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## Contribution of Government Policy Stakeholders in Improving the Quality of Education in Indonesia\*

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### Abstract:

This article seeks to investigate Indonesian government policymakers' role in enhancing education quality. This study employed a qualitative approach focusing on the literature and the Law. Data is gathered from various sources, including scientific journals, government publications, and educational policy documents. The findings of this study indicate that government policymakers play a crucial role in the development and enhancement of the education system in Indonesia. The Government creates a high-quality, inclusive, and competitive educational environment through various programs, policies, and budget allocations. The formulation of the appropriate procedure is crucial to attaining the objective of improving the quality of education. Education policies that are comprehensive and in line with the community's requirements are the foundation for sustainable education development. In addition, rigorous monitoring and evaluation by government stakeholders contribute to implementing effective policies and following national education standards. Improving the caliber of the teaching staff is also a key objective, necessitating ongoing training and professional development. Improving education quality also depends on the Government's dedication to allocating the education budget. By allocating sufficient funds, the Government can construct and maintain an appropriate educational infrastructure, offer tuition assistance, and promote increased access to education for all segments of society.

Keywords: Contribution; Government Policy Holders; Education quality; Education system; Indonesia

### Abstrak:

Artikel ini berusaha menyelidiki peran pembuat kebijakan pemerintah Indonesia dalam meningkatkan kualitas pendidikan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan penelitian kualitatif dengan fokus pada literatur dan hukum. Data dikumpulkan dari berbagai sumber, termasuk jurnal ilmiah, publikasi pemerintah, dan dokumen kebijakan yang berkaitan dengan pendidikan. Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pembuat kebijakan pemerintah memainkan peran penting dalam pengembangan dan peningkatan sistem pendidikan di Indonesia. Pemerintah berkontribusi dalam menciptakan lingkungan pendidikan yang berkualitas, inklusif, dan berdaya saing melalui berbagai program,

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kebijakan, dan alokasi anggaran. Perumusan kebijakan yang tepat sangat penting untuk mencapai tujuan peningkatan mutu pendidikan. Kebijakan pendidikan yang komprehensif dan sesuai dengan kebutuhan masyarakat merupakan landasan pembangunan pendidikan yang berkelanjutan. Selain itu, pemantauan dan evaluasi yang ketat oleh pemangku kepentingan pemerintah berkontribusi pada implementasi kebijakan yang efektif dan sesuai dengan standar nasional pendidikan. Meningkatkan kualitas staf pengajar juga merupakan tujuan utama, yang memerlukan pelatihan berkelanjutan dan pengembangan profesional. Peningkatan mutu pendidikan juga tergantung pada kesungguhan pemerintah dalam mengalokasikan anggaran pendidikan. Dengan mengalokasikan dana yang cukup, pemerintah dapat membangun dan memelihara infrastruktur pendidikan yang memadai, menawarkan bantuan biaya pendidikan, dan mendorong peningkatan akses pendidikan bagi semua lapisan masyarakat.

**Kata kunci:** Kontribusi; Pemangku Kebijakan Pemerintahan; Kualitas Pendidikan; Sistem Pendidikan; Indonesia

## A. INTRODUCTION

Education plays a significant part in the growth of a nation because it is the primary building block in societal and national advancement. Education is the most essential factor in determining a country's overall level of human resource quality. Individuals can develop the information, skills, and attitudes necessary to positively contribute to the country's economic, social, and cultural development if they have access to quality education. In addition, education fosters innovative thinking and creative endeavors, which are the primary engines behind advances in technological and scientific fields. People are encouraged to make discoveries, develop new solutions to complex problems, and face future difficulties through education's role in society.

Productivity rises with the level of education held by workers in the workforce. Employees can have abilities relevant to the world of work and adapt to changes in technology and the needs of their industry if they have had a good education. In addition, education is a factor that contributes to the alleviation of poverty as well as the reduction of social inequality. Education provides people with improved opportunities to find good work, raise their standard of life, and significantly contribute to their families and communities. Education also makes it easier for people to find excellent jobs. Education is another essential factor that contributes to the strengthening of democracy. Citizens can develop an understanding of their rights and obligations within the framework of the political system, as well as the capacity to engage in decision-making processes if they receive an education actively. In addition, education helps develop responsible, tolerant, and open-minded citizens. Through education, one can become more aware of social, environmental, and cultural issues and empathize with those different from themselves.

