

EVALUATION OF SPECIAL AUTONOMY IN IMPROVING COMMUNITY WELFARE IN ACEH PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the evaluation of Aceh Province's special autonomy and public welfare, using several approaches; special autonomy, public policy, public policy evaluation, and public welfare. This research uses qualitative research methods through library research, so the research data used is data sourced from books, journals, and government reports, as well as other literature related to the research topic. The results show that the implementation of special autonomy in Aceh is still far from expectations, especially in improving people's welfare. In the health sector, during the 2016-2020 periods, life expectancy increased from 69.51 to 69.93. Meanwhile, in the field of education, the population that has completed tertiary education (DI/II/III, DIV / S1, professional and S2 / S3) experiences a fairly high imbalance between urban and rural areas, namely 17.08 percent in urban areas and only 8.54 percent in rural areas. Meanwhile, in the economic field, Aceh is among the five poorest provinces in Indonesia. The number of poor people in Aceh in September 2021 was 850,260 people.

Keywords: *Special Autonomy, Public Policy, Community Welfare*

A. INTRODUCTION

Before the reformation in 1998, the implementation of local government policy in Indonesia was not carried out properly. Regions were not empowered to be independent, but were made dependent, and had to obey the will of the central government. Regional "household" affairs were limited and subjected to very strict supervision. In fact, regional finances also depend on the favour of the central government. This kind of policy caused tremendous disappointment to the regions (Badrudin & Siregar, 2015). However, after Soeharto stepped down from power, the nation cleaned up and reformed in all aspects (Usman, 2002).

One of the highlights of the reform was the replacement of the *Undang Undang No. 5 tahun 1974* with the *Undang Undang No. 22 Tahun 1999*, which made fundamental changes to the format of regional autonomy and the substance of decentralization. Furthermore, in 2004 the *DPR* revised the *Undang-Undang Nomor 22 tahun 1999* by passing the *Undang Undang No. 32 Tahun 2004* on Regional Government, and the *Undang Undang No. 33 Tahun 2004* on Financial Balance between Central and Regional Governments. This has transformed the principle of autonomy in Indonesia (Hadita, 2020; Nugraha, 2021).

The provisions governing the relationship between the centre and the regions are not exclusive. There is no legislation that specifically regulates all aspects between the centre and the regions (Benedikter, 2009). The only one that is commonly specifically regulated is the financial relationship (Dona et al., 2022; Munanda et al., 2023). However, what is clear is that the law on autonomy provides authority in the administration of local governments that is broader and more real and more responsible. The existence of a balance of duties, functions, and roles between the central government and local governments causes each region to have sufficient income. In addition, it must have an adequate source of financing to bear the responsibility of regional administration. Thus, each region is expected to be more advanced, independent, prosperous, and competitive in the implementation of governance and development of their respective regions (Nugraha, 2021), and has policy heterogeneity (Brown, 2009).

One important aspect of regional autonomy is community empowerment, so that they can participate in the process of planning, implementing, and monitoring policies and the implementation of policies made by the regions (Bunga, 2020). Then with the regional autonomy policy, it is expected to have an impact on equitable development, service improvement and optimization of human resource development (Moonti, 2019).

There are several studies related to regional autonomy which can be understood that the core of the concept of implementing regional autonomy is an effort to maximize the results to be achieved while avoiding complexities and things that hinder the implementation of regional autonomy (Badrudin & Siregar, 2015; Eprilianto et al., 2020; Mukhlis & Siahaan, 2021; Siregar & Mesiono, 2021). Thus, the demands of the community can be realized in reality with the implementation of regional autonomy and the continuity of public services is not neglected, as well as maintaining national fiscal sustainability (Sufianto, 2020).

One of the regions in Indonesia that has received great attention is Aceh. The transfer of autonomy and the change of name from Aceh Special Region Province to Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province were based on the *UU No. 18 Tahun 2021* (JDIH, 2001). The enactment of this law was motivated by two phenomena: First, it was related to the Aceh conflict that had erupted as a result of *GAM* (Free Aceh Movement) since 1976. Second, it was related to the reformation that demanded changes in all aspects of the life of the nation and state, including changing the pattern of relations between the centre and the regions (Budiono et al., 2022). The unending conflict in Aceh forced the House of Representatives to propose an initiative proposal that later gave birth to the *UU No. 44 Tahun 1999* on the Implementation of Regional Privileges of the Special

Province of Aceh (Alqarni et al., 2022).

