

Prevent Child Marriage

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Prevent Child Marriage by Improving Education in West Nusa Tenggara Through Sister Province Relations with Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland

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Abstract: This study aims to determine the local government's efforts to prevent child marriage by establishing foreign relations with other countries in education, in this case, the Province of West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) and Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland. This foreign relationship is carried out by NTB as an effort to increase human resources through education with a country with very good quality education, namely Poland. This research method is descriptive-qualitative with the concept of sister province and the concept of Para diplomacy, which provides space for local governments to conduct foreign relations with other countries. The technique of collecting data by conducting a literature study is by examining various secondary sources in the form of books, articles, official news, and online news that are relevant to this research. The data analysis technique is through the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, then drawing conclusions. The results of this study indicate that the existence of foreign relations in the context of sister provinces carried out by the Provinces of NTB, Indonesia, and Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland was initiated by the leaders of each province which then paved the way for educational cooperation between institutions in the two provinces. So that through this educational collaboration, the NTB Provincial Government can encourage the improvement of the quality of education which is expected to strengthen human development and prevent child marriage.

Keywords: Prevent child marriage, sister province, Para diplomacy, education, West Nusa Tenggara, Kujawsko-Pomorskie

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Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui upaya pemerintah daerah dalam mencegah pernikahan anak dengan menjalin hubungan luar negeri dengan negara lain dalam bidang pendidikan, dalam hal ini Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) dan Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Polandia. Hubungan luar negeri ini dilakukan NTB sebagai upaya peningkatan sumber daya manusia melalui bidang pendidikan dengan negara dengan kualitas pendidikan yang sangat baik yaitu Polandia. Metode penelitian ini adalah deskriptif-kualitatif dengan konsep sister Province dan konsep paradiplomacy yang memberikan ruang bagi pemerintah daerah untuk melakukan hubungan luar negeri dengan negara lain. Teknik pengumpulan data dengan melakukan studi kepustakaan adalah dengan menelaah berbagai sumber sekunder berupa buku, artikel, berita resmi, dan berita online yang relevan dengan penelitian ini. Teknik analisis data melalui tahapan pengumpulan data, reduksi data, penyajian data, kemudian penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keberadaan hubungan luar negeri dalam konteks sister provinsi yang dilakukan oleh Provinsi NTB, Indonesia dan Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Polandia diprakarsai oleh para pemimpin masing-masing provinsi yang kemudian membuka jalan bagi kerjasama pendidikan antar lembaga di kedua provinsi. Sehingga melalui kerjasama pendidikan ini, Pemprov NTB dapat mendorong peningkatan kualitas pendidikan yang diharapkan dapat memperkuat pembangunan manusia dan mencegah pernikahan anak.

Kata Kunci: Pencegahan pernikahan Anak, provinsi kembar, paradiplomasi, pendidikan, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Kujawsko-Pomorskie

Introduction

Child marriage causes delays in the Human Development Index in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB). Based on data from the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning (DP3AP2KB), NTB Province noted that in 2020 there were 840 cases of marriage dispensation in the Religious Courts.¹ Early marriage in NTB is caused by several factors, such as education, economy, environment, and socio-culture, that are interrelated with each other. On that basis, the Provincial Government of NTB considers the province of NTB emergency

¹ DP3AP2KB NTB, "Turunkan Kasus Perkawinan Anak, DP3AP2KB Gandeng RUTGERS," Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan, Perlindungan Anak, Pengendalian Penduduk dan Keluarga Berencana, 2021, <https://dp3ap2kb.ntbprov.go.id/2021/04/14/turunkan-kasus-perkawinan-anak-dp3ap2kb-gandeng-rutgers/>.

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cases of early marriage, so prevention efforts need to be made by issuing Circular Letter No. 150/1138/Kum on The Maturity of Marital Age and the latest NTB Regional Regulation on The Prevention of Marriage at the Age of Children which was passed on January 29, 2021.

Overcoming the problem of child marriage is indeed very important because it has a negative impact on health, education, and the economy, which is part of the Human Development Index.² West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) has faced problems regarding the low quality of human resources and the low level of public education for years. According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the Human Development Index (HDI) in NTB is classified as the lowest nationally. It means that the average population of NTB goes to school only up to seventh grade Junior High School. Therefore, the number of people in NTB who can complete school up to the university level is tiny, namely only 7.35 percent in 2018.³ The problems of NTB province so far have been very concerning, as the low level of public education. The government must have a concern on education, considering that education is so important in human development.

