







The Role of the Information Community Regarding Trenggalek in Poverty Alleviation in Trenggalek Regency as a manifestation of civil society activities

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Abstract: This study reviews the role of the Info Seputar Trenggalek community in reducing poverty in Trenggalek Regency as a form of independent action taken by the community, hereinafter referred to as "civil society" in unraveling social problems independently without waiting for action from the government. Even though in practice it still synergizes with many parties including the government. The method used in this study is a qualitative approach with a case study design. The study was carried out for 2 (two) years, starting from 2020 to 2021. The results of this study indicate that the Info Seputar Trenggalek community has played its role in reducing poverty in Trenggalek Regency with various program activities such as (Charity for orphans and poor people, house renovations), educational assistance, opening tourist destinations, volunteering for the movement to see under poverty. From these various activities, the Info Seputar Trenggalek community has helped the community and also the district government in reducing poverty in the area. constraint in the form of limited funding, while the reports that come in from the community regarding their various problems are quite high. This gap is what hinders the implementation of Info About Trenggalek activities to be able to run optimally.

Keywords: civic community, poverty alleviation, civil society

1 Introduction

Poverty is a classic problem that to this day continues to be a concern to find a solution. Therefore, poverty can be said to be a problem for the global community which from year to year always increases in line with the various demands of society's needs and the demands of changing times which are also slowly starting to change some of the orders of life in various fields. This condition is illustrated by data released by the United Nations in 2019 [1] which states that more than 700 million people, or as much as 10% of the total human population in the world, live in extreme poverty and are struggling to meet their needs. The most basic needs in life are the need for water and sanitation, health, and meeting the needs in education. The United Nations data is one picture that is being faced by many

developing countries such as India, Brazil, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Laos, Malaysia, Serbia, Poland, Hungary, and various other countries, including Indonesia. However, this problem is also a concern for developed countries in the world.

Indonesia is a country that is strongly committed to eradicating poverty to create a prosperous and prosperous society. Various steps are taken by the government seriously to eradicate poverty, through Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals [2], alleviating poverty is the first program that must receive serious attention from all levels of government, from ministries to local governments. This government program, among others, aims to improve the lives and welfare of both women and children through increasing life expectancy, nutritional and health status, as well as access to education, especially for children under 5 years old (Balita) [3]. So far, in making policies related to poverty alleviation, the government tends to refer to survey results. One of the results of the survey is the unemployment rate report which is also an indicator of Indonesia's poverty in Southeast Asia because this condition places Indonesia in the second rank of the country with the highest number of unemployed after the Philippines [4]. Other data outside the survey based on the unemployment rate illustrates a decrease in the number of people who fall into the poor category. However, this cannot be used as a reference for Indonesia in realizing its commitment to ending poverty. Because a little carelessness will have an impact on hampering the ideals of sustainable development which is designed to reach its peak in 2030 [5].

Poverty is a condition involving the inability to meet the minimum demands of life, especially from the aspect of consumption and income [6]. Meanwhile [7] explains poverty as a condition of limitations in the ability of individuals and groups to fulfill a decent life, these limitations are limitations in income, health conditions, skills, and mastery of economic assets to access to information. Indonesia as a country that has a strong commitment to "protect the entire Indonesian nation and the entire homeland of Indonesia, to promote public welfare..." is a guide for Indonesia in dealing with various poverty problems seriously [8]. In other words, if poverty is allowed to "proliferate" uncontrolled, it can be another form of omission by the state. Even the action is a little extreme and can be said as a covert genocide committed by the state on its people. In East Java, some districts have long held the title of one of the districts with the poorest population. The district is the Trenggalek Regency where the majority of the people make a living as farmers and fishermen [9]. According to data published by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) Kab. Trenggalek, the number, and percentage of poor people in the district have decreased from 2011-2014. BPS data from Trenggalek Regency states that in 2011 the poverty rate was the highest, with the number of poor people as much as 101,183 people or equivalent to 14.90%, and experiencing a decrease in the number in 2014 to 90,040 people or equivalent to 14.90%. The decrease in the number of poverty did not last long, in 2015 the number of poverty in Trenggalek Regency increased by 2,130 people or 0.28%. So that the number of poverty in 2015 reached 92.17 people. Negligence is one of the causes of an increase in the number of poverty that should be evaluated by the Trenggalek Regency government so that in the following years this problem can be handled more optimally.

