

VILLAGE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Komaria Nur Aulia

Faculty of Law, University of Muhammadiyah Surabaya

E-mail Corespondent: komarianuraulia17@gmail.com

Abstract

Village development efforts are not only carried out by the government, but must be accompanied by participation from village communities. Village community participation will be obtained if the program in village development is in accordance with the needs of the village community. Therefore, there is a need for cooperation between the village government and the village community itself. Researchers want to know more about the factors that cause lack of community participation, what the government can do to increase community participation, and what forms of participation can be done by the community in village development. Researchers use literature study data collection techniques by collecting relevant data from books, scientific articles and journals. The results of the study stated that the factors that influence community participation are internal factors of the community itself, such as age, gender, education level etc. To increase community participation, the village government must have a good role as a dynamicator, catalyst and pioneer in every development movement carried out to obtain full participation from the community so that the goals in village development can be achieved.

Keywords : *Community Participation, Village Development, Village Government*

I. INTRODUCTION

In national development, development should be directed towards all regions and sectors, from urban to rural areas, evenly, to enhance the well-being of the Indonesian people. However, in reality, development attention is still dominated in urban areas, and rural areas still lack attention, as evidenced by the numerous rural communities grappling with issues such as poverty, underdevelopment, and various other social problems. Development attention must be further directed towards rural development, considering that the focal point of Indonesian society's development is in rural areas, where a significant portion of the population resides.

Efforts for rural development should not only be carried out by the government but should also be accompanied by the participation of the rural community. However, in the field, awareness regarding the importance of active roles and collaboration between the government and the rural community in development is still lacking. Many rural communities still consider development as the sole responsibility of the government, while the government, in turn, believes it can develop its regions without involving the community. Yet, development and the sustainability of its outcomes will not succeed without the support of community cooperation and participation. The entire process, from planning to the evaluation of development, must involve the role of the rural community, as they are the ones who understand the needs and issues in their area.

Therefore, it is crucial for the government and rural communities to build a strong synergy in development efforts. The government needs to strengthen mechanisms for community

involvement in the planning and implementation of development projects at the village level. Participatory steps such as village meetings and the creation of participatory development plans can be effective tools for eliciting ideas and understanding the direct needs of the community.

Additionally, educating rural communities about their roles in development needs to be enhanced. Improving their understanding of the importance of active participation in development will help them feel a sense of responsibility for the progress of their region. This can also foster a sense of ownership and community spirit in rural areas, which is key to the success of sustainable development.

Thus, involving rural communities directly and building strong partnerships between the government and the community is a crucial step toward achieving inclusive and sustainable development throughout Indonesia.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

1. What are the factors that influence the participation of rural communities in village development?
2. What is the role of the government to foster village community participation in village development?
3. What are the forms of village community participation that can be done in supporting village development?

III. RESEARCH METHODS

The sociolegal research method that can be applied to examine the narrative above may involve a qualitative approach with a focus on social and legal analysis in the context of national development in Indonesia. Here is a description of the relevant sociolegal research method: (1) Qualitative Approach: This method will use qualitative data, such as interviews, observations, and document analysis, to gain a deep understanding of the relationship between social and legal aspects in the context of national development., (2) Social Analysis: The research will explore the impact of development focused on urban areas on rural communities. Social analysis will cover aspects such as poverty levels, underdevelopment, and other social issues faced by rural communities. (3) Legal Analysis: The legal focus will involve examining existing development policies, especially those related to resource allocation and the role of rural communities. This may include analyzing regulations, laws, and other legal instruments that impact development distribution. (4) Community Participation: This method will emphasize the role of the community in the development process. The research will include participatory analysis, such as village meetings, to identify the extent to which the community is involved in the planning and implementation of development projects.

Through a combination of social and legal analysis, this sociolegal research will provide in-depth insights into the developmental inequalities between urban and rural areas and consider the active role of communities in supporting inclusive national development.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Village has the right to carry out social development as a regional development planning system in districts/cities. Regulations regarding village governance have experienced a shift in authority, so that the central and regional governments no longer directly intervene but act as facilitators, providing guidance, direction, guidance, training, and representative supervision of village regulations and regional budgets. The district/city government delegates entirely to the village government regarding the implementation of development in each village. Village development encompasses all programs aimed at improving the welfare of the rural community. Therefore, development must genuinely address the interests of the village community itself (Hangul, 1992). The interests of the village community can be achieved if the community is directly involved in the village development process, from planning to evaluation. Village community participation can be obtained if the programs in village development truly meet the needs of the village community. Hence, there needs to be cooperation between the village government and the community.

Factors influencing community participation include internal factors within the community:

1. Gender: Gender determines participation in development. The participation of men and women will differ due to social differences in status, rights, and obligations.
2. Age: Age also influences the form of community participation in development. Age affects the community's activity in development; older individuals are more active in providing opinions as they are considered more experienced.
3. Education level: The higher a person's educational background, the more and more significant their participation in development. Higher education provides extensive knowledge about development, facilitates communication, and promotes responsiveness to innovation (Litwin in Yulianti, 2000:34).
4. Income level: According to Barros (in Yulianti, 2000:34), financially stable communities tend to contribute material participation and rarely engage in physical work, while those with modest finances tend to contribute through labor.
5. Livelihood: An individual's livelihood or occupation will influence their participation in development. Employment determines the free time available for involvement in development activities such as attending meetings and communal work.

