



Analysis of Optimization of Village Fund Allocation for Community Empowerment in The Economic Sector

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ABSTRACT

The allocation of village funds can be said to be optimally empowering the community if it is channeled to the community to prosper and strengthen the economy as part of the economy civics of the community if it is in accordance with a careful planning process and is also based on applicable laws and regulations. Community welfare can be seen when there is an increasing change of opinion accompanied by qualified skills and knowledge so that it can reduce the level of poverty. This research is intended to be able to identify and inform the extent to which the allocation of village funds is optimally distributed to the community or not, especially in the jurisdictional area of Bojongsari Village. This research in the process of preparation using a qualitative approach with a descriptive study method. The data collection technique that the researcher uses is by using interviews, observation, documentation studies, and literature studies. The results of the research obtained on field objectivity show that the impact felt by the community from the empowerment program using village funds has been felt, but if overall the village funds are said to have not been optimally allocated because they are not in accordance with the laws and regulations that govern it.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The condition of problems that occur in the village today is very complex, ranging from physical and non-physical problems. The classic problems commonly encountered in a rural community are related to poverty and inequality ([Istan, 2017](#)). Poverty and inequality result in an uncontrolled imbalance as a result of uneven development ([Negara, 2013](#)). Poverty and inequality have an impact on their lives, communities and individuals in the village cannot *survive* and adapt to the times. That's because they don't have the skills, capital, or intellect to be able to support their own needs. Village communities tend to be obsolete, fragile, and vulnerable because they do not have independence as the main pillar to be able to build their own villages. Efforts to solve these problems are community empowerment which will become a policy and constructive solution from the government as a strategic step to be able to answer and overcome these problems.

Basically, all people have the right to get their own welfare both socially, economically, educationally and health. In line with what Jeremy Bentham said in ([Veenhoven, 2010](#)) that *"moral quality of action should be judged by its consequences of human happiness and in that line that we should aim at the greatest happiness for the greatest of number"*. This means that a standard of living of the community can be considered good if it can prosper the common good to many people.

Community empowerment is one strategy that emphasizes the ability and expertise of the community to participate in a development process, especially village development ([Aisah, 2019](#)). The existence of a community empowerment is to have the aim of alleviating poverty and existing problems, especially in the lower layers of society who are assisted by the upper *up-bottom layer* because currently rural communities are still experiencing stagnation below the poverty line ([Muslim, 2017](#)).

Poverty and inequality can be found in Bojongsari Village, Bandung Regency. Based on the results of a preliminary study conducted in Bojongsari Village, data were obtained that the percentage of poverty and inequality in Bojongsari Village in 2020 was 60% of the total number of 5,359 households. This means that there are around 3,215 poor households in the village. People in Bojongsari Village have not been able to be economically empowered so they still have to struggle to escape the poverty zone.

The process of carrying out a community empowerment, especially in villages, attention to existing principles is needed including :

- (i) The principle of equality,
- (ii) The principle of participation,
- (iii) The principle of self-reliance or independence, and
- (iv) The principle of sustainability ([Ra'is, 2018](#)).

Community empowerment is a process of self-development driven by will and motivation so that it can bring out its best capacity as an individual in order to provide a better life in the future ([Sany, 2019](#)).

This is in line with the ideals and expectations of the government which has a high sense of seriousness in developing villages as part of national development is the birth of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. In the regulation, it is explained that villages have the same rights as other governments and local governments in various aspects such as village democracy, village development, village planning, and village finance. Villages are given an autonomous prerogative to control and supervise the interests of the community based on their regional characteristics in order to develop the potential of natural resources and human resources through community empowerment ([Alfian & Harimurti, 2022](#)).

The community empowerment program, of course, must have supporting factors in terms of the potential possessed by Bojongsari Village, Bandung Regency. The majority of this potential comes from natural wealth because in fact the area of Bojongsari Village, Bandung Regency is still an agricultural and plantation area.

The entrepreneur program is one that can be done in a community empowerment, soft skills training for the preparation stage to enter the world of work, and / or funding assistance for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) ([Wiratno, 2012](#)). Economic *civics* focuses on the welfare of citizens, especially rural communities as part of national development. The entrepreneur program through facilities provided by the village government can provide an entrepreneurial spirit that aims to increase the improvisation of the abilities and skills of the village community in order to prepare themselves to enter the world of work ([Basuki, 2021](#)). Assistance programs for the development of MSMEs are also carried out to be able to strengthen the pillars of MSMEs in helping stock supplies of materials or to increase production ([Dasir et al., 2021](#)).

