

# STRENGTHENING INSTITUTION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN EMPOWERMENT OF VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN SEMARANG CENTRAL JAVA (Case Study in Muktiharjo Kidul, Pedurungan)

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**Abstract**-Local community institutions in community empowerment participate in poverty reduction programs that cover all community / village community empowerment activities. Community empowerment is an effort to restore or increase the empowerment of a community to be able to do according to their dignity and dignity in carrying out their rights and responsibilities as a community of people and citizens. This study aims to determine the role of local community institutions (BKM, LPMK, and PKK) in community empowerment in Muktiharjo Kidul, Pedurungan, Semarang, Central Java. Qualitative research methodology, with primary data (collected directly from respondents) and secondary data (documents or results of activities / research, monographs, development activities). Data collection techniques used Focus Group Discussion (FGD), interviews, documentation. The results of the study show that the role of the Community Self-Help Agency (BKM) shows that it is quite capable and very capable of empowering and developing in the community, Activities that are often followed by revolving BKM loans and contributions that BKM provides are mostly still in the form of energy. The Village Community Empowerment Agency (LPMK) is still not effective, it is still centered on the chairman and there is no coordination between parties. The Family Welfare Empowerment Institution (PKK) has been formed every Neighborhood Group (RT) and reaches as many families as possible through the Dasa Wisma group.

**Keyword**-*Strengthening Local Community Institutions, Community Empowerment, Community Self-reliance Agency, Village Community Empowerment Institution, Family Welfare Empowerment*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The number of poor people in Central Java in 2013 was 4,811.34 thousand families, in 2014 there were 4,561.82 thousand families, in 2015 a total of 4,577.04 thousand families, in 2016 a total of 4,506.89 thousand families, and in 2017 a number of 4,450,72 thousand families, decreased by no more than 3%. The city of Semarang, the number of poor people from 2013 was 86.70 thousand families, until 2017 there was always a decrease of no more than 3%, amounting to 80.90 thousand families [1]. The poor are residents who have an average per capita per month based on the poverty line [1]

Community participation supported by the role of existing local community institutions (LPMK, BKM, PKK, etc.) really needs to be realized, where a weak institutional system can have a negative impact on people's welfare. Public vulnerability is compounded by very limited resources, inadequate infrastructure and weak and ineffective institutional systems [2]; [3]

Community empowerment programs are always encouraged to be pro-poor and provide greater opportunities for the role of the community in community empowerment, especially the poor in urban villages. Community empowerment is an effort to restore or increase the empowerment of a community to be able to do according to their dignity and dignity in carrying out their rights and responsibilities as a community of people and citizens. Community empowerment is part of health [4]. Empowerment in awareness of increasing living standards [5]. The importance of the role of local community institutions in community empowerment is the pattern of the approach to poverty alleviation programs which the Government is now intensely promoting.

Institution of Local Communities is an institution of local community that is built and strengthened according to the needs of the community in the process of deep-rooted social transformation, recognized and accepted by the community. Local institutions rule in community groups or organizations that facilitate coordination among their members to help them with the hope of each person or organization to achieve their common goals. Many local community institutions that have been built and strengthened according to community needs such as Village Consultative Body (BPD) and Village Community Resilience Institutions (LKMD) specifically in the Village, while the Village Community Empowerment Institution (LPMK) in the urban village, and Family Welfare Education (PKK) and Community Self-Help Institutions (MFIs / BKMs) in the Village and in the urban village. This institution is expected to reflect the representation of the most trustworthy citizens. Local community institutions are also expected to be institutions that care about poverty and welfare in their communities that are trusted by the community to participate in poverty reduction.

Increasing the institutional role of local communities in urban village community empowerment is more optimal, then strengthening is done or training the role of local community institutions, namely LPMK, BKM, PKK in community empowerment in the village of Muktiharjo Kidul, Pedurungan District in Semarang City, Central Java Province.

**II. METHODOLOGY**

This research focuses on the role of local community institutions in community empowerment in Muktiharjo Kidul Village, Semarang, Central Java. The institutions studied included LPMK, BKM, and PKK. This study applies qualitative research methods, with primary data (collected directly from respondents) and secondary data (documents or results of activities / research, monographs, development activities). Data collection techniques used Focus Group Discussion (FGD), interviews, documentation to determine the institutional role in community empowerment in Muktiharjo Kidul Village, Semarang, Central Java. Data processing and data analysis techniques with editing (checking data both from the answers of the sources and secondary data), coding (scoring the results of responding), and tabulating (compiling and grouping data in tables, monovariate tables and cross tables).

