

Developing Model a Participatory Approach through Community Empowerment: Case Study in Subsidized Housing Bulan Terang Utama, Malang City

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Abstract: The long-term goal of this paper is to help the government in the process of people-centered development. Where is the globalization era which is all free, has brought changes in all aspects, include economic development. So that, the view of development is not only increasing economic growth and national income, but also increasing Human Development Index. Then, this is called participatory empowerment. This concept, implemented of Farmer Group “Agri Mandiri” in subsidized housing Bulan Terang Utama, Malang City. This paper using qualitative method with Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach. The result of this study is PAR approach can increase community participation. In this paper, researcher act as facilitators in development of Farmer Group “Agri Mandiri”. The fact, facilitators is very important to foster enthusiasm and provide guidelines on how farm garden governance becomes a professional organization. Developing model a PAR approach can help the community or organization to fulfil basic needs, also be one of the tools to increasing of income in a long-term. In the ends, the role of facilitators is very important for the success of community empowerment. For the future research should take longer time line to observation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Community empowerment can use one of alternative strategic of national development in the long-term. People centered development approach, could be new energy of economic development that based on participatory concept. People centered development, sees humans as a citizens and main subject of development or community empowerment.

The main approach in empowerment concept is community not the object of various development projects, but is the subject of its own development efforts. Based on the concept, so community empowerment has to follow three guidelines (Sumodiningrat, 1999). **Firstly**, the effort must be directed. This is popularly called partiality. This effort is aimed directly at those who need it, with programs designed to address the problem and according to their needs. **Secondly**, this program must be immediately included or even implemented by the target community. Including the community

who will be helped has several objectives, namely so that the assistance is effective because it is in accordance with the will and recognizes their abilities and needs. In addition, it simultaneously enhances the ability of the community with experience in designing, implementing, managing, and taking responsibility for efforts to improve themselves and their economy. **Thirdly**, using a group approach, because individually the poor are difficult to solve the problems they face, also the scope of assistance becomes too broad if the handling is done individually. This group approach is the most effective and seen from the use of resources is also more efficient.

Participation is an important component in generating independence and empowerment processes (Mayo & Craig, 1995). This process, in the end, will be able to create people-centered development (Hikmat, 2004). The success of empowerment depends on the active role of the community, so the concept of participatory based

empowerment arises. Participatory based empowerment invites all communities to participate together in devoting thoughts, ideas, energy and even funds to achieve the agreed program. These empowerment programs are mainly related to the optimal use of resources to meet community needs. For this reason, we need collective action / collective action in synergy, where collective action is an action carried out by a group of individuals both directly and through an organization, to achieve mutual interests (Marshall, Duffy, Thompson, Castell, & Hall, 2008).

In this study, the empowerment concept based on participatory will be applied to the farmer groups in subsidized housing Bulan Terang Utama of Malang City. Subsidized housing is one of the government's programs to provide housing for low income groups. Therefore, the development of a participatory model on community empowerment in subsidized housing Bulan Terang Utama of Malang City is important to identify. This is very beneficial for the community to get facilitators in the development of farmer groups as an effort to fulfill the basic needs and increase of community income in the long run.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Empowerment is a process and results that can be improved and evaluated (Hur, 2006). It is hoped that a participatory approach will enable social processes that produce positive change in individuals, organizations, communities and communities. A successful empowerment process will result in a greater sense of control, social participation, and choice in the lives of individuals. In society, it can result in increased resources, enhanced connections, and solidarity with other groups, which results in improved quality of life (Nelson, 2005).

Participation according to Hoofsteede (1971) quoted by (Khairudin, 1992) means "The taking part in one or more phases of the process" or taking part in a stage or more of a process, in this case the development process. Whereas according to Fithriadi et al. (1997) Participation is the main point in a community-centered and sustainable development approach and is an ongoing interactive process.

The principle in participation is to involve or direct community participation, and only be possible if the community itself takes part, from the beginning, the process and formulation of results. Community involvement will be the guarantor of a good and correct process. Thus, (Abe, 2005) assumes that this causes the community to be well trained. Without pre-conditions, in the sense of

developing political education, direct community involvement will not give many meanings.

Furthermore (Abe, 2005) argues, involving the community directly will have an important impact, namely: (1) Avoid the opportunity for manipulation. Community involvement will clarify what people really want; (2) Giving added value to the legitimacy of the planning formula because the more the number of those involved will be better; and (3) Increase public awareness and political skills.

3 RESEARCH METHOD

The methodology used in this research is using explorative qualitative research. The data used is primary data which is carried out by interviews and direct observations in the research area. The subject of this study is the Taman Bertani "Agri Mandiri" which is located in the Perumahan Bulan Terang Utama RT. 04 / RW.16. The developing model in this research using Participatory Action Research.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Most of people in subsidized housing Bulan Terang Utama (BTU) are on the middle to lower scale. Where subsidized housing is one of the government programs in providing adequate housing facilities for the poor. Human resource empowerment programs have been carried out by the government. This is in line with Indonesia's development goals, namely to build Indonesian people as a whole, then development must be a social change that does not only occur in mere living standards but also in the role of the elements in it. Development places humans as the subject of development. Community empowerment in poverty reduction is a commitment between the state government and the regional government.