The establishment of the Special Autonomy Law in Aceh is a manifestation of the role of law towards the welfare of the people of the region known as Serambi Makkah (Muhammad Abrar et al., 2020). However, in practice, the implementation of special autonomy in Aceh is still far from expectations, especially in economic development and the welfare of the local community. In fact, special autonomy in Aceh Province has been going on since 2006, and the provision of special autonomy funds since 2008 (Sanur, 2020). Therefore, this study focuses on evaluating the special autonomy of Aceh Province and community welfare.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

To analyze the special autonomy of Aceh Province and people's welfare, this research uses several approaches, including the following:

Special Autonomy

Based on the classification of government according to the relationship between the central government and constituent regions, which is a unitary type, the functions of the Government of Indonesia are in the hands of the central government, while the powers and functions exercised in local governments are carried out under the principle of decentralization. The system used to exercise this authority is based on the principle or basis used, namely the principle of decentralization, the principle of de-concentration, and assistance (Fujikawa, 2021).

The centralization (de-concentration) approach characterizes the nation state, while decentralization reflects regional pluralism or diversity and democratization. The decentralization referred to in the *UUD 1945 RI* in Article 18 is "the right, authority and obligation of regions to regulate and manage their own households in accordance with applicable laws and regulations." While the autonomous region is "a legal community unit that has certain territorial boundaries that has the right, authority, and obligation to regulate and manage its own households within the bonds of the Republic of Indonesia in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (Safrida et al., 2022).

Etymologically, autonomy comes from the Greek, autonomous, which means self-ruling. Autonomy contains several meanings; including autonomy is a condition or characteristic of not being controlled by other parties or outside forces. Autonomous governments have sufficient income to determine their own destiny, fulfil their welfare and achieve their goals fairly (Nurhayati et al., 2021).

Regional autonomy is the essence of decentralized government implementation. However, in the development of regional autonomy, apart from having the meaning of *zelfwetgeving* (making local regulations), it also includes *zelfbestuur* (self-government). Meanwhile, van der Pot understands the concept of regional autonomy as *eigen huishouding*, which means running one's own household (Nurhayati et al., 2021). Basically, according to Agussalim Andi, the principle of regional autonomy must reflect three things, namely that it must be in harmony with political development and national unity, can guarantee a harmonious relationship between the central and regional governments on the

basis of the integrity of a unitary state, and must be able to guarantee regional development and development (Elcaputera, 2021; Hariyanto, 2020).

Meanwhile, what is meant by an autonomous region is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries that is authorized to regulate and manage government affairs and the interests of the local community according to its own initiative based on community aspirations within the *NKRI* system (Yani, 2018). The aim is to improve the welfare of the people in the area. Here the regions certainly know better what the needs of their people are in order to achieve a prosperous society.

Therefore, the granting of special autonomy to the regions is only a central government policy so that the local government is freer to achieve prosperity in these special regions. The granting of special autonomy to these special regions is a concrete form of the state's promise to give recognition and respect to special local government units, such as Papua and Aceh. The regulation on special autonomy is contained in the *UU No. 32 Tahun 2004* Article 225, which emphasizes the state's recognition of regions that receive special recognition.

In addition to these laws, special autonomy is also regulated in other laws. Regarding the special autonomy of Papua, for example, this is regulated in the *UU No. 18 Tahun 2001* concerning the transfer of autonomy and the change of name from Aceh Special Region Province to Naggroe Aceh Darussalam Province. The establishment of the Special Autonomy Law in Aceh is a manifestation of the role of law towards the welfare of the people of the region known as *Serambi Makkah*.

Public Policy

Public policy is defined as the direction of action taken by the government and its aim is to overcome an existing problem (Agustino, 2008). In the view of (Héritier, 2013), public policy is a concept and action related to the government system with the aim of fulfilling public interests. Meanwhile, Anderson describes public policy as a step for decision-making made by the government. The decision-making then creates an action to solve social problems by adopting specific strategies in the planning process and implementing them into the public sphere (Eriksen et al., 2021). Based on the views of these experts, it can be understood that public policy is the steps chosen by the government to fulfill the interests of society.

