

Community Democratization On The Implementation of The Slum-Free City Program in The Romang Polong Village, Kec. Somba Opu District. Gowa

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Abstract.

Improving the quality of life of society is the ideal of the nation's ideology as an explanation of a prosperous life. The primary targets of efforts to improve the quality of life are poor groups and other vulnerable groups whose numbers show an increasing trend. The government has created policy packages to encourage the decline in the poor population through a number of community empowerment programs. Community empowerment is a government program that gives communities the authority and power to plan their development independently on the basis and principles of democracy or community democratization. Community democratization is not only a concept but has become mainstream in alternative development discourse. Alternative development planning is a synthesis of a combination of development planning paradigms from top to bottom (top down planning) and from bottom to top (bottom up planning). The national community empowerment program is more popular with the name of the National Urban Independent Program which later metamorphosed into the City Without Slums Program (KOTAKU) which focuses on working on the components of the 100-0-100 program or 100% sanitation, 0% slum areas, and 100% clean water. . This research is qualitative in nature with a phenomenological approach. Research informants were selected using a purposive sampling method. Data sources are primary data in the form of interviews and secondary data in the form of relevant references. Data analysis was carried out using reduction, presentation and conclusion methods. The research results show community democratization which includes, among others; aspects of equal opportunity to participate, aspects of transparency in decision making, aspects of selecting community leaders in an inclusive and representative manner, aspects of recognition of human rights, aspects of strengthening community capacity, and aspects of social and economic justice have been well explained even though the level of performance is low. vary across key aspects of community democratization.

Keywords: Empowerment, community democratization

INTRODUCTION

Community empowerment has become the main axis in developing alternatives for more sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The concept of community empowerment concentrates on giving people the power, knowledge, resources and control to take an active role in making decisions that affect their lives. In the context of challenging economic growth theories, community empowerment is an ideal model used in formulating and implementing economic policies that are able to influence people's lives at large (Kartasasmita, 1996) . The community must have the opportunity to participate in decision making, both through a strong democratization process and through the development of participatory mechanisms such as public consultation, dialogue and forums that involve all stakeholders (Bahua, 2018).

In the context of alternative development, Mardikanto and Soebiato (2020) state that community empowerment includes developing community capacity to play an active role in their local economy. This necessitates strengthening skills, knowledge, and access to resources that enable them to manage economic enterprises, develop entrepreneurial initiatives, and take advantage of existing economic opportunities. This community economic empowerment can include skills training, access to capital and credit, development of business networks, as well as technical support and *mentorship*.

From the perspective of sustainable economic growth, community empowerment supports the development of locally based economic models that encourage inclusiveness, sustainability and equitable distribution of benefits, such as organic farming, renewable energy, sustainable tourism and social entrepreneurship. Apart from that, community empowerment also includes building capacity to manage natural resources wisely and protect the environment in a sustainable manner.

The urgency of the concept of empowerment was in principle born from the emergence of the idea of placing humans as subjects in their own world, not just objects. The change in the national development paradigm towards democratization and decentralization has created widespread awareness about the need for community participation in the entire development process and program. Empowerment appears as a word that is often expressed when talking about sustainable development.

Empowerment, which is adapted from the term *empowerment* , developed in Europe starting in the Middle Ages, continuing to develop until the late 70s, 80s and early 90s. The concept of empowerment then influenced theories that developed later. With regard to the meaning of the concept of community empowerment, Ife (2008) and John (1980) state that *empowerment* is an effort to provide autonomy, authority and trust to each individual in an organization, as well as encouraging them to be creative in order to complete their tasks as best as possible. On the other hand, Paul (1987) in Prijono and Pranarka (1996) said

that empowerment means a fair distribution of power so as to increase political awareness and power in weak groups and increase their influence on the development process and results. The concept of empowerment according to Friedman (1992), in this case alternative development, emphasizes the primacy of politics through autonomous decision making to protect the interests of the people based on personal resources, directly through participation, democracy and social learning through direct observation.

The implementation of the KOTAKU program is based on democratic principles as a consequence of a shift in the development paradigm, namely from "building society" (*top down planning*) to "building society" (*bottom up planning*). Community empowerment programs implemented in all development orders are actually oriented towards giving autonomy to the community to play the widest possible role in development in their region. This approach ensures the manifestation of democratic principles by giving the public access to participation and decision making that is related to the interests of the community.

RESEARCH METHODS

To analyze aspects of community democratization in the implementation of the City Without Slums Program (KOTAKU) in depth, detail and comprehensively, a qualitative descriptive method with a phenomenological approach was used. Methodologically, the phenomenological approach is intended to reveal the subjective experiences experienced by a number of informant actors in their significant involvement in the implementation of the KOTAKU program. The technique for determining informants in this research is *purposive sampling technique*. Normatively, data sources in qualitative research are divided into 2 (two) types, namely primary data and secondary data.

