Women’s Participation in Coastal Community Empowerment Programs

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ABSTRACT

Karangasem Utara Urban Village is one of several urban villages located in the coastal area of Batang Regency, and is active in implementing community empowerment programs. In this case, there is community participation, and there are still different perceptions between individuals regarding domination and the division of labor based on gender. Therefore, this study aims to analyze more deeply how the concept of gender equality is in the coastal community empowerment program in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. This study applies a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach that utilizes primary data obtained from interviews and observations and secondary data obtained from the documentation. The results of this study indicate that first, community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village are the “Pelatihan Pemberdayaan” and the “Kelompok Usaha Bersama (KUB).” Second, women and men have equal rights in access and control of community empowerment programs, namely in the planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. Third, there are several factors that cause women’s passive participation in community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village.

Keywords: Women’s Participation, Community Empowerment, Karangasem Utara Urban Village.


1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Indonesia, in an effort to improve the welfare of the community to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment in the community, is to formulate policies in the form of establishing community empowerment programs. Community empowerment programs are implemented in various regions in Indonesia, which include provinces, regencies and cities, sub-districts, sub-districts, and villages. In addition, community empowerment programs must also be synchronized with environmental conditions, natural potential, and community needs in each region. This is because the geographical and demographic conditions of the regions in Indonesia are very diverse, so adjustments are made so that the objectives of the community empowerment program can be achieved and on target. This is in accordance with the Pasal 5 Ayat 1 Peraturan Menteri Dalam Negeri Republik Indonesia Nomor 130 Tahun 2018 Tentang Pembangunan Sarana dan Prasarana Kelurahan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat di Kelurahan which reads, “(1) Kegiatan pemberdayaan masyarakat di Kelurahan sebagaimana dimaksud dalam Pasal 2 huruf b, digunakan untuk meningkatkan kapasitas dan kapabilitas masyarakat di Kelurahan dengan mendayagunakan potensi sumber daya sendiri.”

The Batang Regency Government also later formulated a policy in the form of Peraturan Bupati Nomor 14 Tahun 2020 Tentang Pedoman Pelaksanaan Kegiatan Pembangunan Sarana dan Prasarana Kelurahan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat di Kelurahan Kabupaten Batang in response to Peraturan Menteri Dalam Negeri Republik Indonesia Nomor 130 Tahun 2018 Tentang Pembangunan Sarana dan Prasarana Kelurahan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat di Kelurahan. This policy is a form of support from the local government in implementing community empowerment programs. In addition, Batang Regency is also on of the regencies that actively implement community empowerment programs, especially in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. Karangasem Utara Urban Village has several community empowerment programs that have previously been adapted to environmental conditions, natural resources, and the needs of the local community, which is on of the coastal areas in Batang Regency. Karangasem Utara Urban Village as a coastal area, in this case utilizes the potential of the sea to be developed in a community empowerment program in the form of processed marine products.

Community empowerment programs in Batang Regency or in other areas, apart from being based on the above regulations, must also fulfill several aspects. Important aspects of a community empowerment program include: programs that are formed independently by the community;
answer the basic needs of the community; encourage the involvement of the poor, illiterate women, and other disadvantaged groups; created from domestic resources; are sensitive to the value of the surrounding tradition, as well as attaching importance to environmental effects; does not cause dependencies; there are many parties who are connected, involved, and sustainable (Mardikanto and Poerwoko, 2013). This statement can be interpreted that community empowerment programs must include all elements in an area, both the community and the government, both the women and men.

The active role of the community is a fundamental thing that must be carried out so that the implementation of empowerment can run without any obstacles as previously planned. The active role is not only for men or for women, but all elements must be involved because in essence, women and men are the same. Women have a position like men and vice versa. In line with this book (Megawangi, 1999) reveals that the roles of women and men are by nature not interchangeable. The public and domestic roles are included in the nurturing role. It’s just the formation of habits that have been developing, then understood by the community as a sacred thing to believe.

Several studies that support the above statement are the first, the research entitled “Women’s Participation in Development (Gender Study on Women’s Participation in Participatory Development through Community Empowerment)” by (Rinawati, 2004), which shows that women’s involvement in implementation in the field in participatory development still low. Second, the research entitled “Women’s Participation in the Implementation of Community Empowerment Programs in Bantul Regency” by (Setyawati and Andreas, 2013) show that women have been included and taken part in every process of community empowerment programs, but women’s participation has not been maximized because it was still passive. Third, the research entitled “Quasi-participation of Poor Women in Community Empowerment Programs” (Putra, 2015) shows that community involvement in empowerment programs is quite visible even though certain groups appear to be more dominant in decision-making in the development process, which causes the involvement of poor women to turn out to be false.