The process of alleviating and reducing the percentage of poverty is not only the responsibility of the government, but this problem should be the joint responsibility of all components of the state, including the community itself. The community can carry out its role to reduce the amount of poverty in many ways, either independently (individually) or through intermediary organizations, as well as communities formed independently by the community. In Trenggalek Regency, social movements are carried out through village communities. One form of this social movement is the Info Seputar Trenggalek community. The community, which was founded in 2012, has various programs for poverty alleviation including the formation of cooperatives, the formation of cadres in each village in synergy with Social Service, educational assistance to underprivileged children, house renovation, and various other programs. Due to the success of the Info Seputar Trenggalek community in increasing the active involvement of the community in social movements, this community has received an award and appreciation from the Deputy Regent of Trenggalek. This phenomenon is a tangible manifestation of the community's role in improving life independently through the basic community which is often referred to as the forerunner of civil society [10]. However, there are no studies that specifically discuss these findings. Some studies with a limited scope tend to examine the efforts made by the government [9].

2 Research Methods

The method used in this study is a qualitative approach with a case study design. The case study design used in this research is due to the rationale of the peculiarities of the social movements of rural communities in promoting poverty alleviation that is different from other communities. The study was carried out for 2 (two) years, starting from 2020 to 2021. The main subjects of this study were members of the village community "Information About Trenggalek (IST)". This community is a community that was founded in 2012 starting from the Facebook social media group. Now IST is a village community that is moving to help the community and alleviate poverty with various programs such as the formation of cooperatives, assisting underprivileged children, forming cadres in each village in synergy with the Social Service, and several other social activities. The study location follows the operational location of the community which covers the entire area of Trenggalek Regency broadly. Information collection and activity documentation will be explored through document studies, observations, and interviews with various parties related to this study, including the Trenggalek Regency government, representatives of community members, and representatives of the people of Trenggalek Regency. The analysis of the findings will serve as a guide for organizing focus group discussions with evaluative principles. So that later the results of this activity can be a means for the improvement process for the weaknesses or shortcomings possessed by the community. From these results, it is hoped that it will improve the performance of the community in carrying out its role so that it is wider and the benefits provided to the community are greater.

3 Results and discussion

From the process of observation, interviews, and documentation studies conducted on the Trenggalek Info Community (IST) in Trenggalek Regency, the following results were obtained:

Info About Trenggalek (IST) As the subject of this study, a village community engaged in the social sector was established in 2012 with the vision of disseminating information or events that occurred in the Trenggalek Regency area. The founder of this community is a young man named Bambang Puji Susilo with the Facebook account name Bambang Taruna. Starting from the group that he had created on social media Facebook, he created a process of managing information about what was happening around Trenggalek Regency. This is following the main function of the media, namely conveying information about community activities, culture, and even religion and as a means to exchange information. Because of the desire to accommodate and inform all matters related to Trenggalek Regency through Facebook and other social media. So Bambang Taruna as the initiator of this community formed teams spread across every sub-district. This is to make it easier to manage various information quickly to get to the public or to report in advance about news

or events that are not widely known by the mainstream media. A team is a group of two or more people who interact and influence each other, who are responsible for achieving the organization's objective goals, and perceive themselves as a social unit within the organization. The vanguard of the Info Seputar Trenggalek community is a news search team, this team is tasked with disseminating information that is serious in nature as well as other news that only contains information or exchanges of opinion as well as entertainment.

The Info Community About Trenggalek is not only a medium for informing and exchanging information about conditions in Trenggalek Regency. This community also has a role in poverty alleviation in Trenggalek District through a work program that is systematically structured and has been approved or agreed upon by community members. This program is in line with the opinion expressed by [11] and [12] that the work program can be interpreted as an activity plan from an organization that is directed, integrated, and systematically made for a period that has been determined by the organization. The Info Community Around Trenggalek has a work program that has lofty aspirations, namely for the benefit and realization of community welfare in the Trenggalek Regency area. The program owned by the IST community consists of 5 programs which include:

a. Donations to Orphans and Dhuafa

This program is an activity carried out routinely by the community every month to assist orphans and poor people in the form of compensation. This program is designed by the community in detail in determining distribution to those in need by conducting a field survey process by community members. The community also collaborates with local village officials to gather information regarding the whereabouts of orphans and poor people who will be given compensation. After the survey process and various information regarding the parties to be given compensation, then the community immediately held a collection of donations raised from community members and from the wider community (Trenggalek community and people who directly or indirectly intersect with this community).

b. Home Surgery

The house renovation program initiated by the Info Seputar Trenggalek community is the program most often carried out by this community. This is because in Trenggalek Regency there are still many people who have uninhabitable houses due to their economic background. Therefore, the Info About Trenggalek community decided to make a house renovation program. The mechanism of this program begins with the process of receiving reports either from community members or from the community, then the community will follow up the report by conducting a field survey, seeing the real condition of the house to be dissected, and designing the house renovation process by making a list of the needs needed in the house renovation process. In the next stage, the community will raise funds like other programs, namely through donations obtained from members, the community, and the Trenggalek Regency Government.