Applicatively, Bogdan and Taylor (1992) provide directions on how qualitative research using case study methods and also phenomenology is carried out, namely through 3 (three) stages, including; (1) pre-field stage. (2) field stage, and (3) data analysis stage. Data analysis in this research involves the process of systematically compiling data obtained from interviews, observations, field notes and documentation, by organizing it into categories, describing it into units, synthesizing it, arranging it into patterns and making conclusions (Moleong, 1989).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the City Without Slums Program (KOTAKU) which is based on community democratization can be measured by the achievement of a number of indicators as follows, namely:

1. Democratization of the community in terms of equal opportunities to participate

Community democratization is an effort to bring democratic principles into a community or group environment, where all members have equal opportunities to participate in the decision-making process. This concept aims to create equality, inclusion and active involvement of all members in carrying out various aspects of community life.

There are several important aspects in community democratization, one of which is providing equal opportunities to participate. In an effort to achieve community democratization, it is important for us to ensure that every individual in the community has an equal opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. This is the basis of the principle of equality, where there are no differences based on gender, age, race, religion, social background, or other factors that should influence a person's access to contribute (Putnam, 2000) . Equal opportunity to participate means that all members of a community have access to the information and knowledge needed to understand the issues facing that community. This also means that the decision-making process must be open and transparent, so that all members can follow and understand how decisions are made.

In addition, community democratization also includes efforts to remove obstacles that might hinder community member participation. This may include providing training or education to improve individuals' ability to participate in decision-making processes, as well as creating an environment that supports collaboration and constructive dialogue. When equal opportunities for participation are achieved within a community, the result is more inclusive and representative decision making. The resulting decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of all community members, thereby creating a more just, democratic and sustainable environment.

Thus, democratizing communities in the aspect of equal opportunities to participate is an important step in creating communities that are strong, inclusive, and able to overcome various challenges faced together. This allows all community members to feel ownership of their community and contribute to positive change in their lives.

2. Community democratization in the aspect of transparency in decision making

Community democratization brings democratic principles into the community or group environment, focusing on important aspects such as transparency in decision making. In efforts to achieve community democratization, transparency in decision making is a very important foundation. This reflects a commitment to making the decision-making process open and accessible to all members of the community. Transparency creates opportunities

for all individuals in a community to understand and participate in decisions that affect them.

Transparency means that the decision-making process is not only carried out behind closed doors or by a small number of powerful people, but that information about how decisions are made is available to all members of the community. This includes access to data, documentation, open meetings, and clear communication about policy developments and actions taken. The main advantage of transparency is that it creates a sense of trust among community members. When individuals can see that decisions are made with integrity and with the common good in mind, they are more likely to support them. Transparency also encourages accountability, because all actions and decisions taken are open to evaluation by the entire community.

In practice, transparency in decision making can also help in identifying and resolving potential conflicts or policies that are inconsistent with community values. This allows for open and ongoing discussions that can lead to better and more supportive solutions for all parties. Thus, transparency in decision making is a key element in the democratization of communities. This creates a strong foundation for active participation, accountability, and equality in the community, and allows the community to develop and function better for the common good.

3. Community democratization in the aspect of selecting community leaders in an inclusive and representative manner

Community democratization in the aspect of selecting community leaders is about ensuring that the process of selecting leaders is carried out in an inclusive and representative manner, so that all members of the community have an equal opportunity to choose and be elected. In efforts to achieve true community democratization, it is critical to pay attention to how community leaders are selected. An inclusive and representative leadership election process is a strong foundation for creating a just and democratic environment in our communities. In the KOTAKU Program, the election of members of Community Self-Reliance Institutions (LKM) as the highest institutions owned by citizens takes place in an inclusive manner by providing equal access and opportunities for all citizens to be elected, while representing all community groups.

Inclusive election of community leaders means that all members of the community have the right to take part in the election. There is no discrimination or barriers preventing individuals from participating in this process. This includes accommodating various individual needs, such as accessibility for people with disabilities or providing information in multiple languages, to ensure that all voices are heard.

Furthermore, representativeness is key in selecting community leaders. This means that election results reflect the diversity and interests that exist within the community. In an ideal situation, elected leaders will represent the diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and aspirations that exist among community members. In this way, everyone can feel represented and have a voice in decision making (Sutaryono, 2008) . Community democratization in the election of leaders can also include a transparent and fair election process. Information about candidates and election procedures must be clearly provided to the entire community, and oversight mechanisms must be in place to ensure election integrity. This will ensure that the elected leader is truly chosen by majority vote and not by manipulation or corruption (Sugiyanto et al , 2017) .

When a community implements an inclusive and representative leadership selection process, the result is a community that is stronger, more united, and better able to overcome shared challenges. All community members feel valued and have a role in shaping the future of their community. In this way, democratizing communities in selecting leaders is an important step towards a more just, inclusive and democratic society.

