evaluating poverty trends in Indonesia. Education is also identified as one of the main causes of poverty.
6.	(Dimas & Riski, 2024)	Analisis Kebijakan Pengentasan Kemiskinan di Era Pemerintahan Joko Widodo	Policies are divided into three main pillars: social assistance, subsidies, and Village Funds. Although social assistance has reduced poverty, it is not yet fully effective due to targeting inaccuracies.

(Endang Susanti, 2025) states that poverty is one of the problems feared by everyone because no one wants to live in poverty and deprivation. To eradicate poverty, the government and society must work together. The government acts as a policy maker, while society complies with the policies or regulations that have been established.

Challenges and obstacles that prevent poverty from being immediately resolved or reduced in Indonesia include limited funding. However, this study still uses an analytical-descriptive method where data is based solely on literature studies focused on poverty issues in Indonesia. The descriptive approach based on literature review without empirical data limits the ability to measure program effectiveness concretely.

According to Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Zulkifli Sjamsyir in (Devita et al., 2024), poverty is one of the most influential problems leading to social issues. Generally, poverty can be measured by income levels and basic needs in a country. Poverty can also be influenced by high population growth and limited employment opportunities, which affect food needs and other production to meet human needs in a country. However, the descriptive approach based on literature review without empirical data limits the ability to measure program effectiveness concretely.

Government intervention through poverty alleviation programs represents a strategic effort to reduce social inequality and improve community welfare, in line with welfare state theory and the capability approach, which emphasize the state's role in resource redistribution and expanding individual capabilities. According to (Komang & Wayan, 2025), government intervention in Indonesia is categorized into economic, health, food security, empowerment, education, and housing sectors, with dominance in economic interventions such as BPNT, Rastra Program, PKH, BLT, and Social Welfare Programs. However, although various programs have been implemented continuously, program achievements often fail to meet the set targets, indicating an implementation gap between policy design and field execution. There is still a lack of comprehensive analysis on the integration of interventions across sectors to generate synergistic effects in multidimensional poverty alleviation, and limited research exploring causal mechanisms and theories of change that explain program success or failure on a sustainable basis.

(Imam & Jamaliah, 2023) describe the evolution of public policy in addressing poverty in Indonesia from the Old Order period to the Jokowi era, understanding poverty as a multidimensional problem that goes beyond low income to include health, education, and social vulnerability, in line with the capability approach and the concept of multidimensional poverty. Factors causing poverty include unequal resource distribution, low human resource quality, limited access to capital, and geographical and socio-cultural influences. Although various programs have been implemented based on the 1945 Constitution and Pancasila, Indonesia's poverty rate still shows fluctuating trends with significant regional disparities. However, there is still a lack of comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of the transformation from sectoral to coordinated policy approaches in creating long-term impact, limited analysis of implementation mechanisms and policy coherence across government periods explaining why programs have not produced consistent poverty reduction, and minimal studies on spatial inequality.

Meanwhile, according to (Saskia et al., 2025), public policy in poverty alleviation in Indonesia from the Old Order era to the Jokowi administration is based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, in line with welfare state theory where the state has a constitutional responsibility to ensure the welfare of its people. The implemented policies focus on improving human resource quality, reflecting the application of human capital theory and human development theory (UNDP, 1990), which emphasize investment in education and health as keys to sustainable poverty alleviation. The findings indicate that these policies are considered effective in reducing poverty rates and supporting sustainable development. However, there is still a lack of in-depth comparative analysis on causal mechanisms explaining why certain programs are effective in urban areas but less successful in rural and remote areas, given the qualitative descriptive approach used tends to be limited in revealing cause-and-effect relationships.

In (Dimas & Riski, 2024), it is stated that the effectiveness of poverty alleviation policies in Indonesia during the Jokowi administration, which focused on three main pillars—social assistance (such as PKH and BPNT), subsidies (energy and non-energy), and Village Funds—aligns with social protection theory, which emphasizes the importance of combining protective measures (social assistance), preventive measures (subsidies), and promotive measures (empowerment) in addressing multidimensional poverty. This three-pillar approach also reflects the application of targeting theory in social policy and fiscal decentralization through Village Funds aimed at increasing resource allocation efficiency according to local needs. Various empirical studies show that Village Funds play a significant role in reducing rural poverty through infrastructure development and local economic empowerment. Energy and fertilizer subsidies have a positive impact on farmers' welfare by reducing production costs, while social assistance and empowerment programs address inequality. However, there is still a lack of evaluation on the synergy and complementarity effects among the three policy pillars (social assistance, subsidies, Village Funds) in generating greater poverty alleviation impact compared to partial implementation.

