

A Model of Community Empowerment in Increasing Welfare in the Border Area through the District Program



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ABSTRACT: This study analyzes the Community Empowerment Model in improving the community's welfare in the border area through the district's regional program. Welfare conditions in border areas are quite apprehensive, especially about social welfare; it is necessary to accelerate the development of underdeveloped regions. This research method is included in descriptive research with a qualitative approach. This research tries to describe the Community Empowerment Model in improving the welfare of people in border areas through regional programs. The results of the study of the Community Empowerment Model in enhancing the interest of the community in the border area through the district regional program show that the district government's strategy in dealing with underdeveloped villages in the border area is only limited to designing local economic development such as development in the field of SMEs and infrastructure development, empowering village communities in its implementation developing independence and community welfare by utilizing resources through the establishment of Village development policies and programs. In addition, the provision of village facilities and infrastructure. Increasing the institutional capacity of the business world government, such as MSMEs and village cooperatives. The design that has been formed has yet to be implemented effectively by the government, so it has not impacted increasing economic resilience in society.

KEYWORDS: Community Empowerment, Border Areas, Regency Areas

INTRODUCTION

Kalimantan's position is critical and strategic because it is a gateway for the traffic of goods and services, as well as population mobility, both for business and for labor, between Indonesia and Malaysia (Nordholt, 1993). Welfare conditions in border areas are quite apprehensive, especially about social welfare; efforts need to be made to accelerate the development of underdeveloped areas (mediaindonesia.com, 2022). In improving the welfare of the community in border areas, the collaboration of various parties and existing elements such as local government, organizations, applications, and interpretations is needed; these elements must be able to work together to realize an increase in the quality of the area with the hope of increasing people's welfare (mediaindonesia.com, 2021). On the other hand, the lack of community participation in policies and decision-making related to programs considered appropriate for communities in border areas causes decision-making related to these policies to be off-target. This is caused by the need for the government's role in being able to embrace or directly involve the community regarding problems that occur in the field. If left unchecked, the culture that considers underdeveloped areas that do not need special attention will continue to exist, so the Badau border area will continue to be neglected.

One border area requiring special attention is the Badau District Area. This border area is relatively developed; facilities are already sufficiently qualified and even of international standard, such as the Badau PLBN. As a border area, Badau village faces problems of inequality, shortages, and difficulties that have been going on for quite a long time (Abdullah, 2013). The distance between Badau District and the Regency capital, Putussibau, is quite far, approximately 177 km, with infrastructure still needing to be improved (Sari, 2013)—the lack of community ability to rise from a difficult situation during COVID-19. The lack of people's ability to recover from the effects of Covid-19 is caused by the lack of quality human resources. With this situation, it results in socioeconomic inequality that occurs in society. If these conditions are not handled properly, the socioeconomic inequality in the Badau District will continue, impacting the Badau community.

Thus, the role of the government in this case is needed to improve the quality of society in terms of particular expertise. So far, there has yet to be a local government program to conduct special training for the people of Badau District to empower the community. Many opportunities can be made to educate the people of Badau District, considering that the Badau area has good potential in terms of natural resources. It is just that people with limited knowledge, access to information, and facilities can process the natural products they have. This leads to the sale of natural raw produce, so the commodity's price is still meager.

The ability of the community to process natural products into products must be increased, but until now, the role of the

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government still needs to be improved in this regard. So, the government's involvement in empowerment through training on natural products is very much needed.

These various issues have been going on for a long time, but until now, these issues are still relevant in the border area and have become the subject of unresolved problems (Lia et al., 2015). It is known that the Badau District is one of the areas that is vulnerable to issues related to the Indonesian Workforce. Badau District, one of the departure gates, also contributes to Indonesian workers leaving for Malaysia. Not infrequently, their presence in Malaysia creates a new awareness of a society without borders.

They can live in a world that is free and free from the confines of the State (Govers & Vermeulen, 1997). The case of workers being deported or returned to Indonesia is a separate issue. Of course, the government cannot disregard the survival of the repatriated migrant workers. It is coupled with cases of illegal migrant workers who often experience violence and do not get paid while working in neighboring countries. At this time, TKI who are deported through the Badau PLBN experiences an unclear status. It cannot be denied that the TKI who were deported due to the COVID-19 pandemic needed assistance from the local government, especially for illegal TKI. So far, no special measures have been given to TKI who were deported due to the COVID-19 pandemic, either in direct economic assistance, social psychological assistance, or special training for these TKI.