The NTB Government recognizes the problem of low education and human resources. In 2018, the elected Governor of NTB Zulkiflimansyah made education one of the leading programs in his government's vision and mission. The NTB Provincial Government's priorities for the education sector can be seen in the NTB Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) for 2019-2023. The NTB government wants to realize "Quality and Competitive Education" by increasing the quality and reach of education services.⁴ One of the efforts to realize the vision of quality and competitive education is by establishing international relations with foreign parties, one of which is through sister province cooperation with Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province, Poland.⁵

² DP3AP2KB NTB, "Perkawinan Anak Berdampak Buruk Pada Kesehatan, Pendidikan Dan Ekonomi," Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan, Perlindungan Anak, Pengendalian Penduduk dan Keluarga Berencana, 2021, <https://dp3ap2kb.ntbprov.go.id/2021/03/16/perkawinan-anak-berdampak-buruk-pada-kesehatan-pendidikan-dan-ekonomi/>.

³ BPS, "Statistik Kesejahteraan Rakyat" (Jakarta, 2018).

⁴ Pemprov NTB, "Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat Tahun 2019-2023" (Mataram, 2019).

⁵ Humas NTB, "Percepat Pembangunan NTB, Gubernur jajaki Kerjasama dengan Polandia," Dinas Komunikasi, Informatika dan Statistik NTB, 2018,

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International cooperation, such as sister province, is one of the efforts for local governments to get support in their regional development. Studies related to international cooperation as an effort to improve education and community welfare, for example, the development of the economic and business sectors in the sister city relationship between Latrobe City, Australia and Taizhou City, China,⁶ and the sister province of East Java, Indonesia and Osaka Prefecture, Japan.⁷ The development of the health sector, especially women's health, was carried out by Brownville United States and Matamoros Mexico in their sister city project.⁸ Educational and cultural development is carried out by the Province of Jakarta, Indonesia, with the City of Beijing, China,⁹ and the Province of West Java Indonesia with South Australia.¹⁰

International cooperation in the education sector for the NTB Government is useful in overcoming education problems. This is trying to

<https://diskominfotik.ntbprov.go.id/content/percepat-pembangunan-ntb-gubernur-jajaki-kerjasama-dengan-polandia>.

⁶ Bruno Mascitelli dan Mona Chung, "Using Sister City relationships to access the Chinese market: New avenues for SMEs in regional Australia," *Journal of International Trade Law and Policy* 7, no. 2 (2008): 203–15, <https://doi.org/10.1108/14770020810927363>; Mona Chung dan Bruno Mascitelli, "The Role of Sister City Relationships in the Enhancement of Trade : Latrobe City," in *GBT2008: Global Business and Technology Association Tenth International Conference* (New York: Global Business and Technology Association, 2008), 232–38.

⁷ Tonny Dian Effendi, "Review of Sister Province between East Java Province-Indonesia and Prefecture Osaka-Japan," *Andalas Journal of International Studies* 3, no. 2 (2014): 101–25.

⁸ Jose L. Robles et al., "Prior Contraceptive Use Among Women Who Gave Birth in the US-Mexico Border Region, 2005: The Brownsville-Matamoros Sister City Project for Women's Health," *Preventing Chronic Disease* 5, no. 4 (2008): 1–19, www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2008/oct/08_0057.htm; Ginger L. Gossman et al., "Prenatal HIV Testing in the US-Mexico Border Region, 2005: The Brownsville-Matamoros Sister City Project for Women's Health," *Preventing Chronic Disease* 5, no. 4 (2008): 1–19, www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2008/oct/08_0106.htm; Brian C. Castrucci et al., "Attempted Breastfeeding Before Hospital Discharge on Both Sides of the US-Mexico Border, 2005: The Brownsville-Matamoros Sister City Project for Women's Health," *Preventing Chronic Disease* 5, no. 4 (2008): 1–16, www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2008/oct/08_0058.htm.

⁹ Henike Primawanti, Windy Dermawan, dan Widiya Ardiyanti, "Kerjasama Pemerintah Provinsi Jakarta dengan Pemerintah Kota Beijing China dalam Skema Sister City," *JPI: Jurnal of Political Issues* 1, no. 1 (2019): 10–22, <https://doi.org/10.33019/jpi.v1i1.3>.

¹⁰ Selma Elfirda Karamy, "West Java's Fashion Diplomacy to South Australia: A Model of Sister Province Cooperation," *Tourism and Sustainable Development Review* 1, no. 2 (2020): 65–75, <https://doi.org/10.31098/tsdr.v1i2.5>.

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weave through the sister province of NTB with Kujawsko-Pomorskie Poland. At least the goals and objectives of cooperation in the education sector based on the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education are to increase the relevance, quantity and quality of highly educated human resources, as well as the ability of science and technology and innovation for the excellence of the nation's competitiveness.¹¹ Therefore, international cooperation is essential for the NTB Government to improve the education of their people.

