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## Welfare State Case Study in Indonesia: Legal, Social, and Human Rights Perspectives Towards a Prosperous and Just Society

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### Abstract

*The welfare state remains a central paradigm in global debates on governance, social justice, and human rights. This article examines the Indonesian welfare state through a multidisciplinary framework that integrates legal, social, and human rights perspectives to assess its role in shaping a just and prosperous society. Using a qualitative case study approach, the study analyzes the relationship between constitutional mandates, legal frameworks, and international human rights obligations and the implementation of social policies in Indonesia. The research findings reveal three important dimensions. First, the Indonesian legal system establishes the normative basis for welfare policies, yet gaps persist in meeting the needs of marginalized groups. Second, persistent inequalities in education, healthcare, and employment highlight challenges to inclusive development. Third, welfare provision must be understood not as a policy preference but as a constitutional and moral obligation of the state. A transformative welfare state requires strong legal instruments, participatory engagement, and a rights-based approach.*

**Keywords:** Welfare State, Indonesia, Legal Perspective, Social Policy, Human Rights, Justice, Civil Society.

### Introduction

Indonesia has consistently asserted itself as a welfare state, as stated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution ("...to advance the general welfare..."). However, the implementation of this constitutional mandate still faces various limitations. The latest data shows that Indonesia's poverty rate as of September 2024 reached 8.57%, or approximately 24.06 million people (Priambodo & Djirimu, 2024). According to a World Bank report, approximately 5.4% of Indonesia's population lives in extreme poverty based on the international poverty line, while nearly 19.9% are categorized as poor by lower-middle-income country standards (World Bank, 2025). This fact indicates that despite progress, significant disparities in welfare persist across regions and social groups.

From a legal perspective, the 1945 Constitution, through Article 33, Article 28, and especially Article 34 paragraph (1), affirms the state's responsibility to ensure the welfare of its citizens. However, the implementation of these articles still faces serious challenges. Normative research finds that inequality in public facilities and weak accountability mechanisms hinder the full fulfillment of the constitutional mandate (Chen, Sulistio, & Vanessa, 2023). Similarly, other research emphasizes that although the concept of a welfare state is inherent in the 1945 Constitution, policy practices in several sectors still exhibit neoliberal tendencies that actually weaken the role of the state (Rahman, 2024). Thus, the gap between constitutional ideas and the reality of their implementation remains a central issue in legal studies.

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In the social sector, various government intervention programs have been implemented, one of which is the Family Hope Program (PKH). This program has been proven to help improve access to education and healthcare for poor households (Ikhsanti, Ridwan, & Putra, 2019). However, PKH's effectiveness remains limited (Khattak et al., 2014). Studies using the propensity score matching method indicate that this social assistance program has not significantly reduced child labor in urban areas during the COVID-19 pandemic (Anisa, Yusuf, & Siswanto, 2022). In fact, systematic evaluations reveal persistent problems such as beneficiary dependence on assistance, unequal distribution, and limitations in increasing the economic independence of poor households (Syahputra & Sukmana, 2022). This confirms that despite PKH's important role, Indonesia's social policy still requires structural improvements.

From a human rights perspective, a welfare state is not simply a social policy, but rather a state obligation to guarantee the dignity and equality of its citizens. The rights to health, education, and social protection should be viewed as fundamental rights, not policy choices. However, research shows that the distribution of health facilities and the implementation of social health insurance in Indonesia remain unequal, so not all groups receive equal benefits (Mustainah, Arie, & Aspan, 2023). When access to basic rights is unequal, *de facto* human rights violations persist, even if the state has progressive legal instruments.

This issue is increasingly relevant in the context of global and domestic changes. The COVID-19 pandemic, inflationary pressures, and the global supply chain crisis have exacerbated the vulnerability of the poor (Al-Taie & Khattak, 2024). Recent studies show that economic uncertainty increases the risk of social vulnerability and widens the welfare gap (Rajagukguk, Panjaitan, & Rajagukguk, 2022). This demands a more active, adaptive, and socially justice-oriented role for the state to ensure that the welfare state paradigm is not merely normative but truly functional.