Research methods

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method with a literature review (library research) approach to examine government intervention in poverty alleviation in Indonesia. This method was chosen because it is capable of providing an in-depth and comprehensive description of the multidimensional phenomenon of poverty and analyzing government policies that have been implemented based on various relevant literature sources.

Data collection was conducted through documentation techniques by identifying, reviewing, and analyzing various literature sources such as Google Scholar, books, Scopus, and university repositories related to the research topic. The literature used was selected based on relevance to the research focus, source credibility, and the currency of the information presented. The research data were sourced from secondary literature, including scientific journals, textbooks, official government reports, publications from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), public policy documents, and previous studies discussing poverty and government intervention in Indonesia.

Data analysis in this study was carried out using content analysis techniques, focusing on the process of identifying, interpreting, and synthesizing information from various literature sources. Each selected literature was analyzed to identify main themes, patterns of relationships between variables, and differences and similarities in findings related to poverty and government intervention.

The data analysis process was conducted through several stages: identifying and selecting relevant literature from credible sources, classifying the literature based on main themes, and analyzing the content of the literature to assess conceptual alignment and identify differences and gaps in findings among studies. The literature data were then processed descriptively and critically by comparing theoretical perspectives, policy frameworks, and empirical evidence, resulting in a conceptual synthesis representative of the effectiveness of government intervention in poverty alleviation in Indonesia.

Results and discussion

Overview of Poverty

It is not easy to define poverty, as poverty involves space and time. Poverty is a fundamental issue in a country's economic and social development because it serves as an important indicator of development success and community welfare. According to Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Zulkifli Sjamsyir, poverty is one of the most influential sources of social problems. Social problems stemming from poverty and inequality or difficulties in meeting basic needs are often interconnected with other factors. Poverty is not only a problem in Indonesia but also in many developing countries. Poverty also influences people's actions to meet their basic needs, even if such actions sometimes contradict existing rules or norms or are related to environmental damage.

Jordan defines the poor as "people whose lack of resources damage their capacity to participate in a market environment." This means that poor people are those whose lack of resources damages their capacity to participate in the market or business environment (Jordan, 1996). Meanwhile, according to Chambers, poverty is an integrated concept with five dimensions: (1) poverty proper, (2) powerlessness, (3) state of emergency (vulnerability), (4) dependence, and (5) isolation, both geographically and sociologically (Chambers, 1993). Both theories indicate that living in poverty is not only about lacking money and having low income levels but also many other things, such as low health and education levels, unfair treatment under the law, vulnerability to criminal threats, powerlessness in the face of authority, and inability to determine one's own life path (Murdiyana & Mulyana, 2017). In a broad sense, poverty is a multifaceted or multidimensional phenomenon.

Generally, poverty can be measured by income levels and the minimum basic needs of a country, which differ from one country to another. Poverty alleviation efforts to date have shown failures because approaches that focus solely on economic problems will not represent the fundamental issues of actual poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic is a clear example of how economic shocks can increase social vulnerability and drive a surge in poverty rates in many countries, including Indonesia.

In development studies, poverty can be categorized into several main types:

1. Absolute Poverty

   Absolute poverty is a condition in which an individual's or group's income falls below the poverty line. Thus, the individual or group faces difficulties in meeting basic needs such as clothing, food, and shelter required to improve their quality of life.

2. Relative Poverty

   Relative poverty occurs due to the influence of development policies that do not reach all segments of society, leading to income inequality and disparities in welfare standards.

3. Cultural Poverty

Cultural poverty occurs due to attitudes and habits of individuals or communities stemming from culture and customs that are generally reluctant to improve their standard of living through modern means.

4. Structural Poverty

In contrast to cultural poverty, structural poverty is caused by limited community access to resources, which occurs within a social, cultural, or political system that does not support poverty alleviation.

From an economic perspective, Sharp (1996) in Kuncoro states that the causes of poverty can be viewed from three aspects (Kuncoro, 2003): (1) at the micro level, poverty arises from unequal patterns of resource ownership leading to uneven income distribution; (2) poverty arises from differences in the quality of human resources; and (3) poverty arises from differences in access to capital. Meanwhile, according to Ginandjar, factors causing poverty include low education levels, low health standards, limited employment opportunities, and isolation conditions. The World Bank report identifies five factors influencing poverty: education, type of employment, gender, access to basic health services and infrastructure, and geographical location (Murdiyana & Mulyana, 2017).

