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THE DYNAMICS OF DECENTRALISATION POLICY IN INDONESIA FROM 1999 TO 2025: A SCOPING REVIEW APPROACH

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Abstract

This study aims to explore the dynamics of decentralisation policy between 1999 and 2025 in Indonesia using a scoping review, thereby providing an important historical record for the implementation of decentralisation policy in Indonesia. This study also strengthens the literature and trends regarding the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia and identifies issues concerning the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia. The research method used is a literature study with a scoping review approach. Scoping review is relevant in presenting a comprehensive map of research findings related to the dynamics, realities, and problems in the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia, while also identifying research gaps that still need to be explored. Data collection was carried out from the scopus.com website on decentralisation policy in Indonesia from 861 studies that were scoped down to 20 studies for analysis. The results of the study show that there are five themes related to decentralisation policy in Indonesia, namely local governance and accountability, decentralisation policy in education, natural resource and environmental management, public services and health, and fiscal decentralisation and corruption. This study contributes to the development of literature on decentralisation policy in Indonesia and has implications for the development of public policy and governance studies.

Keywords: Decentralisation Policy, Governance, Scoping Review.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji dinamika kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia antara tahun 1999 sampai 2025 menggunakan metode scoping review, sehingga memberikan catatan historis yang penting bagi implementasi kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia. Penelitian ini juga memperkuat literatur dan tren terkait dinamika kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia serta mengidentifikasi isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan dinamika kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah studi literatur dengan pendekatan scoping review. Scoping review relevan dalam menyajikan peta komprehensif temuan penelitian terkait dinamika, realitas, dan masalah dalam dinamika kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia, sekaligus mengidentifikasi celah penelitian yang masih perlu dieksplorasi. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dari situs web scopus.com mengenai kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia dari 861 studi yang disaring menjadi 20 studi untuk analisis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat lima tema terkait kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia, yaitu tata kelola lokal dan akuntabilitas, kebijakan desentralisasi dalam pendidikan, pengelolaan sumber daya alam dan lingkungan, layanan publik dan kesehatan, serta desentralisasi fiskal dan korupsi. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada pengembangan literatur tentang kebijakan desentralisasi di Indonesia dan memiliki implikasi bagi pengembangan studi kebijakan publik dan tata kelola.

Kata Kunci: Kebijakan Desentralisasi. Tata Kelola, Scoping Review.

I. INTRODUCTION

Decentralisation is one of the fundamental policies adopted by many developing countries, including Indonesia, with the aim of improving governance and bringing decision-making processes closer to local communities. Many studies on decentralisation policy have discussed the development of decentralisation and regional autonomy, but few have discussed decentralisation policy from its inception to the present day in Indonesia using a scoping review approach. Theoretically, the concept of decentralisation is believed to be capable of strengthening bureaucratic efficiency, optimising public services, and improving the quality of democracy at the local level through the empowerment of local governments (Talitha, Firman, & Hudalah, 2019). By granting greater authority to the regions, the central government hopes that local issues can be addressed more effectively, responsively, and quickly, while still accommodating the social, economic, and cultural diversity that exists in Indonesian society.

In its development, decentralisation in Indonesia cannot be separated from the context of political reform that occurred in the late 1990s. The economic and political crisis in 1998 opened up space for significant changes in governance. The year 1999 was an important milestone for the implementation of decentralisation policies in Indonesia, which was then manifested in the enactment of Law No. 22 of 1999 on Regional Government, followed by Law No. 32 of 2004 and the currently applicable Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government. These regulations not only marked the beginning of the administrative and fiscal decentralisation process, but also had profound consequences on the dynamics of central-regional relations, resource management, and public service

patterns throughout the country (Siddiquee, Nastiti, & Sejati, 2012).

The decentralisation policy is essentially a response to the need for more effective and inclusive governance at the regional level, as well as to optimise public services through the transfer of some authority from the central government to regional governments (Edi & Tjenreng, 2025; Patarai, 2023; Simanjuntak, 2015). Although this policy direction has been in place for more than two decades since the reform, it is unfortunate that a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia from the beginning of the reform to the present through a scoping review approach has not yet been conducted. The scoping review method itself is capable of comprehensively mapping various findings and trends in research development, making it highly relevant for identifying the implementation of decentralisation policies over this long period (Dwiastuti, et al, 2021). In addition, this approach allows researchers to obtain a complete picture of research gaps, implementation challenges, and the potential scientific contributions that can be made. The scoping review method can provide an in-depth understanding of issues and changes and review policy developments with a literature review approach supported by scientific evidence (Badruzzuhad, 2023).

