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Obstacles to Musabaqah Qiraatul Kutub for Penghulu at the Regional Office of the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs

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ABSTRACT

In 2018, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province initiated the Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) program for Penghulu, yet its effectiveness encountered impediments attributed to various factors. This qualitative study employed data mining techniques such as interviews, observation, and documentation, supplemented by relevant scientific literature as secondary sources. The theoretical framework utilized for analysis was Soerjono Soekanto's effectiveness theory, and data analysis unfolded through sequential stages of reduction, presentation, and verification. The findings delineate two primary inhibiting factors: a prevalent deficiency in reading and understanding the Yellow Book among participating Penghulu and constraints in budget allocation for the activities. This underscores a sociological construct, elucidating obstacles to the effectiveness of the Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) program. The theoretical implications underscore the imperative of enhancing human resources, facilities, and budgetary allocations to augment Penghulu competence in comprehending and interpreting the Yellow Book. It is pertinent to acknowledge the study's limitations, given the absence of an exploration into the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province's post-program strategy concerning Penghulu lacking proficiency in reading and understanding the Yellow Book.

KEYWORDS Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub, obstacles; Papua; penghulu

ABSTRAK

Tahun 2018, Kementerian Agama Provinsi Papua menyelenggarakan program Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) untuk Penghulu, namun efektivitasnya mengalami hambatan yang disebabkan oleh berbagai faktor. Penelitian kualitatif ini menggunakan teknik penggalian data seperti wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi, yang dilengkapi dengan literatur ilmiah yang relevan sebagai sumber sekunder. Kerangka teori yang digunakan untuk analisis adalah teori efektivitas dari Soerjono Soekanto, dan analisis data dilakukan melalui tahapan reduksi, penyajian, dan verifikasi secara berurutan. Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan dua faktor penghambat utama: kurangnya kemampuan membaca dan memahami Kitab Kuning di antara Penghulu yang berpartisipasi dan kendala dalam alokasi anggaran untuk kegiatan tersebut. Hal ini menggarisbawahi sebuah konstruksi sosiologis yang menjelaskan hambatan terhadap efektivitas program Musabaqah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK). Implikasi teoritis menggarisbawahi pentingnya meningkatkan sumber daya manusia, fasilitas, dan alokasi anggaran untuk meningkatkan kompetensi Penghulu dalam memahami dan menafsirkan Kitab Kuning. Perlu diakui bahwa studi ini memiliki keterbatasan, mengingat tidak adanya eksplorasi terhadap strategi Kementerian Agama Provinsi Papua pasca program terkait Penghulu yang kurang cakap dalam membaca dan memahami Kitab Kuning.

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Introduction

The Ministry of Religious Affairs in Indonesia has undertaken significant measures to enhance the competency of *Penghulu* through the *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK), commonly known as the "Yellow Book" reading competition. Despite the nomenclature, the term "Yellow Book" does not denote a book of yellow hue (Hanan, 2022). Instead, it encompasses Arabic-language literature on Islamic studies, both classical and contemporary, characterized by a lack of pronunciation punctuation. Consequently, individuals engaging with these texts require a profound mastery of Arabic grammar for effective understanding (Ibrahim and Wiza, 2021).

Given the pivotal role of Penghulu in interpreting and applying Islamic law, particularly in the domain of Islamic marriage law, the urgency of implementing *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) becomes imperative (Islamy, 2020; Al Farabi, 2020). The complex nature of the subject matter necessitates a nuanced understanding, making it indispensable for *Penghulu* to navigate the intricacies of these Yellow Books.

In 2018, the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province initiated *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* MQK for *Penghulu* with the aim of enhancing their competence in Islamic knowledge. This was particularly directed towards legal matters and Islamic marriage law, drawing insights from various Yellow Books. The initiative sought positive outcomes by augmenting the competency of *Penghulu* in Papua Province. However, the practical execution of *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) in 2018 faced effectiveness hurdles, as delineated by Sahudi (2021)

Building upon this contextual background, this study posits that various multifaceted factors impede the effectiveness of *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) implementation for Penghulu by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province. Consequently, this qualitative study seeks to systematically identify and explore the multifaceted obstacles hindering *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) effectiveness, grounded in the theoretical framework of regulatory effectiveness.

