

Participatory Approach in the Community

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Abstract

Model-centered development in humans (people centered) stressed that development is not just boost economic growth and national income (GNP) as well as the fulfillment of the basic needs of society, but more important is the effort to increase human quality in order to increase participation real life in various activities to encourage the creation of high-value productive activities. This development model seeks to develop a sense of effectiveness political will turn into passive recipients and reactive active participants who contributed to the process development, active communities and developing can participate in choosing social issues.

Keywords: Participatory Approach, Community Empowerment

Introduction

There are three models of development ever adopted by our nation in its efforts for the welfare of the people. First, the national development model oriented growth. This model assumes that the national development goals as economic growth in the narrow sense, that is related to the capacity of the national economy which was originally in the long term, and long to be in a static condition, then rose to generate an increase in GNP per year ranged from 5 to 7 percent or might be more.

To achieve the economic growth rate in the range like that, then the selection of the service and manufacturing production structure and reduce the share of the agricultural sector in a balanced manner can not be avoided. Therefore, the development process is prioritized on the aspects of production compared to the efforts to reduce poverty, unemployment and injustice that are placed on the second priority, even more so for the purpose of completion of the third important issue is only done through an approach of "trickle-down effect".

This development model completely rule out the element of society. Society simply treated as an object, but not as the subject of development, community participation in the development of the model of growth-oriented development is not necessary. Therefore, empirical data shows that this development model not only fails to uplift the lives of the poor but increasingly enlarging social imbalances.

Second, the development model oriented toward basic needs or welfare, since the first model that prioritizes economic growth have failed to raise the dignity of the economic life of society. The second model is focused on the poor population groups based on a view that the problem of poverty that exists today is a result of the marginalization of the people of the development process. Therefore, to solve the problem of poverty, the development model uses a direct approach instead of a "trickk-down effect" previously. Basically, this model is an aid program to achieve welfare for the very poor by meeting their basic needs, which includes the opportunity to earn income and access to public services such as education, health, clean water, transportation, lighting and others.

According Moeljarto, there are three main reasons underlying the selection model of development centered on meeting basic needs, namely:

1. Many of the poor do not have productive assets except they only have the physical strength, the desire of their work and basic intelligence. Maintenance of these assets depends on improving access to public services such as education, health care, water supply and so on.
2. The increase in incomes of the poor do not always have an impact on the improvement of their living standards if the goods and services that match their needs and income levels are not available.
3. Improvement of living standards of the poorest people to the extent that better if expected through increasing their own productivity will require a very long time and under certain conditions and situations they are often unable to work. Therefore, short-term subsidy program and possibly permanent subsidy program is needed so that people get a share of the fruits of development.

Although this model can be seen as a step forward to give more attention to aspects of human development as compared to the model that is more oriented to economic growth alone, however, this model also has at least two drawbacks: 1). The poor are always waiting for the assistance provided by the government so that it appears dependence and ketidakmandirian. 2). Government budget burden will be even greater with increasing poor communities, such as natural disasters someone becomes poor and the government must bear the burden of their lives.

In addition, many people who criticize the development oriented to the fulfillment of basic needs is the reason that as good as any prosperity to be achieved by the citizens, if the poor passive acceptance of services provided by the government based on the wisdom of the time and place set by the government is not acceptable or justifiable. They want the government policies were made together with the community. Therefore, they offer

another model of development that is people centered models.

Third, the model of development centered on the human (people centered model). This model emphasizes that development is not simply aimed at boosting economic growth and national income (GNP) and meet the basic needs of society, but also more emphasis on the goal to improve the quality of human beings in order to increase the participation of community is evident in the various activities of life to encourage the creation of activities production of high added value.

This development model to try to develop a sense of political effectiveness that can change the attitude as passive and reactive recipient participants become active participants who contributed in the development process, as an active and growing community that is able to participate in selecting a social issue.

Arguments which provide justification to the model of human-centered development are as follows: 1). Society is the central focus and final destination development, therefore participation is a logical result of the argument. 2). Participation raises self-esteem and personal ability to be able to participate in making important decisions concerning the community. 3). Participation creates an environment of feedback flow of information about the attitudes, aspirations, needs and local conditions without existence will not be revealed. 4). Participation provides a conducive environment for the actualization of the potential and growth of the community. 5). Participation is seen as a reflection of the democratic rights of individuals to be involved in their own development. The fact of the 16 Asian countries, such as the analysis conducted by experts from Cornell University showed a strong correlation between the success of agricultural development and social development with a system of effective participation of local organizations that connect rural communities with centers of decision-making and implementation.

