Empowerment Optimization Rukun Masyarakat (RW) in Regional Development in Gunung Puyuh District Sukabumi City

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Abstract. The problem of implementing the community empowerment program in Gunungpuyuh District is the lack of effective technical guidance activities carried out by the sub-district so that the impact felt is still not visible for regional development in the Gunungpuyuh District area. The purpose of this study is to analyze the optimization of the Rukun Masyarakat empowerment program in Gunung Puyuh District. The research used a qualitative approach. Data collection techniques through interviews conducted with District Officials, related Regional Apparatus in Sukabumi City, and Heads of Community Pillars in Gunungpuyuh District. Observations were conducted in Gunung Puyuh District and 5 (five) Sub-districts in Gunung Puyuh District. The secondary data used are the Gunungpuyuh Sub-District Work Plan, reports on Rukun Masyarakat empowerment activities, and the results of monitoring and evaluation of the Rukun Masyarakat empowerment program. The results of the study obtained obstacles in the implementation of the optimization of the Rukun Masyarakat empowerment program, namely the lack of regulations issued by the local government in the form of implementation guidelines and technical instructions governing the implementation of the Rukun Masyarakat empowerment program, lack of funding from the Regional Government, the need for technical guidance and intense assistance carried out to RW Chairmen as implementers of community harmony empowerment program activities. The recommendations given are the need to compile implementation guidelines and technical guidelines that regulate the implementation of community harmony empowerment programs and the need for guidance from the Regional Government to the Head of RW as the implementer of the community harmony empowerment program.

Keywords: Optimization · Empowerment Program · Community Harmony · Gunung Puyuh District · Sukabumi City

1 Introduction

The current development has seen a paradigm shift in Regional Development, from *top down* to *bottom up patterns.* Where development starts from the bottom so that the community is not only used as an object of development, but also encouraged as

a subject of development. Consequently, development in the regions must be planned, implemented and controlled by community members facilitated by the local government.

Given the importance of the implementation of development as an effort to increase growth and change people's lives for the better, it is necessary to increase the role of community institutions in the village. In carrying out its duties, the Village Community Institution can propose programs and activities to the Regional Government through deliberations on village development plans. One of the village community institutions that plays an important role in development is Rukun Masyarakat (RW).

RW management plays an active role in supporting the vision and mission of local government development. RW is able to be a dynamicator of increasing community participation in improving government services, development, and community empowerment, playing a role in environmental management, being a facilitator who can maintain communication and harmonization of programs from the government to the community or vice versa provide input to the government objectively.

In addition to playing an important role in the administrative process, RW also plays an important role in the development process of an area, especially in the current pattern of *bottom-up* approach that aims to mobilize community potential, RW is involved in the village development plan deliberation process (Musrenbang) which is a forum for annual development planning deliberations involving development actors in Kelurahan. The results of the Musrenbang are a priority list of activities to be carried out with village budget funding sources, self-help and activities that will be proposed to the sub-district to be financed from the APBD, APBN and other funding sources.

In addition to being involved in the initial Musrenbang process, RWs were also given several programs to support regional development provided by the Regional Government of Sukabumi City, namely the Citizen Harmony Empowerment Program (P2RW) which is given annually at 25,000,000 (Twenty Five Million Rupiah) per RW and the Village Fund which is an Additional DAU from the Central Government aimed at village infrastructure development activities and community empowerment in the village.

The Regional Government through Gunung Puyuh District has carried out efforts for empowerment activities for village community institutions, especially RWs, considering the role of RWs is very complex and plays a very important role in the development process in the village, but along the way there are several obstacles in the process of empowering RWs in Gunung Puyuh District, which are caused by, among others, lack of budget allocation from local governments, ineffective technical guidance activities implemented, unclear regulations, low level of community participation, very limited capacity and capability of RW management.

Seeing the various problems that occur in the implementation of Community Harmony empowerment in Gunung Puyuh District, the researcher is interested in taking the title of research on "Optimization of Community Harmony Empowerment in Regional Development in Gunung Puyuh District, Sukabumi City".