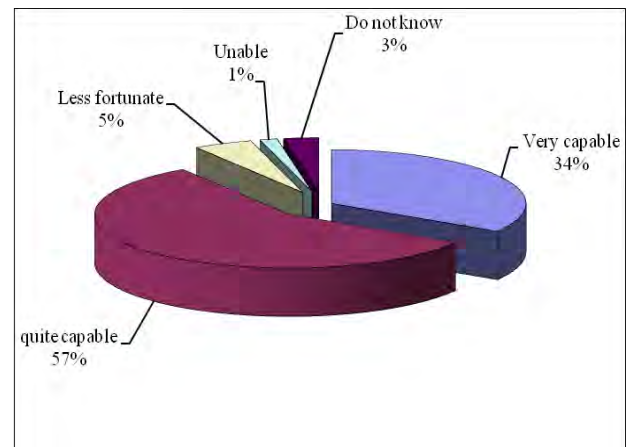
**III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**A. The Institutional Role of the Community Self-Sufficiency Agency (BKM)**

Basically the BKM has the role of gathering, absorbing, managing the aspirations of the general village community through citizen-based discussions of active participation in handling poverty alleviation programs towards independent, prosperous and empowered communities through existing community empowerment programs and policy programs at the City Government or urban village.

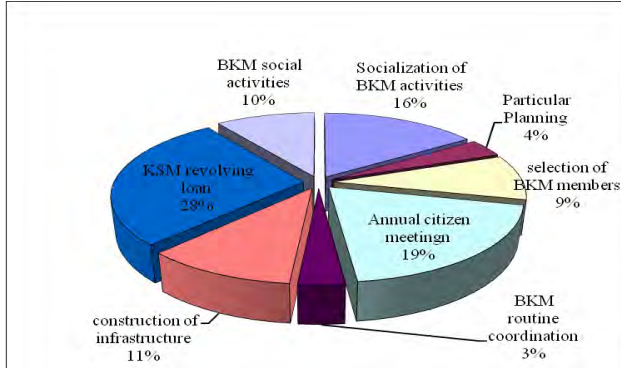
BKM's ability to carry out empowerment and development activities in the community, shows in the Muktiharjo Kidul Village, Semarang, Central Java, shows that 57% of BKMs are quite capable, 34% are very capable, 5% are poor, 1% cannot and 3% do not know (Diagram 1). This shows that most BKMs are capable of doing so.

Diagram 1. The Institutional Role of the Community Self-Sufficiency Agency (BKM)



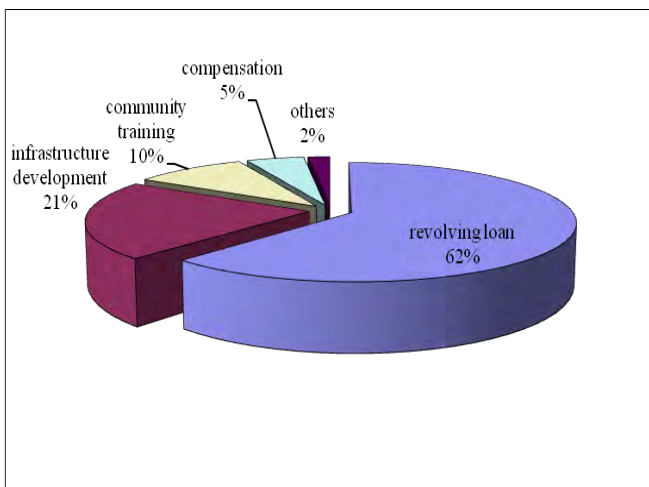
The activities that were most often followed by the community in activities organized by the BKM, the most of which were revolving KSM loans of around 28%, development of basic environmental facilities by 11%, socialization of 16% BKM activities, 19% annual citizen meetings, 3% BKM routine coordination, 10% BKM outreach activities, 9% BKM member selection and the remaining 4% implementing participatory planning (Diagram 2).

Diagram 2. Activities that are often followed by the community of Community Self-Reliance Institutions (BKM)



The factors that most influence the community in BKM activities, most of the respondents still do not have a high enough level of awareness. The factors that most influence community involvement in BKM activities are the motivation of the community, the enthusiasm of the community to participate, community support for the program and the suitability of the program for the real conditions in the community [6].