c. Education Assistance

The education assistance program from the information community about Trenggalek is aimed at children who cannot afford to reduce the number of children dropping out of school due to lack of funds. The assistance provided to these children is in the form of

school equipment, pocket money, as well as financial assistance to pay off school fees that have not been paid. The working mechanism of this program is the same as other IST community work programs, starting from reports obtained from the community or community members regarding the presence of school children who need assistance. After obtaining the information, the community will conduct a field survey to see the factual conditions of the children who need to receive assistance by collecting data on what needs are needed. The last process is the community will provide educational assistance to students who need assistance.

d. Opening a Tourist Destination

Opening new tourist destinations is a community program that aims to increase people's income from the tourism sector. This program is carried out by designing to create or opening new tourist attractions based on the potential possessed by the regions in Trenggalek Regency. Not only playing a role in opening new tourist attractions, but the IST community also continues to provide support by promoting new tours in Trenggalek. The process carried out for this program begins with collecting reports from the community and community members regarding the potential for good places to be used as new tourist attractions. Following up on the report, the community surveyed the location to see firsthand whether the new location meets the requirements and is suitable if it is used as a new tourist spot. This of course takes into account various aspects such as the attractiveness of the new tourist location such as (natural conditions, culinary characteristics, culture and crafts of the local community, public transportation as a means to get to tourist sites, and so on). Although when the new tourist location was discovered, these elements did not yet exist, they have the potential to be realized. After the survey and observation process has been carried out, the community will conduct a deliberation process with various parties who will later be in contact with the opening of this new tour. These parties include the community around the new tourist sites and the local government. After that, the community will carry out promotions on various social media so that the tourist attractions can be known by many people both in Trenggalek Regency and those outside Trenggalek Regency who come to visit.

e. Become a Volunteer for the Look Under Poverty Movement (Brush)

The Info Around Trenggalek community program, named Gertak, is a program created by the Trenggalek Regency Government consisting of all levels of society with the aim of overcoming the problem of poverty. In this program, the Info Around Trenggalek community participates in the success of the program designed by the Trenggalek Regency Government. This is because the Info Around Trenggalek community has members spread across all sub-districts in Trenggalek Regency so that it is easy to obtain information related to the whereabouts of underprivileged residents. In this program the Info Seputar Trenggalek community as orange volunteers who have the task of finding and surveying poor people who deserve assistance. After the survey process and knowing the assistance needed by residents in need, the community will convey to the relevant agencies such as poverty issues to the Social Service for follow-up.

Info About Trenggalek with its various programs can be said to have been successful in reducing poverty in Trenggalek Regency, either through programs initiated by the

Trenggalek Info Community itself or in collaboration with the Trenggalek Regency government.

In various programs carried out by the Info Seputar Trenggalek community in poverty alleviation, several problems were encountered, the most important of which was the lack of funding for activities. This is because the source of funding obtained by the community is only through the process of raising funds from community members and several other sources are situationally obtained from fundraising openly to the general public. In fact, of the 5 programs that have been run by the Info Seputar Trenggalek community, each requires funds to be able to run the program optimally and sustainably. This is following the opinion [13] which argues that own funds are funds obtained from own savings, self-raising, grants, and others. Due to the limited funds obtained the programs carried out cannot be carried out optimally and this also ultimately raises the problem of miscommunication between the regional coordinators and members.

In addition to the funding constraints experienced by the Info Community around Trenggalek, from 2020 to 2021 the world, especially Indonesia is experiencing a wave of the Covid-19 pandemic which has had many impacts on people's lives. Not only has an impact on health conditions with the fall of many victims, Covid-19, which has been running for almost 2 years, affects the community's economy, such as the tourism sector, MSMEs, and several other sectors. This is due to restrictions on community activities that it affects the existing wheels of the economy. In several regions in Indonesia, news has circulated about the bankruptcy of tourist attractions and the bankruptcy of small and even large businesses, including in the Trenggalek Regency area. Indirectly, this condition will add to the task of the Info Seputar Trenggalek community to keep fighting for poverty alleviation even though internally the community is also experiencing problems.

The results of this study are based on the theory of community development. According to the opinion expressed [14], Community development is understood as community efforts in an organized manner to improve people's living conditions and community empowerment with the aim that people can unite and direct themselves. Community development works through increased efforts from various non-governmental organizations and joint efforts carried out by individuals in a community, but cannot be separated from technical assistance from other parties such as the government and voluntary organizations. In addition, in my opinion [15] why community development is important because this effort is an alternative step to more traditional forms of humanitarian service that promise a more sufficient solution to many of the most pressing contemporary social problems. These problems such as unemployment, poverty, crime, loneliness, and mental illness are not solved despite the best efforts of policymakers, social scientists, and humanitarian service professionals. From another point of view, the purpose of this action can be said as an effort made by the community to realize the creation of community independence, hereinafter referred to as a civil society.