2   Theoretical Foundations

Empowerment comes from the basic word daya which means "strength", and is a translation of the English term "empowerment", so it can be explained that empowerment means giving power or strength to weak groups who do not yet have the power / strength

to live independently, especially in meeting basic needs / basic needs of daily life such as food, clothing / clothing, house / board, education, health.

Empowerment as a translation of *empowerment* according to Merrian Webster in the Oxford English Dictionary contains two meanings:

- To give ability or enable to, which translates as giving ability or allowing.
- To give power of authority to, which means to give power.

According to Mardikanto and Soebiato [1], Hamid [2], the purpose of empowerment includes various improvement efforts, namely:

- **Better *education*** means that empowerment must be designed as a better form of education.
- ***Improved accessibility*** means, along with the growth and development of the spirit of lifelong learning, it is expected to improve accessibility.
- ***Better action*** means, through the provision of improved education and accessibility with a variety of better resources (HR, natural resources and other / artificial resources), it is hoped that it will give birth to better actions.
- ***Better institution*** means, with improvements in activities/actions taken, it is expected to improve community institutions, especially the development of partnership-business networks, so as to create a strong *bargaining position* in the community.
- ***Better business*** means, improving education (enthusiasm for learning), improving accessibility, activities, and institutional improvements, it is hoped that it will be able to improve the business / business run.
- ***Better income*** means that the improvement of the business carried out is expected to improve the income obtained, including the income of the family and community.
- ***Better environment*** means that income improvement can improve the environment (physical and social), because environmental damage is often caused by poverty or limited income.
- ***Better*** living means an adequate income level and a healthy environment, expected to improve the living situation of every family and community.
- ***Better community*** means that a better living situation, and supported by a better environment (physical and social), is expected to create a better community life.

Development is a process of change that includes the entire social system, such as politics, economics, infrastructure, defense, education and technology, institutions, and culture [3]. Portes [4] defines development as economic, social and cultural transformation. Development is a process of change planned to improve various aspects of people's lives.

3   Research Methods

This research uses qualitative research methods, namely methods to explore and understand the meaning of a phenomenon [5]. Qualitative research methods are chosen because this method allows researchers to see and understand the context in which research phenomena for example: certain decisions and actions can only be understood by talking to certain people who know and have experience regarding research phenomena [6].

Primary data were obtained from interviews conducted with sub-districts, sub-district officials, related regional officials in Sukabumi City, and heads of community associations in Gunungpuyuh sub-district. Observations were conducted in Gunung Puyuh District and 5 (five) Sub-districts in Gunung Puyuh District. The secondary data used are the Work Plan of Gunungpuyuh District, reports on community empowerment activities, development data in Gunung Puyuh District for Fiscal Year 2021, Performance Report of Government Agencies (LKIP) of Gunung Puyuh District in 2021 and the results of monitoring and evaluation of the Rukun Masyarakat empowerment program.

4   Results and Discussion

The results of the research obtained are that the Regional Government through Gunung Puyuh District has carried out efforts for empowerment activities for village community institutions, especially RWs, considering the role of RWs is very complex and very instrumental in the development process in the village, but in the course of it there are several obstacles in the process of empowering RWs in Gunung Puyuh District, which are caused by, among others:

First, the capacity and capability of human resources of RW administrators are still very limited. In general, RW administrators are over 50 years old on average (Table 1), because of the paradigm that RW administrators from year to year there is no regeneration. People tend to be less enthusiastic about becoming RW administrators, so even if an election is held, the results will fall to the RW who is already in office.

Second, community participation in community empowerment activities is still low. People tend not to know the programs organized by the Regional Government in the development and empowerment of communities in the village.

Third, there are still ineffective counseling activities and socializations held in Kelurahan. The village has indeed carried out socialization or training for RW leaders, but the socialization or training is not routinely carried out, and often even after the training is held, the RW leaders do not understand the material provided.

Fourth, the rules related to election procedures, tenure, main duties and functions as well as other provisions regarding RWs have not been clearly regulated in the Mayor

Table 1. RW administrators data based on age.

