

Community Empowerment Program in Indonesia

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Abstract

Development is an effort to increase the dignity of those people who, in their condition, are unable to escape from the trap of poverty and underdevelopment. In the context of efforts to manifest the success of development in the Mamuju Regency, it is necessary to choose paradigms and strategies used as the basis for the development process. "Community welfare" is the ideal of all nations on earth; a condition where every citizen feels comfortable, peaceful, and happy and can fulfill their needs for clothing and housing. At its most basic level, a civilized person's welfare is their ability to meet their basic needs, such as getting enough food, clothing, a place to live, good health care, and an education. Human behavior is often less conducive to efforts to realize their welfare, both individually, in family, and the community, thus causing gaps in learning about their interests. In the context of society, "empowerment" means that people can work together for the good of the whole community. When most of the people in an organization are physically and mentally healthy, educated, strong, and creative, that organization has a high level of empowerment. But in addition to the physical values mentioned above, other values in society are also sources of empowerment. These include family values, cooperation, struggle, and diversity, which are unique to our community.

Keywords: community empowerment, program, poverty, public service, Indonesia

1. Introduction

Development is a way to improve the dignity of people who can't escape poverty and underdevelopment because of their situation (Maryam et al., 2021; Misnawati & Yusriadi, 2018; Yusriadi & Misnawati, 2017). Development is the process of trying to improve the community's economic and social well-being. Because of this, everyone in the community should be able to share in the benefits of development, such as an increase in physical and spiritual interest. The goal of development is to improve living standards and well-being in a fair and just way. This can only be done if the development effort leads to an increase in economic capacity.

To make sure that development in Mamuju Regency goes well, it is important to pick a paradigm and a strategy to use as the basis for development. Who says that the idea of empowerment is seen as an alternative way to solve the problem of poverty in developing countries (Yusriadi, n.d., 2018b, 2018a, 2019a; Yusriadi, Anwar, et al., 2020). So, this opinion makes it even more clear that the empowerment paradigm is the best way for the people of the Mamuju Regency to build their economy.

At the most basic level, the welfare of a civilized human being is the ability of that being to fulfill his basic needs, namely: adequate food, clothing, shelter, health, and education. Human behavior is often not conducive to efforts to realize their welfare, both individually and as a family or community, thus causing gaps in efforts to realize their welfare. Here, it is the job of the central government and the regional governments to create an environment where people can work together for the good of the

community in a fair and civilized way (Ahmda et al., 2020a; Faridav et al., 2021; Yusriadi, 2018c, 2019b; Yusriadi et al., 2019).

In the context of society, empowerment means that people can work together to build the empowerment of the community in question. Community empowerment makes it possible for an organization to stay in business, grow, and progress. An organization where most of its members are physically and mentally healthy, educated, strong, and innovative has high empowerment. But in addition to the physical values mentioned above, other values in society are also sources of empowerment. These include family values, working together, struggle, and diversity, which are unique to our society. This community empowerment is the source of what, from the political perspective at the national level, is called national resilience (Ahmda et al., 2020b; Yusriadi, 2019c; Yusriadi, bin Tahir, et al., 2020a, 2020b; Yusriadi & Farida, 2019).

To understand the Indonesian nation, you need to know that the community is the primary driver of development. Empowering the community is a way to improve the dignity of our society, which can't get out of poverty and underdevelopment as it is now. In other words, empowerment means enabling and empowering the community. At the same time, the government (bureaucracy) is responsible for directing, guiding, and creating a helpful environment. This bureaucracy needs to be able to work well, which means it needs to be able to explain and carry out public policies correctly to meet its goals and objectives.

Community empowerment is a concept of economic development that encapsulates social values. This idea fits with the new way of thinking about development, describes as "people-centered, participatory, empowering, and sustainable (Cahaya et al., 2022; Nurman et al., 2022; Tamsah et al., 2020)." This idea goes beyond just meeting basic needs or giving people a way to keep from getting poorer (a "safety net"). This way of thinking has only recently been developed to find alternatives to growth ideas from the past. This concept developed from the efforts of many experts and practitioners to seek what, among others, called "alternative development," which requires "inclusive democracy, appropriate economic growth, gender equality, and intergenerational equity (Ahmda et al., 2020a; Haris et al., 2021; Tamsah & Yusriadi, 2022; Yusriadi, bin Tahir, et al., 2020a; Zacharias et al., 2021)."