Addressing this issue is crucial because the research findings have strategic policy implications. This research aims to identify welfare gaps from a legal, social, and human rights perspective, while also offering ideas on how the state can strengthen its capacity to create a prosperous and just society. By positioning law as a foundation, social policy as an instrument, and human rights as a normative principle, this research is expected to provide theoretical and practical contributions to strengthening democratic consolidation and realizing an inclusive and sustainable welfare state (Alip & Djirimu, 2024).

Although various studies have examined the implementation of the welfare state in Indonesia, several research gaps remain that need to be addressed. First, most previous studies have focused more on normative aspects or the evaluation of specific social programs such as the Family Hope Program (PKH) (Ikhsanti, Ridwan, & Putra, 2019; Syahputra & Sukmana, 2022), but few have integrated legal, social, and human rights perspectives into a comprehensive analytical framework. Second, legal research has focused more on constitutional interpretation without evaluating the effectiveness of welfare policy implementation in the context of social inequality (Chen, Sulistio, & Vanessa, 2023). Third, human rights studies tend to separate themselves from the welfare state discourse, resulting in a lack of conceptual integration in assessing the extent to which social policies are considered citizens' rights (Mustainah, Arie, & Aspan, 2023). Thus, a multidisciplinary approach that simultaneously connects these three perspectives is needed, especially in the context of post-pandemic Indonesia facing the challenges of socio-economic inequality and political transition.

Based on these gaps, this study has several main objectives. First, it examines how Indonesia's

legal framework, particularly the mandate of the 1945 Constitution, regulates and obliges the state to realize the welfare of all its citizens. Second, it evaluates the effectiveness of key social policies such as the Family Hope Program, national health insurance, and other government interventions in improving welfare and reducing social inequality. Third, it examines the role of human rights principles in encouraging the state to consider welfare not only as a development program but also as a fundamental right of citizens. Finally, this study aims to formulate a more integrative conceptual model of the welfare state, linking law, social policy, and human rights to encourage the creation of a prosperous, just, and civilized Indonesian society. Thus, this study is expected to contribute both academically and practically, strengthening the consolidation of democracy, and enriching the literature on the welfare state in developing countries.

## **Methods**

This study adopts a qualitative case study design to analyze the Indonesian welfare state through an integrated lens of law, social policy, and human rights. Case studies are appropriate because they allow for an in-depth examination of the dynamics, institutions, and policies that shape welfare provision within a specific national context (Yin, 2018). The focus on Indonesia is justified not only by its constitutional commitment to advancing public welfare but also by its complex socio-economic realities, where poverty, inequality, and unequal access to social services remain pressing issues (Priambodo & Djirimu, 2024). Data were collected through a combination of documentary analysis and secondary sources, including constitutional texts, laws and regulations, government reports, and recent scholarly publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. This triangulated approach allows for a comprehensive mapping of welfare-related challenges and the state's responses (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Additionally, reports from international organizations such as the World Bank (2025) and the United Nations Development Programme (2023) were consulted to provide comparative insights and situate Indonesian welfare policies within the global discourse. The integration of legal, social, and human rights perspectives ensures that the analysis captures both normative commitments and empirical results, bridging the gap between constitutional ideals and the everyday realities of citizens.

To ensure analytical rigor, this study employed thematic content analysis. Legal texts such as the 1945 Constitution and related legislative instruments (e.g., Law No. 40/2004 concerning the National Social Security System) were examined to assess the normative framework and state obligations (Chen, Sulistio, & Vanessa, 2023). Social policies, particularly the Family Hope Program (PKH), health insurance schemes, and poverty reduction strategies, were analyzed using evaluative data from peer-reviewed studies (Ikhsanti, Ridwan, & Putra, 2019; Syahputra & Sukmana, 2022). Meanwhile, a human rights perspective was integrated by assessing compliance with international instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to which Indonesia is a state party (Mustainah, Arie, & Aspan, 2023). This analysis follows an iterative coding process, beginning with deductive codes derived from theoretical frameworks (legal, social, and human rights), followed by inductive codes emerging from empirical findings (Braun & Clarke, 2019). Reliability is strengthened by cross-checking data sources, while validity is enhanced by comparing state narratives with independent academic evaluations. By combining these strategies, the study ensures that its findings are contextually grounded and theoretically relevant. Ultimately, this methodological approach aims to generate nuanced insights into how Indonesia can strengthen its welfare state model, making it more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable in accordance with its constitutional mandate and human rights standards.

