

Political Ethics in the Perspective of Government Decision-Making and Policy on the Development of the Nation and State

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Keywords: Political Ethics, Political Culture, Public Trust, Government Policies</p>	<p><i>This research aims to examine political ethics towards government policies, political culture towards government policies, political ethics towards public trust, political culture towards public trust, and government policies towards public trust. The data analysis method employed is quantitative, specifically utilizing correlational research. Correlational research is a general approach focused on estimating covariation among naturally occurring variables. The objective of correlational research is to identify predictive relationships using correlation techniques or statistical methods. The research findings indicate that political ethics significantly influence government policies. Based on the results, it is evident that the public holds a highly positive view of the political ethics of their politicians, indicating a strong belief that politicians operate with high ethical standards in carrying out their public duties. The findings also demonstrate that political culture significantly impacts government policies. This implies that changes or improvements in political culture can directly and significantly influence the direction of policies adopted by local governments. Political ethics have a significant impact on public trust. The data shows that adherence to norms and the adoption of ethical guidelines are crucial factors in building public trust in politicians. Political culture also has a significant influence on effective public trust, consistent with regional development plans, providing measurable outcomes, and undergoing continuous evaluation, which are critical factors in enhancing public trust. Government policies have a significant positive impact on public trust, reflecting the government's commitment to ensuring that implemented policies are not only beneficial but also transparent and accountable.</i></p>

INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalization that continues to grow, countries around the world face various challenges in the fields of politics, economy, social, culture, and defense-security. In Indonesia, this dynamic is often summarized in the term Impoleksosbud Hankam, which is an acronym for Import, Export, Social, Cultural, and Defense-Security. A deep understanding of these aspects is essential for the sustainability of national development and community welfare. The social and cultural aspects in Indonesia are very diverse, reflecting the richness of ethnicities, languages, and customs. This diversity is a great asset that can encourage creativity and innovation. However, social and cultural dynamics can also pose challenges, such as social conflicts, disintegration, and injustice. Therefore, there is a need for strategies to promote social integration, tolerance, and respect for cultural differences as a solid foundation for national development.

Defense and security stability are key prerequisites for sustainable development. Challenges faced in this area include domestic threats such as terrorism, separatism, and criminality, as well as external threats such as conflicts between countries and cyberattacks. A strong and integrated defense system with a holistic security approach is essential to maintain the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Globalization and technological developments bring new challenges and opportunities. On the one hand,

wider access to global markets and technological advancements can improve efficiency and productivity. On the

other hand, reliance on global technology and markets can increase vulnerability to economic fluctuations and cyber threats.

Sustainable development that pays attention to the balance between economic, social, cultural, and environmental is key to ensuring long-term well-being. Inclusive and sustainable policies must continue to be developed to ensure that every citizen benefits from fair and equitable development.

Proper understanding and management of the Hankam Cultural Impoleksosbud is crucial for Indonesia in facing challenges and taking advantage of opportunities in the era of globalization. Through integrated policies and synergies between various sectors, Indonesia can strengthen its position on the global stage, improve people's welfare, and maintain the country's sovereignty and security.

The government system in Indonesia which is centralistic (*top-down*) becomes decentralistic (bottom-up) or known as regional autonomy (Otda) which is the delegation of authority from the central government to local governments (Pemda) marked by the issuance of Law No. 22/1999 concerning Regional Government, which was later revised by Law No. 32/2004. These changes have implications for the development planning system, as a result of broader authority in the regions, because they take care of and regulate all government affairs outside the government's business, so that there are differences in demands from the community and local governments. Therefore, Law No. 25/2004 was issued, which in its implementation applies a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches by emphasizing more aspirational (supply and demand sides) and participatory ways of the community, in addition to understanding the dynamics of the community and local governments and their interactions with the central government (Syamsuddin et al. 2007) in M. Hubeis (2010).

Trust is an absolute requirement in good governance. The implementation of current policies, such as sensible politics and economics that are crucial to building good governance, can build public trust in the government. Trust is very important for public policy because policy-making depends on the response of the public. The crisis and low public trust in the government are also fundamental problems in Indonesia.

The next problem is how to change public trust to give birth to democratic public policies. An illustration of the declining level of public trust in the government is found in the research conducted by Silalahi. This study examines the level of public trust in local governments after the new order in terms of granting business licenses (Silalahi, 2011). From the research of Wahyunengseh (2011), public trust increased in the city of Surakarta due to the involvement of the community in an inclusive manner through a dialogue space that is beneficial to the community because the community feels involved in policy making in the city of Surakarta. This study illustrates that one of the ways to build public trust is inclusive and democratic social policies.

From the previous studies that have been described above, it appears that there is concern about the causes of the decline in the level of public trust and how to build the level of public trust from each different policy case. One of the factors that affects public trust is government policy.

Carl Friedrich (1963) sees that policy is the direction of action proposed by a person, group or government in a certain environment, which provides obstacles or opportunities in order to achieve a goal or realize a certain goal or purpose. Richard Rose (1969) argues that policy is a series of activities that are more or less related and their consequences for those concerned, not independent decisions. Amir Santoso (1993) categorizes the opinions of experts into two groups: first, that all government actions are public policy. Second, that public policy is a government decision that has certain goals and intentions and has predictable consequences. Based on the opinions of experts Overall, it shows that policy is a process that involves a proposition of action, a series of activities, and government decisions with specific objectives in a complex and multifaceted context

Another factor is political politics. Ethics is not the same as etiquette, "Etika" means "moral" and "Etiket" means "manners". Ethics is related to values, norms, and morals. In the Dictionary of Sosciology and Related Sciences, it is stated that value is the ability to trust and in an object to satisfy humans. So value is essentially a property or quality attached to an object, not the object itself (Mannuhung, 2018: 5).

Ethics is a science that discusses how and why we follow a certain moral teaching or how we should take a responsible attitude in dealing with various moral teachings. (Suseno, in Mannuhung, 2018: 5). Ethics is a rule regarding human behavior, whether it concerns individuals, families, neighbors, and the life of the nation's community.

