

## **Community Participation in Utilization of Village Funds on Empowerment of Islamic Communities in East Lampung District**

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### **Abstract**

Community participation as one of social capital in development plays an important role in community decision making by the village government together with the community. The purpose of this research is to know, study and analyze the community participation and empowerment in utilizing village funds.

This research was conducted using qualitative, descriptive analysis methods. The sources of informant data in this study were the Village Government and the Community as subjects and objects in community empowerment, as well as BPS data and other sources that support research. Data collection methods using interviews, and settings.

The results showed that community participation in the implementation of village fund utilization program was carried out in several stages, the first is the Program of Planning stage that included the Village Deliberation (MusDus), the Formation of the RPJMDes, the Formation of the RKPDes, the Formation of the Local Budget, the Second is the Implementation included the formation of an activity in implementing committee (TPK), and the third evaluation. Community empowerment includes several fields, namely Education, Health, Technology, Social and Economic Improvement, Government Institution Improvement. Empowerment programs carried out in East Lampung Regency, especially in Labuhan Ratu Baru Village and Purwodadi Mekar Village. In their implementation, involving the community in making policies in the program is important, but not many of them have not fully derived their aspirations from the community. Thus the need of community awareness and village government to engage each other and involve the village development.

Key words : Community participation, Community empowerment, Village fund

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The basic principle in the development process is the emphasis on economic growth with development outcomes that are not merely quantitative but also qualitative (Muhammad Hasan and Muhammad Aziz, 2018). It means that the

development that balances the quantity of economic growth is directly proportional to the mentality of human development itself. It has become the government's program in the context of development through regional autonomy by giving them great rights to regulate their own regions. The concept of development originating from the bottom up planing that has been applied in the Musbangdes (Village Development Deliberation), sub-district level UDKP (Regional Development Work Unit Meeting), Rakorbang (Development Coordination Meeting) at the district and provincial level and National Coordination Meeting (National Coordination Meeting) center. (Raharjo Adisasmita, 2013). It shows that there is an attempt by the government to change the order that is initially developed from the top (top down) to (botton up), It means that the village community has the right to develop the potential of the village owned through government funding, so that the allocation of village funds given to all villages be right on target. Strengthening the issue of democratization and the spirit of civil society, it causes people to increasingly get a wider place, at least in expressing their aspirations and needs which are the foundation for national development policy.( Aris Munandar, tt)

In the framework of the implementation of the Village Law, empowerment is a concept of development that upholds the value of the sovereignty of rural communities as subjects of legal community units that have rights and authority. Community Empowerment is a process within the framework of efforts to strengthen what is commonly referred as community self-reliance or independence. In this process the community is assisted to make an analysis of the problems faced, assisted to find alternative problems, and be shown strategies to utilize various resources owned and controlled. In the process the community is assisted by how to design an activity in accordance with their capabilities, how to implement the design, and how to develop strategies to obtain the external resources needed so as to obtain optimal results (Abu Huraera, 2008). The purpose of community empowerment is basically to help develop an authentic and integral humane from weak, poor, marginal and small people and to empower the community groups in a socio-economic manner so that they can be more independent and can meet their basic needs of life and they are able to participate in community development. (Asri Lubis, 2009)

Community empowerment can run well if the government can play an active role with the community in the process of empowerment activities. In fact, the village's ability to utilize and manifest empowerment goals is not realized. But there are also villages that have started to become destinations as independent villages where the village utilizes village funds by prioritizing independent villages including Labuhan Ratu Baru Village as a village by gaining management of the village level national funds. Furthermore, the village of Sukaraja Tiga Village, Margatiga Subdistrict, East Lampung Regency, which is now famous for its seven well tourism and has realized the use of Village Funds (DD) in accordance with community expectation and there are still many village potentials that need to be developed through community empowerment especially in East Lampung Regency.

## **2. METHODOLOGY/RESEARCH METHODS**

The research paradigm used in this study was qualitative. Qualitative methods as said by Taylor and Bogdan, as a research procedure that generated descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from people or observed symptoms. Qualitative-interpretative approach was directed at the background of symptoms holistically (completely intact) and naturally so as not to isolate symptoms into variables. However, assessing the object according to the natural setting. (Dani Vardiansyah, 2005). This research was qualitative with the research procedure with the results of description data in the form of written words, spoken words of people, or observable human behavior (Basrowi dan Sukidin, 2002).