Based on the BPS release for March 2025, Indonesia's poverty rate stood at 8.47 percent or approximately 23.85 million people, showing a decrease compared to September 2024 (8.57 percent) and March 2024 (9.03 percent). Although there has been improvement, regional disparities remain evident, with rural poverty reaching 11.03 percent, higher than the 6.73 percent in urban areas. Additionally, the number of people in extreme poverty during the same period reached 2.38 million or 0.85 percent of the population, reflecting the group facing the most severe poverty conditions and requiring special intervention. The national poverty line was recorded at IDR 609,160 per capita per month, increasing in line with rising basic needs prices. Overall, these data indicate a downward trend in poverty, but regional inequality and vulnerability of certain groups remain major challenges in poverty alleviation efforts.

Government Intervention in Addressing Poverty in Indonesia

Poverty is a problem feared by everyone, and no one wants to live in poverty and deprivation. The problem of poverty is not solely the responsibility of individuals but also requires significant government involvement in preventing and alleviating it. The government has a responsibility to ensure whether its people have achieved welfare or not. To eradicate poverty, the government and society must work together effectively. The government acts as the policy maker, while society complies with the established policies or regulations. In this way, the problem of poverty can be addressed promptly. In addition, the government is obliged to create programs whose main objective is to improve the economic conditions of the community in order to alleviate poverty (Susanti, 2025).

In order to reduce poverty rates, the government has formulated various programs. The government implements various social protection programs designed to reduce the expenditure burden on poor groups, particularly through social assistance and social security. Programs such as the Family Hope Program (PKH) provide conditional assistance to improve access to education and health for children from poor families, while Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT) helps meet food needs in a more targeted and efficient manner. The Indonesia Health Card (KIS) and Contribution Aid Recipients (PBI) for National Health Insurance ensure that poor groups receive health services without incurring large costs. This intervention is strengthened by educational assistance through the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) and KIP Kuliah to open access to education for children from pre-prosperous families. In addition, the government provides housing assistance through renovation of uninhabitable houses, sanitation improvements, clean water provision, and facility development as efforts to improve quality of life and reduce health risks in the community (Adji et al., 2022).

The government also seeks to maintain community purchasing power while increasing income opportunities through various mechanisms of energy and non-energy subsidies, such as fuel, LPG, electricity, and fertilizer subsidies. These subsidies aim not only to reduce living costs but also to support the sustainability of productive economic activities of households, especially farmers, fishermen, and micro-enterprises. The government provides various programs to improve work or business skills through vocational education and job training, business network expansion, entrepreneurship training, market information, and working capital assistance.

In addition, the government carries out interventions through infrastructure development that functions to improve access, connectivity, and the community's ability to participate in economic activities. Village Funds have become an important instrument for building village roads, bridges, irrigation, clean water facilities, electricity, and other public facilities. Such infrastructure not only opens up regional isolation but also increases the mobility of goods and people, expands access to health and education services, and opens new business opportunities in rural areas. The Village Cash Labor Intensive

Program (PKTD) also directly provides temporary employment opportunities that can increase community income and purchasing power.

To ensure that these various programs are well-targeted, the government continues to improve the beneficiary database system. The Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS), which previously ran less effectively in reaching poor groups, prompted the government to respond by sharpening beneficiary targeting through the development of the P3KE data (Targeting, Acceleration, and Elimination of Extreme Poverty). In addition, the government centralizes programs and budgets for poverty alleviation by adjusting the State Budget (APBN), Regional Budget (APBD), and Village Budget (APBDes). Poverty reduction can be achieved through three things: first, maximizing incentive funds to strengthen poverty alleviation strategies, with the most important being activities that provide direct benefits to the community, such as community empowerment through training. Second, ensuring that benefit recipients using the P3KE program meet the targets and objectives. Third, intensifying synergy and collaboration across all sectors, including ministries, institutions, local governments, universities, business and industry sectors, social organizations, NGOs, community groups, creative economy, and the government itself (Susanti, 2025).

From the efforts made by the government in alleviating poverty, the importance of the government's role can also be seen. The government plays a role as a policy maker by creating programs that can significantly reduce poverty rates. In addition, the government also plays a role in supervising whether the created programs are running according to plan and ensuring whether the benefits of the programs have truly been felt by the community. The policies and efforts made to alleviate poverty constitute a step and responsibility given by the state to realize shared welfare and benefit. Maintaining economic stability and the availability of all community needs — both basic and economic — is one of the state's obligations.