The need to improve the quality of education in NTB to prevent child marriage is a factor and its impact on the quality of human resources in NTB. As in Nigeria, the causes of child marriage are poverty, low education, traditions, and gender inequality. Child marriage in Nigeria causes violence, dropouts, health, low economy.¹² Child marriage also greatly influences the education of girls in Adamawa State, Nigeria.¹³ Access to education for married girls is limited due to household burdens.¹⁴ Likewise in Indonesia, which causes child marriage due to low levels of education.¹⁵

So as a way to prevent child marriage, it is necessary to improve human quality by making collaborative efforts in the field of education. In accordance with the 2020 NTB Regional Regulation concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage, article 15 paragraph 2 letter e states the need to improve the quality of adolescents by providing access to education for the prevention of child marriage.

So this study examines the efforts of the regional government of NTB with Poland within the framework of a sister province to improve the quality of human resources through education to prevent child marriage. This study uses a descriptive-qualitative research method that explains the efforts made

¹¹ Kemenristekdikti, "Optimalisasi Manfaat Kerjasama Internasional untuk Meningkatkan Kualitas Perguruan Tinggi," ristekdikti.go.id, 2019, <https://ldikti8.ristekdikti.go.id/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Optimalisasi-kerjasama-internasional-PT.pdf>.

¹² Nzenwata Chiso Beauty, "Negative Effect of Early Girl-Child Marriage on Nigeria the Way Forward," *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications (IJSRP)* 8, no. 10 (2018): 550–60, <https://doi.org/10.29322/ijsrp.8.10.2018.p8269>.

¹³ Dorcas Oluremi Fareo; Joseph Kutunda, "Effects of Early Marriage on Girl-Child Education in Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa State Nigeria," *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research* 6, no. 3 (2018): 93–100.

¹⁴ International Center for Research on Women, "Child Marriage and Education," *International Center for Research on Women*, 2006, <https://www.icrw.org/files/images/Child-Marriage-Fact-Sheet-Education.pdf>.

¹⁵ Reni Kartikawati, "Dampak Perkawinan Anak di Indonesia," *Jurnal Studi Pemuda* 3, no. 1 (2015): 1–16.

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by the Province of NTB in conducting foreign relations with Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland in the field of higher education. The technique of collecting data is by means of literature study which is secondary data by examining various relevant sources such as books, journal articles, official reports, on the news and documents relevant to this research. The analysis technique of this research is carried out by the stages of collecting, reducing data, namely sorting out relevant data and supporting the existence of this research, then presenting the data in the form of narratives, tables, graphs and diagrams, then drawing conclusions. The concepts used in this study are sister province and paradiplomacy.

Child Marriage and Education in West Nusa Tenggara

Child marriage is still a serious problem for the NTB government. The number of child marriages in recent years still shows an increase. When the number of child marriages decreased in 2019, the number of child marriages in NTB actually increased. The child marriage rate in NTB in 2019 reached 16.1 percent, far above the national average of only 10.82 percent. This number continues to increase in 2020, where more than 800 cases of child marriage were found.

According to a number of studies, child marriage has a negative impact on human development. The existence of child marriage will have a negative impact on education, welfare and health which are indicators in the human development index, namely because it causes children to drop out of school, be trapped into child labor with low wages, and the risk of cervical cancer and preeclampsia during pregnancy because the reproductive organs are not ready. The quality of human resources and education is also another serious problem in NTB. The Human Development Index (HDI) of NTB in the last ten years shows that NTB is one of the regions with a lagging HDI in Indonesia, where nationally NTB is 29th out of 34 provinces.¹⁶ This situation should be suspected because of the high number of child marriages in the area.

One of the problems in NTB that is important to address is the human development sector. As quoted from UNDP, some essential references for human development are; first, development must prioritize the population as the center of attention. Second, development is intended to enlarge the population's options, not only to increase their income. Therefore, the concept of human development must be centered on the population as a whole and not

¹⁶ BPS, "Indeks Pembangunan Manusia," Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia, n.d., <https://ipm.bps.go.id/page/ipm>.