The purpose of the program is of course to be able to strengthen the economy of citizens (*economy civics*) of rural communities so that they can provide benefits and benefits that are felt macrologically ([Barkah et al., 2022](#)). Therefore, a strategic and systematic step is needed to be able to improve and prosper rural communities so that the strengthening of their citizenship economy (*economy civics*) can be felt.

2. METHOD

The research approach used by researchers is a qualitative research approach. The urgency in using a qualitative research approach is because researchers want to describe an event that occurs to answer a problem This research focuses and uses a qualitative research approach. The qualitative research approach is one of the research approaches that can be used to explore and understand the meaning derived from social or humanitarian problems ([Habsy, 2017](#)). Qualitative research is "research by applying an inductive-style perspective, focusing on individual meaning, and translating to the complexity of a problem" Creswell in ([Setiobudi, 2017](#)). These qualitative research proposals and reports are generally flexible, flexible and open.

The research method used by researchers is to use descriptive research methods. This method is an effective step to be able to explain and describe social phenomena that occur in the field in accordance with reality. Provide an overview related to the research location, mention as well as giving a Complex explanations to answer existing problems. Revealing the purpose of descriptive research is "to make a systematic, factual, and accurate description of the facts and properties of a particular research object". Researchers want to use this descriptive method to help researchers to describe the results of the study, and can be described in more depth.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Community Economic Improvement through Empowerment Programs

In this section, researchers try to find information related to the extent of the impact felt by the community after various kinds of empowerment programs organized by the village government. In its implementation, the empowerment program can be said to be successful if it meets 3 important indicator points, namely (1) Ability to buy goods, (2) Productivity of activities increases, and (3) Economic income increases ([As, 2017](#)).

Researchers conducted interviews to obtain data and information to several resource persons including (WS) as a member of a farmer group in the agricultural sector, (KN) as a

participant of the pindang fish training program in the fisheries sector, (HM) as a participant in a sewing training program in the convection sector, (AN) as Chairman of LPMD and (UA) as Head of Budgeting. The first indicator is related to the community's ability to buy goods, the researcher interviewed HM as one of the participants of the empowerment program in the convex sector, namely the sewing training program. Related to the first program, namely sewing training, the program implemented by the village government aims to provide skills and knowledge education to the community. The target communities of the training program are people who are unemployed or unemployed and young people who have dropped out of school. The training program can later provide capital, expertise and knowledge to then be able to find a job or even open his own business. In line with what is conveyed by (Zehr, 1998) that skill (*soft skills*) and knowledge (*hardskill*) is one of the main things needed in the world of work other than the educational aspect itself.

Based on HM's confession, he can buy his own goods for his personal needs and to support him work such as buying a motor vehicle or clothes without asking his parents. To reinforce that the empowerment program formed by the village government has an impact on the community, researchers interviewed KN who is one of the participants in the fisheries improvement program, namely the use of carp into pindang. KN said that from the empowerment program, he was able to buy household furniture and buy supporting equipment to produce pindang fish, although some of the goods were assisted by the village government. The second program is related to the provision of MSME assistance for pindang fish processing. The purpose of the program is to stimulate MSMEs to develop by providing capital assistance in the form of equipment to maximize the local potential of villages that are still sustainable in their waters by targeting MSME actors. According to (Purwanti, 2013) In his research, he explained that the effect of providing capital to MSMEs can provide a force that can encourage production to generate an increase in income from sales. The increase in income generated from the sales process can certainly provide welfare to the community and provide economic strengthening so that they can support their families for daily life.

Furthermore, the results of the interview to WS as a participant in the agricultural improvement empowerment program, namely fertilizer processing to increase rice production. WS said that he was able to buy agricultural equipment such as tractors to help make it easier for him to work when the harvest arrived, buying primary and secondary goods for his household needs.

The second indicator is the increased productivity of community activities related to expertise in each empowerment program. The interview with HM as a sewing trainee explained that she did not have to be unemployed after graduating from high school because she had been accepted to work in a factory after a few days of sewing training. His productivity is working in a factory to earn income. Furthermore, the results of an interview with WS as a participant in the fertilizer training program to increase agricultural production explained that with this program, farmers use fertilizer during the rice planting process to increase their production when the harvest arrives. WS said that before using fertilizer, his rice production was only 6 tons per hectare, after using fertilizer he could harvest about 7 tons per hectare. The application of fertilizer to rice plants provides increased production because fertilizer creates nutrients needed by the soil and encourages the continuity of the photosynthesis process. Increased production will certainly result in increased sales so that farmers' income increases. Prosperity can be achieved if the process can continue continuously.

On the other hand, KN as a participant of the pindang fish training program explained that he could have a side job together with his wife producing pindang fish, KN himself was actually

a laborer. The existence of pindang fish training increases the productivity of the married couple to fill their free time so that it is not wasted in vain.

