



COMMUNITY APPRECIATION FOR RURAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN SOPPENG REGENCY

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Article history:		Abstract:
Received:	14 th July 2022	The main problem highlighted in this study is the level of community participation in realizing the ability to be independent and empowered to manage existing natural resources for better and more developed problems and sustainability of life so that it can help improve community welfare. Communities can determine priority programs needed for progress. The goal achieved is that community empowerment programs implemented by the government can be followed and implemented by the community in realizing prosperity. The method used in this research is participatory observation and in-depth interviews about community appreciation regarding empowerment and the positive impact of rural community empowerment efforts. The number of informants was 5 people who obtained information about community empowerment activities in Jampu Village, Liliraja District, Soppeng Regency. The conclusion of this study is that the community has the ability and skills to intensify farming, and the community is able to develop other business to obtain value. Moreover, the community understands the safety of children and finds solutions to domestic violence through an approach to empowering cultural values. This means that the community can appreciate empowerment effectively in Soppeng Regency.
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INTRODUCTION

The scope of village community empowerment as mandated by the government as outlined in Laws of Republic of Indonesia Number 6 of 2014 about Villages explains that rural community empowerment is an effort to develop community independence and welfare by increasing knowledge, attitudes, skills, behavior, abilities, awareness, and utilize resources through the establishment of policies, programs, activities, and assistance in accordance with the essence of the priority problem for the needs of the rural community. It was added that the assignment from the government and/or regional government to the village includes the administration of rural government, implementation of rural development, rural community development and rural community empowerment.

Empowerment programs can be carried out smoothly if the program is in accordance with the needs of the community and in accordance with the conditions of the area that has supporting resources. For example, the village area has an agricultural area, then the competencies that must be developed are farming competencies and the ability to diversify agricultural products can be developed so that added value can be realized optimally. Furthermore, the village area is suitable for animal husbandry, then the village government can facilitate and support the implementation of the livestock program which is supported by the guidance of the relevant agencies for the implementation of the program with the help of knowledge and skills that must be possessed by the community.

Based on the condition of the area in Jennae Village, for example, it has a rice field farming area, this area can also be developed for small industries, and home industries that require assistance from the local government to develop community businesses. This can be seen in the entrepreneurial effort of making pastries that can be used as merchandise that supports the survival of people in the region.

While in Jampu village, which has rice fields and plantations, the empowerment programs are assumed to be the development of the capacity and independence of the community in the plantation commodity area which can encourage the community to develop their businesses in these fields. This condition is used as a reference for the implementation of community empowerment so that they can maintain a more prosperous life.

The implementation of the village community empowerment program optimally can contribute to the local government. Therefore, this research activity seeks to explore the community's appreciation for the optimal empowerment of rural communities.

AIMS

This study aims to explore the process of implementing community empowerment. This purpose is to find out about community involvement in community empowerment programs.

UNDERSTANDING OF EMPOWERMENT

To clarify the understanding of empowerment, it is necessary to examine the opinions of experts: Mas'oeed, 1990, Sumodiningrat (1997) that community empowerment is defined as the ability of individuals who combine with the community in building the empowerment of the community concerned.

Fear and Schwarzweller (in Mardikanto), 2017 suggests that empowerment is understood as:

"A process in which increasingly more members of a given area or environment make and implement socially responsible decisions, where the probable consequence of which is an increase in the life chances of some people without a decrease (without deteriorating in the life chance of others"

While Robbins (1998) adds that empowerment : process by which individuals and groups gain process, access to resources and control over their own lives, in doing so, they gain the ability to achieve their highest personal and collective aspirations and goals.

The World Bank (2001) added that empowerment is an effort to provide opportunities and capabilities for poor community groups to be able to dare to speak up or voice their ideas, or ideas, as well as the ability to choose a concept, method, product, action, etc. Empowerment is a process of increasing the ability and attitude of the community's independence.

It is clearly explained that community empowerment is an effort to increase the dignity of the layers of society who in their current condition are unable to escape from the tools of poverty and limitations, underdevelopment. In other words, empowerment is enabling and empowering the community.