Several antecedent studies closely align with the thematic focus of this investigation. Rosliana et al. (2019) underscored the strategic imperativeness of continually developing the competence of *Penghulu* to optimize their functional position. Furthermore, Takwim et al. (2021) advocated for post-training assistance to extract maximum utility from Yellow Book reading programs. Muzakkir et al. (2021) emphasized the perpetual need for Scientific Writing training for Penghulu to enhance their knowledge in effectively serving the public. Differing from these earlier studies, the present inquiry aims to meticulously scrutinize and elucidate the multifaceted inhibitory factors affecting the *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) implementation effectiveness for *Penghulu* by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province.

This study assumes urgency on both theoretical and practical grounds. The theoretical dimension anticipates contributing to the evolution of programs designed to fortify the competency of *Penghulu*. In practical terms, the study aims

to provide insights for the evaluation of challenges encountered in the implementation of *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) for *Penghulu*. This holds relevance not only for the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province but also for all Ministries of Religious Affairs throughout Indonesia. The envisioned contributions encompass a refined understanding of the intricacies involved in fortifying upstream competence, serving as valuable guidance for policy and practice enhancement within the broader context of religious affairs management in the Indonesian administrative landscape.

Research Methods

This study is classified as a qualitative inquiry, adopting a case study methodology with an empirical approach. Its primary objective is to scrutinize obstacles hindering the effectiveness of *Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) for *Penghulu*, an initiative orchestrated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province during 2018. Data collection in this research was executed employing triangulation techniques, encompassing interviews, observations, documentation.

The participants in the field data collection encompassed key figures such as Mr. Sahudi, serving as a Jury member for *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) activities, Mr. Muhammad Taufik, overseeing Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK), Syakir Hamzah Conoras, Head of the Islamic Bimas Section at the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province, acting as an *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) Jury, Muhammad Ilyas, heading the Sarmi District Religious Affairs Office, and Mr. Sakir, in charge of the Upstream Section. Additionally, Mr. Alwi Tean Lean, serving as the Head of the Islamic Community Guidance Division at the Kemenag Papua Regional Office, contributed to the study.

Secondary sources were leveraged, incorporating a diverse array of scientific literature pertinent to the study's subject matter. The theoretical framework underpinning this study is the theory of regulatory effectiveness, as articulated by Soerjono Soekanto. The data analysis process adhered to the sequential stages of reduction, presentation, and verification.

Result and Discussion

The Effectiveness of Implementing Regulations in Community Life

Delving into the realm of rules (laws) governing human life has consistently sparked intriguing discussions. This discourse is inherently linked to the existence of law, which fundamentally comprises a set of regulations mandatory for adherence by every societal member (Rofingi, Rozah, and Asga, 2022). The significance of law extends beyond individual conduct, playing a pivotal role in steering the course of life within society and the state. Its indispensable role in statehood is underscored by the imperative need for various legal instruments to regulate state affairs (Aldyan, 2022). Beyond the broader context of legal existence, there is a compelling and urgent inquiry into how legal implementation can effectively align with its intended direction and purpose

(Rybakov, 2019).

In the Indonesian legal landscape, Soeriono Soekanto, an esteemed legal sociologist, has expounded upon the theory of legal effectiveness. He posits that one of the functions of law in Indonesia's development is to enhance people's lives (Soekanto, 1977). Addressing the effectiveness of law implementation in the community, Soerjono, as cited by Djaenab, identifies it based on its implications—specifically, the success or failure in aligning community behavior with the intended orientation of the law's formulation (Djaenab, 2022). Five pivotal factors, elucidated by Zaenudin (2021), contribute to effective law implementation. Firstly, the rule of law, characterized by juridical application based on legal rules, sociological application involving imperative or communitylegitimized adherence, and philosophical alignment with the ideals of law in social and state life. Secondly, law enforcement, representing individuals or legal entities with rights and duties related to the application of the law, including judges, prosecutors, advocates, and police. Thirdly, legal facilities, encompassing various essential elements impacting effective legal implementation. Fourthly, public awareness, signifying adherence to existing laws. Lastly, legal culture, embodying the community's attitude towards the enactment of law (Burhanuddin et al., 2023).

This delineation underscores the multifaceted aspects of rules (laws) that significantly influence the effectiveness of rule enforcement. In the context of this study, these various factors of legal effectiveness will serve as an analytical theory in identifying and exploring inhibiting factors in the effective implementation of Musabaqah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for *Penghulu* by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province.