4. Community democratization in the aspect of recognizing human rights

Community democratization in the aspect of recognizing human rights is an effort to ensure that every individual in the community is respected, protected, and can express their human rights without discrimination or oppression. Recognition of human rights is one of the main pillars in community democratization. This refers to the principle that every individual, without exception, has inherent and undeniable basic rights. These include the right to life, the right to freedom of expression, the right to protection from torture, the right to be free from discrimination, and many more. Community democratization requires the community to respect, protect and ensure the fulfillment of human rights for all community members (Sukmaniar , 2007) .

In the context of community democratization, recognition of human rights means that communities must not only follow human rights principles, but must also form a culture that encourages respect for these rights. This includes a shared understanding of the importance of human rights and a commitment to making them the basis for decision making and action within the community (Soetomo, 2011) .

Apart from that, community democratization also requires communities to form mechanisms and institutions that can protect human rights. This could include the establishment of a human rights committee, ombudsman, or independent monitoring body tasked with ensuring that human rights are always respected and enforced within the community.

The importance of recognition of human rights in the democratization of a community is that it creates an inclusive, safe and fair environment for all members of the community. This helps avoid oppression, discrimination or human rights violations, and ensures that everyone has the right to participate in decision-making processes and contribute to the development of the community.

Thus, the democratization of communities based on the recognition of human rights is an important step in creating communities that are democratic, inclusive, and respect the dignity of every individual. This ensures that the community is a place where human rights are upheld and respected by all its members.

5. Community democratization in the aspect of strengthening community capacity

Community democratization in the aspect of strengthening community capacity is an effort to empower community members with the knowledge, skills and resources needed to actively participate in decision making and community development. In the journey towards community democratization, strengthening community capacity is a key element that cannot be ignored. This means providing community members with the tools and knowledge so they can play an active role in decisions that impact their own lives. Strengthening community capacity enables individuals to become effective agents of change and contribute to the positive development of their communities. Strengthening community capacity involves various aspects, such as education, training, and access to resources. This includes providing an understanding of rights and responsibilities in a democracy, knowledge of key issues affecting communities, and the skills needed to participate in decision-making processes. This also includes facilitating access to resources such as funding, technology and infrastructure that support more active community participation.

Strengthening community capacity also encourages communities to collaborate and work together in finding solutions to the problems they face. It promotes a spirit of cooperation, dialogue, and effective problem solving among community members. This helps create a more inclusive environment and removes barriers that may hinder individual participation (Soetomo, 2006).

In addition, strengthening community capacity also supports the growth of individuals and the community as a whole. It helps in developing leadership, identifying and solving problems, and planning and implementing projects that benefit the community. In this way, a strong and empowered community will be better able to overcome various challenges and achieve common goals.

In the overall context of community democratization, strengthening community capacity is the key to creating democratic, inclusive and empowered

communities. This opens the door to broader participation, fairer decision-making, and more sustainable development across communities.

6. Community democratization in aspects of social and economic justice

Community democratization in aspects of social and economic justice is an effort to create a fairer community environment, where opportunities and benefits are equally available to all community members. In the effort to achieve true democratization of communities, social and economic justice are critical goals. Social justice refers to the fair distribution of opportunities, rights and resources among all members of a community, regardless of their social, economic or demographic background (Sipahelut, 2010) and Terry (1996). Meanwhile, economic justice is related to the equal and fair distribution of wealth, income and economic resources.

Democratizing communities in a social justice context means identifying and addressing inequalities and discrimination that may exist within communities. This could include efforts to remove barriers that might prevent equal access to education, health care, employment, or political representation. It also involves the promotion of policies that support gender equality, minority rights, and broad social protection for the most vulnerable in the community (Sadan, 1997).

Economic justice in community democratization means ensuring that the community economy functions for the common good. This includes ensuring that the income and wealth generated by the community is distributed equally, so that all members can benefit. It also involves creating equitable economic opportunities, including access to decent work, entrepreneurship, and support for small and medium-sized businesses.

The benefit of community democratization in terms of social and economic justice is that it creates more stable, inclusive, and prosperous communities. When all community members feel they are treated fairly, they are more likely to participate in decision-making processes and contribute to community development. This results in a more harmonious environment, where conflict and inequality can be overcome, and communities can reach their full potential.

Thus, democratizing communities in aspects of social and economic justice is an important step in creating more just, inclusive and sustainable communities. It takes the necessary steps to ensure that every individual has equal opportunities and can contribute to building a better community for everyone.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the KOTAKU Program in Romang Polong Subdistrict is going well and consistently applies the principles of community

democratization. The community as the primary beneficiary has equal access and opportunities to become an important part of the program. The facilitator's dedication as a community companion has been able to become a catalyst and mediator who encourages the program to be implemented in an inclusive and democratic manner. Support from the community and from various local development *stakeholders* has contributed to the success of the program seen from the perspective of achieving indicators of implementing the principles of community democratization which include aspects of equal opportunities to participate, aspects of transparency in decision making , aspects of selecting community leaders in an inclusive and representative manner , aspects of recognition of human rights , aspects of strengthening community capacity , and aspects of social and economic justice have been well explained although with varying levels of performance across key aspects of community democratization.

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