In addition, education helps enhance the capacity of institutional structures, such as those in the commercial world, the public sector, and community-based groups. When it comes to accomplishing development objectives, organizations backed by educated human resources have the potential to be more successful and efficient in meeting those objectives. As a result, education plays an essential part in laying a stable foundation for equitable, sustainable, and competitive national development. Investing in excellent and

equitable education will contribute to developing a more civilized, advanced, and competitive society globally.<sup>4</sup>

An overview of the education system in Indonesia should contain a discussion of the many different levels and kinds of schooling open to the people of Indonesia. There is the level of education known as Primary Education, which includes Elementary School, followed by the level of education known as Secondary Education, which provides for Junior High School and Senior High School. Then there are higher education universities offer, such as bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. In addition, there is the concept of non-formal education, which refers to an educational program that does not adhere to a conventional curriculum and is typically designed for individuals who fall into specific categories or have particular requirements. Examples are language courses, skills training, and computer courses. Even though the education system in Indonesia has seen numerous advancements and improvements in recent years, there are still a variety of obstacles and problems that need to be conquered to attain a higher level of educational quality, equitable distribution of educational opportunities, and worldwide competitiveness in education. The Government is making continued efforts and a variety of stakeholders to improve the education system so that it can better meet the requirements of society and the overall requirements of national development.<sup>5</sup>

It is vitally necessary to research the role that policymakers in the Indonesian Government play in enhancing the standard of education in the country for several reasons. The research will provide empirical data on the extent to which the government and policy makers contribute to impacting the quality of education in Indonesia. This is one of the many reasons why research is important. The information gathered and the conclusions drawn from this study will help evaluate the true Impact of the policies put into place and determine whether or not they have accomplished the objectives set. In addition, research can be used to determine which policies are most successful in enhancing the overall quality of education. By analyzing the effectiveness of previously implemented policies, governments are able to determine which policies have been successful and then either further develop or modify other policies as required. In addition, research can help policymakers better understand the issues and roadblocks they confront in their efforts to improve the quality of education. Using this information, the Government and those who create policy will be better able to determine the strategic steps necessary to overcome these challenges.<sup>6</sup>

The findings of the research will serve as a solid foundation for the formulation of stronger and more effective policy suggestions in the effort to raise the level of educational achievement. These suggestions can act as a road map for the Government to follow when it comes to formulating more narrowly focused education policies.

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<sup>4</sup> Fitrianto, A. (2019). The Implementation of National Education System Law and Its Impact on Education Quality Improvement in Indonesia. *Jurnal Pendidikan*, 4(2), 129-142.

<sup>5</sup> Mulyono, E. (2017). Challenges and Strategies in Implementing National Education System Law in Indonesia. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 8(2), 10-19.

<sup>6</sup> Riyanto, E., & Sari, D. P. (2016). The Impact of National Education System Law on Teachers' Professional Development in Indonesia. *Journal of Education and Human Development*, 5(2), 132-144.

Furthermore, research that is both objective and dependable will raise the level of stakeholder accountability. Policymakers will experience a greater sense of accountability and be driven to achieve better results if they have access to compelling facts regarding the performance of their programs. Community participation will be encouraged as a side effect of research investigating the role of policy makers in enhancing educational standards. The community as a whole will become more aware of educational challenges due to study results that are made available to the general public. As a result, the community may become more engaged in the struggle for improved conditions. Research can, in point of fact, serve as the foundation for determining priority areas and suitable budget allocations in the field of education. If the Government is aware of the contribution that successful policies make, it will be more driven to make investments in education that will last for the long term in order to achieve sustainable national growth. Therefore, by conducting research on the contribution of government stakeholders in improving the quality of education, a more comprehensive understanding will be created, and more appropriate solutions will be created, in order to improve the education system in Indonesia, which will have a positive impact, in turn, on the progress of the nation and society.