Implementation of *Musabaqah Qira'atul Kutub* (MQK) for *Penghulu* at the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province

The contemporary landscape, encompassing social, cultural, and scientific dimensions, is inexorably entwined with the far-reaching influence of an increasingly sophisticated technological milieu, yielding both positive and negative ramifications (Kurniawan et al., 2021). This impact extends to the realm of Islamic legal matters, necessitating a nuanced response to the dynamic challenges confronting Muslims in their daily lives (Maylawati, Khosyi'ah, & Kholiq, 2022). This imperative is particularly salient in the context of Islamic family law in Indonesia, as underscored by scholars such as Syarif (2021) and Abubakar (2019).

Effectively navigating the complexities of contemporary Islamic family law demands a sophisticated understanding of Islamic jurisprudence from religious figures, including the perspective of *Penghulu*. Islamic law, or fiqh, has evolved into a comprehensive corpus of practical regulations governing myriad facets of individual, familial, societal, and state existence for Muslims (Islamy, 2021). To adeptly address the multifaceted challenges inherent in Islamic family law, *Penghulu* must exhibit a robust foundation in Islamic scientific literacy,

particularly concerning diverse jurisprudential literature, primarily in Arabic, exemplified by the Yellow Book, often devoid of harakat. The prominence of the Yellow Book extends beyond a mere academic subject, notably in Indonesian Islamic boarding schools, particularly those adhering to the salaf style (Fahmi, Junarif, & Muhammad, 2022). It assumes a dual role as both an object of academic inquiry and a value system that significantly shapes the perspectives and religious attitudes of students within these institutions and the broader Muslim community (Fajrussalam, 2020).

Enhancing the competence of *Penghulu* in comprehending the Yellow Book, crucial for Islamic scientific literacy, assumes paramount significance. The role of Penahulu within Indonesian Muslim society transcends mere normative teachings, encompassing responsibilities related to social praxis, as elucidated by Azharghany, Adim, and Rusdi (2022). Consequently, individuals undertaking the role of *Penghulu* must possess both scientific acumen and a commitment to supporting social practices. It is noteworthy that *Penghulu* positions are commonly filled by individuals with a background in Islamic education, often alumni of Islamic boarding schools. This alignment is unsurprising, given that pesantren education not only imparts Islamic knowledge and technical skills but also instills moral-social values, as posited by Harahap (2022).

Shifting focus to the Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for *Penghulu* organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province in 2018, understanding its structure is imperative. The implementation of *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) for *Penghulu* encompasses several stages, including activity planning, determining the venue, selecting the jury, inviting Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) participants, and executing the activities. This procedural elucidation was conveyed by Mr. Muhamad Taufik, the individual overseeing the *Musabagoh* Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) activities (Taufik, 2021).

In 2018, the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province organized the Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for Penghulu and Penyuluh, underscoring the imperative for leadership and extension workers to align their reading and comprehension of the Yellow Book. This long standing initiative, initiated in 2011 and guided by directives from the Central Ministry, is not solely a competitive endeavor. Rather, it serves as a coaching platform, enhancing the capabilities of Penghulu in navigating the intricacies of the Yellow Book. The competence to decipher various Yellow Books, pivotal sources of Islamic legal literacy, assumes heightened significance, particularly when addressing community challenges associated with Islamic marriage law. The intent is for *Penghulu* to adeptly resolve these issues by drawing upon the wealth of Islamic knowledge embedded in diverse Yellow Books. Consequently, the Ministry of Religious Affairs views the development program for *Penghulu* as integral to augmenting its human resources (Kepala Seksi Bimas Islam Kementerian Agama Provinsi Papua, 2022).

Beyond its role as a competency-building event and academic enhancement for *Penghulu* in Papua Province, the *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) also serves as a platform to select participants who will subsequently represent the region in the national Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) event (Ilyas, 2021). Concerning the material focused on in the *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) for *Penghulu* within

the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province, the emphasis lies on competence in reading and understanding the Yellow Book in Arabic, with predetermined subjects (DJPI, 2014). The competition employs books such as Fathul Mu'in or other works related to Islamic marriage law (figh Munakahat). Four fundamental competencies are assessed in the *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK): fashahah, nahwu sharaf (Arabic grammar), comprehension of the book's meaning, and its relevance to real-life cases (contextual). However, despite these criteria, it was observed that the competency of some participants was suboptimal, particularly in the challenging aspect of Arabic grammar. This observation is underscored by Conoras (2021), noting that while participants could understand the meaning of the subject matter, their grasp of the Arabic grammatical structure (i'rab) was not consistently robust.





