

THE IMPORTANCE OF A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGE OF TANJUNG MEDAN LABUHAN BATU SELATAN

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the importance of a participatory approach in village development in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency. The method used is descriptive with a qualitative approach, aiming to understand the phenomenon of community participation in village development in depth. Data collection was carried out through direct observation and interviews with village heads and local communities. The research results show that a participatory approach is applied at every stage of village development, but the quality of implementation varies. At the planning stage, community participation is quite good, but there are still weaknesses in the involvement of community leaders and representatives of community groups in village development planning meetings (musrenbang). In general, community participation in Tanjung Medan Village tends to be more about conveying ideas. However, the evaluation and monitoring phase requires further improvement. Even though the community is given the opportunity to participate, there is still dissatisfaction among the community regarding this participatory implementation.

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INTRODUCTIONS

Development is a process to achieve state goals, namely creating a prosperous and prosperous society fairly and equally for all Indonesian people. However, this equitable development cannot yet be felt by all Indonesian people. One of the main causes is Indonesia's geographical condition, which consists of many islands with populations spread throughout the archipelago, although the distribution is not evenly distributed. The uneven distribution of the population, coupled with varying accessibility from one region to another, is an inhibiting factor in realizing equitable development throughout Indonesia (Purwaningsih, 2008).

Since the beginning of Indonesian independence, village development has been the government's main concern, although the strategies used have often changed over time. This change in strategy aims to find the most effective approach according to the needs of a particular period. At the beginning of independence, we knew the "Kasimo Welfare Plan". In accordance with its initial connotation, village development is often considered synonymous with agricultural development. The Kasimo Welfare Plan, launched in 1952, focused on increasing food production.

Around 1959, the government's attention to village development increased, as evidenced by the formation of the Transkopemada Department (Transmigration, Cooperatives and Village Development). The functions of the Village Development Bureau, which were previously located in the Prime Minister's Office, were then transferred to the Transcopecamada Department. The strategies used are heavily inspired by the concept of community development. The main focus of village development is on community development, with an emphasis on forming village community development cadres who are expected to support the achievement of village independence.

At that time, village development was carried out based on the 1956-1960 Five Year Development Plan formulated by the State Planning Bureau. The main focus of village development is community development, so the term Village Community Development (PMD) is used. The Outlines of the Five Year Development Plan state that the aim of PMD is to improve the standard of living of village communities through integral development, based on the strengths of the village community itself and mutual agreement among its members, with guidance and assistance from the government as a unit in the same general policy. Thus, village community development is carried out based on three principles: the principle of integral development, the principle of one's own strength, and the principle of mutual consensus (Tjokrowinoto, 2007).

Village development is part of a national development program involving the government and society, with the aim of improving the welfare of village communities. In the New Order era, the government played a dominant role as implementer of village development. However, in the reform era, the government's role changed from implementer to facilitator of village development. In this context, village communities become both subjects and objects of development. The interaction between the government and village communities is a form of synergy that can accelerate village development, by placing the community as the main driver of development. Villages have their own government consisting of the Village Head, Village Apparatus, and Village Consultative Body (BPD). The Village Head leads the implementation of village government based on policies that have been established together with the Village Consultative Body (BPD) (Simbolon, AH, 2015). Village development is carried out by the Village Government and village communities in a spirit of mutual cooperation, utilizing local wisdom and village natural resources. Sector programs entering the village must be informed to the Village Government and integrated with the village development plan. Village communities have the right to obtain information and monitor village development plans and implementation. Village development aims to improve the welfare of village communities and the quality of human life, as well as reduce poverty by meeting basic needs, building village facilities and infrastructure, developing local economic potential, and utilizing natural resources and the environment in a sustainable manner.

Participation is community involvement in planning and contributing ideas to development projects that will be implemented and during their implementation. In this case, the community acts as a subject and object of development who understands the conditions of their area well, so that the development they hope for is truly in line with their needs. Every citizen has a voice in decision making, either directly or through representatives of legitimate institutions that represent their interests. This kind of participation is based on freedom of association and speech and constructive participation. Community participation in development can be seen from the level of community attendance in mutual cooperation activities and also in monthly meetings.