Merriam as cited by Creswell mentions that there are six qualitative research paradigm assumptions, namely:

- 1) Qualitative researchers place more emphasis on process, not results or products
- 2) Qualitative researchers are interested in the meaning of how people make life, experience and world structure make sense
- 3) Qualitative researchers are the main instruments for data collection and analysis. Data is approached through human instruments, not through inventory, questionnaires or machines
- 4) Qualitative researchers involve fieldwork. Researchers physically relate to people, settings, locations, or institutions to observe or record behavior in their natural setting

- 5) Qualitative researchers are descriptive in the sense that researchers are interested in the process, meaning, and understanding obtained through words or images;
- 6) The process of qualitative research is inductive in which the researcher builds abstractions, concepts, hypotheses, and theories from the details. (John W. Craswell, 1994)

There are several main reasons why qualitative research is considered more appropriate to be used in this study. First, this research is intended to understand the Empowerment of Village Funds in East Lampung Regency. Second, it tries to interpret reality in the field based on observations and interpretations given by the informant

### **3. LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **3.1 Participation in Community Development**

Islam places participation as part of the reciprocal relationship between the leader and his people. As the word of Allah SWT;

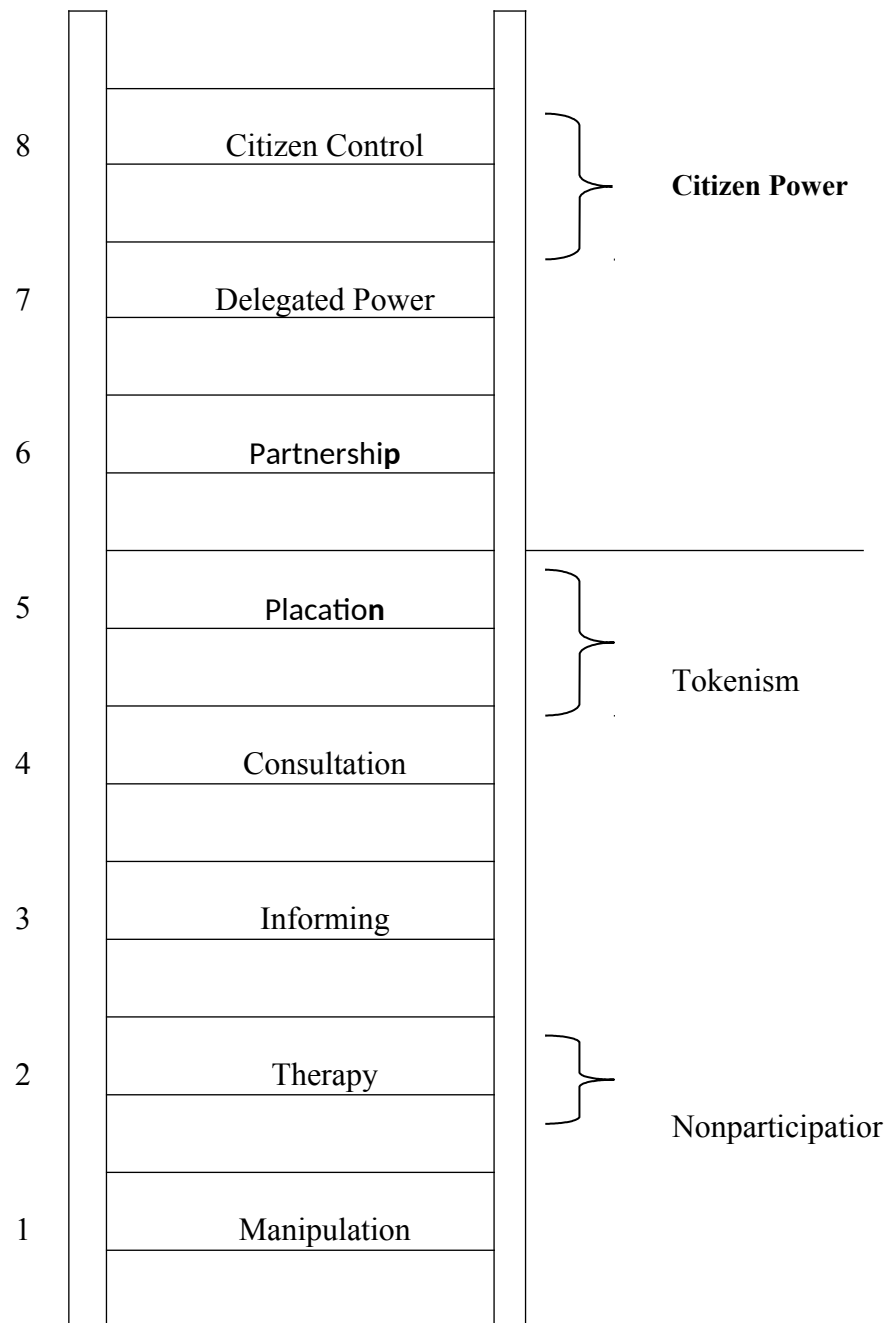
*Meaning : “ O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result..”(An Nisaa : 59)*