Political ethics is important because it concerns procedures in political actions. Political ethics are needed to maintain harmony in political associations. An unethical political act will disrupt political harmony. The definition of political ethics cannot be separated from the subject as an ethical actor, namely human beings. Therefore, political ethics is closely related to the field of moral discussion. This is based on the fact that the notion of 'moral' always refers to humans as the subject of ethics. So moral obligations are distinguished from the

meaning of other obligations, because what is meant is the obligation of human beings as human beings. Even in relation to society, nation and state, political ethics still lays the fundamental foundation of human beings as human beings. This basis further strengthens the roots of political ethics that goodness is always based on the essence of human beings as civilized and cultured beings (Bolong, 2018: 11).

Political ethics involves moral and principled considerations in political actions taken by the government, both in internal and external contexts. In a global perspective, political ethics not only includes responsibility to the citizens of a country, but also to the international community as a whole.

The importance of political ethics in a global perspective is to create a more just, peaceful, and sustainable political order around the world. By adhering to moral principles and universal values, it is expected that political action will become more oriented towards the common good and general welfare.

In addition to political ethics, the next factor is political culture. Political culture is part of the culture of society with more distinctive characteristics. After political culture includes issues of legitimacy, power regulation, the process of making government policies, the activities of political parties, the behavior of state apparatus, and public turmoil against the ruling power. Political activities also enter the world of religion, economic and social activities and personal and social life in general, so political culture directly affects political life and determines national decisions regarding the pattern of allocating community resources. Syahrial Syarbaini et al. (2011).

Regarding political ethics, the Civil Society Coalition invites the public to give ethical sanctions to the pair of presidential candidates and vice presidential candidates number 2. The invitation was made after the Honorary Council of Election Organizers (DKPP) gave ethical sanctions to the commissioners of the General Election Commission (KPU) who had committed ethical violations in accepting Gibran's candidacy. Kompas.com (2024)

According to Franz [Magnis](#), President Joko Widodo's partiality aka Jokowi and miss used of power or abuse of power. According to Franz, Jokowi may tell the hope of victory for one of the candidates. "But once he uses his power to give instructions to ASN, police, military, and others to support one of the candidates, as well as use the state treasury to finance travel in order to provide support to the candidates, he violates ethical demands, that he is the president of all citizens, including all politicians," he said.

Franz assessed that a president who uses the power given by his people to benefit his own family is a very shameful thing. This proves that the person does not have the insight of a president who dedicates his life 100 percent to the people. Rather, he said, only thinking about himself and his family

Distribution of social assistance aka social assistance. Franz said that social assistance does not belong to the president, but to the Indonesian people whose distribution is the responsibility of the ministry concerned and there are rules for its distribution. He even likened the president who takes social assistance to be distributed in the context of a certain candidate campaign, similar to an employee who secretly takes cash from the store's cash. Political culture is a system of values and beliefs shared by the community, but each element of society has a different political culture, such as between the general public and its elites. People who are involved in political activities, at least in voting, and get quite a lot of information about life.

Banjar culture, which when related to democracy in the world of politics or the election of democratic regional heads, then they only choose candidates for regional heads who only come from their regions. A clear example of the strong banjar culture can be seen from the jargon of the candidate's campaign in South Kalimantan where one of the jargon of one of the candidates carries the original campaign jargon of the Banua people (the original banjar people).

The problem of democracy in the region, if it is associated with local culture, sometimes there are several problems in its implementation. These problems sometimes occur because local customs or cultures where democracy is applied actually clash and still maintain their own culture in response to a problem or policy that has been issued by the government. Such as the existence of an understanding that states that in the region or the cultural environment, political and government issues can only be occupied by the people without thinking about and caring about the existence of democracy that prevails in this country.

Policy is basically a decision intended to overcome certain problems, to carry out certain activities, to carry out certain activities, or to achieve certain goals, carried out by authorized government agencies in the context of carrying out state government tasks and nation building. The limitation on public policy is given by Thomas R. Dye in Ayuningtyas (2014: 8) who says that "public policy is whatever *governments choose to do or not to do*".

Head of the Banjarbaru City Bappeda Thalimi Hasani said that the development policy of the South Kalimantan Provincial Government summarized in the local government work plan (RKPD) is enough to protect the interests of the community in the region. According to Thalimi, South Kalimantan's priority programs are

Established, More Prosperous, Just, Independent and Competitive in its implementation in synergy with national and district/city development policies. One of the benchmarks for realistic and protective assessment, he continued, can be seen from the 13 priority programs that are measurable in achieving the percentage target of an activity program. For example, economic growth in 2018 is targeted at 4.7 to 5.1, inflation is expected to be controlled at 3.8 to 4.0. HDI increased to 70.13, poverty level 4.0-4.50 and Gini index 0.307 percent. The thirteen development priorities in South Kalimantan are, among others, the priority of a smart South Kalimantan with a focus on education implementation activities to increase the average number of school lengths, subsidies for student education from economically disadvantaged communities. Antara Kalsel (2017). The following is poverty data in South Kalimantan Province:

Poverty Data Table in South Kalimantan Province

Year	2021	2022	2023
South Kalimantan	208 108	195 702	188 928
Tanah Laut	15 862	13 541	13 222
Kotabaru	16 834	15 065	15 322
Banjar	18 067	16 711	14 773
Barito Kuala	16 099	15 055	14 707
Tapin	6 925	6 982	6 224
South Hulu Sungai	11 466	10 804	9 607
Hulu Sungai Tengah	16 770	16 144	16 008
North Hulu Sungai	16 186	15 497	15 018
Tabalong	16 128	15 243	15 153
Bumbu Land	18 919	17 216	17 172
Balangan	8 062	7 825	7 074
Banjarmasin City	34 839	34 009	33 467
Banjar Baru City	11 951	11 610	11 181

The decline in poverty rates in most districts/cities in South Kalimantan shows a significant positive trend, especially in several areas such as Tanah Laut, Banjar, and South Hulu Sungai. However, there are some areas such as Kotabaru and Tapin that have experienced a slight increase or decrease that is not too significant. Overall, the data show successful efforts to reduce poverty in South Kalimantan, although more attention is still needed on areas that have experienced minimal increases or decreases.

The reduction in poverty rates in South Kalimantan Province can be attributed to various government policies designed to improve people's welfare. Continuous evaluation and successful policy adaptation can help accelerate poverty reduction across South Kalimantan.

