

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE EXTREME POVERTY THROUGH THE SELF-HELP HOUSING STIMULANT PROGRAM IN SUMEDANG REGENCY

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Abstract. This research explores collaborative strategies to reduce extreme poverty through the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program in Sumedang Regency. Qualitative research methods are used with in-depth interviews and participatory observation. The results showed that collaborative strategies involve local governments, non-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector. Local governments provide institutional and policy support that facilitates program implementation. Non-governmental organizations assist in program planning, implementation, and monitoring, while local communities play an active role in the decision-making process and project implementation. The private sector contributes financial and other resources. Effective collaboration between various parties enables the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program to achieve a significant impact in reducing extreme poverty. The success of this program can be seen from increasing community access to livable housing, improving welfare, and reducing extreme poverty in Sumedang Regency. The implications of this study demonstrate the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation in formulating and implementing sustainable and inclusive development programs to address the problem of extreme poverty in urban and rural areas.

Keywords: Strategy, Collaborative, Extreme poverty, Program, Stimulant

1. INTRODUCTION

Extreme poverty is one of the biggest challenges faced by many developing countries, including Indonesia. Sumedang Regency, as part of Indonesia's territory, is not spared from this problem. The high level of poverty results in various negative impacts on the quality of life of the community, such as limited access to education, health, and livable housing. Inadequate housing conditions, for example, have a direct impact on people's health and well-being, creating a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break.

Efforts to address extreme poverty have been made through various government programs and local initiatives, but the results are often suboptimal. One of the prominent initiatives is the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program, which aims to improve the quality of housing for low-income communities by providing stimulant assistance that allows them to build or repair their homes independently. The program has great potential to improve housing conditions and, in turn, reduce extreme poverty in Sumedang. However, its success depends largely on how the program is implemented and managed.

The success of the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program depends not only on the financial assistance provided, but also on a collaborative strategy that involves various stakeholders. Local governments act as facilitators who provide institutional and policy support to ensure the smooth implementation of the program. On the other hand, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have an important role in designing, implementing, and monitoring programs to suit the needs of the community. Local communities, as direct beneficiaries, should be actively involved in the decision-making process and project implementation. In addition, the private sector can make a significant

contribution in the form of financial and non-financial resources to support the sustainability of the program.

Although various poverty alleviation programs have been implemented, there are several gaps that still need to be addressed to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of these programs:

1. **Lack of Collaboration Between Sectors:** Many poverty alleviation programs are run separately by the government, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector. This lack of coordination and synergy between sectors results in duplication of efforts and inefficiencies in the use of resources.
2. **Limited Community Participation:** Many programs are designed without directly involving local communities in the decision-making process and project implementation. This often results in these programs not being in accordance with local needs and conditions.
3. **Limited Policy and Institutional Support:** Inadequate policies and institutional support from local governments can hinder program implementation, especially in terms of regulation, licensing, and provision of necessary resources.
4. **Lack of Monitoring and Evaluation:** Many programs do not have effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, making it difficult to assess the impact and success of programs and identify areas that need improvement.

This study aims to explore the collaborative strategies implemented in the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program in Sumedang Regency and identify the key factors that contribute to the success of the program. Through qualitative research methods involving in-depth interviews and participatory observations, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive picture of the dynamics of collaboration between the government, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector.

The results of this study are expected to make a meaningful contribution to the formulation of policies and strategies for poverty alleviation in the future. By understanding the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation, it is hoped that sustainable and inclusive development programs can be implemented more effectively, so that the problem of extreme poverty in Sumedang Regency and other regions in Indonesia can be resolved. This research is also expected to be a reference for other regions that face similar challenges in efforts to alleviate extreme poverty.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In an effort to reduce extreme poverty through housing programs, many studies have been conducted to understand the dynamics of collaboration between various stakeholders and the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. This literature review will discuss the key concepts relevant to this study, namely extreme poverty, self-help housing programs, collaborative strategies, and the role of each stakeholder in development programs.

2.1 Extreme Poverty

Extreme poverty is defined as a condition in which an individual or family lives on an income below the international poverty line set by the World Bank, which is less than \$1.90 per day (World Bank, 2018). This condition results in limited access to basic needs such as food, clean water, health, education, and housing. According to Todaro and Smith (2015), extreme poverty is not only an economic, but also a social and structural problem that requires a holistic approach to overcome.

2.2 Self-Help Housing Program

The self-help housing program is an initiative in which low-income communities are provided with stimulant assistance to build or repair their own homes. According to Turner (1972), this approach is more effective compared to housing built by the

government or developers because it involves the active participation of the beneficiaries, so the results are more in line with their needs. A study by Mitlin (2008) shows that self-help housing programs can improve the living conditions of the poor if supported by the right policies and adequate technical support.

2.3 Collaborative Strategy

Collaboration between sectors is the key to success in the implementation of complex development programs. Gray (1989) stated that effective collaboration requires open communication, mutual trust, and commitment to achieve common goals. According to Bryson, Crosby, and Stone (2006), collaborative strategies involving governments, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector can produce more innovative and sustainable solutions to social problems.

