

Community Participation in the Village Fund Program in Kemang Manis Village, Tebing Tinggi District, Empat Lawang Regency, South Sumatra

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Abstract

This study aimed to find out how community participation in the Village Fund program in Kemang Manis Village in the Four Lawang District in 2016 and the factors that supported and blocked community participation in the village fund program in Kemang Manis Village. The method used was qualitative so that the data obtained through interviews, observation and study of documentation and qualitative descriptive analysis techniques. The results showed that at the decision making stage, the participation of the Kemang Manis village community in the Village Fund Program in 2016 was still low because the data synchronization activities were not carried out, only the village elite community and workers as well as grant providers, were invited, attended, gave opinions, and approve the results of the meeting's decision. At the implementation stage (community participation) was quite good, it appeared in the crowded community who registered themselves as candidates for village infrastructure activities, following the work briefing and direction from the village government. At the time of implementation the community brought their own carpentry equipment, donated food and drinks, and received wages or daily work incentives, and participants of community empowerment activities received transport money. The stages of the utilization of benefits (benefits) the community felt the benefits of the results of village development. Roads could be passed by 4-wheeled vehicles, making it easier to transport agricultural produce, residents began to build houses because roads were available and land values had also increased. The community had not yet been involved

in the monitoring, supervision and evaluation stages, because in the planning stages of the Village RPJM and Village RKP documents the community involvement is still low. At the stage of implementation of village development the community was involved as an implementer, but the procurement and financial management and administration activities were carried out by the village government. There were no complaints from the public and information disclosure regarding the new Village Fund in the form of a Village Infrastructure development project board.

Keywords: community participation, village fund program, south sumatra

Introduction

In the publication of the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) entitled Initial Portraits of Sustainable Development Goals in Indonesia, there are about 70 percent of the total indicators measuring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that have been successfully achieved by Indonesia. However, several indicators that measure targets in the health sector are still quite far from achievement and should receive special attention. The targets that have not yet been achieved include the national poverty rate, infant mortality, maternal mortality, prevalence of malnutrition, HIV and AIDS prevalence and several indicators related to the environment. Poverty is a global issue and a multidimensional problem (Akbar, 2015; Alhafid, 2015; Azhar, 2015).

Law Number 6 of 2014 Concerning Villages is one of the public policies stipulated by the government to give village authority to regulate and manage government affairs, the interests of local communities. according to the village's definition in general terms. The government budgeted village funds nationally in the National Budget every year for villages and their allocation in each village was calculated based on population, poverty rate, area and geographical difficulty level. However, these funds were not fully optimal, a number of studies show that the number of poor and very poor in rural areas was still quite large (Nugroho, 2011; Singarimbun, 1982; Usman, 2012; Bahrudin, 2015; Darmawi, 2014).

One district that still has poverty problems is the Empat Lawang district. Empat Lawang regency is an expansion of Lahat regency, South Sumatra Province. Empat Lawang regency as a new autonomous region formed under Law No. 1 of 2007 was included in the middle-down income areas until 2014. In the vulnerable period from 2007 to 2015, the administrative area of the Empat Lawang regency consisted of 10 districts, 9 subdistricts and 147 villages with an area of 2,256.44 Km². In the last five years, the development of poverty indicators in the Empat Lawang experienced only a slight increase.

This is because the budget of the village fund of the Four Lawang Regency especially Kemang Manis Village had not been used optimally. This situation was happened because some factors. They were community involvement at the decision making stage was still low; community involvement in the implementation phase still met obstacles; program communication was not smooth. These factors encouraged to find out how community participation in the Village Fund program and what factors support and hinder community participation.

Literature Review

In general terms, the term participation is the participation of a person or group of community members in an activity. Bornby (1974) in Mardikantor and Soebiato (2015: 81) for example, defines participation as an action to "take part" i.e. an activity or statement to take part of an activity with the intention of obtaining benefits. Community participation is the involvement of community members in an area, to take part and contribute to an activity, in the process of planning, implementing, feeling the benefits of development and conducting monitoring and evaluation for the common good. In theory, especially according to Slamet (1985) in Mardikanto and Soebiato 2013: 91, states that the growth and development of community participation in development, is determined by 3 (three) main elements, namely: the opportunity given to the community to participate, the will of the community to participate, the ability of the community to participate (Alfitri, 2011; Hadi, 2013; Laksana, 2013; Mau, 2015; Putra, 2015; Sulistiawati, 2013; Wibowo, 2011).

The theory of participation as a reference in this study is the theory of Cohen and Uphoff's (1980). The parameters of community participation in development are: involved in making decisions, involved in implementation, involved in the utilization of results; and involved in evaluation. The selection of theories used has considerations, namely: to find out how the process of community participation in the Village Fund program can be seen from the community's involvement in each stage of participation referring to Permendagri Number 114 of 2014 concerning Guidelines for Village Development; and related to the phenomenon of community participation in the background of existing problems.

Methods

Data analysis technique in this study was a qualitative descriptive analysis technique. The data analysis model were consisted of following process; data reduction stage, data display stage, and verification stage. Respondent of this research were informants consisted of people of Kemang Manis Village who had or had never been involved in the Village Fund program; and have enough time to be interviewed. This study used qualitative data types and quantitative data presented in the form of numbers, tables, diagrams / graphs, and figures. The data of this study were obtained from data collection techniques, namely in-depth interviews and observations.

Result and Discussion

Community Participation in Decision Making

Community participation in decision making is part of the village program planning process that utilizes the Village Fund Budget. The results of this study in table 1 show that community participation in the planning process was still low and not optimal. Not infrequently, village activity planning is very centralized in the interests of village leaders.