Table 1.2 HDI Data in South Kalimantan Province

Year	2021	2022	2023
South Kalimantan	71,28	71,84	72,50

Tanah Laut		69,87	70,35	70,98
Kotabaru		69,13	69,74	70,18
Banjar		69,89	70,72	71,46
Barito Kuala		66,64	67,37	68,11
Tapin		70,31	71,02	72,00
South Sungai	Hulu	69,21	69,76	70,50
Hulu Tengah	Sungai	69,05	69,70	70,13
North Sungai	Hulu	66,12	66,84	67,66
Tabalong		72,60	73,13	73,85
Bumbu Land		71,00	71,79	72,31
Balangan		69,11	69,73	70,49
Banjarmasin City		77,57	77,97	78,50
Banjar Baru City		79,26	79,68	80,11

Overall, HDI in South Kalimantan Province shows a consistent upward trend from 71.28 in 2021 to 72.50 in 2023. This indicates an improvement in the quality of life, education, health, and living standards of the people in this province. All districts/cities in South Kalimantan Province showed an increase in HDI during the 2021-2023 period, reflecting improvements in quality of life, education, and public health.

While there is a general increase, the rate of increase varies. The city of Banjarbaru and the city of Banjarmasin have a very high HDI, showing a more advanced development compared to other regions. Hulu Sungai Utara and Barito Kuala have relatively low HDI compared to other areas, indicating the need for more intensive policy intervention in these areas.

Based on poverty and HDI data in South Kalimantan Province, some of the problems that can be identified are as follows: Several areas such as Tanah Laut, Banjar, and South Hulu Sungai show a significant reduction in poverty. Areas such as Kotabaru and Tapin have experienced a significant reduction in poverty or even a slight increase. Policies in South Kalimantan Province need to be more equitable and focus on areas that are lagging behind in terms of poverty and HDI.

Based on this, Implications for Government Policy Making

1. Government policies need to be based on strong political ethics to maintain public integrity and trust. Criticism of abuse of power by high-ranking officials, such as that highlighted by Franz Magnis, shows the importance of leaders to be neutral and not to use power for personal or political gain. The implementation of ethical policies will create fairer governance and increase public trust.
2. Inclusive and Sustainable Policies: Sustainable development must pay attention to the balance between economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. Inclusive policies that involve community participation in decision-making processes will ensure that all citizens benefit from development. This will also increase public trust in the government.
3. Strengthening the Regional Autonomy System: The change from a centralistic to a decentralized system demands policies that support regional independence in regulating their own affairs. Policies that combine top-down and bottom-up approaches, with an emphasis on community participation, will be more responsive to local needs and increase public trust in local governments.
4. Strengthening a Democratic Political Culture: An inclusive and democratic political culture is essential for the success of public policy. Inclusive community involvement, as seen in the city of Surakarta, shows that policies supported by dialogue and community participation can increase public trust and legitimacy of these policies.

5. Addressing Cultural and Democratic Conflicts: Policies need to pay attention to the interaction between local culture and democratic practices. In some cases, local customs or cultures may clash with democratic values. Policies that are culturally sensitive and encourage dialogue between governments and indigenous peoples will help address these conflicts and ensure wider acceptance of government policies.
6. Thus, understanding political ethics is an important foundation for responsible and sustainable policy formation. Awareness of the local and global impact of government actions is key in ensuring that political decisions not only benefit a particular country, but also respect universal values and shared prosperity.

METHOD

In this study, the data analysis method used is *Partial Least Square (PLS)* i.e. predictive technique which is an alternative to ordinary least squares regression (*Ordinary Least Square/PLS*) canonical correlation, or equation modeling *Structural Equatuion Modeling*(Sarwono & Narimawati, 2015, pp. 1-2). Reasons for choosing using the *PLS* This is adjusted to the purpose of this study, which is in addition to testing the influence of independent/exogenous variables on dependent/exogenous variables.

The population in this study is people in South Kalimantan Province from the age group of 20-24 to 70-74 which totals 2,756,898. Based on the slovin formula, it can be known that the number of samples is at least 99.99, so the sample in this study is even 100 respondents

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Direct Effect

The hypothesis will be accepted if the t-statistical value is >1.96 or the significance level of the p-value < 0.05 (5%) with a positive value coefficient. The following are the values of the direct influence of bootstrapping results.

Direct Influence Table

	Sampel Asli (O)	Rata-rata Sampel (M)	Standar Deviasi (STDEV)	T Statistik (O /STDEV)	P Values
X1 -> Y	0.407	0.418	0.100	4.088	0.000
X1 -> Z	0.331	0.342	0.076	4.373	0.000
X2 -> Y	0.306	0.305	0.092	3.335	0.001
X2 -> Z	0.479	0.477	0.075	6.404	0.000
Z -> Y	0.822	0.816	0.069	11.858	0.000

Source : Processed Data, 2024

Hypothesis:

1. It is known that the direct influence of Political Ethics on Public Trust X1 -> Y T Statistics 4.088 < 1.96 in addition, it has a value of 0.000 less than 0.05, thus Political Ethics has a direct effect on Public Trust. Thus the hypothesis in this study is accepted
2. It is known that the direct influence of Political Culture on Public Trust X2 -> Y T Statistics is 3.335 < 1.96, in addition, it has a value of 0.001 less than 0.05, thus Political Culture has a direct effect on Public Trust. Thus the hypothesis in this study is accepted
3. It is known that the direct influence of Political Ethics on Government Policy on Public Trust X1 -> Z T Statistics 4.373 < 1.96 in addition, it has a value of 0.000 less than 0.05, thus Political Ethics has a direct effect on Government Policy. Thus the hypothesis in this study is accepted
4. It is known that the direct influence of Political Culture on Government Policy X2 -> Z T Statistics 6.404 < 1.96 in addition to having a value of 0.000 is less than 0.05, thus Political Culture has a direct effect on Government Policy. Thus the hypothesis in this study is accepted
5. It is known that the direct influence of Government Policies on Public Trust Z -> Y T Statistics 11.858 < 1.96 in addition, it has a value of 0.000 less than 0.05, thus Government Policies have a direct effect on Public Trust. Thus the hypothesis in this study is accepted

Indirect Effect

The role of mediation can also be seen from the significance of the indirect effect, the following is the value of the indirect influence of bootstrapping results.