Public policy in its development is more aimed at the process. This means that policymaking is described as a process rather than a single action. According to Eriksen et al., (2021), a process at least involves negotiation, bargaining and accommodation. If public policy prioritizes the role of the public, the policy will be more in favour of the interests of the community. In that sense, public policy does not only benefit the government, but can also have implications for society. This requires the involvement of various actors in the process of assessment, formulation, and implementation in the community.

In addition, public policy is based on rational choices. Public policies are mostly positive or normative, which means that policies do not indicate other interests except social interests. Social interest is defined as an effort to improve the social order, including the economy and the welfare of society. Thus, public policy is sought to facilitate the community in carrying out their daily activities

(Mazur & Tomashuk, 2020). It can be understood that the policy ideally prioritizes the public interest that leads to their welfare.

Public Policy Evaluation

Evaluation is the same term as assessment, numerical division, and judgment. According to N. Dunn, evaluation is also concerned with the process of obtaining correct information and the benefits of public policy outcomes. Public policy evaluation according to (J O'Toole, 2000), 2000), is a process in an effort to assess the extent to which the effectiveness of public policy can be accounted for. In addition, policy evaluation is usually to assess the extent to which goals are achieved by an organization.

In fact, the main purpose of evaluation is not to blame existing policies, but to find out how much achievement and expectations of a public policy. The results of the evaluation are followed by reformulation to reduce the gaps that occur (Anyebe, 2018). Based on this opinion, policy evaluation can be concluded as a positive process and contains many benefits for formulating further policies.

According to Hérítier, (2013) there are several characteristics of policy evaluation, including; 1) evaluation aims to find strategic things, so as to improve policy performance; 2) evaluators are able to take distance from policy makers, and policy implementers, as well as policy targets; 3) procedures can be methodologically accounted for; 4) evaluation is carried out not in an atmosphere of hostility or based on hatred; and 5) includes policy formulation, implementation, environment, and performance.

Lester and Stewart also explained the purpose of policy evaluation. According to them, policy evaluation is usually carried out to find out some failures and to see whether the previously formulated policies have produced the desired impact on the institution. So, policy evaluation is closely related to efforts to implement and update public policies made by an institution. In the sense that the evaluation process can be carried out in order to get a view on whether to continue or end existing policies.

Thus, policy evaluation can be understood as one of the levels in the public policy process. This is because the evaluation is carried out as a step to measure whether a policy made has run well or not. Then the facts of policy implementation in the field will also be found, the results of which can be positive or negative. The results of the evaluation can then be used as a benchmark in formulating an alternative decision, so as to provide benefits to institutions or organizations as policy makers and the general public who are policy recipients.

Community Welfare

In general, welfare theories are classified into three, namely classical utilitarian, neoclassical welfare theory, and new contractarian approach. Classical utilitarian emphasizes that a person's satisfaction or pleasure can be measured and increased. According to (Mauliddah et al., 2021), everyone's level of satisfaction can be compared quantitatively. Neoclassical welfare emphasizes the principle of Pareto optimality, which is a position where it is not possible for a reallocation of inputs or outputs to make someone better off without making at least one person worse off. Meanwhile, the new contractarian approach emphasizes the concept that everyone has maximum freedom in their lives. These three views emphasize

that the level of individual welfare in society is highly dependent on the level of satisfaction and pleasure achieved in daily life. A high level of welfare can be achieved if a behaviour is able to maximize the level of satisfaction in accordance with the resources owned (Wibowo, 2020).

Experts actually describe community welfare as a situation that does not place one aspect more important than another. Community welfare is not only related to economic matters, but also to social, cultural, and political conditions, health, happiness, and quality of life (Rasaili & Irawati, 2022). Actually, the concept of welfare can be divided into two parts, namely individual welfare and social welfare. Individual welfare is a way of linking welfare to objective individual choices. Meanwhile, social welfare is a way of linking welfare with objective social choices obtained by adding up the satisfaction of all individuals in society.