The lack of research that specifically uses the scoping review approach to examine decentralisation policies from the beginning of the reform to the present limits the opportunity to obtain an integrated and sustainable knowledge map. While several previous studies have raised various issues of decentralisation policy in aspects such as the problem of local resource mobilisation (Siddiquee, Nastiti, & Sejati, 2012), pitfalls in

the implementation of decentralisation (Fuhr, 2012), the effectiveness of policy implementation at the local public service level (Putra & Wardhani, 2024), and the evaluation of the effectiveness of decentralisation in local government administration (Hoesein, Arifudin, & Rahayu, 2022), almost all of them use a case analysis approach or stand-alone thematic literature studies. Although Talitha et al. (2019) have provided an initial mapping of two decades of decentralisation in Indonesia, this approach has not combined a broad exploratory framework as offered by a scoping review. As a result, the tendency for problems to be repeated and the lack of monitoring of cross-time dynamics continues without a comprehensive identification of gaps and relevant research contributions. Therefore, a scoping review of decentralisation policies in Indonesia from the reform era to the present raises an urgent need to produce a connected research map, an objective basis for recommendations, and a comprehensive understanding that can serve as a foundation for future policy development.

However, in the course of nearly a quarter of a century of implementing decentralisation policies, the diversity of outcomes and implications of these policies requires a comprehensive evaluation and a broader synthesis of studies. Many reports indicate that the success of decentralisation is highly contextual and varies from one region to another, in terms of the effectiveness of development planning, the quality of governance, and the achievement of public services. Issues such as policy, unclear implementation mechanisms, and the relationship between the central and regional governments pose unique challenges that require serious attention (Hoesein, Arifudin, & Rahayu, 2022; Fuhr, 2012). Therefore, it is important to systematically explore the literature and empirical findings from 1999 to

2025 in order to gain a holistic understanding of the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia.

Recognising the diversity of issues and the need for systematic identification of the dynamics of decentralisation policy, the choice of a scoping review approach in this study is highly relevant. A scoping review not only maps the main findings in decentralisation policy studies, but also clarifies policy areas that still require attention, in terms of legislation, implementation, and evaluation of results (Pham et al., 2014; Munn et al., 2018). By identifying trends, patterns, and significant changes in more than two decades of decentralisation implementation in Indonesia, the strategic recommendations produced can be more focused and based on real needs in the field.

Based on the above description, this study describes the dynamics of decentralisation policy between 1999 and 2025 in Indonesia using a scoping review. Not only does it present academic challenges in understanding conceptual and empirical changes, this study also strengthens the literature and trends regarding the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia and identifies issues concerning the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia using a scoping review approach. Thus, this study will contribute to the development of literature on decentralisation policy in Indonesia and have implications for the development of public policy and governance science.

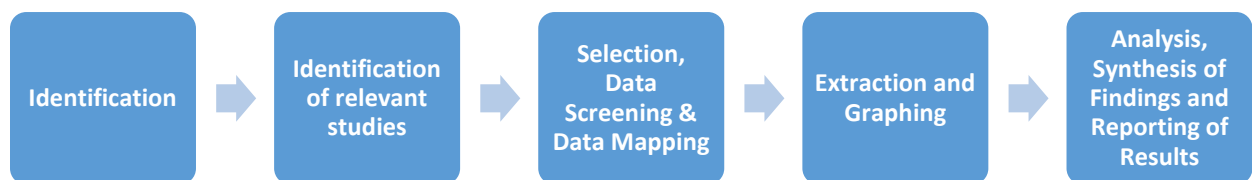
II. METHODS

In terms of research methods, studies on decentralisation policies today require systematic approaches or methods to comprehensively map and assess policy developments. Scoping review is now

recognized as one method that is relatively dependable, which is a literature mapping type of research designed to locate, analyse, and synthesize evidence or findings on a broad issue systematically (Pham et al., 2014). It is in this way that scoping reviews are useful, as they can allow for mapping comprehensively the research evidence around dynamics, realities, and problems of decentralisation policies, but they also indicate under-researched areas that still need investigation. Munn et al. (2018) also point out that scoping reviews are an adequate method for dynamic, complex, and multi-dimensional public policy studies since they account for the variety of evidence and perspectives reviewing a range of sources of literature, and accommodating the uncertainty typical to the policy analysis process.