Table of Indirect Influence

Efek Tidak Langsung Spesifik

	Sampel Asli (O)	Rata-rata Sampel (M)	Standar Deviasi (STDEV)	T Statistik (O /STDEV)	P Values
X1 -> Z -> Y	0.272	0.277	0.060	4.569	0.000
X2 -> Z -> Y	0.394	0.390	0.073	5.390	0.000

Source : Processed Data, 2024

1. The indirect influence of Political Ethics on Public Trust through Government Policy has a P Value of 0.000 smaller than 0.05 which means that there is mediation between Political Ethics and Public Trust through Government Policy. Thus the hypothesis in this study is accepted
2. The indirect influence of Political Culture on Public Trust through Government Policy has a P Value of 0.000 less than 0.05 which means that there is mediation between Political Culture and Public Trust through Government Policy. Thus the hypothesis in this study is accepted

Discussion

Political Ethics Towards Government Policies

It is known that the direct influence of Political Ethics on Government Policy on Public Trust X1 -> Z T Statistics 4.373 < 1.96 in addition, it has a value of 0.000 less than 0.05, thus Political Ethics has a direct effect on Government Policy. The improvement and increase in Political Ethics will have a direct and significant impact on Government Policy.

"Politicians always pay attention to ethical standards in carrying out public duties," the majority of respondents agreed (56%) and strongly agreed (35%) with this statement, resulting in a mean of 4.25. This suggests that most respondents believe that politicians pay attention to ethical standards in their public duties. This belief indicates the perception that politicians are not only fulfilling their obligations in accordance with the norms of the constitution but also carrying out their duties taking into account high ethical standards. In addition, trust in ethical standards has implications for a higher level of public trust in political decisions and policies made by politicians. In the context of public policy theory, as outlined by scholars such as Carl Friedrich and James E. Anderson, good policy is one that is formulated and implemented on a strong ethical basis. High ethics in policymaking helps to create more rational, transparent, and accountable decisions, which ultimately increases the legitimacy and effectiveness of public policy. Thus, this positive perception not only reflects the integrity of individual politicians, but also makes a significant contribution to the overall quality of governance.

Politicians always behave in accordance with the norms of the constitution in decision-making, also received a positive response with 54% of respondents agreeing and 40% strongly agreeing, resulting in a mean of 4.32. This reflects a strong belief that politicians adhere to the norms of the constitution in their political decisions. Compliance with constitutional norms not only reflects the integrity of individual politicians but also has a positive impact on public perception of the policy-making process. In the context of public policy theory, as outlined by Richard Rose and James E. Anderson, good policy is one that is designed and implemented based on solid legal principles. This helps to ensure that decisions taken have legitimacy and can be accounted for. When politicians abide by the constitution, they create a more stable and trustworthy environment for decision-making, which ultimately increases public trust and the effectiveness of the resulting policies. This is crucial in creating responsive and responsible governance, as well as in supporting sustainable development.

Politicians' compliance with the applicable ethical guidelines, 48% of respondents agreed and 35% strongly agreed, with a mean of 4.16. Although still positive, this mean is slightly lower than the previous item, indicating a slight variation in respondents' views on compliance with ethical guidelines. This variation in view can be interpreted in the context of the complexity of local politics and the perception of individual ethical practices in public policy. Public policy theory, as outlined by Robert Eystone and Thomas R. Dye, asserts that adherence to ethics is an essential element in maintaining the integrity of public policy. While variations in views can occur, it is important for politicians to continue to increase transparency and accountability in the decision-making process, so as to strengthen public trust and support sustainable political stability.

Furthermore, the belief that politicians are able to adapt to changes in carrying out public duties is measured in the fourth item. As many as 57% of respondents agreed and 29% strongly agreed with a mean of 4.13. This shows that although the majority feels positive, there are some respondents who still doubt the adaptability of politicians. The adaptability of politicians is a critical factor in the public policy cycle, as explained in public policy theory by Dunn and Van Meter and Van Horn. An effective adaptation process allows politicians to respond to the ever-changing challenges and dynamics in society and the political environment. While there are doubts among some respondents, it is important to continue to encourage politicians to improve their adaptation skills, both through continuous education and training and through the development of more responsive and innovative policies. This will strengthen the integrity and public trust in the political process, ensuring that the resulting policies remain relevant and effective in facing future challenges.

Active involvement of politicians to achieve common goals, 63% of respondents agreed and 31% strongly agreed, resulting in a mean of 4.24. This high percentage of approval emphasizes the positive perception of politicians' commitment to achieving common goals. This view is in line with public policy theory which emphasizes the importance of active participation of politicians in the process of making policies and their implementation. James E. Anderson, a public policy expert, argues that effective policy is the result of a commitment to achieving solutions to the problems at hand. In the context of South Kalimantan, a positive perception of politicians' commitment reflects the expectation of strong leadership and responsiveness to the needs of the community. Thus, politicians are expected to continue to maintain and strengthen their commitment to realizing common goals for the progress and prosperity of the region.

Politicians always make decisions based on rational and logical analysis. With 55% agreeing and 39% strongly agreeing, the mean of 4.32 indicates that most respondents see politicians making decisions based on mature and rational analysis. This view supports public policy theory that emphasizes the importance of an evidence-based approach to decision-making. Thomas R. Dye, a public policy expert, stated that policy is everything that the government chooses to do or not do. In this context, rational and analytical political decisions help ensure that the resulting policies have a solid basis and are publicly accountable. Thus, a positive perception of rational political decisions reflects the hope of a transparent and effective decision-making process in South Kalimantan. Politicians are expected to continue to improve their analytical skills and strengthen integrity in every decision they make, in order to support sustainable development and better public services for society.