From the description of the third development model above, it appears that the role of community participation in development to determine the success of development itself. Therefore, this article aims to explain the meaning of participation in community empowerment, participation and how to realize the importance of participatory community. The formulation of the problem which will be answered by this paper is: "How is the implementation of a participatory approach to community development in Indonesia?"

Discussion

1. Understand the meaning of Participation in Community Development

Based on the description of the three previous development model, seems a model of human-oriented development deemed appropriate by many to be applied in Indonesia because this model lay people as the subject of development by emphasizing community participation in all aspects of life. Public participation in the development process it is absolutely necessary and almost no one denies the importance of community participation in development, because in the end it is society who will enjoy the fruits of development. But along the way, participation is deemed indispensable to the development has been understood in different ways, some even mistakenly interpret participation.

Mikkelsen made a list or classification of development practitioners about the meaning of participation. First, participation is defined as the sensitization of the community to increase the willingness to receive and respond to development projects. Making of this kind are unlikely to be appropriate because the meaning of the participation of just asking for community support for all the programs that have been prepared. Meetings (meetings) on the pretext of participation (ask for input from the community) carried out no more than a formality arena to run a policy that has been made. It thus will bring the pseudo participation because people are not given the right to design the program but merely invited, persuaded, governed and even separated by certain institutions to participate in a program that has been designed previously.

Second, participation is defined as voluntary contributions from the community to the project without participating in decision-making. This concept is similar to the first meaning, the difference is a voluntary community contributions to the project. Because the final outcome of this type of participation is the cost savings. Society must support or join government programs free of charge by reason of such programs eventually used for the benefit of society. Development projects that have a specific budget should be resolved through the savings. The more savings or the cheap cost of a project, it means the greater the community participation. Here's participation is defined as the amount of funds that can be saved or funds can be provided as a donation or contribution to the community government projects.

Third, participation is a process of active community involvement in decision making together with the government. Participation in such meaning this gives ample opportunity for the public to be involved in every process of development, namely, 1) Identify the problem, where the community together with planners or policy authority to identify problems, opportunities, potential and barriers. 2). The planning process, where people are actively involved in the preparation of plans and strategies based on the results of the previous identification. 3). Implementation of development projects. 4). Evaluation, namely the community involved to assess the development results that have been made, whether development benefits the community or on the contrary people harmed by the process that has been done. 5). Monitoring and 6). Mitigation, which is involved in measuring and

reducing the negative impacts caused by the project that is being implemented.

Fourth, participation is defined as a voluntary community involvement in self-determined changes. The core of this participation is, people act voluntarily to help the success of development programs that have been determined. The voluntary involvement could be involved in the process of determining the direction, strategy and policy development, engage in burden and responsibility in the implementation of development and is involved in selecting the results and benefits of development equitably.

Fifth, the means of participation of community involvement in the development of self, life and their environment. Participation in this sense in accordance with the concept of community empowerment, where the community together to identify the needs and problems, find a way out by doing Mobilize the resources necessary and jointly plan and implement activities to achieve the desired goal.

Meanwhile, according to Erickson participation can be viewed from the internal side and external side. Internally participation means the ownership of each individual to the community. While participation in the external sense associated with how individuals engage with the outside community. From this understanding can be concluded that participation is a manifestation of social responsibility of the individual to the community itself and with the outside community.

Moreover, one thing is also important in the concept of participation by Suparjan is that participation is not only seen in terms of sheer physical. During this time he thinks there is an impression that someone is said to have participated if he had physically involved as participating voluntary work, helping materially, attend lectures. In fact, the essence of which is contained in the actual participation is not that narrow. In a broad sense, contribute ideas or suggestions from the community can actually be said to be a manifestation of the people's participation.

2. The importance of participation in Community Empowerment

Participation and empowerment is the center of attention lately in the development process in many countries. Poverty continues to hit and erode people's lives as a result of the international recession that kept rolling and the process of restructuring shows great attention to the strategy of participation as a means of accelerating the development process. Participation and empowerment is a potential strategy to improve the economic, social and cultural transformation. This process will eventually be able to create more development centered on people (people-centered).

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One of the international development agencies, the World Bank, for example, believes that public participation in the third world like Indonesia is an effective means of reaching the poorest communities through the efforts evoke the spirit of life to be able to help themselves. In this case, the best way to tackle the problem of development is to let the entrepreneurial spirit grows and develops in the life of society, to educate people willing to take risks and compete, foster the spirit to compete and passion to discover new things through participation. On this context, the approach involving community participation becomes very important to do.