In connection with some of the studies above, the same thing is also found in the implementation of community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village, especially in the planning process, which is still dominated by men when viewed from the aspect of the percentage of activity. This is in contrast to the fact that in Karangasem Utara Urban Village, the percentage of the female population is higher than the percentage of the male population. Data from Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) of Batang Regency in 2018 stated that the population of Karangasem Utara Urban Village was 14,329 people; a total of 7,176 were women, and a total of 7,063 were men. This means that the possibility of women dominating or even no domination from one of the groups, both women and men themselves, is greater. Because it can be seen that women are superior in quantity. However, in its implementation in the field, especially in the process of planning and evaluating community empowerment programs, the percentage of women’s attendance is far less than that of men. In addition, the presence of women in the planning and evaluation process is only limited to preparing consumption during the activity. Whereas in this case, the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government has opened up equal
opportunities for the local community, but it has not been used properly, especially for women themselves.

A balanced role between women and men is needed in terms of development. But the reality, in Indonesia, society creates a division of labor based on gender that a woman’s job is only to do domestic work while men are free in the public sphere, so this causes women to be in an inferior position. One example is related to making a decision on policy. In general, men’s ideas are prioritized, even though these policies must be implemented not only for men but also for women because a social group consists of women and men (Astuti, 2011). This statement is supposed to the reality that exists in Karangasem Utara Urban Village, especially in the implementation of community empowerment programs. Basically, the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government provides equal opportunities for the surrounding community to actively participate in community empowerment programs. But what happened was the domination by one party in several community empowerment processes.

Based on the reality that Karangasem Utara Urban Village is one of the villages that is active in implementing community empowerment programs, there is community participation among both women and men, and there are still different perceptions between individuals regarding domination and the division of labor based on gender, it is very interesting to study analyzed in more depth how the form of community empowerment programs contained in the Karangasem Utara Urban Village; how is the equality of access and control of the community in the community empowerment program in the Karangasem Utara Urban Village; and how are the factors for women’s passive participation factor in community empowerment programs in the Karangasem Utara Urban Village.

2. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Research with qualitative methods is research that aims to study events or events faced by research subjects, for example, motivation, behavior, perceptions, and attitudes as a whole, by means of descriptions narrated in a special context that is common and by using various scientific methods (Moleong, 2014). In comparison, the phenomenological approach describes a life experience of several people related to a phenomenon or concept. An individual who takes part in handling a phenomenon will search for the structure of awareness of human life experience (Creswell, 2014).

Regarding the method and approach used, the author tries to analyze the phenomenon of gender equality in the coastal community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village with holistic observations. The author, as well as the researcher, becomes the main instrument for reviewing information from an incident and then answering questions about the problems that have been described. It is very relevant if the author applies a phenomenological approach to support qualitative research in the context of this research.

Data collection techniques in this study were through observation, interviews, and documentation. Observations were made directly on the object under study. Observation in this study was started by observing the environmental conditions of Karangasem Utara Urban Village and observing the process of processing marine products, which is one of several community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. Furthermore, interviews were conducted directly with the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government, which in this case is the
Head of Village and the Section for Community Empowerment and Social Welfare. In addition, interviews were also conducted with the person in charge of RT 01 Wukirsari Village, Karangasem Utara Urban Village, and several people who took part in the community empowerment program in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. Then documentation is used to complete and support research data in the form of documents regarding data related to research locations, both the environment and the community, obtained from the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Office. The primary data of this study were obtained from the process of observation and interviews, while the secondary data was obtained from the documentation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Form of Community Empowerment Program

Karangasem Utara Urban Village is one of the villages in Batang Regency which has special features because of its location in the coastal area. The specialty is in the form of an abundance of natural resources in the form of marine products. This has made the Batang Regency Government, especially the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government, aware that these privileges must be used efficiently and effectively. The optimization of these natural resources will not be able to run properly if the human resources in the Karangasem Utara Urban Village are still not sufficient. Therefore, the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government, with the support of the Batang Regency Government, especially the Marine Fisheries and Livestock Service, is undertaking a community empowerment program that is synchronized with the conditions and needs of the surrounding community. Sustainable community development is essentially a stage that is directed and planned in advance, prioritizing the protection of domestic potential and resources, skills, ideas, and community involvement (Suparjan, 2003).