Effectiveness of Poverty Alleviation Programs

The effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs essentially refers to the extent to which a program is able to achieve its predetermined objectives, both in the short and long term. In the context of public policy, effectiveness is not only seen from the distribution of assistance but also from the program's ability to reduce poverty rates in real terms through improving the welfare of the poor. This assessment requires a comprehensive understanding of targeting accuracy, implementation quality, and the resulting changes in the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries. An effective program is one that is able to target the poor accurately without causing inclusion or exclusion errors and provides sufficiently intensive and sustainable benefits to significantly improve their living conditions (Dimas & Riski, 2024).

The effectiveness of a poverty alleviation program is generally measured through several main indicators that reflect the extent to which the intervention achieves its designed objectives (Murdiyana & Mulyana, 2017). First, targeting accuracy — the program's ability to ensure that assistance truly reaches those who need it. Findings from several studies show that the Family Hope Program (PKH) tends to have better targeting accuracy compared to Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT). High targeting accuracy is a prerequisite for program effectiveness because only through proper distribution can program benefits be optimally felt by poor and vulnerable groups. Second, program socialization, which relates to the extent to which information regarding objectives, mechanisms, rights and obligations of recipients, and implementation procedures is understood by the community (Anwar & Sari, 2021). Third, achievement of program objectives — the intervention's ability to reduce poverty and improve family welfare in real terms. Several program evaluations show that success has been achieved; however, its impact on aggregate poverty reduction remains partial because poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that cannot be solved solely through social assistance programs. Fourth, program monitoring and supervision, which includes oversight of implementation, updating of beneficiary data, and periodic evaluation. Through a well-structured monitoring and evaluation system, implementation obstacles can be identified more quickly and addressed appropriately so that the program can continue to adapt to the community's socio-economic dynamics (Aisyah, 2024).

Effectiveness is also determined by budget efficiency. Programs that incur excessively high administrative costs or have weak governance tend to be less optimal in generating impact compared to the fiscal burden borne by the government. The success of a poverty alleviation policy can be measured through several indicators that reflect real impact on the community's socio-economic conditions, such as reduction in poverty rates, reduction in the depth and severity of poverty indices, improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI), improvement in the Gini ratio, and increased access to basic services (Adawiyah, 2020). Ultimately, the effectiveness of a poverty alleviation program is measured by the extent to which the program is able to promote economic independence and reduce community dependence on assistance. Programs that only function as temporary buffers without providing empowerment interventions have the potential to create long-term dependency, making poverty reduction unsustainable. Periodic evaluation of program outcomes is important to ensure that every intervention truly provides benefits and can adapt to the ever-changing dynamics of poverty. Thus, the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs is not only determined by administrative success but by its contribution to creating real and sustainable change for the poor.

Challenges and Obstacles Faced by the Government in Poverty Alleviation

In the implementation of government programs and policies for poverty alleviation in Indonesia, challenges and obstacles are inevitable. The following are the challenges and obstacles that prevent the poverty problem from being immediately resolved in Indonesia (Komang & Wayan, 2025):

No.	Tantangan	Hambatan
1.	Limited development funding and infrastructure	Poverty alleviation programs do not run smoothly, economic access is hindered, and investors are reluctant to invest due to poor infrastructure.
2.	Limited employment opportunities	The number of jobs is not proportional to job seekers, thus increasing unemployment and poverty.
3.	Unintegrated poverty data system down to the village level	This results in mistargeted assistance distribution, the principle of justice (Al-Adl) is not fulfilled, and P3KE has not optimally reached remote areas.
4.	Low community participation	Poverty alleviation programs are hindered because the community provides little support and

		is not involved or is not engaged in government policies.
5.	Dependence on social assistance	Beneficiaries are less motivated to become independent because social assistance is consumptive without empowerment programs.

Strategies to Strengthen Government Intervention in the Future

Poverty alleviation efforts are one of the national development priority agendas that require a comprehensive, measurable, and sustainable approach. Poverty is not only understood as an economic issue but also as a multidimensional problem (Saskia et al., 2025). Therefore, alleviation strategies must be designed based on accurate data, inclusive policies, and synergy between the government, community, and private sector. The application of evidence-based policy making is key to ensuring that every intervention is well-targeted and delivers real impact on improving the welfare of the poor (Imam & Jamaliah, 2023).