From the background of the problems above, the authors focus the discussion on three questions: What is the Government's Role in the Indonesian Education System? How is the Education Budget Allocation? What is the Ministry of Education and Culture's role in improving education quality in Indonesia?

## **B. METHODS**

Using a methodology that is based on literature and statutes for qualitative research, this study will shed light on the role of government policymakers in enhancing Indonesia's educational system, allowing for the development of more informed and practical policy recommendations.

Qualitative research seeks a thorough comprehension of social phenomena and the intricacies of their examined environments. To better understand the responsibilities, policies, and issues faced by policy makers in resolving educational problems, qualitative research methodologies are invaluable in studying the involvement of government policy makers in enhancing educational quality. Educators, policymakers, and academics are just some people whose opinions will be gleaned through interviews, observations, and document studies as part of a qualitative research strategy. This qualitative information will help provide a fuller picture of the elements that policymakers consider when attempting to enhance education quality.

Researchers will be able to find and compile references from books, journals, research reports, and other sources pertinent to the topic by employing a literature review methodology. These materials will help learn about foundational ideas and debates in education and public policy. Thanks to the statutory regulation technique, researchers in Indonesia will be able to investigate and examine a wide range of educational statutes, rules, policies, and directives. This will help clarify the roles and responsibilities of many stakeholders in the education system at the national and local

levels. Thus, researchers can collect up-to-date and reliable information and examine parallels between existing theories and concepts and the reality of policy implementation in the field by combining the literature approach with statutory requirements.

## **C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. The Government's Role in the Indonesian Education System**

#### **a. National Education Policies**

Regarding the Indonesian Government's role in the educational system, the National Education Policy is crucial. The Government has established the legislative basis and strategic guidelines for national education management through the National Education Policy. The policy lays out a plan to improve education in an egalitarian and sustainable way.<sup>7</sup>

The National Education Policy establishes goals and priorities for improving Indonesia's educational system. This encompasses initiatives to broaden participation in the educational system, which includes addressing special education issues like inclusive education and education for children with special needs and enhancing the quality of education, vocational education, and the development of curricula responsive to the labour market's needs. Furthermore, the Government controls and assembles the school curriculum through the National School Policy. The developed curriculum must align with state and federal requirements and incorporate the fundamental skills and knowledge that all students should possess. Good curricula are grounded in scientific and technical advancements, and they are responsive to the requirements of society and the workplace.<sup>8</sup>

It is also the Government's duty to ensure sufficient resources are available to facilitate education. This encompasses various activities, from constructing and upkeep of educational facilities to providing educational resources like books and technological aids. The Government also needs to play a part in fostering the growth of educators' competence in the classroom. Coaching to enhance teaching quality and classroom management is included in this category, as is training and competency development for educators. The Government is also in charge of monitoring and assessing how well the National Education Policy is being implemented. This analysis aims to determine how well the current policies are working and identify areas where adjustments may be made.<sup>9</sup>

#### **b. National Education System Law and regulations related to education**

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<sup>7</sup> Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003 tentang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional. Also see: Menteri Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia. (2021). Kebijakan Pendidikan Nasional 2021-2031.

<sup>8</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia. (2021). Rencana Strategis Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Tahun 2020-2024.

<sup>9</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia. (2021). Pedoman Pengembangan Silabus Mata Pelajaran dalam Kurikulum 2013.

Regarding the Government's participation in education in Indonesia, few legislative instruments are as pivotal as the Law on the National Education System (Sisdiknas). All aspects of Indonesia's educational system, from its stated aims and guiding principles to its organizational structure and leadership, are defined and governed by the National Education System Law. Many government regulations control specific parts of the education system and the National Education System Law. These include government regulations (PP), ministerial regulations, and ministerial decrees.<sup>10</sup>

Goals for the national education system, as outlined in Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, include producing citizens who are democratic and responsible, as well as those who are healthy, knowledgeable, creative, and independent. Primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education are all codified in detail under the National Education System Law. Extracurricular and religious instruction are likewise subject to the Law's regulations. To better accommodate each region's unique qualities and possibilities, the National Education System Law also allows for a certain amount of educational autonomy on the part of regions and universities. Furthermore, this Law governs the functions and obligations of schools, universities, and other educational institutions in carrying out the national education mandate.<sup>11</sup>