Tabel 1. Community Participation in Decision Making

Dimension	Indicators	Findings
Community participation in decision making	As resources	<p>Community participation in providing information is still low.</p> <p>In compiling planning documents, administrative data have not been aligned with real conditions in the community.</p> <p>Most people have never been asked about population data, natural resources, and development resources.</p> <p>The preparation of planning documents still relies on the Village Local Assistance and is based on decision instructions by the village government</p>
	Meeting Invitation	<p>There is no written invitation for consultation to the community from the village government;</p> <p>Deliberation invitation is conducted verbally, by telephone and delivering it directly to the house.</p>

		<p>Representatives of the village elite are invited to deliberations, while other communities do not know when the deliberations will take place;</p> <p>The assumption is that the deliberations are held only for fathers and are only followed by village officials</p>
	<p>Forum attendance</p>	<p>Village elite community representatives invited to the meeting will attend the meeting</p> <p>There were 15 participants in the Phase I village meeting, 18 in the Phase II and 15 in the village development plan.</p> <p>The meeting was held at the village secretary's house, because the Village Hall was in a very bad condition.</p>
	<p>Idea submission</p>	<p>Village elite people express their opinions / input to the village government, while other</p>

		<p>community members do not express their opinions;</p> <p>The list of proposed activities in the 2016 RKP consists of 4 proposed development activities, and 16 proposed empowerment activities;</p>
	<p>Deliberation agreement</p>	<p>The village elite who attended the meeting agreed to the results of the deliberations</p> <p>In the Official Report that approves and signs the BPD, village government and 1 community representative.</p> <p>Decision making is done by determining the priorities of several proposals needed in village 1 and village 2, and development is carried out in stages.</p>

Implementation

Community participation in implementation is a form of community involvement in the preparation stage of work and field technical planning, participation in the form of personnel and participation in other empowerment activities. Village community participation in the village work program activities is quite good as shown in table 2.

Table 2. Community participation in implementation

Dimension	Indicator	Findings
Community participation in implementation	Work preparation meeting	Very good People were enthusiast because there were more job vacancy
	Activities implementation	Very good, but it was still low in community empowerment activities Because participants who take part in various activities are the same person
	People contribution	Very good and no obstacle

Participation in the utilization of results

Community participation from the beginning of planning, implementation to receiving benefits can foster a sense of ownership and preserve community members towards village development.

Table 3. Finding on utilization of results

Dimension	Indicator	Findings
Community participation in Product Utilization / Benefit Receipt	Village infrastructure development	Construction of concrete Cast Roads and the rehabilitation of Village suspension bridges. Most of the people just know about the activity when it will start The infrastructure that has

		<p>been built is recognized by the community as very beneficial for villagers individually, socially and materially.</p> <p>The village government has not yet carried out the next stage of development, such as forming a conservation group for the results of development;</p>
	<p>People empowerment activities</p>	<p>8 trainings, attended by 20 to 30 participants, were held in the Sekdes home page, with banners, tents, table chairs and speakers / loudspeakers</p> <p>Some of the people present felt the benefits of the activity but it was not optimally carried out and motivated by the help of transport.</p> <p>The activities carried out after the election of the new Village Head, this indicates that those who participated in the activity were from the supporters. In the activity report you</p>

		<p>can also see the attendance list of participants, namely the same number of people who participated in some training.</p> <p>The expected benefits of the training have not opened up opportunities / encouraged independence for the community.</p> <p>Management of the BUMDes will be revised and management training will be needed so that the BUMDes can run, as is done in other villages as a pilot project in Saling Sub-District, Empat Lawang District.</p>
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Community Participation in the Evaluation stage

Community participation in the evaluation phase includes monitoring the planning process, supervising service goods activities, making reports if irregularities are found and obtaining information on activities from the village government. Table 4 shows that community participation at the evaluation stage was not optimally involved.

Table 4. Community Participation in the Evaluation stage

No.	Evaluation activities	Notes
1	Monitor and supervise the planning process	The community has not been involved in monitoring and supervision

2	Monitor and supervise the implementation of activities (procurement of services, administration, quality of the results of activities)	community participation only consists of signing the administration because they have received work wages and transport fee
3	Make reports if there were odd thing	no reporting from the community to the village government.
4	Get information or report on activities from the village government	Information in the form of a development project board, overall the Village Fund budget has not been disclosed

In detail in table 5 the factors that support and hinder community participation in development programs with village funds are illustrated.

Table 5. Supporting and inhibiting factors of community participation

Supporting factors	Inhibiting factors
Funding and regulatory support from the government; Open opportunities in the implementation phase, Equality of needs and a sense of family	There is no Village Community Empowerment Cadre in Kemang Manis Village; Limited knowledge of the village apparatus Socio-Political Atmosphere in the Village

Conclusion

Based on the results of the community participation dimensions above, it can be concluded that the participation of the Kemang Manis village community in the Village Fund program in 2016 tends to be still low at the decision making stage, and the

evaluation stage. However, for some stages of community participation went quite well, namely the stage of implementation of activities and the community felt and enjoyed the benefits of village infrastructure development. Therefore, it is still necessary to undertake a participatory approach to the elements of the community and the village government together with assistants, in order to increase community participation in the village development process. Village Development includes elements of the community from the planning stage to foster a sense of belonging to the program of activities, accommodating the values of local wisdom, perceptions, attitudes and behavior of the local community as well as the development objectives in accordance with the aspirations and answers to problems from the community.

Some factors that encourage community participation in the Kemang Manis Village are funding support and regulations from the government, opening opportunities for participation at the implementation stage as well as a feeling of the same needs and kinship in the community of Kemang Manis Village. Factors that hampered community participation in Kemang Manis were the absence of a Village Community Empowerment Cadre, limited knowledge of the village apparatus and the socio-political atmosphere in the Kemang Manis Village.

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