The last indicator is related to increasing community income, researchers interviewed participants in community empowerment programs to find out how much the increase was. Based on HM's narration as one of the participants who participated in the sewing training empowerment program, it was found that HM had a steady income from his hard work working in a convection factory. His efforts to participate in the empowerment program were not in vain because with perseverance and willingness to change, HM was able to provide income to his family. The income received is enough to be able to support daily needs and even he can help his parents in adding income and does not need to ask his parents for money anymore because he already gets a salary of around Rp. 75,000 per day, if a month it can reach Rp. 2,250,000. Whereas previously HM was only a high school graduate who was almost unemployed, but after receiving skills training from an empowerment program he could be accepted into a convection plant.

Community empowerment is essentially a way or activity aimed at maximizing the abilities that exist within humans in order to bring out all their best potential in order to improve the quality of their human resources ([Rahman & La, 2018](#)). In tune with what is conveyed that empowerment refers to the competence of individuals, especially those who are powerless so that they have the power to (1) have freedom in meeting needs, (2) productivity in managing productive resources, (3) participate in contributing to the economy. The purpose of community empowerment, There are 3 objectives in community empowerment including:

- (i) Business Reparations. After the institutional reparation, it is expected to have an impact on the reparation of the institution's own nets. In this context, it is an effort made by the village government so that it can prosper and empower the economy of the village community.
- (ii) Revenue Reparations. Business repairs are expected to provide injections so that later they can be felt widely and evenly.
- (iii) Life Reparations. Life will be good if accompanied by income and a good environment so as to make comfort and security felt.

There are several programs implemented by the village government that have an impact on the community in order to prosper their economy (*economy civics*). These programs include (1) sewing training, (2) assistance for MSMEs processing pindang fish, and (3) maximizing agricultural land. Related to the first program, namely sewing training, the program implemented by the village government aims to provide skills and knowledge education to the community. The target communities of the training program are people who are unemployed or unemployed and young people who have dropped out of school. The training program can later provide capital, expertise and knowledge to then be able to find a job or even open his own business. In line with what is conveyed by ([Zehr, 1998](#)) that skill (*soft skills*) and knowledge (*hardskill*) is one of the main things needed in the world of work other than the educational aspect itself.

([Robles, 2012](#)) defines that hard skill is a power of mind that comes from knowledge to carry out a work activity optimally. While according to Berthal in ([Fauzan, 2020](#)) defines that soft skills are skills of internal and external attitudes of individuals to be able to maximize work so that they can communicate and make decisions well.

The second program is related to the provision of MSME assistance for pindang fish processing. The purpose of the program is to stimulate MSMEs to develop by providing capital assistance in the form of equipment to maximize the local potential of villages that are still

sustainable in their waters by targeting MSME actors. According to (Purwanti, 2013) In his research, he explained that the effect of providing capital to MSMEs can provide a force that can encourage production to generate an increase in income from sales. The increase in income generated from the sales process can certainly provide welfare to the community and provide economic strengthening so that they can support their families for daily life.

The last program is related to maximizing agricultural land, namely fertilizer processing training. The purpose of this program is to educate farmers to know the good quality of fertilizer so that it can increase productivity rather than the agricultural products themselves. The target of this activity is farmers who own rice fields, because in Bojongsari Village itself rice fields are still very large. The application of fertilizer to rice plants provides increased production because fertilizer creates nutrients needed by the soil and encourages the continuity of the photosynthesis process. Increased production will certainly result in increased sales so that farmers' income increases. Prosperity can be achieved if the process can continue continuously.

This process can be maximized with several steps and efforts to be able to help the growth and economic development of villages through citizenship economics, including through education *Entrepreneur Intelligence* and entrepreneur programs. Entrepreneur Intelligence is an ability or spirit to create added value from the process of implementing creativity and self-strength into a profitable business so that it can become sustainable (Hijriah, 2016).

(Siwi, 2017) explained that there are several efforts that can be made to improve the quality of human resources in order to help economic growth through the citizenship economy, namely: (1) A training system with a customization trained model, (2) Collecting data on the expertise of a region, and (3) Creating a supportive climate to help the community develop. If you look at the explanation described earlier, the empowerment program carried out by Bojongsari Village has fulfilled one of these methods, namely by providing customized training which means providing training in accordance with the needs expected by workers.

4. CONCLUSION

Community empowerment programs formulated and formed by village apparatus have a positive impact on the community so that economic empowerment as a strengthening of *economic civics* can be felt by the community. This can be seen by the increase in people's income, people's productivity increases and can even make their own products, and the ability of people to buy goods to meet their needs either in basic or secondary / tertiary.

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