The Government of Batang Regency, with the assistance of the Department of Marine Fisheries and Livestock, has a community empowerment program specifically for sub-districts and villages in Batang Regency, which are located in coastal areas. The program was then delegated to the sub-district government to be further managed and adapted to the capabilities of each sub-district. In this regard, Karangasem Utara Urban Village has several community empowerment programs that have previously been synchronized with their capabilities and potential. The community empowerment programs include:

1) Pelatihan Pemberdayaan (Empowerment Training)

This Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program is one of the community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. The program is routinely carried out twice a year. The Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program is intended for all elements of society who live and are domiciled in Karangasem Utara Urban Village by adjusting the community’s needs at any time. Activities in the program are centered on training on the utilization of the natural potential found in Karangasem Utara Urban Village, names marine products. The Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program was carried out in collaboration between the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government and the Department of Marine Fisheries and Livestock of Batang Regency. The concrete form of the program is in the form of training in processing marine products such as fish fillets, smoking fish, processing salted fish, making skin crackers, making fish flour, and others. The activities in the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan are, of course, not only aimed at women but also at men.
The results of the interviews with the Community Empowerment and Social Welfare Section of Karangasem Utara Urban Village show that the activities in the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program greatly optimize marine resources in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. Every activity carried out in the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program certainly requires funds. In this case, most of the funds used for the implementation of activities in the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program came from the Department of Marine Fisheries and Livestock, while a small portion came from the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government itself. Every activity in the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program is carried out directly and creates a gathering of many people, so during the Covid-19 pandemic, all forms of activity in the program are taken to prevent the transmission of the Covid-19 virus.
2) Kelompok Usaha Bersama/KUB (Joint Business Group)

Kelompok Usaha Bersama or commonly abbreviated as KUB is a continuation of the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan program that has been implemented previously. The program was formed to follow up on the capabilities or skills of processing marine products that had been previously obtained from Pelatihan Pemberdayaan. KUB consists of several groups containing ten members in each group. The grouping is intended to distribute processed marine products, which will be managed by each KUB, and later the processed products will be traded as a form of business. Each group will be given the responsibility of one type of processed seafood according to what has been previously trained in the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan. Several KUBs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village include KUB for fish fillets and fish grinding, KUB for smoking fish, KUB for processing salted fish, and KUB for making fish crackers. Each KUB has previously been given the first capital by the Department of Marine Fisheries and Livestock of Batang Regency with a certain amount and is under the supervision of the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government.

The results of interviews with the Community Empowerment and Social Welfare Section show that although the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government is always active in supervising each KUB, the KUB managers are not systematic in their administration. This is evidenced by the difficulty of requesting reports from several KUB managers, even though these reports are very much needed for evaluation by the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government. Apart from the lack of orderly administration, the processing of marine products by KUB has so far been traded and distributed on a local scale to a national scale. The input from the KUB is then given to the manager, and existing members/workers according to their respective portions.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there were several KUBs who decided not to actively manage for a while, but some KUBs were still actively operating. One of the KUBs that are currently actively operating during the Covid-19 pandemic is the fillet and fish mill KUB in RT 01 Wukirsari Village, Karangasem Utara Urban Village. Because it operates in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the distribution that KUB can do is only ½ (half) of the normal amount as before the Covid-19 pandemic. This resulted in a decrease in the turnover of KUB fillets and fish milling in Wukirsari Village. Based an interview with one of the managers of KUB fillets and fish mills shows that processing is also adjusted to the catch of fisherman at the Tempat Pelelangan Ikan/TPI (Fish Auction Place), which is located not far from the KUB. Because it is very dependent on fishermen, there is no processing at KUB if there is no supply of fish from TPI. Vice versa, fillet processing, and fish grinding will take longer if the supply from TPI is large. The processing usually starts at 6 (six) in the morning, and the length of processing time will be adjusted to the amount of fish supply available.
The fillet and milling KUB, which is located in Wukirsari Village, has sixty-eight members or workers consisting of fifty-six women and twelve men. The members, as well as workers, are from Karangasem Utara Urban Village itself, and some came from Ujungnegoro, Kandeman Sub-District of Batang Regency. Almost all members are women who are also housewives. In the processing, women get a share for filleting fish while men get a share for packing. This processing can produce approximately 6 (six) tons of processed fish per day in the form of fish fillets and fish grinders. The process of processing fillets and grinding fish does not cause environmental damage because the waste from the processing can be reused as poultry feed, especially for ducks. The processing results are then distributed around the Batang Regency area and outside cities such as Teamanggung, Surabaya, Jakarta, and Bandung.

