

The Village Government Efforts to Reduce Poverty in Nganjuk Regency

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ABSTRACT

The village government, as the policy holder, plays a major role in controlling the poverty rate. The purpose of this study was to determine the role of the village government effort in reduce poverty in the village of Sekarputih. This research uses qualitative research methods with descriptive approaches. This research method was chosen in order to obtain in-depth research data on the role of the Sekarputih village government in poverty alleviation efforts. Data collection methods used were in-depth interviews and observations. This study uses Talcott Parson's structural functionalism theory, namely the theory of AGIL (adaptation, goal attainment, integration and latency) to analyze the role of the Sekarputih village government in reduce poverty problems. The results show that the village government's efforts in reduce poverty are give money and food to help people live and provide empowerment training to the people of Sekarputih Village. Providing assistance is more focused on the elderly (elderly) who are no longer able to work, while empowerment training is focused on people of productive age to be able to determine jobs and be more creative and active in opening new businesses, so as to reduce the unemployment rate in Sekarputih Village.

Keywords: Poverty, Village Government, Community Empowerment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a person's inability to fulfill his daily life. Poverty is a multidimensional social problem, where poverty is an inseparable part of human life. Poverty is multidimensional because the problems are quite diverse so that the solution given must be comprehensive. Poverty is a fundamental problem, because poverty involves meeting the most basic needs in life. According to Chambers (in Nasikun) 3 states that poverty is an integrated concept that has five dimensions, namely: 1) poverty (proper), 2) powerlessness (powerless), 3) vulnerability to emergency situations (state of emergency), 4) dependence (dependence), and 5) isolation, both geographically and sociologically [1].

Poverty is a common problem that must be tackled seriously. Poverty is one of the problems in the promotion of people's welfare, in Indonesia itself, the problem of poverty is often discussed because it is a very ironic social problem. Poverty is also the basis for various other problems, such as an increase in crime.

The percentage of Indonesia's poor population in March 2020 was 9.78 percent, an increase of 0.56 percent compared to September 2019 with the number of poor people in March 2020 of 26.47 million, an increase of 1.63 million people in September 2019. East Java Province is a province with the highest number of poor people in Indonesia with a total of 4,419.10 thousand people in March 2020 [2].

Poverty cannot be overcome by only focusing on inequality, but there is a lot to learn how to be successful, because everything cannot be done all at once so there are many things that must be improved, especially from the government [3]. The high and decreased poverty rate can be seen from the role of the village government in solving the problem of poverty. The role of the village government is to organize and control policies on problems that exist in the village, including socio-economic problems in the village area. [4]. The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is divided into provincial areas and provincial areas are divided into regencies or cities which are then further divided into subdistricts and the last is villages, each of

which has a government to regulate its own region. A village is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries that are authorized to regulate and manage the interests of the local community based on local origins and customs which are recognized and respected in the system of the Republic of Indonesia [5]. Sutardjo Kartohadikusumo said, the village is also a legal entity covering a community who lives in an area and has the right to self-rule [6]. What is meant by legal community unity, it means a society whose life behavior is regulated and managed according to certain laws. Customary law communities mean their behavior and lives are regulated by custom [7].

In the implementation of village governance, the village head is assisted by village officials which include hamlet heads, village secretaries, regional administrators and technical implementers [8]. The task of the village apparatus itself is to assist the duties of the village head itself, just as the village secretary assists in general management and planning and correspondence, the regional executor is in charge of village development, village community development and village community empowerment, while the technical implementer served as executor of operational tasks [8].

The main task of the village government is service that results in independence, development creates prosperity, in accordance with the vision and mission of the village of Sekarputih.

Overcoming the issue of poverty is very important because it is a problem that cannot be postponed. It must be a top priority in the implementation of development, in accordance with justice in realizing a populist economic system, a joint commitment that is carried out systematically [9]. The role of the village government as a policy controller in poverty alleviation efforts is the initial capital for village development planning in various sectors, so that it can reduce the poverty rate which requires concrete, precise and comprehensive efforts. Thus the efforts of the village government in poverty alleviation can be carried out in harmony and can guarantee the social welfare of the community [10].

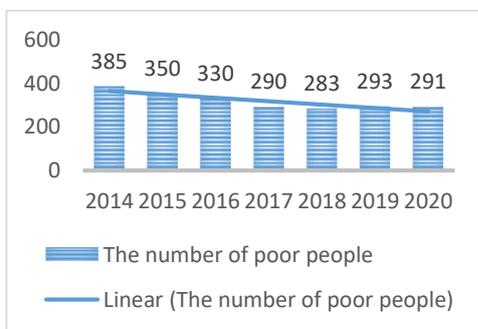


Figure 1 Development of the Poor Population in Sekarputih Village [11]

The poverty level in Sekarputih village shows a decreasing trend as shown in Figure 1. The decline in

the poor is based on the planned efforts of the village government in poverty alleviation in Sekarputih Village. Empowering the poor is the main focus of the village government to overcome poverty in the village. Empowering poverty by managing healthy local institutions is one of the things that must be pursued to reduce poverty [3]. Poverty reduction is defined as a permanent reduction in the poverty rate, so that many programs are focused on economic growth even though poverty reduction should be carried out with a multidimensional view [12]. The explanation above that has been described, makes the researcher feel very interested in discussing how the efforts of the village government to reduce poverty in Sekarputih village.