According Moeljarto, there are several main reasons why community participation has important properties. First, the public is the main focus and the ultimate goal of development, therefore participation is a logical result of the argument. Looked at in the development community as a subject to be very important in order to humanize society. Humanization process is in turn capable of encouraging the public to participate actively in the development process. The development focus and the main source of the public will be able to change the role of members of the public who initially act as passive recipients then become community members who act as implementers of development.

Second, participation creates a feeling of self-esteem and increase the value and dignity. Development is basically human development. Indeed, in the construction of needed production of goods that become a necessity of human life, human beings need food that is sufficient to develop itself, requiring housing and clean clothes to maintain their health, and also need lighting, transport and communication tools sufficient in order to facilitate their lives. Development should have to increase the production of goods that become a necessity of human life, but the fulfillment of goods into the still boils down to the need for human development is to enhance human dignity. Therefore forget the aspect of human development (participation) is clearly not profitable. This is because it would foster passivity of the public good in the process, implementation and acceptance of the results of development. Attitude have made them feel indifferent and reluctant towards development results, which in turn can degrade human dignity.

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Fourth, broaden participation acceptance zone development projects. The public will be more trust development programs if they are involved in all the activities of both the process of preparation, planning, execution and enjoy the results, because they will be satisfied to know the ins and outs of the program / project and will have the ownership of the program / project. Various attempts to reach non-governmental projects showed that the support of local communities is very difficult to expect if they were not involved.

Fifth, participation provides a conducive environment for the actualization of human potential and human growth. Development which extend community involvement are well aware of how important the capacity of communities to improve the self-reliance and internal strength to be taken through the ability to exercise control over the internal material resources and non-essential materials through redisribusi capital or ownership.

Sixth, participation is seen as a reflection of the democratic rights of individuals to be involved in their own development. In this context, the public has the right to give advice in determining the type of development that will be implemented in their area. This is consistent with the concept of people centered development that is the kind of development that is aimed at improving the fate of human beings and not as a development tool itself- to ignore.

Seventh, participation is an effective way to build community capacity management development programs to meet local specialty. Social system of diverse cultures must be understood and recognized as resources or social capital that has been available in the community, although in some areas of the sociocultural system has been shifted and began to fade, but if it is mobilized back in a manner that is appropriate and according to the characteristics of local culture, gradually will make a significant contribution to national development. Therefore, public participation is very important in relation to the social-cultural issues that characterizes each of these areas.

In line with the opinion of Moeljarto above, Conyers mentioned three reasons why community participation has important properties. First, participation is a tool for obtaining information about the circumstances, needs and attitudes of the local community, which is without engagement program or a development project will fail. Second, the public will trust the program or development projects if they are involved in the process of preparation and planning, because they know the ins and outs of the project. Third, participation is a democratic right of the people if they are involved in the construction.

Suparjan mention reasons for the importance of community participation in development as follows: First, the existence of community involvement allows them to have a sense of responsibility and handarbeni (sense of belonging) to the sustainability of the development program. Second, the public participation can improve the bargaining position of the price so that their bargaining power to be balanced with the government and the owners of capital. Third, the participation of the community is able to control measures taken by the government, resulting in a synergy between local resources, strengths and resources of the government of political capital from outside investors.

Given the importance of participation in development, it becomes essential that all matters related to policy decisions by the government must involve the public. In the development process, people should not only be positioned as objects of development but instead people should be subjected in determining the direction of development. Thus, if there are citizens that the rejection of government policy and the rejection was carried by a majority, then the government should not impose its will, by still carry out its policies.

At this description also discussed the participation of the management of community empowerment is able to create the conditions to establish themselves. Management, according to Korten was quoted as saying by Moeljarto are as follows: First, the development of and by the people. Management is looking at development as a product of the initiative and creativity of the community. The role of government is to create conditions or

environment that enables people to mobilize the resources that exist in the community to address the problems they face, according to the priorities they set.

Second, community management. Community management intent here is management development resources are based on the management of local resources by unit decision makers concerning national resource allocation system. Unit decision makers in the management of local resources is the figure pluralistic structure that includes individual, family, local bureaucracies, local small businesses and other community organizations. All of them participated in the mobilization of local development sources manifestations can vary.

Third, the social learning process. The definition of a social learning process is a process of social interaction between members of the public with the existing institutions that aim to develop their skills through problem-solving activities are often carried out through trial and error. This increased capacity is not obtained through formal education, but through participation and interaction in decision making process and the implementation of the plan.

Fourth, the management strategy. The management aims to develop an organization that is able to adapt to its environment and able to respond to their environment. The management of this strategy does not aim to control and program the human behavior, but aims to develop their creative initiative to solve the problems they face. In short, the management strategy aims to empower community members and members of the organization to enable them to actualize their potential.