## Results

### Legal Framework and Implementation of the Welfare State in Indonesia

The legal framework of the welfare state in Indonesia is rooted in Article 34 of the 1945 Constitution, which states that the state is responsible for caring for the poor and neglected children and developing a national social security system. From a legal theory perspective, this constitutional mandate emphasizes that Indonesia is not merely a state based on the rule of law (*rechtstaat*), but also a welfare state. Nonet and Selznick's (1978) responsive legal theory is relevant to explaining this dynamic, namely that the law should not be merely repressive or autonomous, but must be able to adapt to the needs of society. In the Indonesian context, the legal framework of the welfare state demands that the regulation and implementation of social policies be truly responsive to contemporary challenges such as structural poverty, inequality, and demographic change.

However, the gap between legal norms and implementation practices remains quite wide. Lawrencya and Anisa (2023) show that despite relatively comprehensive legal instruments, bureaucratic capacity, budget, and political commitment are insufficient to ensure the effective implementation of the welfare state. This demonstrates a gap between constitutional ideals and policy realities. In Esping-Andersen's (1990) theory of welfare regimes, Indonesia is closer to a residual regime, where state intervention is limited to the extreme poor rather than universally. Recent research also reveals that Indonesia's legal framework is often not accompanied by strong oversight mechanisms, resulting in an uneven distribution of welfare benefits (Chen, Sulistio, & Vanessa, 2023).

From an international comparison perspective, Indonesia lags far behind Scandinavian countries that have adopted a universal welfare state model. For example, Norway and Sweden have made social security a right of citizens without discrimination, with a strong progressive tax base (Kangas & Kvist, 2023). In contrast, in Indonesia, social protection is still viewed as a technocratic program with fiscal limitations, rather than a constitutional right inherent to every individual. This highlights the need for legal reform so that the welfare state in Indonesia is not only normative but also operational with equitable policy instruments.

Normatively, Indonesia has adopted various derivative regulations, including Law No. 40 of 2004 concerning the National Social Security System (SJSN) and Law No. 24 of 2011 concerning the BPJS. However, implementation challenges such as overlapping regulations, institutional fragmentation, and weak public participation remain serious obstacles. From a responsive legal perspective, the existence of laws is not sufficient merely to be written, but must guarantee public participation and certainty of implementation (Nonet & Selznick, 1978). Therefore, welfare state reform in Indonesia needs to be directed at improving legal governance and budgetary politics to be more consistent with the constitutional mandate.

### Effectiveness of Social Policy (PKH and JKN)

Social policy is a key instrument in the operationalization of the welfare state. In Indonesia, the two most prominent major programs are the Family Hope Program (PKH) and the National Health Insurance (JKN). Both serve as instruments for welfare distribution, focusing on poverty alleviation and increasing access to basic services. Within the framework of social policy theory, these policies are viewed not only as social assistance but also as instruments of redistribution

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to achieve social justice (Marshall, 1950).

Research findings indicate that the Family Hope Program (PKH) has successfully reduced poverty rates, although its impact remains limited in the short term. Habibullah et al. (2023) found that PKH recipients experienced improvements in their quality of life, but the program was insufficient to reduce dependence on assistance. This suggests that PKH remains more of a safety net than a springboard for economic empowerment. Compared to Brazil's Bolsa Família, PKH has not fully driven the structural transformation of recipients toward economic independence (Soares & Barbosa, 2024).

Meanwhile, the National Health Insurance (JKN) plays a significant role in expanding access to healthcare. Research by Shah et al. (2025) found that PKH contributed to increased utilization of maternal healthcare services, demonstrating synergy between social assistance and healthcare. However, classic issues such as the BPJS budget deficit, disparities in access in underdeveloped areas, and the quality of healthcare services continue to limit JKN's effectiveness. From the perspective of Rawls' (1971) theory of social justice, this situation indicates that the principle of fair equality of opportunity has not been fully met, as poor groups and communities in remote areas still face barriers in accessing healthcare.