According to Hafsa (2016), it is explained that community empowerment in the health sector is a process of building human beings or developing community capabilities, changing behavior, and organizing people in the health sector. The core of the alert village activity is empowering the community so that they are willing and able to live a healthy life, be able to prevent and solve health problems independently. Community empowerment and health efforts are essentially the focus of health development.

Related to the two matters of community empowerment above, it can be concluded that empowerment about ability and independence will be supported by the ability of the community towards their health to refer to improving their welfare. Because Health is the main supporter of well-being.

EMPOWERMENT PROCESS

Community empowerment is activities carried out by individuals and groups to build communities in order to obtain a better, decent and more prosperous life. As stated by Mardikanto (2016) that in community empowerment, the community is the actor and determinant of development. In this regard, community proposals are the basis of local, regional development, and even become the starting point for national programs. Here the community is facilitated to assess their own development and livelihood needs, problems and opportunities. In addition, they also identify the right solution and access the necessary resources, both external resources, as well as resources belonging to the community itself.

According to the Delivery Team (2004), empowerment is a process that starts with the independence of the community so that they can improve their own standard of living by using and accessing local resources as well as possible.

Sudjad (2000) argues that so far the economic empowerment program for farmers is still on farm centralism. Empowerment should be directed more so that agribusiness engineering grows so that rural farmers can become reliable business actors and eventually become business centers for prosperous rural communities. Development must be the final product, as the agro-industry market become the middle component, and the starting point is on farms business.

EMPOWERMENT FACILITATOR

Empowerment facilitators are actors whose duties are to help the community to improve their competence and skills in the daily activities of the community to meet the needs of life. The actor is the one who is given the task to improve competence so that the community is capable and independent.

Based on the status and the institution where they work, the facilitators are distinguished in Law No. 16 of 2006 which confirms: (1) Civil Servants (PNS) are civil servants who are appointed with functional position status as community empowerment instructors/facilitators. (2) Private extension agents/facilitators, namely Community empowerment facilitators who are employees of private companies (producers of fertilizers, pesticides, seed companies, agricultural machinery, etc. Included in the category of private extension workers are extension workers from non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

According to Lippit in Mardikanto (2016) that the role of the facilitator is: (1) developing the need to make changes, in this stage, each extension worker must be able to play his role in activities, (2) mobilizing the community to make changes, in this stage, the activities that must be carried out by the extension worker are establishing close relationships, showing the needs that have not been felt by the community, with the community to determine needs, (3) strengthening relationships with the beneficiary communities.

Based on the statement above, it is interpreted that the extension worker is competent and professional in carrying out his duties as a facilitator and has a friendly personality with the community as a recipient of information to be applied, so that the results of the extension can contribute to the village community.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

The term community appreciation referred to in this study is to have the meaning of knowledge, memory, love, respect and practice and evaluation. For this reason, appreciation is a process of applying knowledge received by the community. Furthermore, the meaning of appreciation approaches the term community participation. Therefore, community empowerment is determined by community participation in the ability and independence in running the wheel of life that leads to the achievement of a prosperous life.

According to Mardikanto (2016), it is explained that participation is a special form of interaction and communication related to the distribution of authority, responsibility, and benefits. The growth of such interaction and communication is based on the awareness possessed by the person concerned regarding: a) unsatisfactory conditions, and must be improved, b) these conditions can be improved through human activities and the community itself, c) their ability to participate in activities that can be carried out, d) there is confidence that he can make a useful contribution to the activity concerned.

It was also added that community participation in development is largely determined by: a) participation in decision-making, b) participation in the implementation of activities, c) participation in development monitoring and evaluation, d) participation in development utilization.

Based on the description above, it can be understood that rural communities can assess, practice and appreciate the benefits and objectives of community empowerment. It is the community who is involved and receives the benefits programmed by experts from the field (PPL/Public/private extension workers and NGOs). It is the community who determines, experiences, appreciates, loves the results of the community empowerment program.