The National Education System Law is supplemented by government rules in various areas, including the curriculum, education standards, teacher certification, and administration of national examinations, to name just a few. At the same time, Ministerial Regulations govern how education policies, such as those in charge of administering the programs and activities that help accomplish the nation's educational objectives, are implemented at the ministerial level. This includes those in charge of administering the programs and activities that collectively assist in achieving the nation's educational goals. In addition, ministerial decrees give precise directions for implementing education policy at the national and regional levels of Government.

Other regulations under the Law governing the national education system are: 1). Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 19 of 2005 concerning National Education Standards. 2). Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 4 of 2019 concerning the 2013 Curriculum for High Schools/Madrasah Aliyah. 3). Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 137 of 2014 concerning Process Standards for Elementary and Secondary Education. 4). Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 44 of 2019 concerning Teacher Certification.

### **c. Vision and mission of the Government in the education sector**

The Government's vision and mission in education serve as a roadmap for the country's educational system's future. The Government's dedication and goals for

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<sup>10</sup> Nurlaelawati, E., & Santoso, P. B. (2020). Implementation of National Education System Law in Early Childhood Education Institutions in Indonesia. *Journal of International Studies in Early Childhood*, 2(1), 32-45.

<sup>11</sup> Masrifah, N. (2018). The Role of Government in Improving the Quality of Education in Indonesia. *International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research*, 38(1), 167-176.

improving education are laid out in this vision and mission. The Government of Indonesia has a pivotal role in shaping the education system, and it does so by developing policies, programs, and specific initiatives guided by a clear vision and mission.

The Government's vision and mission in the education sector are generally used as a reference in the Government's role in the Indonesian education system.

Vision:

"Making Indonesia a developed, sovereign, just, prosperous and cultured country through improving the quality of education that is equitable, just and competitive."

Mission:

- **Improving Access to Education:** Giving people from all walks of life and regions of Indonesia equal access to a high-quality education.
- **Improving the Quality of Education:** Strengthening the quality of professors and lecturers and designing a curriculum that reflects the needs of society and the world of work would improve the overall quality of education.
- **Strengthening Vocational Education:** Boosting graduate access to gainful employment and business ownership through supporting vocational education and skills growth.
- **Improving the Quality of Educational Institutions:** Bettering the standard of educational institutions like schools and universities by investing in and using state-of-the-art infrastructure and teaching tools.
- **Encouraging Research and Innovation in Education:** Investing in educational research and development helps us adapt to new circumstances and difficulties.
- **Developing Evidence-Based Policies:** To attain national education goals efficiently and effectively, educational policies should be developed based on facts and empirical evidence.

## **2. Allocation of Education Budget**

### **a. Government commitment to the education budget**

The commitment of the Government to the education budget encompasses the allotment and application of sufficient resources to support the growth and progress of the educational system. Funding for adequate and efficient education is an essential measure of the degree to which the Government is devoted to increasing the accessibility and quality of education in the nation.<sup>12</sup>

The importance of government commitment to the education budget includes:

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<sup>12</sup> Amri, S., Nuzulia, Y., & Suprapti, D. N. (2020). Analysis of Government's Budget Allocation for Education Sector in Indonesia. *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute (BIRCI-Journal): Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(1), 164-173.

First: Improved Accessibility. Suppose the Government has a budget that's big enough. In that case, it can make sure that everyone in the country, regardless of their family's income or where they live, has the opportunity to acquire an education. This includes money for developing educational facilities and infrastructure, such as the construction of schools and higher education institutions, and support for educational assistance programs for economically disadvantaged students.<sup>13</sup>

Second: Improving the Quality of Education. An adequate budget for education will support the creation of relevant curriculum, the training and development of educators, and the provision of learning materials and instruments that are both contemporary and of high quality. Every one of these factors helps to improve the overall standard of education.<sup>14</sup>

Third: Development of Research and Innovation. The provision of monetary resources for educational research and innovation assists with the generation of change and discoveries that benefit the educational system and society.<sup>15</sup>

Fourth: Achieving National Education Goals. It is possible to achieve strategic goals in the education system and guide the implementation of the National Education Policy with the help of appropriate funds.<sup>16</sup>

The author believes that for a country's education system to evolve in a quality, egalitarian, and sustainable way, the commitment of the Government to the education budget is of the utmost importance and significance. Funding for sufficient and appropriate education will provide a solid foundation for expanding the availability, quality, and relevance of education for all citizens. This is significant because education is a critical component in human development, the engine that drives innovation, and the foundation for creating inclusive and competitive societies.