Furthermore, beneficiary verification is also a major challenge. Many recent studies have highlighted the inaccuracy of data on PKH and JKN recipients, leading to exclusion errors (where the poor do not receive benefits) and inclusion errors (where the wealthy receive benefits instead) (Jannah & Rodiyah, 2024). This highlights the need for social data digitization and integration of national data systems to ensure more targeted distribution of social policies.

Comparatively, social policy in Indonesia remains selective and conditional. Unlike Scandinavian countries, which view social policy as a universal right, Indonesia still limits programs to the poor. According to Esping-Andersen's (1990) welfare regime theory, this indicates that Indonesia still operates within a residual welfare state model, not a universal welfare state. Therefore, to strengthen the effectiveness of social policy, Indonesia needs to shift its paradigm from charity-based to rights-based welfare

### **Social Dimension: Inequality and Public Participation**

Social inequality is one of the most fundamental challenges in developing a welfare state in Indonesia. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS, 2024) shows that the level of inequality, as measured by the Gini ratio, is 0.388. This figure has decreased slightly compared to the 2020 period during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it still reflects a significant gap in income distribution. From the perspective of Rawls' (1971) theory of social justice, the distribution of development benefits should benefit the most vulnerable groups. However, in reality, many welfare programs only reach certain groups, while the poor in rural and underdeveloped areas still experience limited access. A recent study by Muthmaina (2024) also confirmed that inequality in Indonesia is more influenced by structural factors, such as access to education, health care, and employment, rather than solely due to differences in work ethic.

In addition to the issue of economic inequality, public participation in social development remains low. Normatively, Article 28C of the 1945 Constitution guarantees the right of every citizen to participate in development, but in practice, the space for participation is often limited. For example, in the planning of the Family Hope Program (PKH) and the National Health Insurance (JKN), beneficiary communities are rarely involved in policy formulation, resulting in unrealistic real needs on the ground (Jannah & Rodiyah, 2024). Pateman's (1970) participatory

democracy theory emphasizes that public participation not only increases policy legitimacy but also strengthens citizens' capacity as development actors. Without meaningful participation, social policies risk becoming irrelevant and merely technocratic projects.

Limited public participation also exacerbates the phenomenon of social exclusion. A study by Ananta and Putri (2023) found that marginalized groups, such as informal workers, people with disabilities, and indigenous communities, are often excluded from access to welfare programs. This suggests that the welfare state in Indonesia remains biased toward the middle class, with access easier for those already relatively connected to the formal civil service system. From the perspective of Silver's (1994) theory of social exclusion, this situation demonstrates that social exclusion occurs not only due to economic factors but also due to administrative mechanisms and structural discrimination.

Furthermore, gender inequality in access to welfare also requires attention. Research by Sari and Oktaviani (2023) shows that women, particularly housewives in rural areas, face multiple barriers in accessing social assistance programs. These barriers include limited digital literacy, access to information, and gender-based discrimination within local bureaucracies. This contradicts Nancy Fraser's (2008) theoretical framework of distributive justice, which emphasizes the importance of recognition and redistribution as two key dimensions in achieving social justice. Without recognition of women's identities and roles, the distribution of welfare state benefits will remain unequal.

On the other hand, there have been positive developments in the form of increased civil society participation through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in monitoring the implementation of social programs. For example, several social rights advocacy organizations have conducted social audits of the implementation of the National Health Insurance (JKN) and the Family Hope Program (PKH), and advocated for improvements to the data collection system. Prakoso's (2024) study emphasized that civil society participation strengthens the accountability of welfare programs, although advocacy capacity remains constrained by limited funding and movement fragmentation. This demonstrates the importance of building synergy between the state and civil society in expanding social participation.

Persistent social inequality has serious implications for social cohesion. According to Durkheim's (1893/2014) theory of social cohesion, solidarity in modern society is formed based on organic solidarity, namely cooperation between sectors with interdependence. However, if economic inequality is too high and public participation is limited, organic solidarity will weaken, triggering polarization and even potential social conflict. In the Indonesian context, class-based polarization is clearly evident between the urban wealthy and the rural poor. Nugroho's (2025) research found that this polarization has resulted in a decline in trust in state institutions, potentially weakening democratic legitimacy.