3. Realizing Society for Participatory Methods Participatory Rural Appraisal

Reason inability of the community to participate in the planning process suatu development program is often a means of justification for policy makers not to include the community in these stages. These conditions, in turn, will form its own value criteria that justify the formulation mechanism of implementation or evaluation of the virus which is harmful to the process of democratization in development. This will result in the inclusion of the element of subjectivity in determining the authorities in the formulation of a policy.

Another reason that is also often found in the implementation of the participatory approach is the possibility of conflict as a result of the many differences in the demands of citizens. Conflicts can occur between fellow citizens and it can also occur due to differences in regional interests with national interests. This conflict occurs because people in the area are generally only see issues on the scope of the region alone, while the central government appointed to accommodate the various demands or aspirations of each region.

On the other hand, the implementation of participatory approaches are often hampered by the capacity factor of the organization. The success of any effort to improve the quality of the executor, the quality of decentralized planning and community development program that will effectively depend on an effective organizational structure. Formation of such structures requires time, money and organizing long enough. Thus, the implementation of participatory approaches actually impressed is an issue which is less efficient both in terms of time, cost and effort.

Whatever the reasons that appear to create fear to implement a participatory approach is because of an incorrect understanding of the concept of participation. A correct understanding of the concept of participation of citizens and the state bureaucracy in involving the community in the end will be the entrance in any development process. In their minds, to be embedded that participation is the key to successful development. If during the public participation in the development of more associated with an obligation, then it is time to add in the right roles. Adding to the right on the role seems to be particularly suitable when using the model of participatory rural appraisal (PRA).

PRA approach emphasizes that the targeted communities have the ability to exercise control even change the program that has been issued by the planners. Therefore, to control the role of communities and planners in the process of development, there are some principles PRA become the foundation for its implementation as follows:

- a. Learning directly. Learning from the public directly to obtain knowledge of the physical, technical and social locally.
- b. Learning rapidly and progressively. Learning rapidly and progressively through the planned exploration and use of methods that are flexible.
- c. Communication relaxed and family-oriented. Balance bias, relaxed and unhurried, listen and not patronize, do not seek to impose and poorer communities, the presence of outsiders should be included in the discussion process as members. Therefore, there must be communication kinship.
- d. Optimization of the exchange, linking the cost of understanding the information that is really useful to exchange between quantity, kegayutan, concordance and timeliness.
- e. Creating a network measurement points, can be defined as the use of a range that consists of methods, discussion, this type of information for cross-checking.
- f. Looking for diversity, look for different things than the average. In this case, the triangulation method used to obtain reliable information depth.
- g. The provision of facilities, means facilitating investigation, analysis, presentation and understanding by

the people themselves, so that they can be present and have the results as well as learn.

- h. Awareness and self-critical responsibilities, the facilitator is continuously examine their behavior and try to do it better. Mistakes should be understood as an opportunity to learn to do better.
- i. Share information and ideas among fellow villagers, among the villagers with the facilitator, and between different facilitators, as well as the sharing of areas of activity, training and experience between different organizations.

Efforts involving communities in development through the PRA method, basically have to start from the bottom, namely through forums citizens of both community-based or institutional such as prayer groups, alqur'an reader groups, group, farmer groups, and so forth as well as being based on Administrative like forums Dasa Wisma, RT, RW, LKKMD, (village consultation meetings and so on). They were invited to discuss various issues related to their daily lives. Such institutions, actually, can be used as a vehicle for learning behaviors of effective democracy. This can be done by further streamline functions such forums not just as a means to carry out education and socialization of government policy, but should be used to discuss various issues related to the their life. For example, they are invited to discuss health and environmental hygiene. Citizens gathered through the forums was asked his opinion on the issue and the solutions they offer to participate in development. Such mechanisms that would make people get used to always talk about common interests.

These community forums which should serve as institutions at lower levels and should be placed as a base of development planning from below. Through these forums, people can formulate their development aspirations are then brought to the institution at the village level (the village assembly as the legislative body) and then to the district level and beyond. Once established as a government program and then lowered again to a lower level to be run by the community planning makers. Thus, the principle of bottom-up can run well and processes, implementation and development results can be enjoyed by the community.

Conclusion

Participatory development process that requires absolute epistemologi foundation and theoretical framework which gives recognition of the capability of grassroots groups as an actor or actors who have the ability and independence. A policy based on the community will be guaranteed in order to realize a sustainable justice. The policies issued by the government will be more sustainable and durable, due to the support of all elements of society. In this context, the community-based policies would cause people to have a sense of handarbeni (sense of belonging) to the decisions that have been made. By involving the community in the whole process of policy making meaningful analytical and planning skills will be diverted to them.

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