The significance of a government's commitment to the education budget, particularly concerning some essential facets, such as the provision of an adequate education budget and assistance in the creation of curricula, in addition to an increase in the number of educated human resources. Suppose there is enough money in the education budget. In that case, the Government will be able to make sure that people from all walks of life, regardless of their economic or geographical circumstances, have equitable access to educational possibilities. This includes ensuring families from disadvantaged backgrounds can access educational facilities, transportation, and financial aid for classes. In the meanwhile, the budget provides support for the creation of relevant curricula, the updating of learning methods, and professional development for teachers. If the Government has sufficient funding, it will be able to ensure that

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<sup>13</sup> Pradipto, Y., & Budiwanti, N. (2019). The Importance of Government Commitment in Education Budgeting in Indonesia. *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change*, 8(8), 243-257.

<sup>14</sup> Panjaitan, F., & Pardede, P. (2018). Government's Commitment to Increase Education Budget in Indonesia. *International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research*, 37(1), 209-216.

<sup>15</sup> Eko, H. P. (2017). The Relationship between Government's Education Budget and Education Quality in Indonesia. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 8(20), 91-101.

<sup>16</sup> Rochman, C. M., & Nugroho, A. P. (2016). Analysis of Education Budget Efficiency in Indonesia. *European Journal of Business and Social Sciences*, 5(1), 11-21.

educators have access to the tools and training they need to improve the quality of education they provide and the learning that takes place in their classrooms.

According to the author, the commitment that the Government makes to the funding for education must also assist the development of human resources that are knowledgeable and qualified. A workforce prepared to compete globally and adapt to the changing times can be produced through investments in research and innovation in educational institutions. In order to accomplish the purpose of National Education, we must. This indicates that the implementation of national education policies and the attainment of strategic goals in the education system will be assisted by the provision of an adequate budget for the education system. Governments can ensure that resources are distributed in a manner that is both intelligent and efficient in order to accomplish the intended goals. Education that is both high-quality and fair-distributed will help to improve both the standard of living and the welfare of the people. Educated people have better opportunities to find occupations that pay reasonable wages, access appropriate health care, and actively engage in social and economic development in their communities.

#### **b. Impact of budget allocations on the quality of education**

The standard of educational provision is significantly influenced by how available financial resources are distributed. When it comes to education, having a sufficient and well-managed budget is one of the most significant factors in improving the accessibility, quality, and practicality of education. The following are some of how the allocation of budget affects the quality of education:

First: Provision of Adequate Facilities and Infrastructure. The Government is able to construct and maintain an appropriate educational infrastructure, including school buildings, labs, libraries, and sports facilities, since adequate budget allocations allow them to do so. Students benefit from an environment that is more favourable to learning as well as from the opportunities resulting from adequate facilities and infrastructure.<sup>17</sup>

Second: Relevant Curriculum Development. Suppose there is enough money in the budget. In that case, the Government will be able to establish and frequently update the curriculum to reflect breakthroughs in science and technology as well as the labour market requirements. Graduates who are prepared to meet the challenges they will encounter in the working world are the product of a current and relevant curriculum.

Third: Improving the Quality of Educators. An adequate budget enables the Government to provide educators with training and professional development opportunities. Students' levels of academic accomplishment and the quality of their learning will benefit from having instructors and lecturers who are both competent and committed to furthering their education and professional development.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Hanif, M., & Ihsan, I. (2021). The Effect of Budget Allocation and Management of Education Funds on the Quality of Education. *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 9(1), 27-42.