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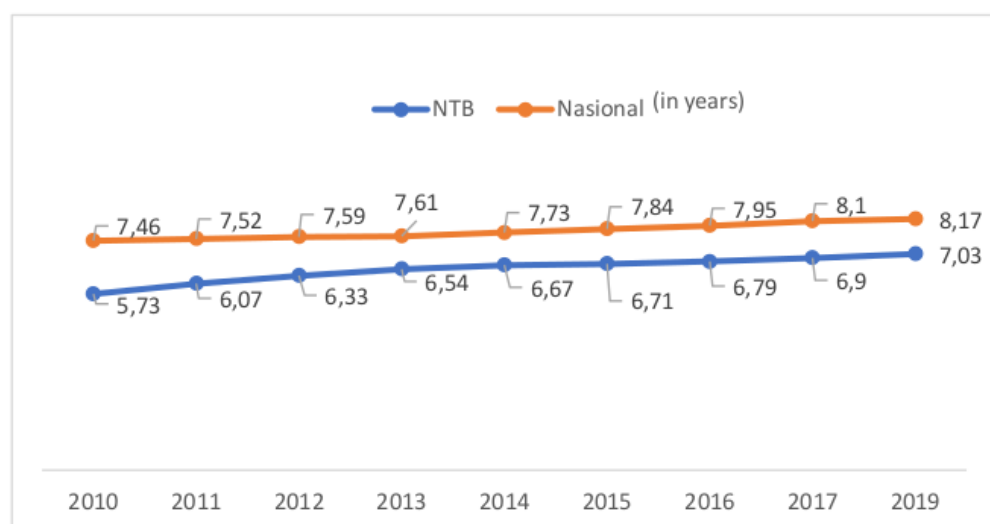
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only on the economic aspect. Third, human development pays attention to efforts to improve human capabilities (capabilities) and steps to make optimal use of these human capabilities. Fourth, human development is the basis for determining development goals and analyzing options to achieve them.¹⁷

As a measuring tool to determine HDI's growth, one of which is education, besides the ⁴ it is also a comparison of human life expectancy, this is a measure used in the world. HDI is used to classify whether a country is a developed country, a developing country, or an underdeveloped country and measure the effect of economic policies on the quality of life. Or precisely, HDI measures the achievement of human development based on some basic components of quality of life.¹⁸

NTB has problems in the education sector when we look at the mean years of schooling and the expected years of schooling as indicators of calculating HDI. The following can be seen in the image below to see the last eight years of the average length of schooling, both provincial and national:



Source: BPS Report for Human Development Analysis of NTB Province 2018, p. 40

Figure 1. West Nusa Tenggara Mean Years of Schooling in 2010-2018

The graph above shows that the increase in human resources has increased. The mean years of schooling in both NTB and national provinces continue to increase. However, the mean years of schooling in NTB Province

¹⁷ BPS NTB, "Statistik Pendidikan Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat" (Mataram, 2018).

¹⁸ BPS NTB, "Analisis Pembangunan Manusia Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat 2018" (Mataram, 2018).

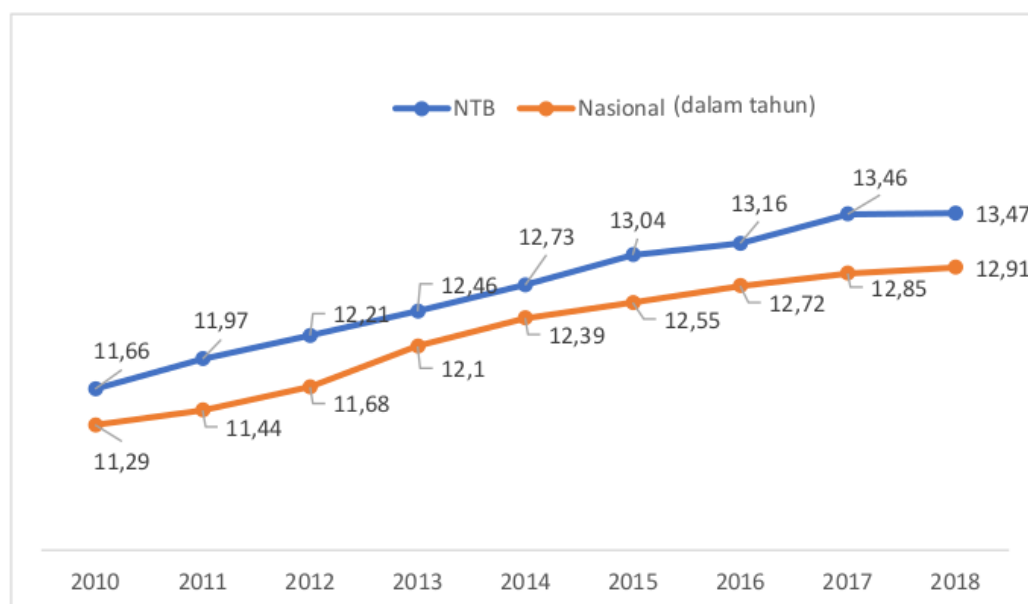
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are still below the average. Also, NTB faces various problems in the education sector, ranging from issues with education infrastructure and quality of schools to learning opportunities to the highest education level. As a priority, concern in this study is the opportunity to learn up to the highest level of education because it is closely related to the quality of human resources in NTB. Indicators can be observed from the mean years of schooling and the expected years of schooling.