The ability of politicians to understand the long-term implications of political decisions, obtained a mean of 4.28 with 57% agreeing and 36% strongly agreeing. This shows a fairly high level of confidence in politicians' understanding of the long-term impact of their decisions. The majority of society believes that politicians have the ability to understand the long-term implications of the political decisions they make. This view is consistent with public policy theory which highlights the importance of evaluation and analysis of policy impacts in the long term. Robert Eyestone, a public policy expert, views public policy as a relationship between governments and their environment. In this context, politicians' understanding of the long-term implications of their political decisions helps ensure that the policies adopted not only meet current needs but also support sustainable development and community well-being. Thus, this positive perception reflects the hope for more mature and future-oriented policies in South Kalimantan. Politicians are expected to continue to improve their understanding of the long-term impact of the policies they make, so that they can provide maximum benefits for society and future generations.

The analytical ability of politicians in responding to future challenges, the mean of 4.31 was achieved with 59% agreeing and 36% strongly agreeing. This reinforces the view that politicians have good analytical skills in facing future challenges. This view is in line with public policy theory which emphasizes the importance of preparing politicians in anticipating and responding to rapid environmental changes. James E. Anderson, in his theory, stated that policy is the direction of action to overcome the problems faced. In this context, good analytical skills help politicians to understand the complexity of future challenges and design appropriate policies. Thus, the positive perception of politicians' analytical abilities reflects the hope of proactive and strategic leadership in South Kalimantan. Politicians are expected to continue to develop their analytical capabilities, strengthen their adaptation capacity, and devise innovative solutions to address the complex and diverse challenges of the future.

Overall, the total mean of 4.25 from all items shows that respondents have a very positive view of political ethics applied by politicians. This reflects the high level of trust from the public in politicians in terms of ethics and ability to carry out public duties.

This view illustrates that the public believes that politicians in the region not only adhere to high ethical standards in their public duties, but are also capable of making rational decisions and considering the long-term implications. This is in line with public policy theories that emphasize the importance of integrity and analytical

skills in quality decision-making. Thus, this high level of public trust can be a strong foothold for politicians to continue to improve their performance in serving the community and managing public duties well. It is important for politicians to maintain this trust with transparency, accountability, and commitment to ethical principles in all aspects of their work.

Based on the results of the research on political ethics and public policy theories described, it can be concluded that politicians are considered to have good ethics in carrying out their public duties. This positive view is important in the context of effective and sustainable policymaking. **Ethical Standards in Policy Making:** The majority of respondents believe that politicians pay attention to ethical standards in carrying out public duties, with a mean of 4.25. This is relevant to the view of Carl Friedrich (1963) who stated that policy is the direction of action proposed to achieve a certain goal. Good ethics support the achievement of effective policy objectives.

Compliance with Legal Norms, with a mean of 4.32, respondents assessed that politicians complied with constitutional norms in decision-making. This is in line with the opinion of Richard Rose (1969) that policy is a series of activities related to its consequences. Compliance with legal norms ensures that political decisions have a solid basis and can be accounted for.

The Ethics Guidelines in Policy Implementation, although the mean of 4.16 is lower, there is still a positive view regarding politicians' compliance with the ethics guidelines. This reflects the importance of ethical guidance in policy implementation, as outlined by Robert Eyestone (1971) who states that public policy is the relationship between the government and its environment. Ethical guidelines help maintain integrity in these relationships.

Adaptability to Change, the ability of politicians to adapt to change, with a mean of 4.13, is an important element in the public policy cycle. According to Dunn (2013), the process of solving public problems involves setting agendas, adoption, implementation, and policy evaluation. Politicians' adaptability supports effectiveness in each of these stages. **Active Involvement in Achieving Common Goals,** a high mean of 4.24 indicates that politicians are active in achieving common goals, in line with the view of James E. Anderson (1979) that policy is the direction of action to overcome problems. The active involvement of politicians ensures that the policies adopted are relevant and effective in responding to the needs of the community.

Decisions Based on Rational Analysis: Politicians who make decisions based on rational analysis, with a mean of 4.32, reflect the importance of an evidence-based approach in public policy. Thomas R. Dye (1975) stated that policy is whatever the government chooses to do or not do. Rational and logical decisions improve the quality of the policies produced. **Understanding the Long-Term Implications,** With a mean of 4.28, politicians are considered to understand the long-term implications of their political decisions. This is relevant to the opinion of Van Meter and Van Horn (in Dydiyet Hardjito, 2013), who emphasized the importance of policy implementation directed at achieving the goals that have been outlined.

Analytical Skills for Future Challenges: Confidence in the analytical abilities of politicians, with a mean of 4.31, is important in facing future challenges. Policy evaluation, as outlined by Anderson (in Dydiyet Hardjito, 2013), requires in-depth analysis to ensure policies remain relevant and effective.

Overall, it shows that respondents have a very positive view of politicians' political ethics. This reflects that politicians are considered to have integrity, compliance with the law, and good adaptability, all of which are important in the public policy life cycle. With strong ethics, politicians can be more effective in formulating, adopting, implementing, and evaluating public policies that are responsive to the needs of society. This positive outlook provides a solid foundation for an effective and sustainable policy-making process, ensuring that the resulting policies are not only responsive to current needs but also sustainable and capable of facing future challenges.

Thus, the finding that Political Ethics directly affects government policies indicates the need for improvements in the regulatory system or the establishment of institutions that focus on the implementation and supervision of ethics in the context of government. This will not only increase public trust in the government, but also strengthen the legal and moral basis of the government's decisions.

In the context of the novelty of the research results that show that political ethics have a significant influence on government policies, it can be associated with previous studies to highlight the following aspects: Research shows that people have a positive view of the political ethics practices of their politicians. This reflects a high belief that politicians carry out their public duties with high ethical standards. The novelty of this finding is the emphasis on the importance of public perception of political ethics as an important factor in influencing government policies. Previously, research such as those conducted by Atkinson and Bierling (2005) showed that there was a gap between public expectations and reality in the context of political ethics, but this study adds a new dimension by

highlighting that people's positive perception of political ethics can lead to more responsive and trustworthy government policies.

The finding that political ethics has a direct effect on government policy makes a significant contribution to the existing literature. This corroborates evidence that ethical aspects in politics are not just rhetorical or normative issues, but have a concrete impact on how public policy is formulated and implemented. The novelty of these findings is that it focuses on the measurable direct influence of political ethics on policy, which provides a strong empirical basis for advocating for improved ethical standards in government.