2.4 Role of Local Government

Local governments have an important role in providing policy and institutional support for the implementation of housing programs. According to Rondinelli (1993), decentralization of government can increase the efficiency and responsiveness of development programs because local governments better understand local needs and conditions. In the context of self-help housing programs, local governments can facilitate supportive regulations, provide land, and ensure coordination between various parties involved (Sanyal & Mukhija, 2001).

2.5 Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs play a crucial role in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of self-help housing programs. According to Fisher (1998), NGOs can bridge between the government and local communities, provide technical support, and ensure community participation. A study by Smillie (2009) shows that NGO involvement can increase accountability and transparency in program implementation.

2.6 Local Community Participation

Active participation from local communities is critical to the success of self-help housing programs. Arnstein (1969) in "A Ladder of Citizen Participation" emphasizes the importance of meaningful participation, where the community is not only the beneficiary, but also involved in decision-making and project implementation. A study by Cornwall (2008) shows that community participation can improve the sustainability of programs and ensure outcomes that are more relevant to local needs.

2.7 The Role of the Private Sector

The private sector can contribute in the form of financial, technical, and material resources to support self-help housing programs. According to Prahalad and Hart (2002), collaboration with the private sector can open up opportunities for innovation and efficiency in development programs. A study by McKinsey & Company (2010) shows that partnerships with the private sector can accelerate the provision of livable housing by leveraging the expertise and capacity of businesses.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses qualitative research methods to explore collaborative strategies in reducing extreme poverty through the Independent Housing Stimulant program in Sumedang Regency. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of interactions between various stakeholders, including local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local communities, and the private sector. Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews with key informants directly involved in the program, such as government officials, NGO representatives, community leaders, and the private sector. In addition, participatory observation is also used to directly observe the

implementation of programs in the field. The data obtained was analyzed using thematic analysis methods to identify the main themes and patterns that emerged from interactions between stakeholders. The validity of the data is maintained through source triangulation and member checking techniques to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the findings. This approach is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the factors that contribute to the success of the program and identify the challenges faced in its implementation.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study found that collaborative strategies involving various stakeholders in the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program in Sumedang District played a key role in reducing extreme poverty. The results of in-depth interviews and participatory observations revealed some of the key findings as follows:

1. Role of Local Government

Local governments provide crucial policy and institutional support, including regulations that facilitate public access to housing assistance and land provision. Support from the local government includes budget provision, supervision of program implementation, and coordination between sectors.

2. NGO Contributions

NGOs are involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of programs. They help ensure the program runs according to local needs and provide technical support to the community. NGOs also play a role in building community capacity through training and counseling on efficient and sustainable housing development techniques.

3. Local Community Participation:

Local communities actively participate in the decision-making process and project implementation. They are involved in house planning, procurement of building materials, and the construction process. This participation increases the community's sense of ownership and responsibility towards the project, resulting in a more tailored and sustainable outcome.

4. Private Sector Contribution

The private sector contributes in the form of financial, material and technical resources. They provide building materials at affordable prices and sometimes also provide technical training. Partnerships with the private sector speed up the construction process and ensure the quality of the building materials used.

The results of this research emphasize the importance of cross-sector collaboration in overcoming extreme poverty through self-help housing programs. Policy and institutional support from local governments is critical to the success of the program. Proactive and comprehensive policies from local governments can overcome bureaucratic obstacles and speed up program implementation. NGOs play a key role in bridging between government and communities, ensuring that programs are designed and implemented according to local needs. Active participation from local communities ensures that self-help housing programs truly meet community needs and preferences. Partnerships with the private sector enable access to a wider range of resources, both financial and material, as well as bringing technical expertise that can improve project quality and efficiency.

This research shows that cross-sector collaboration is an effective strategy in overcoming extreme poverty through self-help housing programs. The practical implication of these findings is the need to improve coordination and communication between stakeholders, as well as ensuring comprehensive policy support from local

governments. Recommendations for future policy include strengthening collaborative policies, increasing the capacity of NGOs and communities, as well as expanding strategic partnerships with the private sector. With an effective collaborative strategy, the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program in Sumedang Regency can become a model for other regions in efforts to reduce extreme poverty and improve community welfare.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This research shows that collaborative strategies involving various stakeholders, namely local governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), local communities, and the private sector, play an important role in reducing extreme poverty through the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program in Sumedang Regency. Policy and institutional support from local governments, NGO involvement in planning and implementation, active participation of local communities, and resource contributions from the private sector have proven to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of this program. Effective collaboration between stakeholders creates synergy that can produce a significant positive impact on improving housing conditions and reducing extreme poverty.

Based on the findings of this research, several recommendations can be proposed to increase the effectiveness of the Self-Help Housing Stimulant program and similar initiatives in the future. First, strengthening collaborative policies is needed to encourage and facilitate more intensive and coordinated cross-sector collaboration. Second, increasing the capacity of NGOs and local communities through training and outreach must be improved so that they have adequate capabilities in planning and implementing housing projects. Third, the expansion of strategic partnerships with the private sector must be encouraged to ensure access to financial resources, materials and technical expertise required for program implementation. By implementing these suggestions, it is hoped that the self-help housing program in Sumedang Regency can continue to develop and have a greater impact in alleviating extreme poverty and improving community welfare.

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