In the context of this empowerment, the main efforts are to increase the level of education and the degree of health and to access sources of economic progress such as capital, technology, information, employment, and markets. The input in the form of empowerment concerns the development of basic infrastructure and physical facilities, such as irrigation, roads, electricity, and social services, such as schools and health service facilities, through which the community can reach the lowest level, as well as the availability of funding, training, and marketing institutions. In rural areas, where the population is concentrated, they are much less empowered.

Empowerment includes not only strengthening individual community members but also their institutions. Instilling modern cultural values such as hard work, frugality, openness, and responsibility are the main components of this empowerment effort. In the same way, the renewal of social institutions, their integration into development activities, and society's role in them are also important. For this reason, it is necessary to have a unique program for less privileged people because general programs that apply to all do not always reach all levels of society.

The urgency is to increase people's participation in decision-making concerning themselves and their communities. Therefore, community empowerment is closely related to strengthening, civilizing, and practicing democracy. States that: "The empowerment approach, which is fundamental to alternative development, emphasizes autonomy in the decision-making of territorially organized communities, local self-reliance (but not autarchy), direct (participatory) democracy, and experiential social learning (Ilyas et al., 2022)."

2. Method

Research design

The approach used in this study is qualitative. A qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words of people or observable behavior. The qualitative method is a natural source of direct, descriptive data, and the method is more important than the results. In qualitative research, inductive analysis is often used to figure out what something means, which is very important.

Objects in qualitative research are natural objects or natural settings, so this research is often called naturalistic research. Natural objects are objects as they are, not manipulated by researchers, so the conditions when researchers enter the object, after being in the object, and leave the object are relatively unchanged. In qualitative research, the researcher becomes the instrument. Therefore, the device is a person or human agent in qualitative research. Researchers must have a wide range of theoretical and practical knowledge to ask questions, analyze, photograph, and build the object under study so that it is clear and makes sense. The data criteria in qualitative research are factual data. Factual data is information that happens as it is, not just information that can be seen or heard, but information that gives meaning to what can be seen or heard.

Data collection technique

Observation is a way to get information about something by directly watching it happen. Observation is about paying close attention to what is going on, making note of things that happen, and thinking about how things are related. From observations, you will get data about a problem so that understanding is obtained, or as a re-checking tool or proof of information obtained previously. An interview is a conversation with a specific purpose. There are two people in the conversation: the interviewer, who asks the question, and the person being interviewed, who answers or asks the question. The interview technique used in this research is in-depth interviews. In-depth interviews are used to get a full picture of a subject by meeting with the people who know about it and asking them questions.

Documentation is a way to collect and analyze data. This is done by collecting and analyzing written, photographic, or electronic documents. In qualitative research, document studies are a good addition to observation and interviews. Research results from observations or interviews will be more credible and trustworthy if documents from sources support them.

Data analysis technique

Data analysis is the process of arranging the order of data, organizing it into a pattern, category, and basic unit of description so that the data is easier to read and draw conclusions. Data is defined as a process that details efforts formally to find themes and formulate hypotheses as suggested and as attempts to provide support and articles to hypotheses. If examined, the first definition focuses more on organizing data, while the second emphasizes the intent and purpose of data analysis. The descriptive data analysis method is used to figure out what's going on. This method involves gathering factual data and describing it. Information from interviews and documents is used to make data, which goes through several stages. After data collection and recording, the researcher conducted an interaction analysis of data reduction, data presentation, and verification. The analysis of this research takes place together with the data collection process or is carried out after the data has been collected.