In the formulation of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, there are eighteen indicators to measure the level of community welfare (Sampe et al., 2021). These eighteen indicators include: 1) life expectancy; 2) per capita consumption of animal protein; 3) percentage of children studying in primary and secondary schools; 4) percentage of children studying in vocational schools; 5) number of newspapers; 6) number of telephones; 7) number of radios; 8) number of inhabitants in cities with 20,000 inhabitants or more; 9) percentage of adult males in the agricultural sector; 10) percentage of adult males in the agricultural sector; and 10) percentage of adult males in the agricultural sector. 000 inhabitants or more; 9) percentage of adult males in the agricultural sector; 10) percentage of the workforce employed in the electricity, gas, water, health, freight, warehousing, and transportation sectors; 11) percentage of the workforce earning a salary; 12) percentage of GDP derived from manufacturing; 13) per capita energy consumption; 14) per capita electricity consumption; 15) per capita steel consumption; 16) per capita value of foreign trade; 17) average agricultural product of male workers in the agricultural sector; and 18) per capita income of gross national product (Ningrum, 2016).

C. METHOD

This research uses qualitative research methods through library research. The focus of study in this research is the special autonomy policy of Aceh Province and public welfare. Because it is a library study, the research data used is data sourced from books, journals, and government reports, as well as other literature related to the research topic. All data collected was then selected, presented, and analyzed. While the data analysis technique used in the research is content analysis, which is a scientific analysis of the content of data. From this process, the results and discussion as well as research conclusions on the evaluation of Aceh Province's special autonomy and community welfare are presented.

D. EXPLANATION

Aceh Special Autonomy Policy

Aceh's special autonomy (Otsus) policy is made by the central government

and this is included in public policy. Public policy itself is a direction or action made by the government with the aim of overcoming an existing problem. Referring to the view of Nugroho (2014), it is known that public policy is a concept and action related to the government system. The aim is to fulfil the interests of society in general. So, from this concept, an action to solve social problems is born by adopting specific strategies in the planning process and implementing them in the public sphere (Eriksen et al., 2021).

Based on this view, it can be understood that the Aceh special autonomy (Otsus) policy is a measure chosen by the government to fulfil the interests of society in general. In the sense that the Aceh Province by the central government is given special authority to regulate and manage its own government affairs to fulfil the interests of its people from all aspects. The special or special authority is given in accordance with the laws and regulations in the system and principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (*NKRI*) (Muhammad Abrar et al., 2020).

The policy regarding the transfer of autonomy and the change of name from Aceh Special Region Province to Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province is based on the *UU No. 18 Tahun 2021* (JDIH, 2001). The state's recognition of the specialty and specificity of the Aceh region was last stipulated through the *UU No. 11 Tahun 2006* on the Government of Aceh (Muhammad Abrar et al., 2020). According to Budiono et al., (2022), the special law was born due to two main factors, namely; 1) Related to the Aceh conflict that erupted due to the existence of the Free Aceh Movement (*GAM*) since 1976; and 2) Related to the reformation that demanded changes in all aspects of the life of the nation and state, including changing the pattern of relations between the centre and the regions. The reason is that there was a conflict that did not find a solution, so in the end the DPR was encouraged to submit an initiative that gave birth to the *UU No. 44 Tahun 1999* concerning the Implementation of Regional Privileges of the Special Region of Aceh Province (Munanda et al., 2023).

Meanwhile, the enactment of the *UU No. 11 Tahun 2006* explicitly provided full discretion for the division of government affairs. The Aceh government in this case is given special authority, including; 1) Establishing a judiciary that is free from influence from any party; 2) The authority to determine the regional flag; 3) The authority to have a different number of members of the regional legislature; 4) The authority to structure the level of self-government; 5) The authority to form regional regulations that can override other laws and regulations; and 6) Special authority regarding regional police (Daudy, 2022).

The *UU No. 11 Tahun 2006* generally consists of 273 articles. When viewed from the interests of the people of Aceh, all of these articles are interrelated or inseparable. The most important aspect of the special autonomy (Otsus) policy is the realization of the welfare of the people of Aceh as a whole. In addition to receiving special autonomy (Otsus) which has been going on since 2006, Aceh has received special autonomy funds since 2008 (Sanur, 2020). The special funds provided by the central government continue to increase from year to year, as shown in the table below:

Table 1.1 Aceh Special Autonomy Finance

No	Years	Special Autonomy Finance (Rp-Million)
1	2008	Rp. 1.472.133,00
2	2009	Rp. 1.610.272,00
3	2010	Rp. 1.612.838,00
4	2011	Rp. 2.200.772,00
5	2012	Rp. 2.769.895,00
6	2013	Rp. 2.937.013,00
7	2014	Rp. 3.850.037,00
8	2015	Rp. 4.046.416,00
9	2016	Rp. 5.462.331,00
10	2023	Rp. 3.921. 220, (trilliun)

Source of BPS Data (2015)

The table above shows that the formation of the Special Autonomy Law (*UU*) in Aceh is a manifestation of the role of law towards the welfare of the Acehnese people in general. With this special policy equipped with a very large amount of funds, it is hoped that it will have a positive impact not only on some people or groups, but on society in general (Ayunda, 2021). Thus, the success or failure in realizing community welfare depends on the implementation of policies from the local government, especially Aceh itself.

Implementation of the Special Autonomy Policy

The special autonomy (*Otsus*) policy given to Aceh has long been implemented. The policy provided by the central government is as stated in the *UU No. 18 Tahun 2001* concerning the transfer of autonomy and the change of name from the Special Region of Aceh Province to Naggroe Aceh Darussalam Province. Although it has been implemented for a long time, there are several problems in its implementation, such as regulations, special autonomy funds, institutions, social problems, land, and so on.

Regulation

After the PA Law (Law on Aceh Governance) came into effect, it was not without problems in its implementation. For example, regarding the derivative regulations of the *UU No. 11 Tahun 2006* on the Governing of Aceh, it was found that there are still three draft government regulations (RPP) that have not yet been enacted. The three draft PPs include, first, the RPP on Standards, Norms and Procedures for the Development and Supervision of Civil Servants in Aceh Province and Regency/City. The second is the RPP on Acehnese Names and Titles of Aceh Government Officials. Finally, the RPP on the Transfer of Infrastructure, Funding, Personnel, and Documents Related to Madrasah Ibtidaiyah and Madrasah Tsanawiyah Education.

Likewise, as mentioned by Debora Sanur, (2020) that at the Qanun level, there are 59 Aceh Qanun Drafts, which must be completed as the implementation

of the PA Law with details of 47 (80%) Qanun titles have been successfully agreed upon to be ratified / established and promulgated into Aceh Qanun. Meanwhile, 12 (20%) Qanun drafts have also not been successfully approved to be ratified/established and promulgated as Qanun Aceh. In addition to the aforementioned problems, it was also found that the PA Law is faced with the problem of the Revision of the *UU No 11 Tahun 2006* on the Government of Aceh as a result of the Constitutional Court Decision. There were 2 Constitutional Court decisions on the review of the Law on the Governing of Aceh that were granted; 1) the *Keputusan Mahkamah Konstitusi Perkara No. 35/PUU-VII/2010* and the *Keputusan Mahkamah Konstitusi Perkara No. 51/PUU-XIV/2016*; 2) the *Keputusan Mahkamah Konstitusi Perkara No. 35/PUU-VIII/2010*, the verdict was to annul Article 256 of the Law on the Governing of Aceh.

Special Autonomy Fund

The special autonomy fund is also not free from problems. In accordance with the provisions of Article 183 paragraph (2) of the *UU No 11 Tahun 2006* on the Governing of Aceh, special autonomy funds will be granted for 20 years, and this has been going on since 2008. The amount of special autonomy funds for the first year, 2008 until the fifteenth year (2022), is equivalent to 2 percent of the National General Allocation Fund ceiling. Furthermore, for the following year or the sixteenth (2023) to the twentieth year (2028) the amount is equivalent to one (1) percent of the National General Allocation Fund ceiling (Sanur, 2020).

Cumulative special autonomy funds through 2019 have amounted to 73.3 trillion. However, Aceh Province is still dependent on the existence of special autonomy funds-where special autonomy funds contribute more than 50 percent of the Regional Budget (*APBD*), while the implementation has not been free from problems related to the allocation of funds between the Provincial and District/City Governments. In general, Aceh Province is highly dependent on these special autonomy funds. Since its granting in 2008, the poverty rate in Aceh Province has declined. It can be seen that in 2008 the poverty rate in Aceh Province reached 25.53 percent. Meanwhile, in 2017 the poverty rate had dropped to 16.89 percent. Despite this downward trend, there is still a gap in the poverty rate between urban and rural areas.