Based on the above verse, humans are ordered to obey Allah SWT and Rasulullah SAW that is subject to and comply with all the provisions in the Quran and as-Sunnah. It is true that besides being ordered to obey Allah (SWT) and His Messenger, Muslims are also ordered to obey uli al-amri. So that the community should participate in the programs that have been set by the government. In the process of participation, there is the Amstein participation ladder, that is well able to provide parameters to what extent a participation in public decision making that has actually taken place. Generally there are three degrees of community participation, namely:

- (1) Non-participation (*nonparticipation*);
- (2) Pseudo degree(*degrees of tokenism*) dan;
- (3) Community power (*degrees of citizen power*). (Hendra Erlangga, 2011)

**Figure**

### Participation Level of ArnsteTingkatan Partisipasi Menurut Arnstein



*Ket: Arnstein (1969), Eight Rungs on The Ladder of Citizen Participation (Ainur Rohman, 2012)*

From the Arnstein concept, several basic requirements will be raised from the opening of optimal community participation space both formally and procedurally according to Arnstein. The requirements in question include:

- a. There is effective publication obligations. Both in terms of media (which can reach the wider community), time (enough for interest groups to prepare themselves to participate) and targets (through language that is easily understood by the target and specifically addressed to groups of people who are potentially affected by the laws and regulations) .
- b. There is a need for information and documentation that is systematic, free and easily accessible Besides, it is also necessary to regulate the obligation to compile a good or participatory research report for a design and the obligation to make written considerations for each decision-making
- c. guarantee procedures and forums that are open and effective for the community to be involved and oversee the process from planning to approval.
- d. there are procedures that guarantee that the public can propose legislative draft initiatives.
- e. there are clear arrangements regarding basic documents that must be available and freely accessed by the public, namely:
  - 1) Academic text / design in the form of a research report
  - 2) Proposed local regulation draft;
  - 3) All written documents form the basis of discussion of a regional regulation (including debates that take place in public space and mass media);
  - 4) Minutes of complete discussion throughout the process;
  - 5) Process notes and reports (initial plan, budget, activities carried out);
  - 6) List of parties / names invited, list of parties / names involved.
- f. guaranteed appeal to the public if the process of forming laws and regulations is not carried out in a participatory manner.
- g. there is an adequate timeframe for all drafting processes, discussion of regional regulation design and dissemination of local regulations that have been passed

1. there is a clear and adequate form of liability for the legislators who deliberately close the opportunity for the public to participate. (Hendra Erlangga, 2011)

### **3.2 Islamic Community Empowerment in Utilization of Village Fund**

Empowerment is giving power to the community so that they can develop and achieve this development and they understand it from all sides. Types of empowerment include the stages of empowerment activities including human development, business development, environmental development, and institutional development. (Mardikanto, Totok dan Soebito, Poerwoko, 2014)

Empowerment includes three dimensions that include social competence, sociopolitical abilities, and participatory competence. To find out the focus and purpose of operational empowerment, it is necessary to know various indicators of empowerment that can indicate whether a person is empowered or not. So that when a social empowerment program is given, all efforts can be concentrated on any aspects of the target of change that need to be optimized. (Edi Suharto, 2014)