In practice, encouraging community involvement and participation in development is not an easy matter. Many rural communities still consider village development programs to be the sole responsibility of the village government, whereas achieving the main goals of village development requires active participation from the community itself. The community is the one that truly understands the constraints, problems, and needs of the village. Several factors contribute to the lack of community participation in village development:

1. Many communities are indifferent (apathetic) towards village development programs.
2. Development programs often benefit only specific segments of the population (small groups) rather than the entire community.
3. Communities are not involved from the beginning of the development process, although the goal of development is to benefit the community itself.
4. Communities have a limited understanding of the purpose of development goals, and the implementation of development does not align with the community's understanding.

To increase community participation, the village government must play a dynamic role as a dynamo, catalyst, and pioneer in every development effort to obtain full participation from the community. As a dynamo, the village government must provide guidance, direction, and encourage active community involvement in every aspect of development. As a catalyst, the village government must directly observe and coordinate factors that can drive the pace of development. As a pioneer, the village government must nurture the community, set a good example, exhibit high loyalty, and present itself well so that the government is valued, respected, and esteemed by the community. Article 354 of Law No. 23 of 2014 regarding Regional Governments also mentions that the government can make various efforts to encourage community participation, such as providing open information about development programs, promoting the active role of the community and community organizations, involving the community in decision-making processes, etc. The government can also employ various other strategies to enhance community participation in village development, as exemplified by the village governments in Koreng Village, South Minahasa Regency, and Oluhuta Village, North Gorontalo Regency.

The Koreng Village government has made various efforts to foster community participation in Koreng Village, such as:

1. Providing education to the community in various fields such as economics, law, health, and religion. The Koreng Village government believes that increasing community participation depends on the village government's ability, especially the leadership or head of the village. Therefore, the village government must provide education in various fields, such as collaborating with local police to provide guidance to youths regarding the consequences of fights among students, organizing communal work to clean the surrounding area and places of worship, collaborating with local health centers to provide education and guidance on the importance of physical and mental health.
2. Providing excellent services to the community and enhancing responsiveness to community needs. For example, the officials of the Koreng Village government will make maximum efforts to provide the best service to the village community in need of assistance from the village government.

The Oluhuta Village government in North Gorontalo Regency, in enhancing community participation in Oluhuta Village development, has undertaken several efforts, such as:

1. Conducting community development in the village. The village government, including the village head, village secretary, BPD (Village Consultative Board), LPM (Village Development Institution), and other village officials, coordinate to provide community development related to fostering an environmentally friendly attitude, enhancing the community's ability in developing livestock farming, and educating the community about the decision-making process through village deliberations.
2. Involving the community in village development. The village government provides opportunities for the community to participate in village development by constructing a 300-meter concrete road and family toilets for households without toilets. This is done to develop the community's abilities and reduce unemployment rates. The community is included in all stages of development, from planning and construction to enjoying the results and evaluating the development.

To achieve the success of village development goals, community participation is crucial from the initial stages of development to its completion. According to Cohen and Uphoff (in Irene, 2015:61), community participation is categorized into four types:

1. Participation in decision-making. This includes attending meetings, providing input, feedback, or rejection of programs.
2. Participation in implementation. Involvement in the implementation process of development programs requires collaboration between the government as the primary source of development (facilitator and implementer) and the community as implementers and controllers of the program. This participation is related to planning, implementation, and goals.
3. Participation in benefit acquisition. In terms of quantity, the success of a program is marked by an increase in output. In terms of quality, it can be observed how successful the program is, whether it aligns with the set targets or not.
4. Participation in evaluation. Participation related to the overall implementation of the program. This aims to determine whether the program implementation is in line with the established plan or if there are deficiencies or deviations.

V. CONCLUSION

In rural development programs, participation is needed in all aspects, from decision-making processes, program implementation, benefit uptake to program evaluation. Both the village government, as the executor and facilitator in the program, and the community itself must collaborate and participate fully in the development program. This collaboration is crucial because the development program is designed, among other things, to improve the welfare of the community. The low level of community participation is due to the apathy of many villagers towards the village development program. The program seems to benefit only a small group, and the government does not involve the community in the village development process. Additionally, the community may lack understanding of the goals of the village development itself.

Factors that can influence the participation of the rural community include gender, age, education level, livelihood, and income. To enhance community participation, the village government must be a dynamic, catalytic, and pioneering force in every development initiative. Moreover, the community should be given a strong foundation in understanding that village development is carried out for the benefit of their area and the well-being of the rural community. Actively participating in the village development process is essential for the comfort of the rural community.

Placing the rural community as the subject of development implies that the community is positioned as one of the essential and strategic pillars alongside the government and the private sector. This position indicates that the community is not merely an executor of development but also plays a role as a planner and controller of various development programs, whether initiated by the government or developed by the village community itself.

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Lukmanul Hakim, 2017, Partisipasi Masyarakat Dalam pembangunan Desa Sukamerta Kecamatan Rawamerta Kabupaten Karawang.
- Riyanti Samaun, Bala Bakri, Achmad Risa Mediansyah, 2021, Upaya Pemerintah Desa Mendorong Partisipasi asyarakat Dalam pembangunan Desa Oluhuta Kecamatan Atingola Kabupaten Gorontalo Utara.
- Hendra Mondong, Peran Pemerintah Desa dalam Meningkatkan Partisipasi Masyarakat dalam Pembangunan Desa.
- Nuring Septyasa Laksana, 2013, Bentuk-Bentuk Partisipasi Masyarakat Desa dalam Program Desa Siaga di Desa Bandung Kecamatan Playen Kabupaten Gunung Kidul Provinsi Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta.
- Intan P.N Damanik, M. E. Tahitu, 2007, Studi Tingkat Partisipasi Masyarakat Dalam Pembangunan Desa.
- UU No. 23 Tahun 2014