Thus, the social dimension of Indonesia's welfare state demands serious attention, not only in terms of reducing inequality but also expanding inclusive public participation. Theories of social justice, participation, and social cohesion demonstrate that the success of the welfare state is not solely about the effectiveness of technocratic programs, but also about how people feel recognized, involved, and have fair opportunities.

### **The Human Rights Perspective in the Welfare State**

The concept of a welfare state cannot be separated from the perspective of human rights (HAM), particularly economic, social, and cultural rights (EKOSOB). Indonesia ratified the International

Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 2005, which legally binds the state to guarantee the rights to health, education, decent work, and an adequate standard of living. This principle is reaffirmed in Articles 28A–28J of the 1945 Constitution, which place human rights as an integral part of the constitution. In human rights theory, based on a rights-based approach, welfare policies are not merely technocratic assistance, but rather the state's obligation to fulfill, protect, and respect the rights of its citizens (Gready & Ensor, 2005).

However, the implementation of human rights in Indonesia's welfare state still faces various limitations. A recent study by Santoso (2023) found that the right to health in Indonesia is still not being fulfilled equally. Although the National Health Insurance (JKN) covers more than 230 million people, disparities in access persist between urban and rural areas. This contradicts the principle of non-discrimination in the ICESCR. From the perspective of distributive justice theory, the unequal distribution of health services reflects a violation of the state's obligation to guarantee universal rights. Therefore, although Indonesia has a human rights legal framework, its implementation remains biased by class and region.

The human rights perspective also demands integration between civil and political rights and economic, social, and cultural rights. According to Sen (1999), sustainable human development can only be achieved if civil liberties, political participation, and social welfare go hand in hand. However, research by Utami and Rizky (2024) reveals a contradiction: on the one hand, the government develops welfare programs, while on the other, the civil liberties space for civil society groups criticizing social policies is often restricted. This shows the existence of a trade-off between social protection and civil liberties, which ultimately weakens the substantive meaning of human rights in the welfare state.

Another emerging issue is the fulfillment of the rights of vulnerable groups. A study by Lestari et al. (2025) highlighted that people with disabilities in Indonesia still face serious barriers in accessing welfare programs. For example, many social service offices are not disability-friendly, and administrative procedures remain discriminatory. This situation indicates that the state has not fully internalized the principle of reasonable accommodation as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Therefore, human rights in the welfare state are not only about universal access, but also about inclusivity and fair and preferential treatment.

Furthermore, the human rights dimension of the welfare state also includes the right to decent work. According to a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024), 58% of workers in Indonesia remain in the informal sector without adequate social protection. This creates a vulnerability gap, where workers' rights to social security, occupational health, and a living wage are not fully fulfilled. The ILO's theory of decent work emphasizes that well-being can only be achieved if work is not only productive but also humane. The state's inability to provide equal protection for formal and informal workers indicates a systematic violation of economic human rights.

Globally, Indonesia faces international pressure regarding the fulfillment of human rights within its welfare state. The 2022 UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report recommended that Indonesia increase budget allocations for the health and education sectors and strengthen independent monitoring mechanisms for social policies. According to the international human rights regime theory, a state's compliance with global human rights standards is heavily influenced by interactions with international actors and transnational monitoring mechanisms (Hafner-Burton, 2020). Therefore, Indonesia is not only under pressure from its citizens but also from the global community to demonstrate its commitment to a human rights-based welfare

state.

Theoretically, integrating human rights into Indonesia's welfare state requires a paradigm shift from charity-based welfare to rights-based welfare. This means that social programs such as the Family Hope Program (PKH) and the National Health Insurance (JKN) should not be viewed as government generosity, but rather as fundamental rights guaranteed by law. As emphasized by Gauri and Brinks (2023), a rights-based approach increases state accountability and strengthens citizens' positions as rights holders, not recipients of charity. Therefore, Indonesia's main challenge is how to ensure that the human rights framework does not stop at the rhetorical level, but becomes the operational basis of all welfare policies.

### **Integration Towards a Prosperous and Just Society**

Creating a prosperous and just society through a welfare state framework in Indonesia requires multidimensional integration between law, social justice, and human rights (HAM). Parsons' (1951) theory of social integration states that societal stability depends on the ability of the social system to integrate various values, norms, and institutions. In the Indonesian context, this integration means how legal norms ensure distributive justice, the social system guarantees solidarity, and the human rights framework ensures equality and non-discrimination. A recent study by Nugroho and Sari (2023) confirms that the failure to integrate socio-legal policies often results in welfare state programs being partial and failing to address the roots of structural injustice.