So that, the prices of housing and credits are subsidized by the government. However, in the structure of BTU subsidized housing development there are also non-subsidized housing. The percentage of non-subsidized housing is only around 10 percent till 15 percent. The location of non-subsidized housing is between subsidized housing. So that one RT consists of 3 housing blocks, of which 2 blocks are subsidized housing and 1 non-subsidized housing block. So that people can unite and have harmonious interactions.

This interaction can work well, as evidenced by the existence of a farmer group "Agri Mandiri" in

Bulan Terang Utama Housing RT 04 / RW 16, Jl. Ki Ageng Gribg Madyopuro, Malang City. This group was formed from the initiative of residents to utilize vacant land in addition to housing which is also a green land that has been programmed by developers. This farmer group was formed since 2017, but the conditions are still ups and downs. Therefore, the researcher wants to develop a participatory approach to empowering the farmers group so that the initial idea of the farmer group dies and finally only as a discourse.

The farmer group "Agri Mandiri", run by the head of the household and assisted by mothers in RT.04 / RW.16. The purpose and objective of forming this farming group is to promote community mutual assistance activities by utilizing non-productive land alongside housing. Providing residents with psychological benefits for aesthetics and health from agricultural products that are managed naturally without synthetic chemicals. And as a medium for reforestation and creation of neighborhood residents. Besides this farming park is intended to educate children and the younger generation to preserve the environment and understand the types, shapes and benefits of plants in practice.

Given that this housing is still new, so most of people who lives in this housing is working age, its means they are so productive . However, there are also those who are unworking age or non-productive. The variety and status of residents of RT.04 / RW16 actually makes the farming groups even better. With a variety of backgrounds that are owned, it is possible to exchange information. For example, there are those who work in the financial sector and are still young so they can share about funding issues. There are also those who have a great interest or interest in farming, so they can share about the farming group activities program and make a pilot project, which is more important than that is that sustainable participation is very much needed for the success of the managed farming park.

At the first this farming group still ran a farming park as part of their hobbies and activities, but often they gathered finally came up with an idea to develop a farming park so that it could be used by local residents and later it could be sold as an increase in agricultural yields so that the community economy could increase around. However, this idea is often constrained by the problem of farm management that none of the residents have an agricultural background. So that in running activities in the farm garden only learn from books or from videos spread on the internet. Some have succeeded, but many have failed.

The cohesiveness of the community in this RT can also be seen from the participation of

mothers in selling and providing consumption when there are farming park activities. So that the management of the farming park is carried out by the ladies and gentlemen, the part of providing consumption and selling the results of farm garden products. Agricultural products have their own characteristics, namely promoting organic products.

The results of the participatory approach included 3 main points, namely:

1. The farmer group will repair the greenhouse
At the beginning of this farmer group was formed, they have made a greenhouse, but walking for 2 months the greenhouse was damaged by the wind. Even though the existence of a green house is very important, because not all plants can be placed on exposed land. Moreover, the construction of empty land is not all fertile. Therefore farmer groups agreed to rebuild greenhouses that were more robust with joint funding.
2. The farmer group will replace plants that are easy to manage and produce
Before the existence of the researcher, the plants planted by farmer groups were diverse and unfocused. Then it was agreed that the plants to be planted included two groups of plants, namely (a) plants for household needs and (b) main crops in the form of passion fruit which would later be used as processed products.
3. Farming governance will be assisted for access to experts
The farmer group asks the facilitator to bring in special experts in agriculture so that the plants to be planted can grow well. This is because according to the experience of the previous farmer groups many plants failed to harvest. The yield of the plant is not satisfactory. The farmer group can only make compost, but for governance there is no expert.
4. Make written work program
So far, farmer groups have never made a written agenda, so many ideas that have been accommodated cannot be implemented. So that researchers become facilitators in preparing the activity agenda in writing. This is used so that each citizen has duties and responsibilities, so that all activities can be carried out properly.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion of this paper are, namely:

1. The existence of facilitators makes farmer groups become increasingly active and

enthusiastic. This is because they feel they have the support of outside parties who also develop the farming parks they manage.

2. Empowerment programs through a participatory approach are more efficient in increasing community activeness.
3. The existence of an empowerment program through a participatory approach is more efficient in the preparation of community activities programs.

The suggestion of this paper are, namely:

1. Mentoring should be carried out continuously so that the results obtained are getting more and more.
2. The implementation of the activity program must be longer because every weather has a different problem.
3. More assistance from experts in agriculture is needed so that plant varieties and processed products can be maximized and have high selling power

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