Institutionalization

The next problem is related to institutional issues. *Wali Nanggroe* Institution is not a political institution and government institution in Aceh. This institution is led by a *Wali Nanggroe* who is personal and independent. Article 96 states that the *Wali Nanggroe* Institution is a customary leadership as a unifier of society that is independent, authoritative, and has the authority to foster and supervise the implementation of the life of customary institutions, customs, and the awarding of titles/degrees and other traditional ceremonies. This institution receives a budget from *APBA*. Currently, the *Wali Nanggroe* Institution is led by Tengku Malik Mahmud Al-Haythar and he has led the *Wali Nanggroe* Institution since 2012 (Sanur, 2020)

The Head of Legal Subdivision of *Wali Nanggroe* Institution, Syaiful, mentioned that there is currently a process of discussing changes to the *Qanun*

Nomor 9 Tahun 2013, related to the downsizing of institutions in the Functional Assembly. This was done because with a very large institution it was considered very difficult to coordinate. Moreover, so far these institutions have also not been seen in the work of the *Wali Nanggroë* Institution. In addition to these three problems, other problems are also in the social fields such as health and education. Regarding problems in this aspect, it will be discussed in the next section.

The Welfare Level of the Acehnese People

The establishment of the Special Autonomy Law in Aceh Province is an embodiment of the role of law towards the prosperous lives of the citizens of *Serambi Makkah* (Muhammad Abrar et al., 2020). However, in practice, the implementation of special autonomy in Aceh is still far from expectations, especially in improving community welfare. This section discusses the level of community welfare in Aceh Province in various aspects of life, as follows:

Health

To see the level of health of the population in a region, among other things, can be seen from the life expectancy rate. The life expectancy in Aceh can be seen below:

Table 1.2 Life Expectancy Rate in Aceh Province (2016-2020)

Years	Life Expectancy (year)
2016	69,51
2017	69,52
2018	69,64
2019	69,87
2020	69,93

The table confirms that from 2016 to 2020, life expectancy in Aceh continued to increase significantly, from 69.51 to 69.93. This describes that children born in 2018 are expected to survive on average until the age of 69.64 years, and in 2019 to 69.87, while in 2020, the figure increased again, namely to 69.93. This confirms that the health rate of Acehnese citizens has continued to increase in the last 3 years.

Education

One way to improve human resources is through education. In this way, people's lives will improve. Therefore, the development of both formal and non-formal education is very important, even mandatory. To see and know the development of education in *Serambi Makkah*, one of them can be seen from the literacy rate.

The results showed that the literacy rate in Aceh in 2020 increased compared to 2019 (from 98.21% to 98.25%). In the young age group (15-19 years), the literacy rate in 2020 reached 99.98%. While in the age group of 50 years and over it reached 92.92%. The picture related to improving the quality of human resources, among others, can be seen from the quality of the education level of the population in the 10+ age group. From 2019 to 2020, the population of the 10+ age group who have completed school at the junior high school level and above has increased, from 58.87% to 60.61% (Safrida et al., 2022).

The difference between the population in rural and urban areas who attended junior high school and above reached 11.48%, amounting to 68.31% and 56.83% respectively. The largest percentage of the population living in urban areas is mostly high school graduates (32.13%) and junior high school graduates (19.11%) and in rural areas most of the population is high school graduates (26.42%) and elementary school graduates (26.41%). Meanwhile, the population with university degrees (DI/II/III, DIV / S1, professional and S2 / S3) between rural and urban areas experienced a wide gap, namely 17.08% in urban areas and only 8.54% in rural areas (Hadiman, 2021)

Housing and Environment

In 2020, households in Aceh Province living in their own homes amounted to 80.96% or a slight increase of 0.64% compared to the previous year. This means that there are still 19.04% of households living in non-owned houses. Meanwhile, households that occupy rented and rent-free houses are 6.98% and 10.90%, respectively (Safrida et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, in rural areas, households living in their own homes are greater than in urban areas, amounting to 86.81% and 68.75%, respectively. Meanwhile, in 2020, households in Aceh that occupy their own house are more than 10 m² per capita (75.33%), an increase from 2019 of 72.89%. Meanwhile, households that use tap water or bottled water as a source of drinking water in 2020 have increased by 49%, up from the previous year which reached 48.02%. And in 2020, households that have their own toilets, the majority of households living in urban areas (90.54%), while in rural areas around 69.71 percent (Hadiman, 2021)