Civil society according to [15] is understood as a term used for formal or semi-formal structures that are formed by the community voluntarily, on their initiative, not as a consequence of certain programs or directives from the government. In line with the theory of civil society, the Info community around Trenggalek through its programs has tried to

lead to the creation of an independent community that can solve problems by synergizing with each other in finding solutions to the problems faced without having to wait for help from the government. Several steps need to be fulfilled by the community in community development in realizing civil society. These steps in the opinion of [15] consist of:

a. Problem identification

The first step to being able to solve a problem is to identify the root of the problem first. In this study, the main problem is fighting poverty where many factors that cause poverty can occur. Several factors contribute to poverty, according to [16] and [17], these factors include (limited land ownership and capital, biased development in cities, low productivity, poor governance, management of Excessive natural resources, and differences in opportunities among community members, differences in human resources and economic sectors). Of the several factors mentioned by the World Bank, several specific things are being experienced by the people of Trenggalek Regency including several things, including the low level of public education, the number of unemployed, and caused natural factors, namely the occurrence of natural disasters. From this problem, the Info Seputar Trenggalek community took the initiative to create a poverty alleviation movement.

b. Study needs or problems

In the early stages, it was found that the main problem faced was poverty, for that a need or problem study was carried out with the aim of the nature and extent of this problem. At this stage, the process of providing services for the community is carried out by opening a service room to accommodate various problems that are being faced by the community, so that from the report a survey can be carried out to find out the needs that need to be met in addition to conducting a study process in other places experiencing similar problems. One manifestation of this effort is to open a discussion room that can be accessed by the public to be able to convey their problems. The Info Community Around Trenggalek which initially started using social media (Facebook) has opened a discussion room for the community to be able to convey their problems, in this space, the IST community also tries to interactively communicate with many parties to be able to jointly formulate solutions to the problems they face. by society.

c. Public meeting

The third step is to hold direct meetings with various related parties to further follow up on various community reports submitted by the community. The IST community will usually come to the location where the problem occurred. Gathering related parties such as the surrounding community, representatives of village officials, and various other social communities to discuss the problem and formulate actions to be taken to investigate the problem further. Furthermore, together with the representatives of Info Seputar Trenggalek, they will conduct a field survey and create an activity committee to carry out several processes from surveys, and fundraising to taking action to distribute aid or work to solve problems.

d. Complete the formalities

When the stages of the meeting and the field survey process have been carried out, then an activity committee body or a team consisting of various elements of the community is formed to facilitate the coordination process in the success of the activity by compiling a

committee structure, select the chief executive as the person in charge of the activity, opening a new account to collect activity funds can even set up a cooperative as one of the long-term steps with the aim that activities can run sustainably and can be continued independently by the community.

e. Development and Implementation

The fifth stage is to carry out the ongoing development and implementation process of the new agency by empowering the people involved to be actively involved, seeking funds from various sources such as (funds from the private sector, government, community members, local communities, or through funding sources). fundraising projects).

f. Monitor and evaluate

The sixth stage is to carry out the process of monitoring ongoing activities, monitoring each process, especially with regard to funds that have been collected from various sources to ensure accountability for the use of funds and maintain transparency to all parties involved, especially the community. In addition, an evaluation process will be carried out from activities that are currently and have been carried out, evaluating any deficiencies and obstacles encountered during the activities carried out as an effort to improve themselves so that similar problems do not occur in various future activities.

Each of these steps is a complex process that raises many important issues and difficult problems but must still be carried out with the maximum extent possible in order to realize success in solving problems that are primarily related to poverty. As explained in the discussion section above, the main problem that is very urgent for the Info Seputar Trenggalek community is funding. So, this is what needs to be evaluated in the future so that the right formula can be found so that it can be resolved and other activities can run optimally in the future.

4 Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that the Info Seputar Trenggalek community has played its role in reducing poverty in Trenggalek Regency with various program activities such as (Charity for orphans and poor people, house renovation, educational assistance, opening tourist destinations, volunteering for the See Under Poverty Movement (Gertak) From these various activities, the Info Seputar Trenggalek community has helped the community and also the district government in reducing poverty in the area. However, it is undeniable that in an effort to eradicate poverty, Info Seputar Trenggalek has encountered obstacles in the form of limited funding, while reports that come in from the community are related to various problems. They are quite high, which is the gap that hinders the implementation of the Info Regarding Trenggalek activities to be able to run optimally.

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