By applying the scoping review method, this study on the decentralisation

policy dynamics from 1999 to 2025 in Indonesia is presumed as a vital contribution towards a better understanding of change history, challenges, and future prospects of the decentralisation policy in Indonesia. For the advancement of public administration science, this is vital, and it could be of interest for at least two stakeholders at central/regional government levels, developing a future governance policy/strategy.. The existence of a systematic mapping of the journey of decentralisation policy from 1999 to 2025 also has the potential to produce evidence-based, inclusive, and adaptive policy recommendations to national and global social, economic, and political dynamics. Arksey & O'Malley (2005) explain the five stages of the scoping review approach as follows:



Sumber: Arksey & O'Malley (2005) processed by the author 2025

Figure 1. Approach Flow Exploration Study

The identification of the research objectives is intended to determine the focus of the research, namely decentralisation policy in Indonesia from 1999 to 2025. Next, literature search and collection were carried out by searching for literature through scopus.com using the keyword code: TITLE-ABS-KEY (*Decentralisation Indonesia*) AND PUBYEAR > 1999 AND PUBYEAR < 2025 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, 'ar')) from 1999 to 2025. The next stage was data selection and screening, which involved screening the literature search results to

ensure they were relevant to the research focus and using a selection process to identify the title, abstract, and novelty of each article. The extra and categorisation stages were carried out by the researcher by grouping the information based on the main themes of the decentralisation policy. The analysis and synthesis stage involves conducting a descriptive analysis of the results to identify patterns, dynamics, and gaps in decentralisation policies.

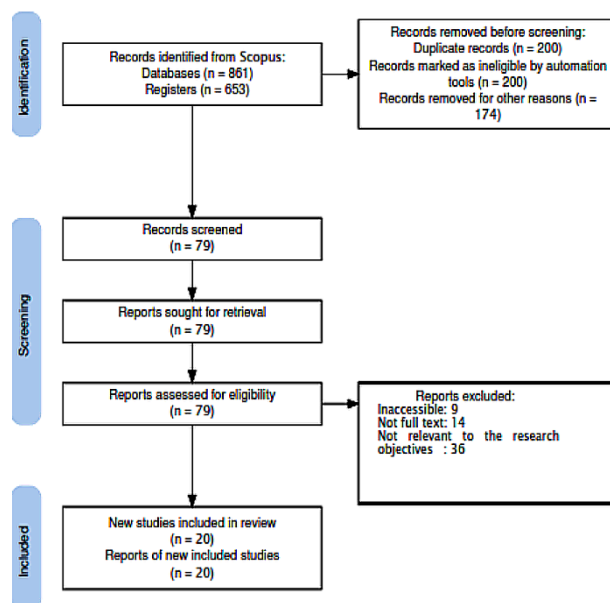
The selection of the scoping review method in this study also addresses the

limitations of cross-study identification and strengthens the argument for the need for an integrative and sustainable knowledge map of decentralisation (Pham et al., 2014; Munn et al., 2018). By exploring crucial issues such as regional disparities and spatial fragmentation over a long period of time, this study not only verifies the empirical trends that have been recorded in previous studies (Hoesein, Arifudin, & Rahayu, 2022; Fuhr, 2012), but also synthesises gaps and strategic drivers for the development of more adaptive and responsive decentralisation policies in Indonesia in the future.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identifying Relevant Studies

The process of using the PRISMA application involves a series of structured steps to ensure the quality and transparency of the research. Starting with the identification of new studies through various sources, this study identified a large number of preliminary records from reliable databases. This identification stage is an important foundation in building a comprehensive data collection before further selection processes are carried out.