The mean years of schooling in NTB has increased every year, rising by 1.3 years from 2010 to 2018. However, the mean years of schooling in NTB is still low compared to the national average. The mean years of schooling in NTB until 2018 is 7.03 years. People aged 25 years and over undergo formal education for seven years, which means that only up to grade 1 Junior High School. This figure is an issue that must be considered for the NTB Government because it is still far from the target of the national compulsory education program of up to 12 years. The following is the development of the expected years of schooling in NTB:



Source: BPS Report for Human Development Analysis of NTB Province 2018, p. 41

Figure 2. West Nusa Tenggara Expected Years of Schooling in 2010-2018

The graph above tells us that the expected years of schooling in NTB are still better than the mean years of schooling, where the figure is higher than the national expected schooling years. The graph also shows that the

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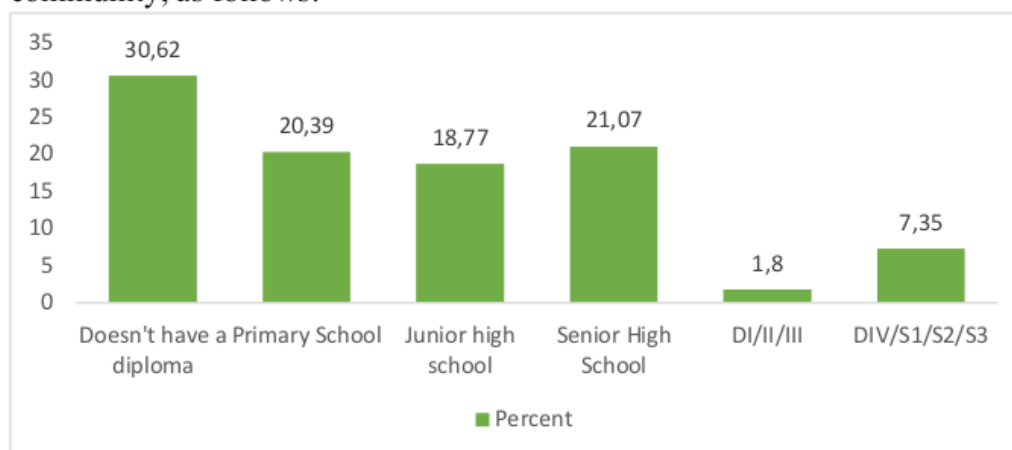
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expected years of schooling in NTB increased from 11.66 years in 2010 to 13.47 years in 2018. This means that an average 7-year-old child who has just attended school in 2010 has the opportunity to participate in school for 11 years and eight months or the equivalent with grade 2 high school. Meanwhile, on average, 7-year-old children who have just attended school in 2018 have the opportunity to go to school longer, namely up to 13 years and six months or equivalent to Diploma I. However, this is not enough for NTB who wants better quality human resources. Mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling in NTB must be up to the highest level of education, up to the university level, including an undergraduate, master, and doctoral levels.

The higher the level of education of a person, the better his intellectual ability and competence will be. Thus the level of education completed is an indicator of human quality. Here we can see the graph that there is a graduate-level that is owned by looking at the percentage of diplomas from the community, as follows:



Source: BPS Report on the Welfare Indicators of the people of West Nusa Tenggara 2018 p. 48

Figure 3. Percentage of Population Aged 15 Years and Over in West Nusa Tenggara according to Their Latest Diploma in 2018

This graph shows that the low level of education attained by the people of NTB, the population aged 15 years and over who already have a diploma at the university level is still at least less than 10 percent, only reaching 7.35 percent. This is very important for the NTB Government to pay attention to (BPS, 2018). Also, the mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling significantly affect the quality of human resources in NTB. HDI usually measures the quality of human resources. The HDI has three

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dimensions: the health dimension using the Life Expectancy Indicator; the dimension of knowledge using indicators of mean years of schooling and expected years, and the dimensions of a decent standard of living based on the indicator per capita expenditure. From these three-dimensional calculations, NTB is one of the regions with a moderate HDI, namely 67.3 in 2018. The NTB HDI is lower than the national HDI, which reached 71.39.¹⁹

West Nusa Tenggara Education Development Through Sister Province

One of the efforts that the NTB government can take is to strengthen the institutional system in the context of preventing child marriage in the regions by collaborating between schools and other educational institutions in accordance with Article 16 paragraph 1 letter g of the 2020 NTB Provincial Regulation on Prevention of Child Marriage (see 2020 NTB Provincial Regulation on Prevention of Child Marriage). One of the local government's efforts to encourage cooperation between schools and educational institutions is to open opportunities for overseas cooperation with educational institutions in NTB, such as through educational cooperation within the framework of sister provinces.