3. Result and Discussion

Empowerment Approaches, Strategies and Models

The main idea behind the concept of "empowerment" is that the community is not the subject of different projects to improve it, but is instead the subject of its own efforts to improve itself. The community empowerment approach to community development focuses on how important it is for local communities to be self-sufficient and work as a system that runs itself. Such a community empowerment

approach is certainly expected to give roles to individuals not as objects but as actors or actors who determine their own lives.

There are two strategies in carrying out empowerment-based development, namely (1) providing opportunities so that the sector and modern society can continue to advance because progress is needed for the development of the nation as a whole. This includes increasing efficiency, productivity, and the development and mastery of technology, which is very much needed to strengthen competitiveness; (2) empowering the economic sector and layers of people who are still left behind and live outside or on the edge of modern life. The two strategies above are inseparable from each other. The two are interrelated, and the relationship pattern needs to be arranged to produce a synergistic economic and community structure that leads to sustainable, equitable, and growing economic development on a solid foundation.

Strengthening the potential or power possessed by the community (empowering). In this context, more positive steps are needed, apart from just creating a climate and atmosphere. This strengthening includes concrete steps and the provision of different inputs and access to different opportunities that will give the community more power. Health status, as well as access to sources of economic progress such as capital, technology, information, employment, and markets. The input in the form of empowerment concerns the development of basic infrastructure and physical facilities, such as irrigation, roads, electricity, and social services, such as schools and health service facilities, which the community can reach the lowest level, as well as the availability of funding, training, and marketing institutions. Therefore, it is necessary to have special programs for underprivileged people because general programs that apply to all do not always reach this level of society.

Empowerment includes not only strengthening individual community members but also their institutions. Instilling modern cultural values such as hard work, frugality, openness, and accountability are the main components of this empowerment effort. In the same way, the renewal of social institutions, their integration into development activities, and society's role in them are also important. What is really important here is increasing people's participation in the decision-making process concerning themselves and their communities. Therefore, community empowerment is closely related to strengthening, civilizing, and practicing democracy.

In the process of empowerment, the weak must be prevented from becoming weaker because of the lack of power in the face of the strong. Because of this, protecting the weak and being more kind to the weak are very important parts of the idea of community empowerment. Protecting doesn't mean isolating or covering up from interaction, because doing so will dwarf the small and weaken the weak. Protecting must be seen as an effort to prevent unequal competition, as well as the exploitation of the strong over the weak. Community empowerment does not make people more dependent on various charity programs. Because, basically, everything they enjoy must be made by themselves, and the results can be traded with other people. Thus, the ultimate goal is to make the community self-reliant and enable them to build the ability to advance themselves towards a better life on an ongoing basis.

Empowerment and Community Principles and Values

Many concepts of thinking about empowerment from various contexts of charge produce many examples or models from various sides of the approach. There are thousands of ways for the poor, the government, civil society, and the private sector to help themselves (Fauzi & Muharram, 2019). When a business does well, it gives the poor more freedom to choose and act in different situations.

The flow of two-way information from government to citizen and citizen to government is critical for responsible, responsive citizens and government. Citizens who are well-informed are better able to take advantage of opportunities, get services, use their rights, negotiate well, and hold both state and non-state actors accountable. Without information that is relevant, timely, and presented in an understandable form, it is impossible for the poor to take effective action. Disseminating information

does not stop with the written word, but also includes group discussions, debating, and using various media, including television, radio, and the internet.

Laws about the right to information and freedom of the press, especially when it comes to the local press in the local language, can make it possible for informed citizens to take action. Timely access to information in local languages from independent sources at the local level is of particular importance as more and more countries turn authority over to local governments. Most investment projects and institutional reform projects, whether at the community level or at national and global levels, underestimate the need for information and underinvest in the disclosure and dissemination of information on critical areas, including information on regulations and basic government service rights, on country performance and private actors; and on financial services, markets, and prices.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) can play an important role in linking the poor to these types of information, as well as to each other and to the larger society. To make sure that the government cares about the poor, it also needs to have ways to find out what they want and how important things are to them. Mechanisms for systematic feedback from them should be institutionalized.

Inclusion focuses on the question of who is involved. Participation refers to the question of how they are involved and what role they play when they are involved. With an empowerment approach to participation, the poor are seen as co-producers who have the right to make decisions and control resources, especially financial resources, at the lowest level possible.