RESEARCH METHODS

Types of research

This research method is a descriptive qualitative research that seeks to describe the condition of the empowerment of the Jampu village community in Soppeng Regency. This type of descriptive research explores community activities that can support sustainable and development, thus requiring the assistance of an empowerment facilitator from the local government.

Research sites

The location chosen in this study is the village of Jampu which is expected to be representative for the implementation of research in Soppeng Regency

Research Informants

The informants in the study were 5 people who were obtained in the village of Jampu, Liliriaja District, Soppeng Regency. The informants are people who participate in community empowerment.

Data Collection Technique

The data collection technique used is informants who have participated in community empowerment. The number of informants planned is 5 informants, and data collection is by participatory observation and in-depth interviews. Furthermore, the data is reduced, data selection and interpretative conclusions are drawn.

Data Analysis Techniques

The corpus of data collected and reduced, collected and interpreted for research conclusions.

DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH RESULTS

Data Corpus.

First Informant

Mrs. J as Head of Service at the village office who participates in empowerment activities carried out in Jampu village. He explained that the activities carried out were sewing guidance and training with a total of 14 participants. It was also added that the training participants were provided with sewing machine assistance. He explained that the sewing community empowerment activity was not sustainable because the community still needed financial assistance to open a business. It is necessary to understand that the community wants all of these empowerment activities to be funded in a sustainable manner.

Furthermore, Mrs. J added that the women in the village of Jampu had also been introduced to the oyster mushroom business and were used as a model which had been successful in producing, but even this business was not sustainable due to the need or the materials used for the oyster mushroom business were rather difficult to obtain, for example raw materials. raw material from the rest of the wood saws.

On the other hand, it was explained that community empowerment activities regarding legal knowledge regarding caring for children related to children's safety or protection of children went smoothly. Where mothers are held meetings every time to prevent violence against children. Moreover, it is said that the guidance to the community carried out on the related parties is that the problem of domestic violence is explained by way of solving the problem.

Based on the information presented to this informant, it can be understood that the empowerment process carried out in Jampu village has not made a positive contribution to the community because the community's ability to apply is still very limited. Therefore, the empowerment process runs slowly. This requires attention to the community and the relevant agencies to implement empowerment programs that are tailored to the needs of the community. Because people in this era are used to being pampered, which results in efforts to increase welfare not being effective.

The initial empowerment activities that have been carried out by the empowerment facilitators were enthusiastically followed by the community, but the empowerment activities have been carried out once, twice and will slowly withdraw. Therefore, the sustainability of the programs is expected to be sustainable so that the objectives can be achieved.

Second Informant

Mr. HA as an informant who explained his activities in the community empowerment process. He is the head of a farmer group that deals with the needs of farmers, especially fertilizers. He explained that the farmers' need for fertilizer had been determined based on the area of land they owned.

He said the name of his farmer group was the Pallae farmer group. The area of land that is jointly managed by farmer groups is 154 hectares. In his group as many as 73 farmers. Mr. HA was active in providing counseling to his group on how to fertilize cocoa, also explained how to fertilize corn. Farmers are active in clearing their plantations for planting corn. This, farmers are excited to farm corn in this era, where the selling value is quite promising for farmers. He motivates farmers to follow the advice of agricultural extension workers.

He added that he and the students who carried out Community Service Program from Unhas were medical students, so he gave health education activities related to how to use masks and were always well taken care of, especially farmers in the use of grass poison in land cultivation. He also stated that he was always with the field extension workers to provide the tools needed by the farmers.

Mr. HA said that farmers are regulated in the distribution of fertilizers, especially according to the area of land they have. He showed a list of names of farmers who received subsidized fertilizers. He showed the RDKK regarding subsidized fertilizer in 2022 as many as 82 farmers.

Observing from the statement above, it can be assumed that farmers acquire knowledge and skills in farming as part of community empowerment in agriculture. Of course, it can be understood that the community appreciates the empowerment of agricultural intensification.

Third Informant

Mr. AR is a hardworking farmer, doing various types of work to meet the needs of his family. He is engaged in plantations, rice field farming, and he is even involved in community empowerment activities.