In the context of Indonesia, where regulations related to political ethics are still minimal, this study offers a deeper understanding of how the government needs to make independent rules or institutions that regulate political ethics. This includes not only legal aspects, but also efforts to build public trust through the application of consistent ethical standards at all levels of government.

Political Culture Towards Government Policies

It is known that the direct influence of Political Culture on Government Policy $X_2 \rightarrow Z$ T Statistics 6.404 < 1.96 in addition, it has a value of 0.000 less than 0.05, thus Political Culture has a direct effect on Government Policy. The improvement and increase of political culture will have a direct and significant impact on Government Policy. Political Understanding of Political Participation, Most respondents (41%) agree that their understanding of politics affects their participation in political activities, with an average score of 3.99. This shows that while there is an awareness of the importance of political understanding, the level of confidence in how much it influences participation still varies. In the context of government policy, this shows the need to improve political education and socialization more effectively to increase people's political participation. Improving political understanding will help people become more involved in the political process and contribute to better decision-making, which in turn will improve the quality of policies made.

Political Decisions Towards the Future of the Millennial Generation, The majority of respondents (44%) agree that local government political decisions affect the future of the millennial generation, with an average score of 4.26. This shows a high awareness among respondents about the impact of political decisions on the younger generation. In the context of policy, it emphasizes the importance of policies that focus on the future of the millennial generation, including education, employment, and sustainable development policies. Policies that take into account the needs and aspirations of the millennial generation can ensure that the policies taken are relevant and beneficial for the present and the future.

Actively Seeking Political Information, the majority of respondents (47%) agree that they are actively seeking political information through various media, with an average score of 4.19. This shows the high interest of the public in accessing political information. In the context of government policy, access to accurate and transparent political information is essential to ensure that the public can make informed decisions. Local governments need to ensure that political information is available and easily accessible to the public through various media channels. It also reflects the need for an independent and free media to provide objective and balanced information.

The Role of Education in Understanding Political Culture, Although the majority of respondents (43%) agree that education in schools helps them understand political culture, this percentage is lower than other aspects, with an average score of 3.92. This shows that there is doubt or dissatisfaction from some respondents about the role of education in understanding political culture. In the context of policy, this emphasizes the need to improve the quality of political education in schools. A curriculum that includes a comprehensive political education can help students understand the importance of political participation and how the political system works. Good political education can also shape a younger generation that is more critical and participatory in the political process.

Overall, the data shows that people have a high awareness and interest in political culture and the impact of political decisions on society, especially the millennial generation. However, there are still some areas where the perception or trust of respondents has not fully reached the expected level, such as the influence of political understanding on participation and the role of education in understanding political culture.

Based on the results of research related to public perception of politics, it can be associated with various theories and concepts in public policy studies. The policy cycle process, as explained by Budi Winarno, includes several crucial stages that are relevant to the findings of this study. The stages of problem formulation, alternative identification, policy implementation, and policy evaluation are in accordance with the views of James Anderson and Dunn, who emphasized the importance of a systematic process in managing public policy.

The opinions of experts such as Carl Friedrich, Richard Rose, and Thomas R. Dye highlight that public policy is the result of a complex process that involves the interaction between the government and its environment, with the aim of achieving a specific solution or goal. This is in line with the public's perception that political decisions in their regions affect the future, as reflected in the research item "I realize that local government political decisions affect the future of the millennial generation". Van Meter and Van Horn are also relevant, describing implementation as a set of actions directed to achieve the goals set in the policy decision. It reflects how people observe political decisions and measure their impact, as well as their relevance to the goals they want to achieve in the development of their regions.

Overall, this study not only provides an overview of people's perception of politics, but also relates it to theories and concepts in public policy studies. It illustrates the complexity and relevance of managing responsive and effective public policies in accordance with the demands of rapid development and change in Indonesia.

The novelty of the results of the second study which shows that political culture has a significant influence on government policy can be attributed to previous studies: This finding highlights that changes or improvements in political culture can directly affect the direction of government policy. This adds a new dimension in the literature that previously focused more on economic or legal factors in policy determination. The novelty of these findings is the emphasis on the importance of political culture as a crucial factor that not only reflects the political values of the community, but also directly affects the policy process.

The study highlights that improving people's political understanding and strengthening a culture of political participation can help build more inclusive and responsive policies. This is a new contribution in a context that previously highlighted how the younger generation or millennials can influence political and policy dynamics. The novelty of these findings is its focus on the potential of the millennial generation in strengthening the culture of political participation as an important element in policy reform.

Thus, the novelty of this study lies in a new understanding of how political culture not only influences political behavior but is also able to shape the direction of government policy. It provides a strong foundation for advocacy to integrate aspects of political culture in policy analysis and institutional reforms to improve the quality of democracy and public services.

Political Ethics Towards Public Trust

It is known that the direct influence of Political Ethics on Public Trust $X1 \rightarrow Y$ T Statistics $4.088 < 1.96$ in addition, it has a value of 0.000 less than 0.05, thus Political Ethics has a direct effect on Public Trust

The improvement and increase in Political Ethics will have a direct and significant impact on Public Trust. Political Ethics Standards: Most respondents (56%) agree that politicians always pay attention to Political Ethics Standards in carrying out public duties, with an average score of 4.25. This reflects the public's belief that politicians are acting in accordance with internationally recognized ethical principles, which in turn increases public trust as the public feels that politicians are acting fairly and morally.

Compliance with norms, as many as 54% of respondents agreed that politicians always behave in accordance with norms in decision-making, with an average score of 4.32. Compliance with these international norms shows that politicians respect and apply international standards, which is important for building public trust because it shows that they are committed to best practices and globally recognized principles.

Adoption of Ethics Guidelines, The majority of respondents (48%) agree that politicians follow universally applicable ethical guidelines, although this percentage is lower than other aspects, with an average score of 4.16. This may indicate doubts from some respondents regarding the suitability of politicians' actions with ethical guidelines. To increase public trust, politicians need to be more consistent in adopting and implementing universally recognized ethical guidelines.

Adaptability to Global Changes, As many as 57% of respondents agreed that politicians are able to adapt to global changes in carrying out public duties, with an average score of 4.13. This adaptability is important to show that politicians are responsive to global changes and are able to make relevant and effective decisions, which ultimately increases public trust because people feel that politicians are able to cope with changing global dynamics.