<sup>18</sup> Aditama, H., & Kristiana, L. (2019). The Impact of Education Budget Allocation on Education Quality in Indonesian Provinces. *Economics Development Analysis Journal*, 8(3), 321-335.

Fourth: Increasing Access to Learning Materials and Tools. The Government can purchase and offer learning materials, textbooks, technological tools, and other learning tools because adequate budget allocation allows these expenditures. More convenient access to these resources will contribute to an improvement in the efficiency of learning.<sup>19</sup>

Fifth: Research and Innovation in Education. The allotment of funds for research and innovation in education will stimulate the growth of creative instructional approaches and produce original findings relevant to the education study. Strong research will help in the creation of education policies and programs that are more effective.<sup>20</sup>

According to the author, the distribution of budgetary resources affects the quality of education. This is due to the fact that having a budget that is sufficient and appropriate is critical to making overall improvements in the quality of education. The allotment of appropriate budgetary resources is one of the most essential factors in developing an educational system that is successful, productive, and of high quality. If the Government is given a sufficient amount of funding, it will be able to improve educational opportunities for people of various socioeconomic standings. If adequate financial support is provided, it may also be possible to help lessen access to education discrepancies between urban and rural locations and between wealthy and impoverished communities. Therefore, the appropriate distribution of funds leads to realizing an education that is more inclusive and equal. In addition, allocating a sufficient budget enables the Government to cultivate high-quality human resources by providing training and professional development opportunities for teachers. Competent teachers and lecturers can improve their lessons and contribute to their student's academic success.

### **3. The role of the Ministry of Education and Culture**

#### **a. Functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Culture**

The Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud) is the government agency in Indonesia that is responsible for managing and overseeing the education and culture sector in the country. As stated in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 2012 concerning Higher Education and Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 8 of 2018 concerning the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The functions of the Ministry of Education and Culture include:<sup>21</sup>

First: Formulation of Education and Culture Policy. The formulation of national policy in the spheres of education and culture falls under the purview of this ministry.

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<sup>19</sup> Shiddiq, M., & Nurdin, H. (2018). Education Budget Allocation and Its Impact on Education Quality in Indonesia. *International Journal of Business, Economics and Law*, 17(6), 50-60.

<sup>20</sup> Hidayat, R., & Aminah, I. (2017). The Role of Education Budget Allocation in Improving the Quality of Education in Indonesia. *Journal of Education and Human Development*, 6(1), 91-104.

<sup>21</sup> Situmorang, E. R., & Pardede, P. (2019). Role and Performance of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Improving the Quality of Education in Indonesia. *International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research*, 47(3), 50-58.

This includes restrictions regarding cultural development, education quality, and other legislation pertaining to this industry's curricula and educational standards.

Second: Development of Education and Culture System. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture to build a system of education and culture that is equitable, open to participation, and competitive. This includes the development of curricula, the management of national education initiatives, as well as the construction and improvement of educational infrastructure.

Third: Educational Monitoring and Evaluation. This Ministry's primary responsibility is to monitor and assess how education is carried out across all of Indonesia's provinces, which is one of its most essential functions. The purpose of this supervision is to ensure that all educational institutions adhere to and meet the requirements of the national education standards.

Fourth: Development of Human Resources. The Ministry of Education and Culture is also responsible for cultivating the sector's human resources. For this reason, it is essential to invest in the professional development of educators at all levels.

The responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Culture include:<sup>22</sup>

First: Organizing the National Education Program. This ministry is in charge of overseeing all of the education programs at the national level, which includes primary, intermediate, and postsecondary education. This involves providing financial support for the operation of schools and tertiary institutions and the administration of national examinations.

Second: Curriculum Development and Improvement. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture to design and refine the national curriculum in a manner that complies with the requirements of the community as well as the changing times.

Third: Protection and Preservation of Culture. The responsibility of guarding and sustaining Indonesian culture is among the most significant tasks. This ministry is involved in creating policies and programs to ensure the continuity of Indonesia's artistic and cultural traditions and cultural heritage.

Fourth: Education Assistance Fund Management. This ministry is also responsible for managing education aid funds that the Government has allotted to support the education sector. These monies include assistance with tuition payments for students and college students.