Sister province relationship is a form of parallel diplomacy (paradiplomacy) carried out by local governments. According to Kuznetsov, paradiplomacy is defined as a form of political communication carried out by local governments against foreign governments and non-government actors to gain economic, cultural, political or other benefits.²⁰ In this case, the paradiplomacy carried out by the NTB Government towards the Kujawsko-Pomorskie government is one of them to gain advantages in the field of education. Education is one of the essential programs in the paradiplomacy era of Governor Zulkiflimansyah. In facing global challenges such as the ASEAN Community and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as local challenges in the form of low levels of education and HDI are the driving factors for the Zulkiflimansyah government to implement paradiplomacy with the direction of developing human resources and investment.²¹

¹⁹ BPS NTB.

²⁰ Alexander Kuznetsov, *Theory and Practice of Paradiplomacy: Subnational Governments in International Affairs* (New York: Routledge, 2015), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315817088>.

²¹ Dhany Putra Pratama, "Paradiplomacy Practice in Indonesia: a Lesson From West Nusa Tenggara Province in 2013-2019," *Journal of Islamic World and Politics* 4, no. 1 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.18196/jiwp.4145>.

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It is in line with Tavares' opinion about paradiplomacy in the field of education. According to Tavares, paradiplomacy will be important when local governments are increasingly aware of both competition and opportunities due to globalization. Local governments that implement paradiplomacy in education are aware of an interconnected world. They will adopt international education improvement policies to build cultural competence and knowledge and foster a sense of global citizenship in students and educational professionals. Their paradiplomacy in education is to realize their educational programs such as student exchanges, teacher exchanges, partnerships between educational institutions, and foreign language learning programs.²²

NTB's paradiplomacy in the education sector is carried out based on the regional development plan formulated in the RPJMD 2019-2023, where one of the primary missions of the NTB government in the document is to realize "NTB Healthy and Intelligent by improving the quality of human resources as the foundation of regional competitiveness." The target is to increase HDI by increasing the quality and reach of education and health services. The quality and reach of education services in NTB are still low, as previously described. Starting from the low mean years of schooling, unequal access to education, inadequate facilities, and accessibility to domestic and foreign higher education are the strategic issues of the NTB government in the education sector.²³

NTB's paradiplomacy in the field of education, especially higher education also refers to derivative policies of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education with the objectives and targets for 2015-2020 with the major theme of increasing the relevance, quantity and quality of highly educated human resources, as well as the ability of science and technology and innovation for excellence national competitiveness. One of its programs is related to international cooperation in the education sector.²⁴

These things have prompted the NTB Government to establish foreign relations to develop education and human resources, including Kujawsko Pomorskie Poland. Poland itself is in the top ten countries with the best higher education in Europe. Poland's principal study programs are in engineering and

²² Rodrigo Tavares, *Paradiplomacy: Cities and States as Global Players* (New y: Oxford University Press, 2016).

²³ Pemprov NTB, "Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat Tahun 2019-2023."

²⁴ Kemenristekdikti, "Optimalisasi Manfaat Kerjasama Internasional untuk Meningkatkan Kualitas Perguruan Tinggi."

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technology, where they produce tens of thousands of technical specialists each year. This country is also a country with very affordable tuition fees, and they are ranked first in this regard.²⁵ Therefore it makes sense for the NTB Government to establish a sister province relationship with a province in Poland for educational development. Apart from that, Poland's largest and oldest university, namely Nicolas Copernicus University (NCU) in Kujawsko-Pomorskie province.

The educational paradiplomacy by NTB towards Kujawsko-Pomorskie has two objectives: to collaborate on educational scholarships with Polish universities and encourage cooperation between universities in the two provinces.

NTB Scholarship "Beasiswa NTB"

Since Governor Zulkieflimansyah took office in 2018, the scholarship program abroad has been one of its flagship programs for human resource development in NTB. This scholarship program is known as the "1000 Scholar" program, where the NTB government will send "thousands" of students to study at the best universities abroad. The aim is to increase knowledge and broaden the horizons and international mindset of the people of NTB to be better prepared to face global challenges.²⁶

To run this scholarship program, the Governor of NTB established a non-governmental organization, namely the NTB Educational Development Institute (LPP). LPPNTB is assigned to carry out training, selection, and sending and returning students to study abroad universities.²⁷ However, this international student program cannot run without support from educational institutions and foreign governments. Therefore, to get international support for this program, the NTB Government and the LPPNTB established foreign relations with foreign parties, including Poland and Kujawsko-Pomorskie.

Before initiating the sister province with Kujawsko-Pomorskie, the NTB government had already expressed its desire to cooperate in educational scholarships with the Polish Embassy for Indonesia. In October 2018, the Polish Ambassador to Indonesia visited NTB to discuss various potential

²⁵ Study.eu, "The Study.EU Country Ranking 2018 for International Students," Study.eu, 2018, <https://www.study.eu/article/the-study-eu-country-ranking-2018-for-international-students>.

²⁶ Pemprov NTB, "1000 Cendekia," Pemerintah Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat, 2019, <https://www.ntbprov.go.id/program-unggulan/deskripsi/18>.