2. METHODOLOGY

Research on the role of the government in efforts to reduce poverty in Sekarputih Village, located in Sekarputih Village, Bagor District, Nganjuk Regency. The researchers took this location as a research. Sekarputih village is the center of the tofu factory Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSME) in Bagor District, Nganjuk Regency. So that some of the population work as entrepreneurs in the tofu and tempe home industry. However, there are also people who live below the poverty line, so researchers are interested in conducting research on the role of the government in poverty alleviation efforts in Sekarputih Village. Researchers used qualitative research methods and descriptive approaches [13]. in order to see the role of the government in poverty alleviation efforts in Sekarputih Village. Sources of data used in this study are primary data and secondary data.

Primary data is information, namely Sekarputih village apparatus and Sekarputih village community, while secondary data is Integrated Data of RPJMDES (Village Medium Term Development Plan) 2019-2025 Sekarputih Village. The selection of this informant was because the informant was considered to know and could be trusted as the right source to know the problem in depth. To collect data in this study using in-depth interviews and observation methods [14] As for the process of data collection, the researcher made observations to determine the social conditions of the community in Sekarputih village, after which the researcher made questions to conduct in-depth interviews with informants, namely Sekarputih village officials and the Sekarputih village community. The data obtained are then processed and analyzed to determine the role of the government in poverty alleviation efforts in the village of Sekarputih.

3. RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. Overview of Community Empowerment

Sekarputih village has 15 tofu and tempe home industries, so most of the population work as tofu and tempe producers. Sekarputih Village is the Tofu Factory Center in the Bagor sub-district, Nganjuk district. If seen in general here, the Sekarputih village government can empower its people in trade and industry. The implementation of community empowerment carried out by the Sekarputih village government is an effort to reduce poverty in Sekarputih village. Sekarputih Village has a population of 2,749 people, and has a productive age population of 1,287 people or about 47% of the total population[11]. This can be seen as a valuable human resource capital to develop the potential of Sekarputih Village as a Tofu Factory Center in Nganjuk Regency.

In addition, the Sekarputih village government provided a Village Fund Budget of Rp. 10,000,000 per year for the distribution of basic necessities to 100 elderly poor people. The provision of basic food assistance is focused on the elderly poor because they are considered unable to work anymore. This distribution is carried out annually in the form of basic food items totaling Rp. 100,000 per person. Meanwhile, government policies in implementing community empowerment activities through various trainings are focused on the productive age population so that they are able to be empowered in finding employment or creating their own jobs.

Sekarputih village government in making venture capital participation through BUMDES (Village Owned Enterprises) located in Sekarputih village called BUMDES Sekarjaya (Village Owned Enterprises) through the Kedelai Cooperative Unit. This BUMDES functions as a capital loan to prospective entrepreneurs in the Sekarputih village community. The village government of Sekarputih has budgeted funds for and assistance for DD (Village Fund) for the poor in the form of basic necessities. The village government can form a community empowerment organization to carry out empowerment activities for the Sekarputih village community. The role of the village government is to involve the community in community empowerment efforts in planning, implementing development, and managing village areas.

3.2. Village Government Efforts To Reduce Poverty

In general, the poverty experienced by rural communities is that the basic rights of the community are not fulfilled, including the need for food, shelter, education, health, employment, etc. Besides that, there is a lack of information, technology and capital to open an independent business. So far, the role of the

government has been pursuing various policies that are able to reduce people from suffering from poverty [7] According to Bambang Sudibyo in Dewanta states that "The substance of poverty is a condition of devotion to the sources of fulfilling basic needs in the form of clothing, food, shelter and basic education" [15].

Poverty reduction efforts according to Law Number 25 of 2000 concerning Proenas are pursued through two main strategies. First, protecting families and community groups who experience temporary poverty. Second, helping people who experience chronic poverty by empowering and preventing new poverty. This strategy is subsequently outlined in three programs directed at the poor, namely: 1) Provision of Basic Needs; 2) Development of the Social Security System; and 3) Development of the Business Culture of the Poor [9].

Sekarputih village government policies and programs that are carried out systematically and planned to reduce the number of poor people in order to improve the social welfare of the Sekarputih village community. In the 2019-2025 RPJMDES (Village Medium Term Development Plan) document, the village development mission is Sekarputih "Building and encouraging small and medium enterprises in the trade and industrial sector"

3.2.1. In an effort to reduce poverty

In an effort to reduce poverty, the village government of Sekarputih has made programs and policies, namely the provision of social assistance and community empowerment through skills training. The social assistance provided to the poor in Sekarputih village is in the form of basic necessities such as rice weighing 20 kg. This assistance is provided to the poor per year through the Village Fund budget of Rp. 10,000,000 per year. This assistance was given to 100 poor people in Sekarputih village. The provision of social assistance in the form of basic foodstuffs is focused on the poor who are considered unable to work anymore, such as the elderly (elderly).