International Cooperation, The majority of respondents (63%) agree that politicians are actively involved in international cooperation to achieve common goals, with an average score of 4.24. Participation in this international cooperation shows that politicians are active in building international relations for the common good, which can increase public trust because it shows the commitment of politicians to cooperate with

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international parties for the progress of the region.

Decisions Based on Rational Analysis, As many as 55% of respondents agree that politicians always make decisions based on rational and logical analysis of the global situation, with an average score of 4.32. Decisions based on rational and logical analysis can increase public trust because it shows that politicians are making decisions based on careful consideration and accurate data.

Understanding the Long-Term Implications, As many as 57% of respondents agree that politicians have the ability to understand the long-term implications of political decisions in a global context, with an average score of 4.28. Understanding these long-term implications is important for building public trust because it shows that politicians are not only focused on short-term gains but also consider the long-term impact of their decisions.

Analytical Ability to Respond to Global Challenges, As many as 59% of respondents agree that politicians have good analytical skills in responding to global challenges, with an average score of 4.31. This analytical ability is important for increasing public trust because it shows that politicians are able to analyze the situation in depth and make informed decisions in the face of complex global challenges.

Overall, the data shows that the public has a fairly positive perception of the Political Ethics of politicians in the area. However, there are some areas where public perception has not fully reached a high level of trust, such as in the adoption of ethical guidelines. Therefore, politicians need to continue to pay attention to and improve these aspects to increase public confidence in their performance.

The results of the study show that the understanding of politics affects participation in political activities. According to the theory of public trust, trust in the government is very influential in motivating the active participation of the community. This trust is formed when the government is able to provide competent, reliable, and honest performance in carrying out its public policies (Park and Blenkinsopp, 2011). This is in accordance with the finding that residents who feel that their political understanding is quite good tend to be more actively involved in local politics.

Policies that Increase Public Trust: In formulating policies, it is important for governments to consider how they can build and maintain public trust. Policies that are transparent, responsive to the needs of the community, and result-oriented are expected to increase trust (Blind, 2006; El Junusi, 2012). This is relevant to the finding that education about political culture can affect people's understanding of government policies.

The Dimension of Public Trust: The multidimensional concept of public trust (Dwiyanto, 2011), which includes the dimensions of cognition, affection, and behavior, also supports the finding that intensive interaction between the government and the public in the policy process can strengthen trust. People will feel more confident in government decisions if they are involved in the decision-making process and feel that the policy takes care of their needs (Van De Walle and Six, 2014).

Public Trust and Legitimacy: Public legitimacy resulting from public trust in the government is also important in maintaining political and social stability (Yousaf, Ihsan, and Ellahi, 2016). The finding that local government political decisions affect the future of the millennial generation reflects the importance of policies that receive public support and compliance.

With the findings from the research and the concept of public trust that has been explained, it can be concluded that the government's efforts in building public trust not only increase the effectiveness of policies, but also encourage active participation and public support in the political and development process.

The novelty of the results of the third study showing that political ethics has a significant influence on public trust can be understood in the context of new contributions to pre-existing literature: This study highlights that adherence to norms and the adoption of ethical guidelines are crucial factors in building public trust in politicians. While previous literature has identified the importance of political ethics, this study adds a new understanding by emphasizing how politicians' adherence to these norms directly impacts the public's perception of their integrity.

The novelty of these findings is that it focuses on how a good political culture can increase people's political participation and in turn build public trust. It provides a new perspective in the literature that was previously more focused on formal or institutional structures in research on public trust in government.

By demonstrating that political ethics play an important role in building public trust, this study provides a new basis for discussing how policies that promote the adoption of ethical guidance can improve government responsiveness to people's aspirations. This not only provides a new theoretical understanding, but also provides practical guidance for policy reforms in an effort to build a more transparent and accountable political system.

Thus, the novelty of this study lies in a deeper understanding of how political ethics not only affect public trust, but also play a key role in shaping the dynamics of political culture that promote active participation and

political integrity. This provides a strong foundation for the development of more responsive policies and a society that is more involved in the political process.

Political Culture Towards Public Trust

It is known that the direct influence of Political Culture on Public Trust $X_2 \rightarrow Y$ T Statistics $3.335 < 1.96$ in addition, it has a value of 0.001 less than 0.05, thus Political Culture has a direct effect on Public Trust

The improvement and increase in political culture will have a direct and significant impact on public trust. Political Understanding Towards Participation, Most respondents (41%) agree that their understanding of politics affects their participation in political activities, with an average score of 3.99. High participation in political activities indicates a higher level of trust in the political system and politicians. If people understand politics well, they tend to participate more actively and have greater trust in the political process and decisions taken by the government.

Political Decisions on the Future of the Millennial Generation, The majority of respondents (44%) agree that local government political decisions affect the future of the millennial generation, with an average score of 4.26. Public trust increases when people see that political decisions consider the future of the younger generation. This shows that the government has a long-term vision that supports the welfare of future generations, which is a positive indicator for public trust.

Actively Seeking Political Information, Respondent Data: The majority of respondents (47%) agreed that they are actively seeking political information through various media, with an average score of 4.19. People who are actively seeking political information show a high interest in the political process and government transparency. When people feel well informed, trust in politicians and government policies tends to increase because they feel they have control and understanding of decisions that affect their lives.

The Role of Education in Understanding Political Culture, The majority of respondents (43%) agree that education in schools helps them understand political culture, with an average score of 3.92. Good political education in schools can form a younger generation that is more aware and involved in politics. A strong understanding of political culture early on contributes to a higher trust in political institutions and government policies.

Overall, the data shows that a good political culture has a significant influence on public trust in South Kalimantan. Public awareness and participation in politics, as well as their perception of the impact of political decisions on the younger generation, shows a fairly high level of trust in politicians and government policies. However, there are some areas that still need more attention, such as increasing the role of education in understanding political culture, to ensure more solid public trust.

The Importance of Political Understanding and Participation: respondents indicated that their understanding of politics has a significant effect on participation in political activities. In the context of theory, this understanding is related to the cognitive dimension of public trust, where trust is formed because citizens feel involved and have enough knowledge to make better decisions in politics (Dwiyanto, 2011).