The participatory approach is a method in formulating regional and village development needs, which prioritizes the active role of the community as the main actor in development. This concept emphasizes that people from the lower levels play a role as planners and decision makers in development policies at the local level (Nurman, 2015). As previously explained, a participatory approach in village development is a method in which active community involvement is applied at every stage of a development program or project, including planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up. This approach is based on the assumption that the full involvement of the community at each stage of development is based on their own abilities and independence. This means that village development is driven by a continuous learning process among the community, built on their experiences. In this way, village development will be more in line with the capabilities and development of local communities (Ohama, 2000).

Participatory approaches to development have become a topic that has received increasing attention in recent decades. Jamiesson in Marzuki (2004) states that there are two perspectives underlying the participatory development paradigm: (1) involving local communities in the selection, design and implementation of programs or projects that affect their lives, so that their perceptions, attitudes, mindsets, values, and local community knowledge can be fully considered; and (2) providing feedback on programs/projects, which is an integral part of village development activities. Therefore, the goals that can be achieved by implementing a participatory approach in all stages of the village development process are: (1) involving all interest groups in every stage of the village development process; (2) fostering a sense of community ownership of each stage of the development process; (3) appreciate community initiative in every stage of the village development process; and (4) creating community independence in overcoming problems in their environment (Sangian, 2018) . This concept emphasizes the importance of active community involvement in the development process, from the planning stage to implementation and evaluation.

Community participation not only strengthens democracy and increases a sense of ownership of development outcomes, but also ensures that development projects are better suited to local needs and aspirations. By involving various stakeholders, including groups that are often marginalized, this approach seeks to create more inclusive, sustainable and responsive development. A participatory approach in village development is a model or method for exploring village development potential and ideas that focuses on community involvement in the entire development process. This concept is based on the values and spirit of mutual cooperation which are deeply embedded in the culture of Indonesian society. Mutual cooperation

is based on the belief that every member of society has the right to determine and plan what is best for themselves and their environment, as well as the best way to make it happen (Wahyudin, 2004).

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the participatory approach in village development is a method where the community participates in formulating, planning, implementing and evaluating village development programs. In other words, village development through a participatory approach involves village communities in every stage of the development process, starting from program planning and decision making, program implementation, to monitoring and evaluating village development results .

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a way of understanding something where researchers collect, organize, and interpret data obtained from humans using sight and hearing as tools to filter results (Suwarsono, 2016). Researchers choose qualitative research methods to understand the research subject in depth, by going directly into the field to understand the phenomenon being researched. The research instrument carried out by the researcher was an interview. With this instrument, researchers hope to get answers that people actually experience. This research was conducted in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency. Data collection in this research was carried out by directly observing the behavior of village communities in participating in village development. This technique is applied by conducting surveys and interviews with village heads and the surrounding community.

Previous Research

1. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING THROUGH MUSRENBANG

(Case Study of Japordes Development in tungunjagir Village, Mantup District, Lamongan Regency) (Agustin, 2016). In this research, discussing the participation of the Waitunjagir Village community in the development of Japordes, it can be concluded as follows: At the planning stage, community participation was very high in the Village Conference to formulate road construction plans, characterized by high attendance and enthusiasm in expressing opinions. At the implementation stage, community participation was also very good, as demonstrated through voluntary contributions of energy, money and materials. The community provided labor costs, contributed money due to time constraints, and donated materials such as sand and stones. At the utilization stage, the community strives to ensure that the benefits of the road can be felt together by participating in environmental maintenance and community service. At the evaluation stage, the community is active in development evaluation meetings, providing criticism and suggestions through appointed representatives.

2. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUKAMERTA VILLAGE, RAWAMERTA DISTRICT, KARAWANG DISTRICT

(Hakim, 2017). This research discusses community participation in the development of Sukamerta Village, Rawamerta District, Karawang Regency. It can be concluded that community participation in every stage of village development is quite good. At the decision-making stage, the community is involved until a mutual agreement is reached. At the implementation stage, community involvement went well, resulting in satisfaction with the performance of the village government. In the benefit-taking stage, the community can

experience the maximum benefits of development. Finally, at the evaluation stage, the community is fully involved, increasing satisfaction and trust in the village government.