²⁷ Pratama, "Paradiplomacy Practice in Indonesia: a Lesson From West Nusa Tenggara Province in 2013-2019."

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cooperation that can be forged between the two of them. Polish Ambassador Beata Stockzynska came with representatives of three of Poland's leading universities. Cooperation in the field of education was the main focus of the meeting. On this occasion, the Governor of NTB hoped that Poland could support NTB in their educational scholarship program. The Polish Ambassador responded to this by stating that he warmly welcomed the brilliant NTB scholarship program. Poland will make NTB a priority province for scholarship recipients.²⁸

Furthermore, in early December 2018, along with the initiation of sister province relations with Kujawsko-Pomorskie, the NTB Government again expressed its desire to collaborate in the education sector with the Kujawsko-Pomorskie government. Marshal Kujawsko-Pomorskie Piotr Calbecki stated that he is very open to the NTB education scholarship program and is willing to accept NTB students to study at universities Kujawsko-Pomorskie province. One of the biggest and oldest universities that Marshal Calbecki offers as a learning destination for NTB students is Nicolas Copernicus University (NCU). Marshal Calbecki also revealed that they are ready to collaborate in other educational fields, such as apprenticeship programs for students, elementary teacher training, and leadership training for students.²⁹

After meeting with the Kujawsko-Pomorskie government ranks, the NTB Government, together with the LPPNTB, also held meetings with several representatives of universities in Poland. In the forum, the NTB government hoped that universities in Poland would be willing to support their scholarship program by being willing to accept young people from NTB to study on their campuses. Various universities such as Vistula University, Collegium Civitas, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Warsaw University of Technology, University of Warsaw, School Economics of Warsaw, and the University of Wraclov welcomed the proposal from the NTB Provincial Government and agreed to collaborate in the field of higher education by signing a letter of intent (LoI) which will make them NTB's leading partner from Poland in a brilliant scholarship program.³⁰

²⁸ Humas NTB, "Percepat Pembangunan NTB, Gubernur jajaki Kerjasama dengan Polandia."

²⁹ JPNN, "Ini Hasil Kunjungan Kerja Gubernur NTB ke Polandia," *Jaringan Pemberitaan Nusantara Negeriku*, 10 Desember 2018, <https://www.jpnn.com/news/ini-hasil-kunjungan-kerja-gubernur-ntb-ke-polandia>.

³⁰ Harian Nusa, "Gubernur Bawa Hasil Lawatan Kerja ke Polandia dan Republik Ceko untuk NTB," *HarianNusa.com*, 10 Desember 2018,

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Furthermore, NTB Paradiplomacy continued in 2019. On March 24, 2019, the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Government visited NTB as a follow-up to the visit previously carried out by the NTB Government to Torun. The meeting between the two parties at the Senggigi Katamaran Hotel resulted in an LoI or statement of intention to develop opportunities for cooperation in education, tourism, and the economy. Especially in education, the NTB Government expressed its desire to send NTB students to study in Torun Poland and collaborate with 3HK (Institute of Sustainable Development EU-ASEAN) in promoting culture with education ambassadors. Marcin Schmidt, President of the 3HK Council, responded positively to this matter who also visited NTB together with the Polish local government. Schmidt appreciates the education program developed by NTB and is willing to provide support for this education program.³¹

Until this article was written, NTB had successfully sent several students to continue their studies in Poland. More details can be seen in the following table:

Table 1 NTB Scholarships to Poland 2018-2020

Types of Scholarships	Country of destination	Batch	Education Level	Number of Awardees	Intake Study
Category A (Fully Funded)	Poland	Batch 1	Master Degree	20	Oct-2018
		Batch 2		26	Feb-2019
		Batch 3		26	Oct-2019
		Batch 4		32	Oct-2020

² Source: NTB Government website, and LPPNTB website (<https://www.ntbprov.go.id/program-unggulan-ntb/beasiswa-ntb> dan <https://lppntb.com/berita/2020-08-11/11/6%20Negara%20Tujuan%20Beasiswa%20NTB>)

⁸ <https://hariannusa.com/2018/12/10/gubernur-bawa-hasil-lawatan-kerja-ke-polandia-dan-republik-ceko-untuk-ntb/>.

³¹ Huma² NTB, "Romantisme Hubungan Pemerintah Provinsi NTB dengan Polandia," PPID Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat, 2019, <https://ppid.ntbprov.go.id/detail-berita-134-romantisme-hubungan-pemerintah-provinsi-ntb-dengan-polandia.html>.

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From the table data, we can see that the LPPNTB has successfully sent 104 students to Poland to pursue postgraduate education. All of them were transferred to Poland in 2018 and continued in the following years. In 2018, 20 students were dispatched to Poland. Then continued in 2019, 52 students departed in February and October. Furthermore, most recently, in October 2020, the LPPNTB sent 32 students to study in Poland.