Source: prisma diagram processed by the author 2025

In the date base search, the total retrieved studies was enormous; 861 from Scopus and 653 studies from other register sources. This is a lot, suggesting a wide variety of literature in the scope of target research topics, as well as the necessity to conduct a strict filtering procedure that can ensure only highly pertinent ones are finally incorporated into the analysis. The study data was more narrowly filtered by the researchers in a two-stage process, reducing from 653 studies down to 79 studies due to some studies not matching the research theme. The second screening of the 79 studies produced 20 relevant studies on the phenomenon being studied in this meta-analysis, which is: policy decentralisation dynamics in Indonesia.

The literature search and collection stage used two criteria, namely inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria, which are commonly used in scoping review methods. The scoping review research method can establish criteria aimed at discussing critical assessments so that the research is not biased, and the establishment of data-based criteria will demonstrate the consistency of the method (Pollock, et al., 2021).

Table 1. Determination of Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
a	Indonesian Decentralisation Policy (1999-2025)	a. Scopus.com articles
b	English language	
c	Original Article	

Source: processed by the author 2025

Determination of inclusion and exclusion criteria prior to review to specify the data sources to be processed in the scoping review. The inclusion and exclusion criteria process will evolve as the review progresses to produce relevant data (Peters, 2019). After mining sufficient data, the researchers identified a total of 861 studies, which were screened to 79 and subsequently to 20 studies for further screening. This huge reduction from the starting amount highlights how robust the automation process is for finding and excluding studies that don't make it passed this basic screening, but leaves a great quantity for more diligent manual consideration. The main reason researchers selected 20 articles related to the dynamics of decentralisation policy was to limit (inclusively) the number of articles and synthesise the evidence systematically, so that the scope of the topic focused on the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia did not extend to other topics.

After a strict multilevel screening, we chose 20 new studies to be included in the last overview. This is a small number compared to the many reports retrieved initially and reflects the selected nature of PRISMA process in filtering literature for high-quality studies that fulfill all of the inclusion criteria. This set of final results represents a credible basis for evidence synthesis and valid conclusions that can result from scoping reviews.

Mapping and Data Extraction

In the mapping and data extraction stage, researchers extracted data using the PRISMA application from 861 articles in Scopus journals, then filtered the data, resulting in 20 articles related to decentralisation policies in Indonesia. The articles were extracted to be presented in narrative form consisting of the researcher, research title, locus, research object, respondents, research method and conclusions as follows:

Table 2. Study Characteristics

No.	Researcher	Title	Locus	Objective	Respondent	Method	Result
1	Rahayu (2023)	The Challenge of Decentralization Policy for Television Broadcasting in Indonesia	Bali, South Sulawesi, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta	To explain the challenges in decentralization of television broadcasting over 20 years and the role of political transformation	37 informants (broadcasting regulators, government officials, legislative members, local television owners, professional media, academics, civil organizations)	Structured interviews; desk study collecting data from state secretariats, KPI offices, local television stations	Decentralization policy implementation faces significant challenges in broadcasting operations across different provinces
2	Bachruddin Ali Akhmad (2020)	Local Government Communication in Indonesia: Observations from Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan	South Kalimantan	To examine local government communication outcomes regarding public services in the context of regional autonomy and decentralization	Six key informants and official website analysis (http://www.kalselprov.go.id/)	In-depth interviews; website performance observation; qualitative analysis	Decentralization policy creates complex challenges for government and communities; regional autonomy opens opportunities for local democracy