So far, the program at the district level has only focused on monitoring the developing village index. Meanwhile, Badau District is one of the pretty advanced districts, but currently, it still needs to be improved in the economic field due to the closing of the border. The people of Badau District have a dependence on neighboring countries. The needs of the people of Badau District depend on the goods found in Lubok Antu District, Sarawak. On the other hand, only some people in Badau District depend on their economy in the Lubok Antu District, which is located in a neighboring country. Apart from depending on goods from the Lubok Antu district, the people of Badau Subdistrict are also traders. The border closure carried out by the Malaysian government certainly presents its problems, which certainly need to be addressed further. Based on this, this paper will discuss the Community Empowerment Model in improving the welfare of people in the border area through the Regency area program.

Social welfare

General welfare translates to the common good (English) and *bonum commune* (Latin). It means "common good," meaning goodness or good things all humans need to develop. In general, the notion of social welfare is a condition, activity, and movement that aims to improve standards and standards of living, solve social problems, strengthen the social structure of society, meet basic needs and maintain public order, and enable every citizen to carry out efforts to fulfill physical, spiritual needs. And socially as well as possible for himself, his family, and society. According to Law Number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Welfare, social welfare fulfills citizens' material, spiritual, and social needs to live a decent life quickly and develop themselves to carry out their social functions. Welfare can be seen from income distribution, education that is easy to reach, and quality of health, which is increasing and evenly distributed.

The equitable income distribution relates to the existence of jobs, business opportunities and conditions, and other economic factors. Job and business opportunities are needed so that people can turn the wheels of the economy, which can increase the amount of income they receive. Education plays a crucial role in shaping a country's ability to absorb modern technology and develop the capacity to create sustainable growth and development (Todaro, 2004). Accessible education here in the sense of distance and the value society has to pay. Cheap and easy education is expected so that the community can easily access the highest education and increase the quality of human resources. Human welfare can be seen from their ability to access education, as well as being able to use that education to get their necessities of life. This is important because education can only pass development (Gaffar, 1987). Public education participation at the border still needs to be higher due to access and the geographical conditions of the border, which are still remote and isolated (Normina, 2016).

Health is a factor in earning income and education. Health should be placed as the main thing done by the government. People who are sick will find it difficult to do activities, so it is also difficult to fight for their welfare. The number and type of health services must be able to

Reach and be reached by the community, especially those classified as poor. People who need health services are not limited by distance and time. At any time, they can access cheap and quality health services. If there are still many public complaints about health services, then it is a sign that a country has not achieved the level of welfare desired by its people.

Social welfare in Indonesia is based on the notion of "economic democracy," which is based on society's prosperity, not an individual's prosperity. In economic democracy, social welfare is based on the "social rights of the people"; every citizen has the right to work and a decent living for humanity. From this starting point, it is clear that a decent living cannot be separated from work. It is also clear from the formulation of "people's social rights" that a decent life is not philanthropic but results from empowering people to work and get jobs (Swasono, 2012). Social welfare development aims to improve the quality of human life as a whole, including 1). It is increasing living standards through social services and social security for all levels of society, especially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups who really need social protection. 2) . Increasing empowerment by establishing economic, social, and political systems and institutions that uphold human dignity and self-respect. 3). Improvement of freedom through expanding accessibility and choices of opportunities by aspirations, capabilities, and human standards (Suharto, 2005). Furthermore, social development is a process of planned social change designed to improve people's living standards, where

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development is carried out to complement economic development (Midgley, 1995). The main priority of social welfare development is disadvantaged groups, especially those related to poverty. Empowerment is a part of people with low incomes because people with low incomes also have the power to develop. It cannot be denied that poverty and prosperity are like two sides of a coin that cannot be separated wherever they are placed. So, when discussing welfare, it is also necessary to discuss poverty, especially the poor (Ambar, 2004). Meanwhile, another thing that needs to be considered when regional development becomes a priority is the problem of interaction between government agencies, which so far is a result of the characteristics of a development strategy that is still marked by the nature of executive planning, government agencies in the regions have developed more vertical relationship pathways with their superiors (level central or provincial) rather than establishing horizontal coordination with other agencies (Usman, 2004).