9

Prevention of Child Marriage through the Cooperation of the Twin Provinces in the Field of Education

NTB's educational paradiplomacy aims to establish educational scholarship cooperation and encourages cooperation and collaboration between universities in NTB and foreign universities. It was also done when the Governor of NTB paid a visit to Torun to establish sister province relations with Kujawsko-Pomorskie in December 2018. At that time, the NTB Governor was accompanied by his government officials and the LPPNTB and invited some representatives from universities in NTB. The universities that attended the NTB Governor were rectors and representatives from Mataram University, Muhammadiyah Mataram University, Hamzanwadi University, NTB Nahdlatul Ulama University, Mahasaraswati Mataram University, Sumbawa University of Technology, and Mataram College of Health.³²

After meeting with the Kujawsko-Pomorskie government, the Governor of NTB and representatives of NTB universities continued to visit Poland's universities, namely Collegium Civitas, Warsaw University of Technology, University of Warsaw, Warsaw School of Economics, and the University of Wroclaw. All Polish universities stated that they were ready to establish educational cooperation with universities in NTB and were willing to carry out further communication to formulate cooperation between the two parties. On this visit, representatives of NTB universities managed to sign a cooperation agreement with the Collegium Civitas. The form of cooperation is sending students to study at the Collegium Civitas. However, this collaboration will increase in a broader direction, such as research collaboration and staff and teacher exchanges.³³

³² Iqbal Fadil, "Kunjungi Polandia, Gubernur NTB Jalin Kerjasama Pendidikan dan Sister City," *Merdeka.com*, 10 Desember 2018, <https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/kunjungi-polandia-gubernur-ntb-jalin-kerjasama-pendidikan-dan-sister-city.html>.

³³ SamawaRea, "7 Universitas di NTB Bergerilya Rebut Peluang Kerjasama Pendidikan di Polandia," *Samawarea.com*, 6 Desember 2018,

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The spirit of the NTB government in developing education was responded to positively by the Kujawsko-Pomorskie government. In March 2019, the Kujawsko-Pomorskie government and the President of The Board Institute of Sustainable Development European Union-ASEAN visited NTB province to follow up on cooperation with NTB in various fields. Especially in education, the Kujawsko-Pomorskie government group met with the rector of the University of Mataram in his office to discuss opportunities for cooperation that could be built between the two. One of the discussions at the meeting was the opportunity for cooperation in carrying out academic conference activities. According to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mataram for Cooperation and Planning, the Polish government's conference activities have a lot to do with the academic world. Therefore they want to collaborate with universities in NTB.³⁴

Thus the prevention of early marriage that occurs in children will be realized through the twin province education cooperation program. Likewise, through this program the NTB Provincial Government can encourage the improvement of the quality of education which is expected to strengthen human development and prevent child marriage.

Conclusion

Child marriage in NTB greatly affects the quality of human resources, therefore it is necessary to improve the quality of education by collaborating as an effort to strengthen institutions in accordance with the 2020 NTB Regional Regulation concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage, one of which is by collaborating abroad such as Kujawsko-Pomorskie which has a good quality of education within the framework of the sister province. The sister province relationship between NTB and Kujawsko-Pomorskie reflects the efforts of the NTB Government in realizing the ideals of a better education, so that access to higher education for the people of NTB is better and youth in NTB are more enthusiastic about continuing their education than getting married at an early age. Through this sister province relationship there is a higher education cooperation which allows NTB higher education scholarship programs at the undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels to Polish

<https://www.samawarea.com/2018/12/06/7-universitas-di-ntb-bergerilya-rebut-peluang-kerjasama-pendidikan-di-polandia/>.

³⁴ Unram, "Pemerintah Polandia Jajaki Peluang Kerjasama dengan Unram," Universitas Mataram, 2019, <https://unram.ac.id/pemerintah-polandia-jajaki-peluang-kerjasama-dengan-unram/>.

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universities (especially universities in Kujawsko-Pomorskie) to be implemented. So far, the NTB Scholarship program to Polish universities has been implemented at the Masters level, and needs to be improved at the undergraduate and doctoral levels. Higher education cooperation between NTB and Kujawsko-Pomorskie also opens opportunities for educational cooperation between universities in the two provinces. The sister province relationship between NTB and Kujawsko-Pomorskie based on the perspective of O'Toole is in the second phase of sister province, although the relationship between the two has only recently been established. According to O'Toole, collaboration in education is included in the second phase of sister city/sister province, which is a reciprocal phase where there are relationships in the form of educational exchanges and people exchanges. The sister province relationship between the two in the field of education must continue to be improved in the future, so that development at lower levels of education can be further improved so that it is not limited to higher education levels and can encourage the prevention of child marriage.

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