3	Februati Trimurni, Norma Mansor (2020)	Decentralization of public healthcare services in the Province of Sumatera Utara, Indonesia	Sumatera Utara Province	To examine the challenges of decentralization in healthcare service delivery	Healthcare administrative personnel and district/city government officials	Literature review; analysis of administrative authority and budget allocation	Decentralization budget realization reached 91% but lacks proper accountability; transparency issues remain unresolved
4	Anggia Utami Dewi (2021)	Curriculum Reform in the Decentralization of Education in Indonesia: Effect on Students' Achievements	Indonesia (secondary education)	To provide robust analysis on effect estimation of curriculum reform under decentralization policy on students' learning outcomes	Secondary education students and school personnel	Propensity score analysis; comparative examination of curriculum reform implementation	Curriculum reform has not produced substantial improvement in student learning outcomes under decentralization
5	Fuad Gani, Reynaldo de Archellie, Adrianus L. G. Waworuntu, Zeffry Alkatiri, Munawar Holil (2024)	Neo-institutionalism perspective on local governance in Lombok: Reinstitutionalisation of Tuan Guru in the Indonesian decentralization era	Lombok	To examine how informal institutions influence decision-making processes at sub-national government level under decentralization policy	Local governance stakeholders and traditional leaders	Neo-institutionalism analytical framework; literature analysis	Informal institutions can influence political outcomes at local governance levels; decentralization allows re-establishment of traditional roles
6	Yuyun Yulia, Ni Wayan Surya Mahayanti (2024)	The Curriculum Change in Indonesian Junior High Schools: The Copy Paste Phenomenon	Indonesia (junior high schools)	To examine difficulties in implementing school-based curriculum and curriculum reform under decentralization policy	Teachers and school officials	Literature review; case study analysis	Decentralization has encountered difficulties in practice; schools struggle with context-specific curriculum development
7	Tengku Munawar Chalil (2020)	The efficiency of village government spending in Indonesia: a meta-frontier analysis	Indonesia (village level)	To examine the efficiency of village governments under decentralization and the role of autonomous villages	Village governments and administrative officials	Meta-cost frontier analysis; comparative efficiency study	Autonomous villages are more efficient; grants to villages increase efficiency; bureaucracy sizes reduce efficiency
8	Hartati, Zainal Amin Ayub (2024)	Jurisdictional Disputes between Central and Local Governments in the Management of Coal Mining	Indonesia (coal mining sector)	To analyze jurisdictional disputes arising from decentralization policy implementation in coal mining management	Government officials and policy stakeholders	Legal and policy analysis	Decentralization policy creates platform for local communities but also marginalizes central government from domestic affairs handling

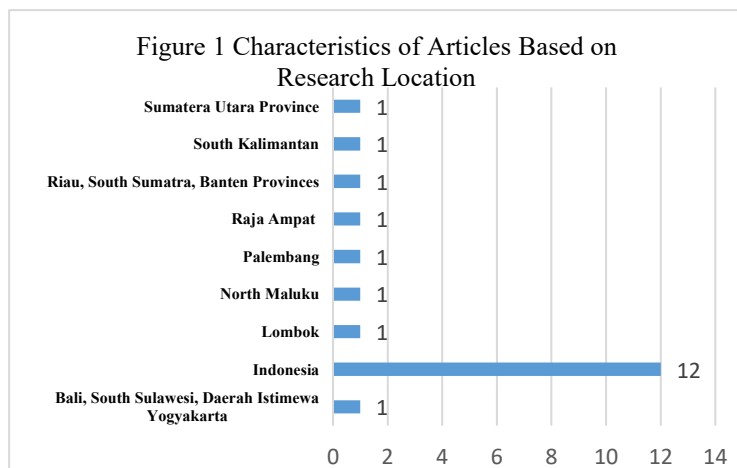
9	L. Agustino, M. D. Hikmawan, J. Silas (2024)	Decentralization in Indonesia: From Reformation to the Local Regime	Riau, South Sumatra, Banten Provinces	To examine emergence of local regimes in decentralization era and how regional expansion regenerates power arenas	Local government officials and political elites	Comparative regional analysis; documentary analysis	Family dynasties emerge as dominant structures in decentralized regions; decentralization regenerates local power arenas
10	Julfi Jamil, Sumartono, Mujibur Rahman, Khairul Muluk, Andy Fefta Wijaya (2024)	Dis-Catchment Areas: The Need for Asymmetric Decentralization in Island Characteristic Areas	North Maluku (archipelagic region)	To address how decentralization policies should be adapted to geographic and regional diversity in island areas	Local government officials and community members	Qualitative approach; site visits; interviews and observations; Spiral model analysis with N-Vivo 12 plus	Services and development concentrated in government capitals; remote areas face access difficulties; asymmetric decentralization needed for archipelagic regions
11	Putu Gede Arya Sumerta Yasa (2021)	Distribution and Revenue Sharing of Natural Resources in Indonesia: Autonomous Region and Legal Pluralism Perspective	Indonesia (natural resources sector)	To examine distribution and revenue sharing systems in the framework of decentralization and regional autonomy	Policy stakeholders and government officials	Legal analysis; comparative examination of intergovernmental transfer policies	Fair, proportional, democratic distribution system required; decentralization considers potential, conditions, and regional needs
12	Faiz Zamzami, Fuad Rakhman (2023)	Determinants of Local Government Financial Performance in Indonesia	Indonesia (32 provinces/regions and cities)	To analyze determinants of local government financial performance under decentralization and the degree of fiscal decentralization	Local government financial personnel	Panel data analysis; examination of financial proxies and decentralization ratios	Decentralization degree indicates authority transfer; local revenue generation ability crucial for performance; variations in self-income ratio significant
13	Nasrun Annahar, Ida Widianingsih, Entang Adhy Muhtar, Caroline Paskarina (2023)	The Road to Inclusive Decentralized Village Governance in Indonesia	22 villages across Indonesia	To analyze conditions and institutional settings for sustainable welfare outcomes under decentralized village governance	Village public officers, rural residents, community leaders (35 respondents total)	Grounded theory methodology; observation and interviews; Qualitative Comparative Analysis (crisp-set QCA)	Sustainable welfare outcomes occur with substantial subsidiarity, self-governance, meaningful community participation, and comprehensive policy mix