3. A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN SIDENRENG RAPPANG DISTRICT

(Irwan, 2021). This research shows that the most influential indicator in community participation is participation in implementing activities at 67.4 % , while participation in utilizing results is the lowest at 58.8%. The most influential indicator of participation in development planning is optimizing community participation at 64.8 % , while the lowest is supporting coordination between development actors at 58.8%. Thus, the most dominant community participation in development planning is when they participate in implementing activities.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Results

The results of this research show that a participatory approach in village development has been applied at every stage of development in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency. However, the quality of implementation varies at each stage of village development. The application of a participatory approach in planning is quite good, but there are still weaknesses, namely the involvement of community leaders and representatives of community groups in village development planning meetings (musrenbang). Based on various types of community participation, in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency it tends to be more participatory in conveying or expressing ideas. The participatory approach that needs to be improved in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency is the evaluation and monitoring phase. Even though the community is given the opportunity to provide ideas and participate in development activities, it is not uncommon for the community to feel dissatisfied.

Discussion

A participatory approach in development is an obligation that must be implemented by the village government in accordance with Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014 concerning Implementing Regulations of Law Number 6 of 2014, as well as the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation concerning Village Development Guidelines (Sangian, 2018). In this research, it will be explained that the participatory approach in decision making presented above in Tanjung Medan Village, Labuhan Batu Selatan Regency is already good, but is running optimally so that evaluation or improvement is needed in it. Based on the results of interviews in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency, the village government has taken a participatory approach for better village development.

In development plans, village communities are always involved. This is proven by the deliberations held by the village head and the community when there was development in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency. A number of community groups express their opinions and ideas and take part in the decision-making process, but the results of their thoughts and ideas are not immediately accepted raw by the village government but will be filtered first and will be considered carefully whether they are in line with the needs of the village.

A participatory approach is also taken by village residents in implementing village development programs. After the village residents convey their thoughts and ideas (villagers) they also take part in realizing the results of their thoughts and ideas in village development. Village communities are included

and involved in several activities. In this case, the community can participate in the form of material assistance or the community can participate in mutual cooperation activities directly .

approach in the community does not only extend to conveying ideas and participating in implementing activities, but the community also intervenes in monitoring and evaluating activities and development programs in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency. Residents are involved directly in supervising activities that are being implemented or have already been implemented. The community is given a way by the village government to obtain information regarding the implementation of development program activities by the village government. In this case, the community is still not satisfied with the access provided by the village government because it is often found that the village government is not honest in reporting the budget to the community. This community dissatisfaction is also given space by the village government to convey community complaints if things are found that are not in accordance with the law. Some community criticism was heeded and corrected by the village government, however, some residents felt that their criticism was not heeded by the village government.

CONCLUSION

A participatory approach in village development, which is required by Law Number 6 of 2014, Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014, and Minister of Home Affairs Regulation, has been implemented in Tanjung Medan Village, South Labuhan Batu Regency. This research shows that although community involvement in planning is quite good, its implementation is not optimal. Deliberations involving village heads and the community prove that there are efforts to involve various groups in the decision-making process. However, community ideas and ideas are not always fully accepted by the village government, but are instead filtered to ensure they suit the village's needs.

Apart from that, the participatory approach also involves residents in the implementation and evaluation of village development programs. The community participates in mutual cooperation activities and provides material contributions. However, even though they are given access to monitor program implementation, the community often feels dissatisfied with the transparency of the village government, especially in terms of budget reporting. This dissatisfaction indicates the need for improvements in the evaluation and monitoring phase. Even though there is space for the community to submit complaints, not all criticism is responded to well by the village government. Overall, the participatory approach in Tanjung Medan Village still requires improvement in several aspects so that it can run more effectively and satisfy the community.

Suggestion

1. Village governments need to improve transparency in budget reporting to the community. Concrete steps such as holding regular open forums to explain details of the budget and use of village funds can increase community trust and ensure accountability.
2. To ensure that community ideas and concepts are well received and considered, the village government can hold more deliberations involving representatives from various community groups. This will ensure that every voice is heard and the specific needs of different levels of society are considered in development planning.
3. The village government must strengthen the evaluation and monitoring phase by involving the community more actively. Establishing a special committee consisting of village residents to oversee

program implementation and evaluate the results can help ensure that each stage of development goes according to plan and that the community is satisfied with the results.

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