## **b. Programs and initiatives to improve the quality of education**

Education has a vital role in human growth and national progress, thus the Government must implement programs and initiatives to raise the bar on this front.

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<sup>22</sup> Iswahyudi, H. (2018). Evaluation of the Performance of the Ministry of Education and Culture in the Implementation of the National Education System in Indonesia. *International Journal of Research in Business and Social Science*, 7(3), 12-21. Also see: Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia. (2021). *Profil Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan*. [Online]. Tersedia di: <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/profil>.

Putting money into good schools is a logical move toward building a globally competitive society. The Indonesian Government is committed to raising the standard of education in the country, thus establishing some programs and initiatives toward that end. The Government has launched some projects and programs to boost the standard of education, including but not limited to the following:<sup>23</sup>

First: the National Literacy Movement (GLN). The program's goal is to raise the literacy and reading rates of the Indonesian population. GLN collaborates with a wide range of institutions and individuals to boost students' and citizens' comprehension and reading abilities.<sup>24</sup>

Second: Strengthening the Quality of Teachers and Lecturers. The Government has initiated a training and professional development program to ensure that educators have the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the demands of the curriculum and technological advances.<sup>25</sup>

Third: Improvement of the National Curriculum. The government is constantly revising the national curriculum to keep up with advances in science and technology. Students should be better equipped with future-ready abilities thanks to the revised curriculum.<sup>26</sup>

Fifth: Higher Education Quality Improvement Program. Through various programs, such as Accreditation of Study Programs, Accreditation of Institutions, and the Development of Research and Innovation Institutions, the Government is working to improve the quality of tertiary institutions.<sup>27</sup>

Sixth: Education Access Improvement Program. The Government is concentrating its efforts on developing programs that will make education more available to people from all segments of society. These initiatives include the provision of financial aid in the form of tuition subsidies and scholarship opportunities, as well as enhancing educational facilities in rural areas.<sup>28</sup>

Seventh: Implementation of a Free Learning System. The Government developed the Free Learning System as part of an endeavor to give students with chances for learning that are both independent and flexible. This program entails the creation of

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<sup>23</sup> Hanushek, E. A., & Woessmann, L. (2019). *The Knowledge Capital of Nations: Education and the Economics of Growth*. MIT Press. Also see: Psacharopoulos, G., & Patrinos, H. A. (2018). Returns to Investment in Education: A Decennial Review of the Global Literature. *Education Economics*, 26(5), 445-458.

<sup>24</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia. (2021). *Gerakan Literasi Nasional*. [Online]. Tersedia di: <https://gln.kemdikbud.go.id/>

<sup>25</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia. (2021). *Program Kualifikasi Guru dan Dosen*. [Online]. Tersedia di: <https://belajar.kemdikbud.go.id/GuruDosen/KualifikasiGuruDosen>

<sup>26</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia. (2021). *Kurikulum*. [Online]. Tersedia di: <https://belajar.kemdikbud.go.id/Kurikulum>

<sup>27</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia. (2021). *Akreditasi Perguruan Tinggi*. [Online]. Tersedia di: <https://bansm.kemdikbud.go.id/>

<sup>28</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia. (2021). *Program Penyediaan Sarana dan Prasarana Pendidikan*. [Online]. Tersedia di: <https://simdikbud.kemdikbud.go.id/>

digital instructional materials and online learning platforms, as well as improving students' level of self-directed competency.<sup>29</sup>

Education of a high standard produces human resources that are superior and more capable. Because they serve as the foundation for economic, social, and cultural advancement, a country's supply of high-quality human resources is one of its most precious assets. The degree to which a nation's education system prepares its citizens to compete successfully in today's increasingly cutthroat global economy is a significant factor in that nation's ability to do so. A more talented, creative, and innovative workforce may be created through quality education, which will assist boost the nation's competitiveness on the international level. A good education also creates more opportunities for all citizens to get an equal education, regardless of socioeconomic or geographical circumstances. This is because education is a level playing field. This will contribute to reducing social inequality and making opportunities more equitable for all people. In addition, having access to knowledge and abilities pertinent to society's requirements is made possible by having a decent education. People who have completed their education are more likely to secure respectable employment, access quality medical care, and actively contribute to their communities' social and economic growth. Young people with a good education are better equipped to deal with global concerns such as the changing environment, the worsening health crises, and the rapid advancement of technology. The younger generation can become constructive agents of change for the nation's future if they are equipped with the appropriate information and skills.<sup>30</sup>