Types of empowerment include the stages of empowerment activities including (Edi Suharto, 2014):

- a. First, Human Development, it is the first and foremost effort that must be considered in every effort to empower the community.
- b. Second, business development becomes an important effort in every empowerment, because human development without giving an impact or benefit to the improvement of economic welfare is unsaleable and even increase the disappointment.
- c. Third, Community Development. Since the development of the school of sustainable development (sustainable development), environmental issues have become very important. This can be seen in the obligation to carry out AMDAL (Environmental Benefits and Impact Analysis).
- d. Fourthly, Institutional Development. The availability of institutional effectiveness will affect the success of human development, business development and environmental development. Institution that is as a

general instrument which is obeyed by members of a community (community).

#### **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **4.1 Community Participation in Utilizing Village Funds in East Lampung Regency**

Utilization of village funds is a program that is needed to measure the achievement of objectives or results achieved by the government towards the implementation of village funds, besides that the government has other alternative programs that can provide maximum results and minimal costs. This certainly aims to improve quality and support strategies in achieving the Vision, Mission and organizational goals where public institutions must account the programs that have been made up to the implementation of the program. Community participation in empowerment and development activities, often interpreted as the participation of many people (who are generally poorer) to voluntarily contribute their energy in development activities.

*This program has begun with a good village planning process, and it is followed by good program governance, so that program planning is one of the keys to achieving effective village development. A good planning process will bear a good program implementation, and will foster community participation to be involved in village development (The interview results with head of Labuhan Ratu Village)”*

Utilization of village funds is the concept of Village Development covering the fields of village governance, implementation of Village development, Village community development and empowerment of the Village community. Village development planning is arranged in a long term including the Village Mid-Term Development Plan (RPJMDes) for a period of 6 (six) years and the Annual Village Development Plan or the so-called Village Government Work Plan (RKP DESA) that is a translation of the Village RPJM for a one year period. The Village RPJM and the Village RKP are the basis in the development of the Village to improve the quality of life and achieve the maximum welfare of the village community.

Community participation in the implementation of development must be interpreted as equitable distribution of community work in the form of labor, cash, and or various other forms commensurate with the benefits to be received by each of the



community members concerned. Community participation in the utilization of village funds is carried out in various aspects including;

**a. Participation in the Community Development Planning**

Theoretically the Village Fund (DD) planning mechanism can be described as follows: 1) The Village Head as the person in charge of the Use of Village Funds (DD) holds a Village Consultation to discuss plans to use the Village Fund (DD); 2) The Village Deliberation is attended by elements of the Village Government, Village Consultative Body (BPD), Village community organizations, and community leaders, and must be attended by the District Facilitation Team; 3) The Village Implementation Team submits the overall draft Village Fund (DD) usage to the participants. The design of the use of Village Funds (DD) is based on the priority scale of the results of the previous year's musrenbangdes; 4) The draft of the use of the Village Fund (DD) agreed upon in the Village Deliberation, set forth in the Plan for the use of the Village Fund (DD) which is one of the materials for preparing the APBDes (Regulation of the Minister of Rural Development and Transmigration No.22 year 2019).

The mechanism is a gradual effort that provides an opportunity or space for community aspirations as well as a medium for community learning of the principle of using Village Funds (DD). This is supported by the statement of informants as follows: "Village Deliberations like this are very much beneficial for the community. We can get help from the fathers at the sub-district and district levels on many aspects of development. Village meetings like this can also be used as a means to think together how the village will be better. In addition, in terms of organization, the community has learned to respect the opinions of others and sacrifice personal interests for the benefit of the whole community" ( *Abdul Wahab as Assistant to Labuhan Ratu Baru Village*).

From the data above, the discussion to determine the use of Village Funds (DD) is very important because as a means to think together what needs to be done to improve the village.

**b. Community Participation in Community Empowerment Management**

Planning is the initial stage of an activity, so planning must be done carefully so that in the future the planned activities can run effectively. Planning as the initial milestone in the management of Village Funds (DD) must be planned properly and be urgent in managing DD.