One crucial step is aligning legal policies with social needs. For example, the revised employment regulations outlined in the 2020 Job Creation Law have drawn widespread criticism for their perceived bias toward investment interests over worker protection. Pratama's (2024) analysis shows that these regulations have the potential to widen the gap between formal and informal workers, ultimately hindering the fulfillment of the principle of decent work. From the perspective of Rawls' (1971) theory of justice, this regulatory injustice violates the difference principle, which states that inequality is only acceptable if it benefits the most vulnerable groups. Therefore, legal reform needs to be positioned as an instrument to reduce, rather than deepen, social inequality.

From a social perspective, welfare state integration requires the active participation of civil society. Putnam (1993), in his theory of social capital, emphasized that trust, social networks, and participatory norms strengthen the effectiveness of public policy. Recent research by Wibisono et al. (2024) found that regions with high levels of community participation tend to have greater success in implementing welfare programs, such as the distribution of digital social assistance. However, problems arise when the bureaucracy remains rigid and lacks transparency, weakening the role of civil society as a critical partner of the state. Therefore, social integration requires bureaucratic transformation toward participatory governance.

A human rights perspective strengthens this integration framework by ensuring that welfare policies are not only economically efficient but also morally just. As Fraser (2008) emphasized through the redistribution-recognition-representation theory, social justice requires the equitable distribution of resources, recognition of the identities of marginalized groups, and equal political representation. In the Indonesian context, women, people with disabilities, indigenous communities, and informal workers still experience double exclusion. Research by Handayani and Yusuf (2025) shows that women's access to the People's Business Credit (KUR) program remains limited due to gender bias in administrative procedures. This demonstrates that human

rights-based welfare state integration requires concrete affirmative policies.

Multidimensional integration must also consider global dynamics. Indonesia, as a developing democracy, faces pressure from international mechanisms such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A UNDP report (2024) shows that Indonesia still has significant SDG gaps in poverty, education, and gender equality. Deacon's (2007) theory of global social policy emphasizes that globalization expands the scope of the welfare state, extending beyond domestic concerns to include transnational obligations. This means that integration toward a prosperous society is determined not only by national politics but also by connections to international norms.

In the long term, the success of integrating law, social justice, and human rights within a welfare state is determined by political will and institutional capacity. According to Esping-Andersen's (1990) thesis on welfare regimes, each country develops a welfare model tailored to its political and social structures. Indonesia, with its constitution emphasizing the principle of social justice (the fifth principle of Pancasila), has the opportunity to develop a uniquely inclusive welfare state model. However, Fadillah's (2025) research confirms that without institutional reforms to address corruption, weak accountability, and patronage bureaucracy, this integration will remain mere political jargon. Therefore, integration towards a prosperous society must be accompanied by strengthening democratic institutions.

Theoretically, the integration of a welfare state based on law, social justice, and human rights has a transformative impact on Indonesian society. With fair regulations, strong social participation, and full respect for human rights, Indonesia can build a prosperous civil society. This model is not only relevant in the domestic context but can also contribute to the global discourse on the welfare state in developing countries. Therefore, this research is relevant to show that the welfare state is not just a policy model, but also a path towards substantive democracy that guarantees welfare and social justice.

Aspect	Key Findings	Issues	Reference
Legal Framework	Article 34 of the 1945 Constitution and its derivative regulations mandate a welfare state.	Inconsistent implementation; budget limitations and bureaucratic capacity.	Lawrencea & Anisa, 2023 (DOI:10.35586/velrev.v6i2.6383)
Social Policy (PKH and JKN)	PKH reduces poverty; JKN expands access to healthcare.	Problems with recipient verification, aid dependency, and uneven distribution.	Habibullah et al., 2023 (DOI:10.1111/spol.12946); Shah et al., 2025 (arXiv:2501.12803)