Photo 1. The Activity Jury of MQK

Photo 2. The Participants of MQK

Construction of Obstacles to the Implementation of Musabagah Qira'atul Kutub (MQK) by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province

Elevating the competence of *Penghulu* is imperative to instill adept scholarship and critical acumen in addressing contemporary social issues within Islamic law. Progressive Islamic legal thinking, underscored by its solution-oriented nature, is crucial to navigating the dynamic array of Islamic legal challenges (Fauzan, 2020). This is particularly pertinent in the context of Islamic marriage law, intricately linked to modernity issues such as gender equality, democracy, human rights, and pluralism (Islamy, 2020b). The emergence of a liberal movement within Islamic family law thought in Indonesia further underscores the need for nuanced perspectives (Islamy, 2019).

The Musabagaah Qiraatal Kutub (MQK) for Penghulu organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province in 2018 deserves appreciation within this context. Beyond being a competition, the *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) serves as an academic development event for leaders, enhancing their reading competence and understanding of classical jurisprudence literacy embedded in various Yellow Books.

However, despite the implementation of the Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) program for *Penghulu* by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province, field interviews reveal obstacles. Viewed through a sociological lens, specifically the effectiveness of regulatory implementation, these hindrances can be categorized into two inhibiting factors: structural problems related to human resources and facility problems stemming from budget constraints. Further elucidation follows.

1. Structural Problem (Human Resources)

Following the promulgation of State Apparatus Utilization Regulation Number: PER/62/M.PAN/6/2005, delineating the *Penghulu* functional position and its credit score, which specifically assigned Penghulu to particular functional roles, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia initiated endeavors to enhance the status of *Penghulu*. Despite these initiatives, achieving an optimal number and quality of Penghulu with ideal competence remains a considerable challenge for the Ministry of Religious Affairs across all Religious Affairs Offices in Indonesia (Rosliana et al., 2019). In practical terms, there are exceptions aimed at elevating Penghulu competence through various programs, exemplified by the implementation of Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for *Penghulu*.

The Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for Penghulu, orchestrated by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province in 2018, encountered challenges that impeded its effectiveness. Notably, several participants exhibited low competence, stemming from nonspecialized backgrounds, including ordinary staff and graduates of public universities, demonstrating limited knowledge of Islamic law (sharia) and inadequate proficiency in reading and understanding the Yellow Book (Sahudi, 2021).

The elucidation provided was reinforced by the Head of the Upstream Section at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religion in Papua Province, serving as one of the *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) Jurors. He explicated that the annual Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) implementation is predominantly led by heads from the Office of Religious Affairs, demonstrating excellence in values. Notably, rulers lacking competence in reading and understanding the Yellow Book exhibit no embarrassment or envy toward more proficient participants. Consequently, the incapacity to comprehend and read the Yellow Book through Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub self-training, fostering continuous serves as enhancement and competence development (Conoras, 2021a). This situation accentuates the uneven distribution of *Penghulu* competence in reading and understanding the Yellow Book in the Papua Province area. Additionally, a significant number of *Penghulu* in Papua Province lack an educational background from Islamic boarding schools (Sahudi, 2021).

The deficiency in the competence to read and understand the Yellow Book among some rulers participating in *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK), viewed from the perspective of the efficacy of rules, can be categorized as legal structural problems. This circumstance, practically speaking, can

impede effectiveness, both concerning the intended objectives of *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) implementation and the professional performance of *Penghulu* in the community. Furthermore, the quality of Human Resources is a fundamental factor crucial to the implementation of national development across various aspects of life in Indonesia. Human Resources play a pivotal role as an urgent factor of production, particularly in the operational activities of institutions and organizations, ultimately influencing the professionalism of an institution or organization (Iroth, 2017).

The recognition of the Ruler's deficiency in reading and understanding the Yellow Book as a legal structural issue is justified. The scope of legal structures, encompassing those directly involved in law enforcement and those indirectly contributing, is broad. This includes individuals serving in justice, prosecution, legal representation, and correctional facilities. As explained by Soerjono Soekanto, as cited by Djaenab, each law enforcer holds a distinct position and role within their practical domain (Djaenab, 2022). Consequently, the lack of competence in reading and understanding the Yellow Book among *Penghulu* can create a disjunction between their leadership status and the professionalism exhibited in their performance. This disjunction is evident both as *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) participants and in their operational capacities, impacting their ability to provide optimal service to the community.