He added that child protection as part of empowerment is programmed to be held once a month. Furthermore, the Women Farmers group was given guidance for the development of oyster mushrooms. However, this activity was not sustainable because the village-owned enterprises facilitated this activity but the cultivators had various activities and finally the oyster mushrooms were not taken care of.

In the field of rice fields, innovation is given regarding the procedure for planting with the Legowo technique, but farmers do not apply it because the planting procedure is difficult for farmers. He knows this planting method is very good and produces a lot of production, but this planting method takes a long time. Where the farmer must prepare the rope and the size of the spacing. He explained that the size of the spacing is 20 cm - 20 cm and the following distance is 40 cm. examples like this bother farmers to implement because farmers need a long time.

Mr. AR further explained that farming activities have been engaged in specifically with innovations in the cocoa plantation sector. He followed the advice of the agricultural instructor regarding the procedures for maintaining cocoa so that his cocoa plants still produced with good quality. He maintains the chocolate well with the technique of trimming the brown branches and he uses the patching technique.

Based on the information provided by this informant, it can be analyzed that the farmers mentioned above understand agricultural innovations and apply the knowledge gained from agricultural extension workers. The level of appreciation of farmer empowerment is very good. Therefore, farmers can choose, apply empowerment in accordance with their farming development needs.

Fourth Informant

Mr. B is the head of the Mabbalae farmer group which consists of 134 farmers. He as the group leader tries to distribute subsidized fertilizers with 7 fertilizer substances in the calculation of 1 hectare of land. So farmer groups receive a number of fertilizer substances that are adjusted to the area of land they have. Based on the determination of the amount of fertilizer substances adjusted for the RDKK.

He said that he conducted trials 3 times a year for harvesting, but he usually had problems with the rainy season. He is trying to grow horticultural crops.

Furthermore, Mr. B always invites 134 members of his farmer group, but he stated that usually around 50 farmer groups attend. This factor is influenced by the busyness of the farmers and their members who are in other villages. Based on the fact that the Mabbalae farmer group whose members are outside the Jampu village area. This is due to the fact that the land owners in the mabblae area are not entirely residents of the village of Jampu.

He added that the problem of community empowerment, especially for rice farmers, was introduced to the Legowo or 20cm-20cm and 40cm planting technique and the crop yields increased. However, the problem is that there is quite a lot of time and effort, so the mini tana technique is not sustainable.

Based on the statement from the head of the Mabbalae farmer group that farmers accepted the innovations submitted by the extension worker were applied and tested, but this activity was constrained due to the amount of time and energy used. Farmer groups understand about empowerment in agriculture.

DISCUSSION

Based on the theoretical study and the findings in this study, this study discusses that the people in the village of Jampu receive guidance from agricultural extension workers regarding efforts to increase agricultural production. The innovations brought by the farmers have been implemented according to the recommendations. Through the empowerment process experienced by the community, it is combined with the experience of farmers through social learning.

Empowerment activities carried out in Jampu village consist of training, mentoring and agricultural practices such as rice planting techniques with the Legowo system, namely: 20cm-20cm and 40cm. This activity has been practiced by farmers, but the process is not sustainable with the time spent in planting is quite long. Furthermore, the replanting activity is as before, namely 20cm-20cm-20cm-20cm regarding the spacing that is often done by farmers.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Based on theoretical studies, research findings and discussions in this study, it can be concluded that community appreciation for community empowerment shows that creativity and community participation regarding empowerment are very positive. This can be interpreted that the community needs innovations in agriculture which are very closely related to agricultural intensification, extensification, diversification and rehabilitation.

Community appreciation for this empowerment is associated with empowerment in the health sector, cultural values that refer to understanding legal issues regarding child protection, safety children, domestic violence requires guidance, counseling and security control on the government side.

Suggestion

The results of this study are recommended for further scrutiny of the state of community empowerment as follows:

1. Communities need financial assistance to practice the empowerment provided by agricultural extension workers, in the health sector, and in the field of community security.
2. The community can change old habits regarding planting procedures or techniques according to the Legowo system.
3. The community must be more creative in seeking skills to gain added value so that the community can obtain prosperity.

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