Employment

Employment in Aceh has experienced quite extreme changes. In August 2020, the total labour force reached 2.527 million people. This figure increased by 122,000 people compared to the number of labour force in August 2019, which was 2.405 million people. In August 2020, people who worked reached 2.360 million people. This means that there has been an increase of 103,000 people when compared to the situation in August 2019, which were 2.257 million people. The increase in the labour force was also accompanied by an increase in unemployment in Aceh Province. In August 2020, there was an increase of 19 thousand people. Previously, in August 2019 there were 148 thousand people, then 167 thousand people in August 2020 (Hadiman, 2021)

In general, the primary sector (agriculture, plantations, forestry, hunting, and fishing) is still the largest employment sector, at 37.22%. This sector is then followed by the "Community, Social, and Personal Services" sector at 21.02% and

the "Trade, Restaurant, and Accommodation Services" sector at 20.60%. Meanwhile, the sectors that absorb the smallest number of workers (below 1%) are the "Mining and Quarrying" sector and the "Electricity, Gas and Drinking Water" sector. They are 0.67% and 0.56% respectively (Hadiman, 2021).

If we look at the changes in the 2019-2020 periods, it is known that there is an increase in the number of people working in nine sectors with the highest increase in five sectors. The five sectors include;

- 1) The agriculture, plantation, forestry, hunting and fisheries sector, totalling 49,911 people;
- 2) Trade, restaurants and accommodation services sector, totalling 24,971 people;
- 3) Community, social and individual services sector, 11,904 people;
- 4) Industry sector, 9,745 people; and 5) Electricity, gas and water sector, 3,657 people (Maulidya, 2021).

Meanwhile, there are five (5) main employment statuses that have increased throughout 2019-2020, including; 1) Residents who are family workers / unpaid as many as 75,294 people; 2) Free workers in non-agriculture as many as 45,574 people; 3) Free workers in agriculture as many as 28,527 people; 4) 19,994 people are self-employed; and 5) 2,024 people are employed by non-permanent workers/unpaid labourers. Meanwhile, the main employment status of the population that has decreased is; 1) Population who are labourers /employees/employees as many as 66,668 people; and 2) The population who are trying to be assisted by permanent labourers is 1,576 people (Hadiman, 2021).

Poverty

In the 2017-2021 periods, the poverty rate has decreased. It was recorded that Aceh's poor population reached 16.89 percent in March 2017. Then in September 2017, the figure dropped to 15.92 percent. However, the poverty rate increased in March 2018 (to 15.97 percent). If seen in the period from September 2018 to March 2020, it appears that there has been a decline, from 15.68% (September 2018), 15.32% (March 2019), 15.01% (September 2019), and to 14.99% in March 2020 (Government of Aceh, 2022).

In the September 2020 period, it rose to 15.43%. Then in March 2021 it decreased to 15.33%. In September 2021 it rose to 15.53% (Government of Aceh, 2022). In addition, *BPS* data also shows that Aceh is among the five poorest provinces in Indonesia (Papua, West Papua, East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, and Aceh). Specifically for Aceh, as a percentage, the poverty rate in the period March to September 2021 increased by 0.20 points to 15.53%. When viewed in numbers, the poor population increased to 16,020 people. So, the number of poor people in Aceh in September 2021 was 850,260 people (Istiqomah & Riyadi, 2021)

E. CONCLUSION

The establishment of the Special Autonomy Law in Aceh is a manifestation of the role of law towards the welfare of the people of *Serambi Makkah*. However, in practice, the implementation of the implementation of special autonomy in Aceh is still far from expectations, especially in improving people's welfare. In the

health sector, during the 2016-2020 periods, life expectancy increased from 69.51 to 69.93. Meanwhile, in the field of education, the population that has completed tertiary education (DI/II/III, DIV / S1, professional and S2 / S3) experiences a fairly high imbalance between urban and rural areas, namely 17.08 percent in urban areas and only 8.54 percent in rural areas. Meanwhile, in the economic field, Aceh is among the five poorest provinces in Indonesia. The number of poor people in Aceh in September 2021 was 850,260 people.

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