The Influence of Political Decisions on the Millennial Generation: that respondents are well aware of the impact of political decisions on the future of the millennial generation. This theory supports that public trust is formed when the government shows competent, reliable, and meeting the needs of the community (Park and Blenkinsopp, 2011).

Political Information Seeking Activities: respondents in seeking political information through the media reflect how access to information and participation in decision-making can affect the formation of public trust. This reflects the cognition dimension in theory, where easily accessible information and government transparency help build trust (Dwiyanto, 2011).

The Role of Education in Understanding Local Political Culture: shows that education plays an important role in understanding political culture. This theory emphasizes that education affects the cognitive dimension of public trust, where the knowledge gained from education forms a positive perception of the government and its institutions (Dwiyanto, 2011).

In the overall results of the study, it can be concluded that public trust is greatly influenced by government understanding, participation, access to information, and transparency. The theories used help explain how interactions between government and society through cognitive, affective, and behavioral dimensions form a strong foundation of public trust. This is important in the context of building mutually beneficial relationships between the government and the community in support of more effective and sustainable public policies.

The novelty of the results of the fourth study which shows that political culture has a significant influence on public trust can be seen from several important aspects: This research highlights the importance of political culture that not only produces regional development plans, but also ensures effective and consistent implementation of the plans. This is a new contribution to the literature that often focuses on policy formulation without considering sustainable implementation.

In the context of this study, the novelty lies in the emphasis on the importance of producing clearly measurable results from policy implementation and conducting continuous evaluations of government performance. It not only includes the formal aspect, but also considers the real impact on society.

Another novelty is in providing practical guidance for the development of more effective policies and best practices in local government management. This can provide a strong foundation for policymakers to improve the responsiveness and quality of public services.

Thus, this research not only broadens the understanding of the relationship between political culture and public trust, but also makes a significant contribution to the development of theory and practice in public administration and local government management.

Government Policy on Public Trust

It is known that the direct influence of Government Policy on Public Trust $Z \rightarrow Y$ T Statistics $11.858 < 1.96$ in addition to having a value of 0.000 is less than 0.05 thus Government Policy has a direct effect on Public Trust

The improvement and increase in Government Policies will have a direct and significant impact on Public Trust. Determination of Policy Agenda, The majority of respondents (55%) agree that politicians set policy agendas based on the real needs of the community, with an average score of 4.27. Setting a policy agenda that is in accordance with the real needs of the community increases public trust because the community feels that the government truly understands and responds to their needs. When policies reflect real needs, people tend to give greater support and trust to the government.

Policy Consistency with Development Plans, The majority of respondents (56%) agree that the policies adopted by politicians are consistent with regional development plans, with an average score of 4.26. The consistency of policies with regional development plans reflects a clear vision and careful planning from the government. People who see policies consistent with long-term plans are more likely to believe that the government has a clear direction and structured goals in regional development.

Providing Effective Results, the majority of respondents (51%) agree that policies implemented by politicians provide effective results, with an average score of 4.28. The effectiveness of policies in providing tangible results increases public trust. When the policies implemented are able to achieve the desired goals and provide direct benefits, the public will have more confidence in the government's capabilities and commitment to improving their welfare.

Sustainable Policy Evaluation, The majority of respondents (57%) agreed that policy evaluation is carried out on an ongoing basis to ensure policy effectiveness, with an average score of 4.31. Continuous policy evaluation shows that the government not only makes policies but also continuously monitors and improves them to ensure effectiveness. This reflects the government's commitment to improving policy quality and accountability, which in turn increases public trust.

Overall, the data shows that the majority of respondents have a positive perception of government policies. They believe that government policies are in accordance with the needs of the community, consistent with regional development plans, provide effective results, and are evaluated on an ongoing basis. This reflects the high level of trust from the public in the government's performance in formulating and implementing policies that are beneficial to the community.

The data shows that the majority of respondents believe that government policies provide effective results and are consistent with regional development plans. This will increase public trust as people see the positive impact of government actions in advancing their welfare.

Increased public participation in policy processes and effective communication between the government and the public also has a positive impact on public trust. Involving the public in decision-making and providing them with clear and easy-to-understand information will increase their sense of ownership and trust in the government.

Thus, Government Policy is directly related to efforts to understand and build public trust. Through effective policies, transparency, public participation, and good communication, governments can increase the level of public trust in their performance and integrity.

The novelty of the results of the fifth study showing that government policies have a significant positive impact on public trust can be identified from several key perspectives: This study underlines that the policies implemented by the government not only have a positive impact in general, but also significantly increase public confidence in government performance. This is an important contribution because often the literature focuses more on failures or problems in policy implementation.

This research also highlights the need for comprehensive policy impact measurement and continuous evaluation of the success of policy implementation. It focuses not only on the formal aspects of the policy, but also on its social, economic, and political impact on society.

These findings have important implications for increasing government responsiveness to people's needs and aspirations. By understanding that public trust is established through transparency and positive outcomes of adopted policies, governments can be more effective in formulating and implementing policies that meet public expectations.

This research provides a new perspective on how government policies can be applied in global and local contexts, taking into account variations in the challenges and needs of each country. It makes a significant contribution in developing theory and practice in government management and public administration.

Thus, the novelty of this study is not only in highlighting the importance of government policies in building public trust, but also in providing a more comprehensive and practical view of the factors that affect the success of public policies and their impact on the quality of governance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the description in Chapter 5, the results of this study show that political ethics and political culture have a significant influence on government policies and public trust. The findings show that the public has a positive view of the political ethics of politicians, which reflects high confidence in ethical standards in carrying out public duties. Political culture also has a direct impact on the direction of local government policies, strengthens the political participation of the community, especially the millennial generation, and increases public trust in government performance that is effective, consistent with development plans, and continuously evaluated. In addition, transparent and accountable government policies have proven to strengthen public trust, especially when the public feels involved in the policy process. Based on these findings, measures such as strengthening public participation, increasing transparency, conducting periodic evaluations of policies, improving political education, and promoting a culture of ethics and integrity among bureaucrats and public officials are recommended. The government is also advised to establish an effective oversight mechanism, establish an independent ethics council, and integrate political ethics education in the formal and non-formal curriculum to ensure the sustainability of public trust in the government.

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