14	Ery Atmodjo, Machiel Lamers, Arthur P.J. Mol (2020)	Governing Dynamics in Marine Conservation Tourism in Raja Ampat, Indonesia	Raja Ampat region	To examine how governance arrangements for marine conservation tourism evolved under decentralization policy and NGO role	NGO representatives and regional government officials	Longitudinal analysis; documentary review; stakeholder interviews	NGOs played major co-governance role in marine conservation; decentralization created new governance arrangements; state authority strengthened over time
15	A. Suradi (2022)	The Social, Political, and Cultural Perspective of Islamic Education in Palembang Malay: A Continuous Evaluation from the Dutch Colonial Period to Today	Palembang (Islamic education context)	To compare education decentralization policies between Malaysia and Indonesia and their impact on Islamic education technology innovation	Educational stakeholders	Normative legal research; analysis of tertiary, primary, secondary legal sources	Decentralization policies for Islamic education technology development are complicated; potential impacts on education innovation require examination
16	Mohammad Roudo, Adrian Campbell, Simon Delay (2018)	Is Decentralisation Compatible with the Application of Performance Management?	Indonesia (education and health sectors)	To examine impact of decentralization policy and minimum service standards on local government motivation to improve service delivery	Education and health officials; local government personnel	Documentary analysis; examination of MSS indicators and standards	Educational services far from required standards after decentralization; inequality of services across regions remains problematic
17	Ahsanul Minan, Satya Arinanto, Djohermansyah Djohan (2024)	Local Chief Executive Political Accountability In Indonesia: A Historical-Legal Analysis	Indonesia	To analyze political accountability system of local government heads under decentralization policy over seven decades	Political and legal stakeholders	Historical-legal analysis; comparative institutional examination	Political accountability regulatory provisions continuously changing; nation still searching for proper decentralization and accountability design
18	Anisah Alfada (2019)	Does Fiscal Decentralization Encourage Corruption in Local Governments? Evidence from Indonesia	19 provinces (2004-2014)	To examine effects of fiscal decentralization on corruption in local governments	Local government officials and administrative personnel	Panel data model; Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) estimator	Fiscal decentralization drives growing corruption cases; lack of human capital capacity facilitates corruption in local governments

19	Blane Lewis (2023)	Indonesia's New Fiscal Decentralisation Law: A Critical Assessment	Indonesia (fiscal policy context)	To assess Indonesia's fiscal decentralization law and local government accountability mechanisms	Policy analysts and government officials	Policy analysis; critical evaluation of budgeting and financial management systems	Districts lack accountability to citizens; upward accountability to central government insufficient substitute for local responsiveness
20	Roy Valiant Salomo, Krisna Puji Rahmayanti (2023)	Progress and Institutional Challenges on Local Governments Performance Accountability System Reform in Indonesia	Central and local government levels	To analyze results of administrative reform and government accountability system under decentralization	Public servants at central and local levels	Mixed method approach; pragmatic paradigm; MoAB report analysis; interviews	Administrative reform progress varies; bureaucratic reform implementation influenced by institutional factors