3.2.2 Another government policy program

Another government policy program is community empowerment through skills training. This skills training is carried out with the aim of encouraging people's creativity so that they become independent, intellectual, innovative, and entrepreneurial people. Skills training that has been given to the community is training in making tofu and tempeh chips, making cakes from tofu dregs, waste banks, and making organic fertilizers. Community empowerment through this training is focused on the population of productive age who are indeed the golden capital for Desa Sekarputih to utilize human resources so that they are able to be

empowered in their own destiny. From the results of the training that has been given, one of the successes done by the community to open new business opportunities is the manufacture of tofu and tempeh chips. This United States of America (USA) producer is a graduate of the training in making tofu and tempeh chips. The USA has been able to be empowered by following the training in making tofu and tempeh chips. The USA is able to expand its business to become a producer of tofu and tempeh chips. The USA home industry of tofu and tempeh chips can accommodate 3 workers who come from the Sekarputih village community itself. The tofu and tempeh chips home industry is considered suitable for the Sekarputih village, because Sekarputih village is the center area for the tofu and tempe home industry in the Bagor district, Nganjuk. In addition, the Sekarputih village government provides the Sekarjaya BUMDES (Village Owned Enterprises) program through the Soybean Cooperative Unit to provide loans to home industry entrepreneurs in Sekar Putih village. The results of community empowerment, which is a program of the Sekarputih village government, have been able to reduce the poverty rate in Sekarputih village.

3.3. Structural Functional Analysis in Village Government Policies

The basic assumption of the theory of structural functionalism, is one of the ideologies or prescriptions in the social sciences which views society as a system consisting of parts that are interconnected with one another and one part that cannot function without any relationship with the other. The discussion on Talcott Parsons' social system includes actors, interactions, optimization environment, satisfaction and curriculum. Function is associated with all activities directed at meeting the needs in a system [16].

There are four absolute requirements that must exist for including the community to function. These four requirements are commonly called AGIL (Adaptation, Goal Anttainment, Intregation, Latency). In order for its existence to be maintained, the community must carry out these functions, namely.

3.3.1. Adaptation (adaptation)

The system must adapt to its environment and adapt that environment to its needs. If it is related to this research, at this adaptation stage there is a government policy in poverty alleviation. The system is made by adjusting the social conditions of the Sekarputih village community. The system that was formed must also match the needs needed by the community in Sekarputih village. In this case, it can be seen that the policy of providing assistance to poor people who are unable to work and community empowerment through training focused on the population of productive age is assessed

according to the needs of each individual who is in the system.

3.3.2. Goal attainment (achieving goals).

System must be able to define and achieve its goals. In its goal, a system must be able to achieve its goals. The Sekarputih village government policy system provides assistance and empowerment to the community aimed at efforts to reduce poverty in the village of Sekarputih. This goal is considered achieved because the poor population in Sekarputih village has decreased every year from 2014 to October 2020 although it is not significant.

3.3.3. Integration (integration)

A system must be able to regulate the relationship between the parts that become its components. In relation to this research is the policy provided by the government in an effort to reduce poverty in Sekarputih village, namely the union between the village government and the community receiving assistance, in this case the community empowered through training. The village government and the village community have the same goal, namely to get out of the circle of poverty. The empowerment process can run if the community and village government can regulate the policy system that has been made.

3.3.4. Latency (pattern maintenance)

A system must be able to complement, maintain, and improve both individual motivation and cultural patterns that create and support motivation. After a system is formed, then the system must be maintained by improving the system so that the desired results can be achieved. In relation to research on village government policy systems in efforts to reduce poverty in Sekarputih village communities, an evaluation is carried out so that the policies that have been implemented can run optimally and are able to overcome the problem of poverty in Sekarputih villages besides that the policy system can guarantee the social welfare of the Sekarputih village community.

4. CONCLUSION

From the results of research conducted by researchers, it shows that government policies in efforts to reduce poverty in Sekarputih villages have been able to reduce the poverty rate, it can be seen that the number of poor people in Sekarputih villages has decreased although not significantly. The role of the government in poverty alleviation efforts in Sekarputih Village is to form a policy program, namely providing assistance in the form of basic foodstuffs for poor people who are no longer able to work and conducting empowerment

through various kinds of training for people of productive age to be able to empower and innovate to open their own business opportunities.

In addition, the Sekarputih village government provides the Sekarjaya BUMDES (Village Owned Enterprises) facility through the Kedelai Cooperative Unit to provide capital loans to home industry entrepreneurs in Sekarputih village. From the results of the empowerment carried out, there are people who have been able to empower and develop business opportunities so that this empowerment is considered successful by the Sekarputih village government. The poverty alleviation strategy carried out by the Sekarputih village government can in fact raise the standard of living of the community. The policy program through empowerment is not only temporary but for the long term and sustainable so that it can meet the needs of the community in the long term. Even though only one community has been able to empower independently in terms of management and marketing, it has been able to do it independently.

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