1. Utilization of Technology-Based Data

The utilization of digital technology is an important foundation for improving the effectiveness of poverty alleviation interventions. The government needs to develop an integrated, accurate, and real-time updated poverty database so that beneficiary identification can be carried out with precise targeting. By utilizing big data analytics, verification based on National Identification Numbers (NIK), and spatial mapping, the government can minimize inclusion and exclusion errors that have been major obstacles in social assistance distribution. Technology also enables more transparent and efficient oversight processes and supports evidence-based decision-making to design more responsive policies to the needs of the poor.

2. Strengthening Community Participation

Community involvement in every stage of policy is a key element for the success of poverty alleviation programs. Involving poor groups, local organizations, and village officials in the planning, implementation, and evaluation processes makes programs more relevant because they are designed based on real needs and field conditions. This participatory approach not only increases community acceptance of the program but also strengthens the sense of ownership, thereby ensuring greater program sustainability (Devita et al., 2024). Community participation also helps identify problems that may not be visible to the central government, allowing interventions to be more effectively tailored to local needs.

3. Inter-Agency Synergy

Inter-agency synergy is an important aspect to avoid policy fragmentation and program overlap that often hinder the effectiveness of government interventions. Strong coordination between ministries/institutions and local governments enables program integration, budget alignment, and more efficient use of resources. With good synergy, various poverty alleviation programs can complement each other and run in one integrated policy direction. This not only increases program effectiveness but also accelerates the achievement of national poverty alleviation targets.

4. Focus on Sustainability and Economic Empowerment

To reduce dependence on social assistance, the government needs to shift its approach from consumptive assistance to empowerment strategies capable of increasing the economic independence of the poor. This can be done through strengthening job skills training, expanding access to business capital, mentoring MSMEs, and facilitating local economic digitalization (Adji et al., 2022). This approach aims to ensure that the poor not only receive short-term assistance but also acquire productive capabilities that support long-term income growth. Thus, program sustainability can be maintained and the risk of recurring poverty (poverty trap) can be minimized.

5. Periodic and Adaptive Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation are important components to ensure that programs run according to objectives and deliver real benefits to the poor. Periodic evaluation allows the government to identify implementation obstacles, measure policy effectiveness, and make adjustments based on changes in socio-economic conditions. An adaptive evaluation approach is very important amid rapid economic dynamics, for example due to inflation, global crises, or natural disasters. With continuous evaluation, poverty alleviation policies can be continuously improved to remain relevant and responsive.

6. Transparency and Accountability

Increasing transparency and accountability is a strategic step to ensure that poverty alleviation programs truly reach entitled beneficiaries and are free from budget misuse. Digitalization of assistance distribution processes and publication of beneficiary data can enhance information openness and facilitate public oversight (Praja, 2024). In addition, providing easily accessible, responsive, and integrated complaint channels allows the public to report irregularities quickly. Strong transparency and accountability not only prevent corruption but also increase public trust in the government, which ultimately strengthens overall program effectiveness.

This study aims to integrate findings from the literature on government intervention in poverty alleviation in Indonesia with the dynamics of continuously evolving public policy. Overall, the research results show that poverty in Indonesia is a multidimensional phenomenon that cannot be solved only through an economic approach but requires comprehensive, adaptive, and evidence-based policies.

The research findings indicate that government intervention in poverty alleviation has a significant influence on improving community welfare, particularly in the multidimensional context that includes economic, social, health, and educational aspects. These findings are consistent with the study by Endang Susanti (2025), which affirms that government policies have aligned with the principles of justice, moral responsibility, and benefit for the wider community. However, this study adds that government efforts are not only administrative but also contain ethical dimensions that emphasize the importance of equitable access and poverty alleviation through the principle of distributive justice. Thus, program effectiveness is not only measured by the reduction in poverty rates but also by the extent to which public moral values are internalized in policy implementation.

The analysis also shows that the structural and cultural root causes of poverty are the main obstacles to the success of government programs. These findings strengthen the results of Devita et al. (2024), which state that government policies to date have tended to only touch on economic aspects without addressing deeper root causes of poverty such as access inequality and weak social participation. However, this study contributes that poverty alleviation must integrate a more comprehensive empowerment approach based on community social capital. With this approach, government intervention aims not only to meet basic needs but also to strengthen community capacity to escape poverty independently.

In addition, the study shows that differences in policy design and implementation between the central and regional governments are a significant factor affecting program effectiveness, in line with the findings of Komang and Wayan (2025). They explain that the central government tends to focus on macro policies, while regional governments implement micro interventions according to local conditions. This study expands these findings by adding that the lack of synchronization in implementation across government levels has the potential to create an implementation gap that hinders the achievement of poverty alleviation targets. Therefore, stronger institutional synergy is needed so that policies designed at the central level can have consistent impact at the regional level.