Assistance that is often given by BKM to the community in order to provide stimulation of empowerment and development in the community, is a revolving loan of 62%, infrastructure development is 21%, community training of 10% and compensation of 5% and not choosing 2% (Diagram 3). BKM in providing assistance for revolving loans occupies the highest position according to research [7] Revolving BKM loans in Jepara Subdistrict 66.61% stated effective. Diagram 3. Institutional Assistance for Community Self-Help Institutions (BKM)



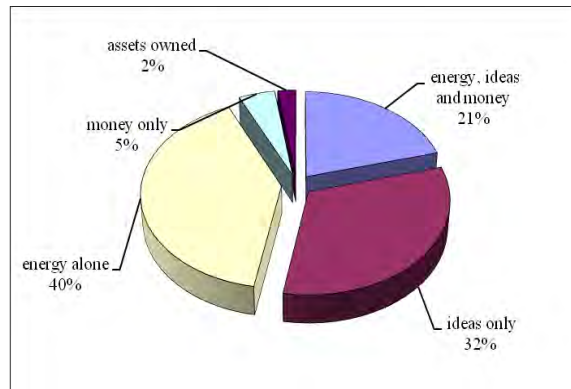
In BKM activities is a series of learning processes for the community to carry out poverty reduction activities by utilizing all potentials and resources to solve problems that arise in the community independently and sustainably. Sustainable economic, social and environmental practices are possible through community institutions, the building of local relations

increases the adaptive capacity of people in the same area [8]

Critical awareness and learning to increase capacity in development at the BKM, carried out in stages and continuously through mutual agreement in Rembug community preparedness, reflection of poverty, planning. Carrying out activities to supervise participatory activities jointly carried out by the community itself. This critical awareness is the basis of the pattern of community empowerment, so that later the community is able to carry out its own development without having to continue to depend on the government, and carry out development as needed.

In the implementation of development, the majority of the community still contributes not yet real or significant in other words the value of self-financing still cannot be measured significantly, that is in the form of energy, ideas and consumption. BKM, village head and village government are still quite dominant in determining who deserves financial assistance, especially still concerned with family [9].

This can be seen from the respondent's answer regarding the contribution given in the implementation of development. Which answers only 40% of the contribution in the form of energy, which is in the form of ideas of only 32%, and which affects the idea and money power of 21%, which gives a contribution of 5% money and gives 2% of the assets for development. (Diagram 4), this asset can be in the form of land that is given to public facilities or personal goods owned by the community. Diagram 4. Community contribution in the implementation of development.



The development, characterization and institutional capabilities carried out can be seen from the indicators, the ability of the BKM to establish cooperation and trust in the internal BKM, BKM's ability to foster cooperation and trust between BKM and the Community or external BKM, BKM's ability to motivate citizens to carry out development (BKM's role as Agent of social

change) BKM's ability to establish partnerships with outside parties.

The relationship between BKM and the community is a reference in seeing the benefits in development, strengthening and institutional capabilities. With the activities and beliefs given by the community to the BKM, it has implications for the realization of the poverty reduction movement initiated by the BKM and the local community. According to the community, from a number of indicators, the results showed quite good results, such as the ability of BKM to carry out empowerment and poverty reduction activities, how to present information and implement joint supervision by the community, the level of community involvement in BKM activities, and the level of trust or accountability held by the BKM to the community is also quite good.

## **B. Institutional Role of Village Community Empowerment Institutions (LPMK)**

The Village Community Empowerment Institution (LPMK) is a social organization that has a role and function in improving / deceiving the community through RT / RW institutions in the urban village. According to Perda Number 4 of 2009 concerning Semarang City Urban Village Institutions, LPMK is a Community Institution that is formed by residents of the Kelurahan concerned to assist the Kelurahan in planning and implementing development and developing community self-help in development.

The results of the study showed that LPMK in Muktiharjo Kidul Village, Pedurungan District Semarang, said that the LPMK meeting activities had no clear and good plan, just waiting for instructions from the Chair. The management or field of the Muktiharjo Kidul Village LPMK did not receive funds for field activities. Current conditions for planning the use of funds in 2017 also have no discussion or planning documents. The LPMK management said that many wanted to resign with the institutional conditions of LPMK which were still not optimal in terms of achievements and institutions, they persisted because they did not want to let things go wrong in the LPMK institution and wanted to jointly improve the situation of LPMK.