Continuing the participation of the poor in societies with very strong norms of exclusion or in multi-ethnic societies with a history of conflict is a complex process that requires new institutional mechanisms, resources, facilitation, vigilance support, and trials. Many government agencies tend to make decisions about policy and resources in a way that is not centralized and to hold public meetings that don't change policy or resources. Subsequent participation is still another cost imposed by the poor without any return.

It is also important to include the poor and other groups that have been left out in the past when setting priorities and making budgets at the local and national levels. This will make sure that the limited public resources build on local knowledge and priorities and encourage people to change. Participatory decision making isn't always smooth, and people may have different ideas about what should be done first. To deal with disagreements, there should be ways to settle them. At the local level, depending on the issue, participation may be: a) direct b) representation, by electing representatives from groups and associations based on membership; c) political through election of representatives; d) based on information with aggregated data and reported directly or through the intermediary to local and national decision-making; and e) based on market mechanisms, for example, by moving back restrictions and other barriers, increasing choices about whether people can grow or who they can sell to or with payments for selected and accepted services.

Accountability refers to the ability to hold public officials, private workforce, or service providers to account and demand that they are able to hold them accountable for their policies, actions, and use of funds. Widespread corruption is defined as the abuse of public office for private income. Poor people suffer most; they are least likely to have direct access to officials and least able to use connections to obtain services. They also have the fewest options to use private services as an alternative. There are three main types of accountability mechanisms: political, administrative, and public. Public accountability of political parties and representatives is increased through elections. Administrative accountability of government agents is through internal accountability mechanisms, both vertically and horizontally within and between agents. Public or social accountability mechanisms hold government agencies accountable to citizens. Social accountability can strengthen political and administrative accountability mechanisms. Accountability for public resources at all levels can also be ensured through

transparency in financial management and by offering users a choice in services. At the community level, this example includes providing the poor with options and funds to purchase technical assistance from any service provider rather than requiring them to accept technical assistance provided by the government.

4. Conclusion

Local organizational capacity refers to the ability of people to cooperate, organize themselves, and mobilize resources as a way of common interest. Often beyond the reach of the formal system, the poor turn to each other for support and stress on the solution to their problems on a daily basis. Organized communities are more likely to have their voices heard and their needs discovered than communities with small organizations. Organizations made up of poor people may be very good at finding the things people need to live, but they are limited by their lack of money and technical knowledge. Local organizational capacity is the key to effective development. Poor people's organizations, associations, federations, networks, and social movements are key players in the institutional view. But they are still not a regular part of analysis or operational work in the private sector or in many other areas.

The process in a community empowerment activity, An important factor other than an agent to distinguish other activities similar to empowerment such as equality, autonomy, and status (Misnawati & Yusriadi, 2018). Empowerment is the process of changing equality or freedom of choice or taking greater action. Empowerment, encourages a process of social change that allows marginalized people who are powerless to exert greater influence in the political arena locally and nationally (Robert Mitchell et al., 2011). Therefore, empowerment is individual and collective at the same time. Empowerment is also a process involving changing power relations (power) between individuals, groups, and social institutions. Empowerment is also a process of personal change because each person takes action on their own behalf and then confirms their view of the world in which they live.

The empowerment process concerns what to do (what to do). Empowerment is a process that requires thorough planning with in-depth thinking about the monitoring mechanism and continuous improvement. Even though planning does not guarantee success, it at least provides a basis for forming important events and measuring achievements. Community empowerment, according to Williamson (2000:20), "is a process where people develop the skills and attributes needed for them to move from a state of defense to becoming independent and then interdependent," which means that empowerment is a process in which people develop their expertise and attribute their desire to move from a state of dependence to independence and then interdependence. In societies that are dependent on their vision, they are treated from the outside. People have no choice, even if they don't care about their problems and situation. They have little control over their future. They live in a state of fatalism and without hope. The responsibility for development lies with them. Development solutions and resources come from outside with low self-respect.

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