No	EX.	Age					Total
		31–40	41–50	51–60	61–70	71–80	
1	Quail mountain	1	8	25	19	2	55
2	Karamat	5	10	15	17	-	47
3	Sriwedari	1	3	6	8	-	18
4	Central reef	11	15	21	31	4	82
Total		18	36	67	75	6	202
Percentage (%)		8,91	17,82	33,17	37,13	2,97	

Regulation, so there are often problems in terms of procedures for selecting RW chairmen and RW tenure.

Fifth, the budget for development and empowerment of community harmony is still very limited. The local government has provided budget for the construction of village infrastructure and community empowerment in kelurahan, but it is still very limited, so it cannot meet the needs of development and empowerment of village community institutions needed every year.

Sixth, community empowerment activities, especially community harmony empowerment, have not been a priority in the village development plan, this can be seen from the sub-district budget allocation intended for RW empowerment is still very low.

Seventh, there are differences in regional characteristics in Gunung Puyuh District, where the Sriwedari, Gunung Puyuh, and Karamat Villages are located which are more modern because they are close to the city center, but for people in Karang Tengah Village, they are still village characteristics because of its location which is a border area with the Sukabumi Regency area.

From the results of the interview, it was found that obstacles in the process of empowering Rukun Masyarakat in the Gunungpuyuh District area are things that have become the attention of the sub-district, sub-district and all apparatuses trying to carry out programs and activities to overcome this, including by involving the participation of Rukun Masyarakat leaders in the development planning process, providing socializations related to new policies made by the Regional Government, and handing over regional development activities directly to the heads of Rukun Masyarakat both in the planning process, implementation, administration and accountability, of course, while still carrying out guidance and supervision by the sub-district.

In addition, to overcome several obstacles in the process of empowering the Community Pillars above, the Regional Government has also made several improvement efforts, namely:

- Allocate the Village Fund budget, one of which is intended for Community Empowerment. In the implementation of this village fund, the local government through the sub-district allocates funds for one of them, namely Empowerment for Rukun Warga, which is in the form of trainings and technical guidance related to the main tasks and functions of the region carried out by Rukun Masyarakat in order to support development programs.
- Providing grants to the Administrators of Rukun Masyarakat in the form of stimulant funds given annually in the amount of 25,000,000 (twenty-five million rupiah), this fund aims for development Physical in small-scale areas that must be implemented immediately such as road repairs, land retaining taluds, street lighting, and so on.
- Carry out regular dialogue with the Heads of Rukun Masyarakat to convey programs implemented by the Regional Government, especially in the field of development.
- Regional tools that are technical in nature must actively participate in empowering the Community Pillars, such as the Regional Disaster Management Agency, must actively provide disaster training to RW Chairmen to minimize disaster risk in the region.

5   Conclusion and Suggestion

5.1   Conclusion

After research with observations, interviews and literature studies, it can be concluded that *the* implementation of community harmony empowerment in Gunungpuyuh sub-district *has not been* implemented optimally even though there have been improvement efforts from the sub-district and from the Regional Government but have not been able to meet improvement efforts which according to Mardikanto and Soebiato [1] are the 9 elements of empowerment goals. Revisions are needed to the Mayor's Regulation *governing Community Pillars, regulations in the form of implementation guidelines and technical* guidelines governing the implementation of the Community Pillars empowerment program, lack of funding from local governments aimed at empowering community pillars, the need for technical guidance and intense assistance carried out on RW Chairmen as implementers of development program activities in the region.

5.2   Suggestion

In order to optimize the Empowerment of Community Pillars in Gunungpuyuh District, Sukabumi City, the author suggests several things, including that the Regional Government must revise the Mayor Regulation that has been irrelevant to current conditions, allocating a larger budget so as to allow the sub-district to be able to carry out technical guidance for the Chairmen of each Rukun Masyarakat. In the year, encouraging the heads of regional officials to more actively involve the chairman of Rukun Masyarakat in activities, especially those related to regional development.

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