Based on the process of implementing the activities in Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB described above, it appears that the program can train the community’s capabilities and creativity in the use of marine products. However, there are still shortcomings in the process of implementing the program, including not all KUBs running well, KUBs that are less orderly in terms of administration, and the existence of a gender division of labor, as evidenced in one of the KUBs in Wukirsari Village, namely women are in charge of processing fish because the work is relevant with household chores; while men served in the packing section because men were considered physically stronger than women.

3.2 Equality of Access and Control of Women in Community Empowerment Programs

According to Beetham (2000), the main meaning of the community in the context of democracy is not only in matters of voting during the Pemilihan Umum (General Election), but the community also has broad control in the electoral process and during the administration. Democracy is interpreted in two ways, including the sovereignty of the people (rule of the people), which is more specifically defined as popular control, and political equality. David Beetham and Kevin Boyle also said that the definition of democracy cited by Jayadi Nas in his article entitled “Democracy and Democratization: Concepts in Theory and Its Applications” (Nas, 2000) re-emphasized related to equal political participation in democracy is that democracy is one of the assets collective decision making. Democracy embodies the desire that decisions affecting the association as a whole must be taken by all its members, and each member must have the same rights in the implementation of decision-making. That is, democracy includes the principle of community control in the process of forming collective decisions and equal rights in exercising control itself.

The above statement can be interpreted as access and control becoming a meeting point between policymakers and civil society. The government is required to expand the space for community access and control and provide services to the community and, most importantly for the underprivileged. This must also be balanced by the community, who together have integrity in assessing their problems, needs, and capacities, as well as reviewing an idea to solve problems and develop capacity in a structured manner. While the equality of access and control of the community
in the community empowerment program in Karangasem Utara Urban Village can be seen from their activities in several existing activities, namely:

1) Planning

   The planning process for the community empowerment program in Karangasem Utara Urban Village consists of two stages, including initial socialization and deliberation. Karangasem Utara Urban Village, in this case, seeks to invite the general public, both women and men, to be actively involved in it. The majority of participants who attended the initial socialization activity were women; this was because the community that received the main attention was the PKK group. In addition, PKK members are also active in informing the people around them. Despite being the majority in socialization activities, the participation of women can be said to be passive. The presence of women in these activities is only limited as a listener or only to prepare for consumption during the socialization. During socialization, fewer women express their idea when compared to men. This also occurs at the next planning stage, namely deliberation. The deliberation stage is dominated by men more than women, both in terms of the percentage of attendance and the percentage of activeness in conveying ideas. This is due to the timing of the deliberation, which is often held at night, and it is also related to the patriarchal system that is still attached, namely the assumption that a woman's job is only in the domestic sphere.

2) Implementation

   In contrast to the planning process, women get more space and a bigger share than men in the process of implementing empowerment programs, both in Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB. In this case, women dominate more than men, especially in the form of energy in Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB programs. In addition, women also get the task of making reports in the KUB which will be submitted to the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government as evaluation material in the future. Based on the results of the interview with the head of KUB management shows that the percentage of male and female members in each KUB is different. But in the overall implementation process, both the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB, so far, women still dominate as active participants/members of KUB. In addition, women also contributed a lot in terms of expanding information related to the Pelatihan Pemberdayaan dan KUB program, even though it was only information by word of mouth. This has a positive impact on existing community empowerment programs, namely Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB. Meanwhile, in the process of implementing the program, the role and percentage of men’s involvement is less than that of women. This is because most of the men in Karangasem Utara Urban Village choose to be fisherman who goes to the sea and supply goods to KUB.

3) Evaluation

   The last thing in the community empowerment program in the evaluation process. In this case, the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government and the community who take part in the community empowerment program will examine the achievements and things that become obstacles during the implementation of the program. The evaluation process is usually carried out in the Urban Village Development Planning Deliberation (Musyawarah Perencanaan Pembangunan Kelurahan/Musrenbangkel), which is held once a year. In the evaluation process, the percentage of male presence and activity is more dominant. This was confirmed by the Community Empowerment and Social Welfare Section, which said that it was difficult for women in Karangasem Utara Urban Village...
Village to be actively involved in association activities such as meetings, deliberation, or other gatherings, even though in the program implementation process were dominated by women. Women who attend the evaluation process are also more inclined to present consumption in these activities than actively voice ideas; this attitude is also carried out in the planning process.