Source: processed by the author 2025

Based on the extracted data, this collection of 20 articles presents comprehensive research on decentralisation policies in various sectors in Indonesia. These studies cover various perspectives on policy, operations, and the social impact of decentralisation, which has been ongoing for more than two decades in Indonesia. Based on the research location, these 20 articles show several research locations in provinces and regencies/cities in Indonesia, as seen in the following image:



Source: processed by the author 2025

This study shows the characteristics of 20 articles based on the location of the research, namely articles focusing on several provinces and districts/cities regarding the

dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia. This study also categorises the data on the themes and main focus of the 20 articles, resulting in several sectors, namely local governance, education policy, natural resources and the environment, public services, public finance and corruption, village administration and others, as well as the main focus, which is presented in the following table:

Table 3. The data on the themes and main focus

Sector/Theme	Number of Articles	Key Focus Areas
Local Government Governance	6	Accountability, governance systems, efficiency
Education Policy	4	Curriculum, student achievement, reform
Natural Resources & Environment	3	Mining, marine tourism, revenue distribution
Public Services	2	Health, government communications
Public Finance & Corruption	2	Fiscal decentralisation, financial management
Village Administration	2	Efficiency, inclusive governance
Others	1	Islamic education, service standards

Source: processed by the author 2025

Discussion

This study has systematically described the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia during the period 1999 to 2025 through a scoping review approach to answer the research questions posed earlier. In this discussion, the researchers will conduct an in-depth analysis of various findings related to the complexity of decentralisation implementation and its implications for governance in Indonesia. Various research results show significant challenges and achievements covering various sectors, ranging from broadcasting, education, health, village governance, natural resource management, to aspects of financial governance and local government accountability.

Some of the key findings identified in the literature review and of relevance to this study take account of: Local governance dynamics in decentralisation, which is faced with some challenges, especially on better coordination; and accountability challenges associated with decentralised governance education policies where it was noted that local government units suffer integration problems; natural resource and environment related reforms as crucial for local governments in natural resources management; public service and health decentralisation concerned about concerns over public service inequalities, fiscal decentralization issues such as corruption, accountability reforms in the administration of local government among others. In addition to these findings, the researchers develop arguments and that can challenge and explanation of the dynamics of decentralisation policy in Indonesia based on 20 reviewed studies as follows:

Local Government Governance and Accountability

De-centralisation has been found to constitute a major problem in the administration of local government everywhere. The decentralization of television broadcasting policy in a number of regions such as Bali, South Sulawesi and The Special Region of Yogyakarta suggests that regional political transformation has caused continuing problems with operations through broadcasting (Rahayu, 2024). These results demonstrate the need for improved institutional arrangements, making it possible for better interaction between the different levels of government.

More intriguing results concern the local-federal government process- Another surprising finding in the dynamics of local government. Studies have documented that self-contained villages are far more efficient than large centralised local government as a result of the drag effects associated with bureaucracy. Yet, the findings of grant disbursements to villages demonstrate efficiency improvement in the sense that decentralisation's importance substantially contributes to efficient local governance and accountability (Annahar, 2023; Chalil, 2020; Zamzami & Rakhman, 2023).

More generally, research on the accountability and governance systems demonstrates that political regulations of accountability are continuously evolving - and Indonesia is still in search of an optimal design under the umbrella of decentralisation (Salomo & Rahmayanti, 2023; Minan, et al 2024). This reflects the fact that, while it has been about 20 years since the legal and institutional framework for decentralization was put in place, much work remains to be done.

Decentralisation Policy in Education

The education sector shows an interesting phenomenon in the context of decentralisation. Research on curriculum change in junior secondary schools identifies significant challenges in the implementation of school-based curricula and curriculum reform under decentralisation policy (Yulia & Mahayanti, 2024). The impact of curriculum reform on student learning outcomes has been disappointing. Despite significant curriculum reforms, these reforms have not resulted in substantial improvements in student learning outcomes under decentralisation policies (Dewi, 2021). Other studies on decentralisation policies in the education sector, such as Islamic education, require attention to the cultural context and specific needs of the education community (Suradi, 2022). These findings illustrate that the implementation of decentralisation policies in the education sector requires more attention to implementation and capacity building, especially in Indonesia.