#### D. CONCLUSIONS

Based on what has been said so far, one can conclude that the Government of Indonesia plays an essential and significant role in the formation, administration, and enhancement of Indonesia's educational system. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide an educational system that is of high caliber, welcoming to all, and capable of surviving into the foreseeable future through the implementation of a variety of programs, policies, and budgetary provisions. It is the role of the Government to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic, social, or geographical backgrounds, have equal access to educational opportunities. The Indonesian Government may ensure that all of the country's children and young people have access to an education that is both appropriate and of high quality by setting aside a sufficient amount of money in the national budget for the construction of educational facilities and infrastructure. In addition, the Government has a part to play in formulating educational programs that are pertinent to the requirements of contemporary society and the current era. The Government is positioned to ensure that the curriculum taught in schools and

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<sup>29</sup> Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia. (2021). Sistem Merdeka Belajar. [Online]. Tersedia di: <https://merdekabelajar.kemdikbud.go.id/>

<sup>30</sup> Hanushek, E. A., & Woessmann, L. (2019). *The Knowledge Capital of Nations: Education and the Economics of Growth*. MIT Press. Also see: Psacharopoulos, G., & Patrinos, H. A. (2018). Returns to Investment in Education: A Decennial Review of the Global Literature. *Education Economics*, 26(5), 445-458.

higher institutions can equip students with the information and skills they will need for the future if it formulates the appropriate education policy and puts it into effect.

Education Budget Allocation means that allocating an adequate and appropriate budget is very significant in supporting the development and improvement of education quality in Indonesia. The importance of a government's commitment to the education sector regarding resource allocation is emphasized in this article to drive home the point that strategic goals for educational advancement must be met. Appropriately distributing funds within the budget can potentially improve several facets of educational provision. Suppose the Government has a budget that is large enough. In that case, it will be able to construct and maintain an appropriate educational infrastructure and update and produce curriculum that are pertinent to the times. Additionally, it will be able to increase the competency of educators through training and professional development. In addition to this, the distribution of funds within a budget in an appropriate manner also contributes to the overall goal of making education more accessible to all segments of society. Education can be made available to all citizens without exception if the Government makes provisions in the form of financial aid, scholarship programs, and suitable infrastructure since this will allow the Government to ensure that education is accessible to all residents. This includes individuals who live in rural areas or have low economic standing.

The Ministry of Education and Culture plays an essential part in elevating the standard of education in Indonesia by playing a fundamental and strategic role in developing an educational environment that is of high quality, welcoming to all students, and highly competitive. As a result, it is essential to emphasise a number of significant factors concerning the part that the Ministry of Education and Culture plays in the initiatives being taken to improve the quality of education in Indonesia. The formulation of national policy regarding the educational system is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture. If proper procedures can be successfully formulated, prospects for improving and developing Indonesia's education system will become available. One of the essential responsibilities of the Ministry is to devise a national curriculum that is current and responsive to the requirements of the working world and the larger society. Students will be equipped with applicable skills and knowledge that can be utilized in relevant contexts by completing a solid curriculum. In addition to this significant responsibility, the Ministry of Education and Culture is tasked with monitoring and assessing how education is carried out across Indonesia. A strong oversight system will ensure that the national education standards are adhered to and carried out appropriately. In addition, the quality of the human resources involved in the educational process, such as teachers, lecturers, and education staff, is a significant factor in determining a student's overall level of education. To enhance the standard of education provided, this ministry is involved in teachers' training and professional development. Regardless of socioeconomic standing or family circumstances, the Ministry of Education and Culture is dedicated to expanding educational opportunities available to all residents. Some of the initiatives that are being done to accomplish this objective include establishing scholarship programs and tuition aid funds, as well as building schools in more rural locations.

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