Mr. Witoyo as the local citizen stated “Village Financial management planning that includes DD involving the village community as a whole through meetings held at the RT and RW levels, where the community often calls it a meeting / environmental meeting. Issues discussed at the environmental meeting include issues at the RT and RW level only, one example is the existence of culverts of damage or gutters that are clogged up in the RT environment. At the planning stage the community also proposed solutions to the problems found. Furthermore, the proposed problems and solutions are taken by RT / RW representatives to the Village Deliberation level "(Mr Witoyo, , Labuhan ratu Baru village).

This has implications for the mindset of people who only know the village gets a lot of money while the source of money and the use of public money tend not to know.

**b. Community Participation in Implementation of Village Fund Program**

According to Law number 6 of 2014, Village Funds are generally used for 4 fields, namely government administration, community empowerment, community development, and development. However, the priority in the use of the Village Fund in the past few years is that it is only used for 2 sectors, namely development and community empowerment.

**c. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The money implementation in the activities that have been and are being carried out and it is also being pursued in such a way by the community. The administrative process that is carried out routinely has been carried out by the treasurer as an obligation. Administrative discipline in the form of recording each transaction accompanied by evidence is one of the important indicators in the reporting process. The administrators or the committee of the village fund have utilized the technology by computerizing the village fund report. After recorded, the committee periodically prints a report on the activity along with the financial report that is owned to be posted on the bulletin boards available at the village hall, as well as on the bulletin boards at several village points. This is intended so that the community can take a close look at the funds that have been used, as well as participation in evaluating the implementation of the village fund based program. In a

number of meetings at the village level, the committee also conveyed the development of the program carried out to the community

## **2. Islamic Community Empowerment and The Utilization of Village Fund**

Community empowerment through village funds has a very positive impact on community welfare. The program created provides solutions to problems in various aspects of life in the village. As in the fields of education, economics, social fields, and health.

### **1. Community Empowerment in Agricultural Sector**

Community empowerment in the field of village governance includes all the resources that exist in the village administration such as the village head, village officials and BPD. This form of empowerment can take the form of training, deliberations in the preparation of village programs, coordination in the implementation of village programs, and improving the quality of performance in village governance.

### **2. Community Empowerment in Institutional Sector**

The community empowerment program in the institutional field covers all community institutions in the village. This program aims to build institutions that are more targeted, productive and organized. The form of this empowerment program can be in the form of training, organizing activities, and improving facilities / infrastructure.

### **3. Community Empowerment in Economic Sector**

The community empowerment program in the economic sector is a government program to improve the village economy. This program includes empowering SMEs, home industries, BUMDes, farmer groups, markets, and other economic support for the community. The form of this empowerment program can be in the form of training, workshops, capital / capital, aid of production equipment, improvement of facilities / infrastructure and others.

### **4. Community Empowerment in Technology Sector**

The community empowerment program in technology sector is a village government program to keep abreast of the times. In addition, the use of technology can also improve performance so that it is faster and more accurate. The form of this empowerment program can be in the form of

training, technology development, and use of technology in work processes and people's lives.

### **5. Community Empowerment in Health Sector**

The community empowerment program in the health sector is one of the village government's programs to improve the quality of life and public health. The form of this empowerment program can be in the form of improving health facilities and infrastructure, promoting and counseling health programs, and building alert villages. The existence of this health program is expected to make it easier for people to get a healthy life and make people aware of the importance of healthy living.

### **6. Community Empowerment in Educational Sector**

The community empowerment program in the field of education is a village government program in improving community education to be more qualified and competent. The goal of this empowerment is not only aimed at students, but also at teachers and other educational institutions. This form of empowerment can take the form of teacher training, improvement of facilities and infrastructure, tuition assistance for underprivileged communities, scholarships for outstanding students, and others.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Community empowerment through village funds that is now applied in East Lampung district is classified as effective in improving community welfare through the village fund empowerment program. The goal of an independent community can be realized by the participation of the community in the development program that comes from the people, implemented by the people and utilized by the people themselves.

Community participation becomes the main thing in the development process itself. Agreements through village meetings agreed and implemented together are the social capital needed by the community at this time. Thus the progress of development through empowering village funds will have implications for empowered communities.

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