This study also finds that the transformation of policies from the New Order era to the Jokowi administration has brought a new direction in poverty alleviation that is more inclusive and responsive. These findings support the analysis of Imam & Jamaliah (2023), which outlines the evolution of policies from a charity approach to an empowerment-based approach as an effort to reduce community dependence. However, this study adds that the success of policy transformation is highly determined by coordination mechanisms and policy coherence between programs, which to date remain weak and have not been comprehensively evaluated. Therefore, evidence-based evaluation of the effectiveness of strategy changes over time is needed so that policies can be more adaptive to the dynamics of poverty.

Furthermore, the research findings show that public policy in Indonesia has prioritized human development as one of the main strategies for poverty alleviation. This is in line with the findings of Saskia et al. (2025), which state that improving human resource quality through education and health is a key component in the welfare state strategy. This study enriches these findings by emphasizing that human capital-based policies must be balanced with strengthening sustainability mechanisms so as not to create persistent poverty, especially in rural and remote areas. Thus, increased access alone is not enough without an exit strategy that ensures long-term independence.

Further research results show that poverty alleviation programs during the Jokowi period, divided into three pillars of social assistance, subsidies, and Village Funds, have made significant contributions to reducing poverty rates, strengthening the findings of Dimas & Riski (2024). However, this study identifies that targeting inaccuracies, budget leakage, and weak supervision are serious challenges in program implementation. Different from previous studies, this study adds that the effectiveness of these three pillars is highly determined by the complementarities or synergistic effects between programs that have not been widely studied in the literature. Thus, this study affirms that an integrated approach is needed so that policy impact can be more maximal.

In addition to implementation factors, this study also finds that community dependence on social assistance programs can hinder long-term empowerment efforts. These findings are in line with Chambers (1993), who mentions the dimension of dependence as one of the indicators of multidimensional poverty. This study provides a new contribution that dependence can be minimized through empowerment programs designed simultaneously with social assistance, so that the community not only receives assistance but also acquires new skills and economic opportunities.

This study also reveals that strengthening technology-based data is an important instrument in improving policy effectiveness, supporting the view that emphasizes the importance of technology utilization in sharpening poverty data. In this context, the study adds that data integration down to the village level and real-time updating are crucial factors in ensuring equitable distribution of assistance, especially for vulnerable groups that have been difficult to reach.

Overall, this study affirms that poverty alleviation is not only a technical-administrative issue but also a structural issue that requires transformation of values, policy synergy, technological innovation, and socio-economic empowerment. The integration of macro and micro strategies, inter-agency collaboration, and community support are important factors in realizing adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable poverty alleviation. Thus, conventional public policy theory needs to be strengthened with moral, social, and contextual aspects to be able to address the increasingly complex challenges of poverty in the modern era.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion and literature analysis, it can be concluded that poverty alleviation in Indonesia is a complex process because poverty is not only influenced by low income but also by factors such as education, health, access to employment, infrastructure, and the socio-cultural conditions of the community. Government social assistance programs play an important role in supporting the welfare of the poor; however, their effectiveness greatly depends on targeting accuracy, data quality, and the government's ability to reach those in need. This confirms that solving the problem of poverty requires strategies that are not only administrative but also capable of addressing deep-rooted structural problems.

On the other hand, policy implementation still faces obstacles such as inaccurate data, budget leakage, and minimal inter-agency coordination, especially in remote areas. Poverty alleviation efforts also need to involve collective community awareness. From an Islamic perspective, poverty alleviation must be based on the values of justice, trustworthiness, and mutual assistance, so that assistance does not create dependency but encourages independence.

The implications of this study indicate that the formulation of poverty alleviation policies needs to consider economic, social, institutional, and ethical aspects in an integrated manner. These findings provide input for the government to strengthen data mechanisms, increase transparency in assistance distribution, and expand community empowerment based on economic independence. For the community, the results of this study affirm the importance of active participation in social programs and maintaining social solidarity.

As a follow-up, future research is recommended to conduct empirical studies using quantitative methods or case studies in specific regions to directly measure the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs. Future research should also examine inter-agency coordination strategies, technology utilization, and community empowerment to improve targeting accuracy and program sustainability. In addition, it is important to explore community-based economic empowerment models and strengthen social capital so that communities can become more independent and competitive.

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