Community empowerment programs through Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB are examples of efforts to improve gender justice and equality. The community is involved in every decision-making process in policy making. The government of Karangasem Utara Urban Village has tried to open the widest possible space and opportunity for the entire community, both men and women. So that essentially all communities in Karangasem Utara Urban Village have the same opportunity and space for access and control in community empowerment programs which in this case are Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB. Equal access and control opportunities can be seen from community involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation processes of the community empowerment program. However, based on the description of the discussion above, it shows that in the implementation of community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village, there is still a gender gap. This is evidenced by the existence of a division of labor based on gender, namely that women are in charge of preparing consumption during the planning and evaluation process, while men are actively voicing their opinions, which means that there is still an assumption that women’s duties are only domestic; women get a share in processing fish in the KUB, while men get a share in packing which means that there is still an assumption that work that relies on physical work is a man’s job.

3.3 Women’s Passive Participation Factors in Community Empowerment Programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village

The passive participation of women in the implementation of community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village, especially in the planning and evaluation process, is caused by several factors, including:

1) Patriarchal cultural factors

Quoting Mutiah’s (2019) statement, patriarchy is a word used to describe social arrangements that make men a controlling group with jurisdiction over women. Patriarchal culture also makes the position of men more than women. This culture shows real differences regarding the roles and duties of women and men in the social life of society, especially in the household or family. The man, as the head of the family, has the authority that includes control over the economic aspect and the aspect of segregation of work based on sex in a family. This, of course causes women to have limited access to the public sphere compared to men. In this regard, patriarchal culture is also a factor that affects the passive participation of women and the gender gap in community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village.

2) Women’s double burden factor

Most of the women who take part in community empowerment programs through Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and KUB are housewives. Women who decide to take part in this empowerment process then also have a role in making a living in KUB. So, in this case, women have the task of earning a living and taking care of household needs. The double burden on women is one factor in the gender gap. In addition, if women have a double burden, it will affect freedom of expression in the context of development through empowering existing communities.
3) Activity implementation time factor

The programs contained in community empowerment in Karangasem Utara Urban Village cannot be carried out optimally if there are no various meetings that involve the community in them. According to the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government, the time that is considered effective for carrying out these activities is at night. The time from morning to evening is considered not an effective time because women have the responsibility to do domestic tasks in the household or other activities. However, this is actually considered less effective by the community, especially women. They assume that the deliberation activities will be finished at midnight because the implementation is often delayed and does not match the predetermined schedule, so that time is not safe for women's safety. This is one of the factors for the passive participation of women in existing community empowerment programs, as well as the gender gap because the percentage of women's presence and activity is still minimal.

4) Gender ideology factor

Ideology can be interpreted as all forms of rules, values, and stereotypes that manage male and female relations first through the creation of masculine and feminine identities, which are made into individual characteristics and structures; in this case, it is always ancient and left behind from change (Widanti, 2005). The real example of this ideology in the community empowerment program in Karangasem Utara Urban Village is the assumption that jobs that rely on physical strength should be given to men because every man has a masculine character.

4. CONCLUSION

Karangasem Utara Urban Village, as one of the areas in Batang Regency is located on the sea coast, makes it rich in potential for marine products. This is one of the reasons why the Karangasem Utara Urban Village Government, with the support of the Batang Regency Government, especially the Marine Fisheries and Livestock Service, has developed several policies that support the implementation of community empowerment programs. One of the results of this policy is the establishment of community empowerment programs that have previously been synchronized with the state of the environment and the surrounding community. The form of the empowerment program is Pelatihan Pemberdayaan and Kelompok Usaha Bersama (KUB). Both programs are open to all communities in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. All communities have the same opportunities and rights in terms of access and control of community empowerment programs in Karangasem Utara Urban Village. Although women and men have the same opportunities and rights in terms of access and control, the planning and evaluation process is still dominated by men, both in terms of attendance and aspects of the activity. This is because women only have a role in preparing for consumption during the activity, while men are free to voice their ideas. But in the implementation process, women are more dominant than men because they think that the task of processing food ingredients is more linear to women’s domestic work. The passive participation of women in the planning and evaluation process of community empowerment programs is caused by several things, namely: patriarchal cultural factors that are still enforced by some people in Karangasem Utara Urban Village, the double burden factor that women have, namely housewives and breadwinners, the time factor for the implementation of the activities of the meetings which are mostly held at night, and the gender ideology factor.
5. REFERENCES