2. Budgeting Problems

The impediments encountered by the Musabaqah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for *Penghulu*, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province, extend beyond legal structural issues to include facility-related challenges. The constrained budget allocated to the Religious Affairs Offices in Papua's regencies and municipalities hampers the ability to conduct selections between District (City) Religious Affairs Offices (Sakir, 2021). This constraint is further underscored by the Chairman of the *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) Organizing Committee, who elucidates that participants from districts facing transportation challenges or substantial distances from the activity venue are excluded, such as Yahukimo Regency, Puncak Jaya Regency, and Supiori Regency (Lean, 2021). Consequently, participant selection for *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) for *Penghulu* is limited to the Papua Province level, excluding involvement from all *Penghulu* in Papua Province.

The practical repercussions of budget constraints fall within the purview of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province, particularly in the leadership domain. In districts where the Muslim population prevails and bureaucratic accessibility is hindered by remote locations and limited resources, the involvement of *Penghulu* in *Musabaqoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) activities becomes pivotal. Ensuring an adequate

number and quality of *Penghulu* in these areas is imperative for providing effective services. Ineffectiveness in the services of the Office of Religious Affairs at the local level has the potential to give rise to various administrative problems related to Islamic marriage law within the community of that particular area (Ishom, 2019).

The allocation deficiency in the budget for *Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) activities organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province for *Penghulu* raises a critical issue in legal facilities. This predicament, viewed through the lens of effective legal implementation, underscores the indispensable role of facilities in supporting the execution of laws. In practical terms, instances abound where regulations (laws) are enforced, yet the absence of corresponding facilities or infrastructure hampers their efficacy, resulting in deviations from the intended targets (Djaenab, 2022). Consequently, the financial shortfall for Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) activities prompts a requisite evaluation by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province to optimize the forthcoming implementation of Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for *Penghulu*. Ensuring the participation of *Penghulu* from each representative of the Office of Religious Affairs throughout Papua Province in Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) activities is essential for the effective realization of *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK)'s objective to enhance the competence of the heads in reading and understanding the Yellow Book as a form of Islamic legal literacy (figh).

The identification of two issues, namely structural and facility problems, as inhibiting factors in the effectiveness of *Musabagoh Qiraatul Kutub* (MQK) implementation for *Penghulu* by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Papua Province, aligns with the findings of a prior study conducted by Mardi Takwim, Mustafa, Kartini, Andi Arif Pamessangi, and Naidin Syamsuddin. They underscored the urgency of implementing a mentoring program or strategy following the Yellow Book reading training program for *Penghulu* to achieve favorable outcomes (Takwim et al., 2021).

Conclusion

This investigation underscores two primary impediments to the efficacy of Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) for Penghulu, administered by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province in 2018. The foremost challenge lies in a structural deficiency within the Human Resources framework, wherein a notable contingent of participating *Penghulu* lacks the requisite competence to interpret and assimilate the content of the Yellow Book. This inadequacy is particularly conspicuous among individuals without a foundational Islamic educational background, such as those not schooled in Islamic boarding institutions, hampering their ability to fully engage with and realize the intended objectives of the Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) initiative. Additionally, a facilities-related issue, specifically the paucity of budgetary allocations for Musabagah Qiraatul Kutub (MQK) activities, hinders the inclusive participation of all Penghulu from

The theoretical ramifications of this study underscore the intricate interplay of diverse factors influencing the effectiveness of the *Penghulu* competency enhancement program, encompassing Human Resources, facilities, and budgetary considerations. In terms of practical recommendations, a more stringent and discerning competency evaluation for prospective heads, with a specific emphasis on their capacity to read and comprehend the contents of the Yellow Book within the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province, is advocated. This envisages subsequent iterations of *Musabaqah Oiraatul Kutub* (MQK) involving the full participation of all *Penghulu* in Papua Province. Furthermore, from a theoretical standpoint, future research should delve into the subsequent strategies implemented by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Papua Province to address the deficiencies in reading and understanding the Yellow Book among *Penghulu* participants.

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