Natural Resource and Environmental Management

Decentralisation has provided a structure through which local communities have been able to become more involved in the management of natural resources, however this process has also introduced issues of jurisdiction. The complexities of jurisdiction as they relate to jurisdictional divisions between central and local government authorities with respect to the management of coal mines demonstrate that decentralisation provides a structure for local communities to be involved in resource management, however decentralisation reduces the ability of the central government to govern its own internal affairs (Hartati & Ayub, 2024). This results in ambiguity in

decision making responsibility and accountability.

The decentralisation of marine conservation and tourism has resulted in new governance structures. The research conducted by Admodjo et al. (2024), within the Raja Ampat region demonstrates that NGOs participate in a co-governing capacity with regard to marine conservation and that the decentralisation of governance has enabled a strengthening of state authority over time. This study's findings indicate that decentralisation does not necessarily lead to a reduction in the role of central government; instead it is likely to result in changes in how resource management and coordination occur.

Public Services and Health

Diverse implications of decentralization are shown by the realization of public service budgets. A research study of the decentralization of public health services in the province of North Sumatra, Indonesia showed that while the level of budget realization was at a high 91%, decentralization resulted in considerable challenges in terms of accountability and transparency (Trimurni & Mansor, 2020) as well as the realization of budget efficiency, and therefore decentralization mechanisms need to be developed to increase accountability to the local communities.

Local government communication in the context of regional autonomy shows that decentralisation policies create complex challenges for both government and communities while opening up opportunities for local democracy (Roudo, et al., 2018). These findings emphasise that decentralisation has dual implications that require careful management.

Fiscal Decentralisation and Corruption

According to the literature, one of the main factors affecting the association between how much a country's budget is decentralized and how corrupt are local governments in that country is fiscal decentralization. This paper examined the implications of fiscal decentralization for corruption in local government. The study revealed that corruption also hiked as a result of the fiscal decentralization since there were no enough human resources at the local government level to effectively manage such delegated fiscal responsibilities (Alfada, 2019). These results indicate that when fiscal authority is transferred to local governments, but the institutional capacity and human resources are not also increased, the outcome will be negative or counterproductive.

Studies about the performance of local government finances have shown that the level of decentralization of authority is directly related to the amount of revenue that a local government generates from its own sources and the financial performance of that government (Lewis, 2023). Variations in the ratio of own revenue between regions indicate that the inequality of local fiscal capacity is a significant obstacle to the implementation of effective decentralisation.

IV. CONCLUSION

Results from the analysis of 20 peer-reviewed articles pertaining to the subject of decentralization in Indonesia clearly illustrate the complexity of the decentralization policy process across all levels of government in a wide variety of sectors. The broader object of the study was to provide an overview on decentralisation in Indonesian, although issues of uneven and diversal impact emerge from its succession of results. Furthermore, the results also indicate that local governments have witnessed these

decentralization policies (i.e. regulations, implementation processes, etc) changing more dynamically than in the past which affects their ability for effective self-governance. In general, the related literature of reviewed studies has shown that there is a necessity for continuing the leadership skills building skills for local government and systems to strengthen mechanisms for holding local government accountable as a factor which can improve further effectiveness on decentralization policy. This scoping review adds to the developing body of literature on decentralization policies in Indonesia through the inclusion of 20 studies related to issues around decentralization policy within education, health, public finance, natural resource management, local governance, and rural administration.

Furthermore, this study will contribute to the development of the field of public policy and governance science. The literature on decentralization in Indonesia has benefited greatly from the contributions made in this study through the inclusion of twenty cross-sectoral studies (education, health, public finance, natural resource management, local governance, and rural administration). Finally, this study provides a conceptual framework to assist both researchers and policymakers to understand the current state of the literature regarding the decentralization policy in Indonesia. Additionally, this study has identified specific research limitations (i.e., the use of literature reviews), which will allow future researchers to conduct cross-country comparative studies to identify the priority areas for further, more detailed, decentralization-related research.

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