Management of Muktiharjo Kidul Village LPMK has not been good and not optimal, the management is still centralized to the Chair, and its performance has not been optimized. Planning for LPMK activities does not yet exist and financial management is also not yet in accordance with the correct financial management tends to be dominated by the Chair. Indications of intervention / intervention in the management of activities and finances by urban village are still high. This condition is not good for LPMK in the future, because it is not empowering all the administrators and also in achieving the tasks carried out by LPMK,

which cannot optimally help the Muktiharjo Kidul Urban Village to succeed in its development.

The Village Community Empowerment Institution (LPMK) was formed in order to create and enhance community participation in the administration of government and sustainable development. Sustainable development is not merely an environmental problem, but a social and economic problem [10]. Government agencies and social institutions must be able to work together so that the goals of government can be realized optimally.

## **C. The Institutional Role of Family Welfare Empowerment (PKK)**

The Institution of Family Welfare Empowerment (PKK) is a women's organization managed by mothers in the RT, RW and urban village areas consisting of: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Working Group I, IV. Village level PKK coordinates, RW PKK administrators. The RW PKK has the task of assisting in making work plans and accepting guidelines or references from the PKK Kelurahan and Kecamatan in implementing work programs that have been made jointly. The Kelurahan PKK implements instructions or directions from the District and City levels, and it is disseminated to PKK to be followed up by the PKK management and the community.

The implementation of community empowerment through the PKK Muktiharjo Kidul movement has been carried out through 10 PKK Principal Programs, namely Implementation of Pancasila, Mutual Cooperation, Food, Clothing, Housing and Household Management, Education and Skills, Health, Development of Cooperative Life, Environmental Sustainability, and Healthy Planning. The Goals of Community Empowerment through the PKK Movement are families, especially housewives, women at the village, RW and RT levels as a central figure in the family, in urban areas that need to be improved and developed their mental and physical abilities are material. Institutions developed by PKK for education, coaching and empowerment [11].

The strategy used by PKK to reach as many families as possible is through the Dasa Wisma group. Dasa Wisma is a group under PKK RT, RW, village, which can be formed based on the RT's regional scope, and consists of 10 to 20 Family Heads (KK) in one neighborhood of the Neighborhood Unit (RT).

The essence of national development is complete human development, which will be realized if the welfare of the family and society can be achieved properly. Creating family and community welfare can be done by empowering the community through the family empowerment and welfare movement (PKK). PKK is not just a social gathering place and worship place, but is a forum for community empowerment.

#### **D. Strengthening the Role of Local Community Institutions in Community Empowerment**

Strengthening the Role of Institutions of Local Communities in Community Empowerment of Muktiharjo Kidul, Pedurungan, Semarang City, carried out in stages and periodically to improve local community institutions in carrying out their main duties optimally in the village. Strengthening / training materials include the Development Paradigm, Community Empowerment Model, Main Tasks of Local Community Institutional Functions, Planning, Implementation, Evaluation & Supervision of Pembangunan, Development Planning Consultation (Musrenbang).

Regional Regulation No. 4 of 2009, the position of LPMK with other social institutions is positioned in parallel, in contrast to Regional Regulation No. 9 of 2003 the position of LPMK is the coordinator of community institutions in village.

The important role of LPMK is to encourage community participation in the decision making process so that the community experiences a process of transformation or change in its capacity (skills, awareness, knowledge) in planning, implementing, monitoring and preserving the results of programs / activities in the community. Community empowerment emphasizes the importance of the process of building local institutions [12]. Supporting poverty reduction programs to realize community empowerment and prosperity through synergy and coordinate with other community institutions and government institutions. Instilling a level of trust in the community, with this will be able to move the power of community self-reliance and become a force in arousing the spirit of development of the local community / village.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The role of BKM, LPMK and PKK local community institutions in community empowerment in Muktiharjo Kidul Village is one of them participating in poverty alleviation, and its role from every local community institution in conducting urban community empowerment activities so that the community is more independent and prosperous. The BKM has the role of gathering, absorbing, managing the aspirations of the general public of the village through the discussion of citizen based active participation in handling poverty reduction programs towards independent communities, prosperous and empowered through community empowerment programs. LPMK has not been optimal in helping village in advancing urban communities, empowering human resources at the village level, mapping urban and spiritual level demographics, accommodating the aspirations of the village. PKK has been carried out through 10 PKK Main Programs, namely the implementation of Pancasila, Mutual Cooperation, Food, Clothing, Housing and Household Management,

Education and Skills, Health, Development of Cooperative Life, Environmental Sustainability, and Healthy Planning.

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