Social Dimension	Welfare programs have had a positive impact but have not significantly reduced inequality.	The Gini coefficient is still high (0.388, BPS 2024); gender inequality.	Muthmaina, 2024 (arXiv:2412.00012); BPS, 2024
Human Rights Perspective	Welfare states support economic, social and cultural rights, including health and education.	Limited access in underdeveloped areas (Papua); spatial gaps in the fulfillment of human rights.	Palumpun, 2025 (DOI:10.4108/eai.30-10-2024.2354774)
Multidisciplinary Integration	There is a need for integration of law, social policy and human rights for a just and prosperous society.	Lack of synergy between sectors; there is no comprehensive conceptual model.	Jannah & Rodiyah, 2024 (DOI:10.21070/ijppr.v25i1.1349)

Table 1. Summary of Research Findings on the Welfare State in Indonesia

### Diagram Konseptual Model Welfare State Indonesia

Conceptual Model of Indonesia's Welfare State: Integration of Law, Social Policy, and Human Rights



This is a Conceptual Diagram of the Indonesian Welfare State Model which illustrates the integration between the legal framework, social policies, and human rights towards a prosperous and just society.

### Image of Recipients of State Social Assistance Policy



Reference : website of the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

### Conclusion

The findings of this study underscore the complexity and dynamism of welfare state development in Indonesia, which lies at the intersection of constitutional mandates, social realities, and human rights imperatives. The legal framework, particularly the provisions enshrined in the 1945 Constitution, clearly affirms Indonesia's commitment to ensuring social welfare for all citizens. However, as the analysis reveals, the translation of this constitutional ideal into effective policy remains uneven. Fragmented regulations, bureaucratic inertia, and inconsistent political will often hinder the realization of inclusive and equitable welfare programs. Comparisons with more advanced welfare states, such as those in Scandinavia, highlight the persistent structural gap between Indonesia's residual approach and the universalist model. Despite substantial progress in social security schemes such as the National Health Insurance (JKN) and the Family Hope Program (PKH), challenges in fiscal sustainability, targeting accuracy, and service quality reflect broader tensions between legal ideals and operational capacity. Thus, the Indonesian welfare state must be conceptualized not simply as a normative framework, but as an evolving project requiring institutional strengthening, legal responsiveness, and political commitment.

From a social perspective, this study illustrates how welfare policies do not operate in isolation but rather within a broader ecosystem comprising citizen participation, cultural values, and community-based solidarity. The persistence of exclusion and inequality, particularly among marginalized groups such as women, people with disabilities, and informal workers, demonstrates that welfare interventions cannot be reduced to technical or economic solutions.

Rather, they require a social policy paradigm that recognizes the multidimensionality of poverty and vulnerability. The incorporation of human rights principles further strengthens this argument, highlighting the importance of rights-based welfare that moves beyond charity to empowerment and recognition. Such an approach aligns with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which position social protection as both a development imperative and a human right. By situating Indonesia's welfare state within this global discourse, this study underscores the need for reforms that are not only nationally grounded but also internationally aligned. This integration is crucial to ensure that welfare initiatives do not perpetuate dependency or exclusion but instead serve as catalysts for social mobility, citizen engagement, and the deepening of democracy.

In conclusion, Indonesia's welfare state is at a critical juncture. Integrating legal, social, and human rights perspectives provides a comprehensive roadmap for achieving a more just and prosperous society. This study asserts that welfare policy must be reinterpreted as a transformative tool that reduces structural inequalities, expands opportunities, and strengthens social cohesion. Achieving this vision requires legal reforms that ensure justice and inclusiveness, social policies that encourage participation and solidarity, and a human rights framework that safeguards dignity and equality for all. From a practical perspective, policymakers should prioritize harmonizing welfare regulations, investing in digital data systems to improve targeting, and ensuring fiscal sustainability through progressive taxation. Civil society organizations should strengthen their role as partners and watchdogs, while academics should expand research on the long-term impacts of welfare programs, particularly in rural and marginalized contexts. Future research is recommended to explore comparative models of welfare states in other developing democracies, as well as the role of global governance mechanisms in shaping national welfare agendas. Ultimately, if implemented effectively, this integrative model has the potential not only to realize the constitutional promise of social justice, but also to establish Indonesia as a leading example of how developing democracies can pursue the ideals of a welfare state in a way that is rooted in context yet resonates globally.

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