RESEARCH METHOD

Research on Community Empowerment Models in improving people's welfare in border areas through district regional programs is descriptive research with a qualitative approach; this research tries to describe Community Empowerment Models in improving people's welfare in border areas through regional programs.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Empowerment of Border Communities through the District Regional Program

Empowerment Program in the Form of BLT

The pandemic has fundamentally impacted the lives of women, children, the elderly, informal workers, and people with disabilities. The impact of the pandemic felt by vulnerable groups includes reduced income due to termination of working rights, decreased community purchasing power, increased hygiene activities and nutritional needs, and the need for accurate information about social assistance. The government has indeed provided social assistance during the pandemic. However, from this assistance, there has been no specific assistance for need-based vulnerable groups, except for the termination of work rights. Based on information obtained by the author from related parties regarding empowerment activities in general carried out based on central ministry instructions such as direct cash assistance to communities affected by COVID-19.

Assistance distributed by the Village Community Empowerment Service from April to December 2020 uses the existing village budget. So far, empowerment in the form of training has yet to be implemented because there are no instructions and still COVID-19 constraints. For the people of Badau District, direct cash assistance has been given to people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nine villages in the Badau District receive direct cash assistance: Seriang Village, Tinting Seligi Village, Majang Island, Janting Village, Sebindung Village, Badau Village, Tajum Village, Kekurak Village and Semantik Village.

The Direct Cash Assistance given to the people of Badau District was carried out in two stages of delivery, namely the first stage with a nominal assistance of Rp. 600,000 per month for three months was given in the first stage. The second stage is given with a nominal amount of Rp. Three hundred thousand for three months and is handed over in its entirety in the second stage. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a global impact, hitting the economy of every element of society. However, in its implementation, the Direct Cash Assistance program discussed above has not touched every layer of society. This Direct Cash Assistance is only given to people experiencing poverty who have never received assistance in any form, such as Social Assistance, victims of termination of their rights to work, Basic Food Cards, or other assistance provided by the local government.

Empowerment Program in the Form of BUMDes

The Kapuas Hulu Regency Village Community Empowerment Service has a program related to business capital assistance through village-owned business assistance. However, the phenomenon is that the program should run better. There needed to be a better understanding of the program. Errors in implementing the village-owned business assistance program the village head carried out resulted in inequality in the village community of Badau District. Village-owned business assistance programs should be given to underprivileged communities to stabilize the social inequality in the people of Badau District.

Of course, the regulations governing village-owned business assistance are a double-edged sword. On the one hand, the village head is required to run the program as well as possible by assisting underprivileged communities. However, on the other hand, the village head must be able to guarantee that the business capital loan must be repaid. Of course, the village head, as the person in charge, bears the burden of these regulations. On the one hand, the village head believes that providing village-owned business assistance to underprivileged communities has risks. Hence, the village head chooses to hand over the village-owned business assistance program to community heads in the affluent category.

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The strategy of the Village Community Empowerment Office in the Badau District Community Empowerment program

Realizing a prosperous and independent village requires the right strategy so that, in practice, the programs implemented are right on target. The strategy is integrated, all parts of the plan are compatible with each other and are compatible (Erly, 2003). The Village Community Empowerment Service focuses on the essential elements for the realization of village welfare and village community independence. Village community development focuses on observing the potential of the Badau District; on the other hand, its implementation must be based on productivity, effectiveness, and efficiency.

The first strategy in developing village areas is in the participatory aspect. If development in a participatory form is realized, then the acceleration in improving the quality of development, service, and community empowerment in Badau can be maximized. If the first aspect has been achieved, it will then be supported by the use of village funds, which are channeled directly to the Badau District community based on the existing potential in the Badau District.

Improving socio-cultural, economic, and infrastructure conditions can certainly be carried out by the people who are in the Badau District. Of course, efforts to improve these various aspects must coexist with the Village Community Empowerment Service because, with the strategies prepared by the Village Community Empowerment Service, the acceleration of economic improvement can run well. In addition, local governments need to synergize with the central government to become facilitators for implementing village community empowerment. According to the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia, Number 2 of 2016 concerning the Development Village Index describes the Development Village Index to create an independent Village. Furthermore, the achievement of an independent village requires three aspects that must be fulfilled, namely, the social security index.

Community Empowerment through MSMEs and the Creative Economy

Badau District has good potential for developing MSME activities, such as in the field of handcraft work, where various kinds of materials are available in nature. Considering the condition of the forest in the Badau District area is still very good, the availability of raw materials is easy to find. Besides that, the cultural factor in Badau District is also one of the potentials to strengthen the character of the handicrafts produced. In this sub-chapter, the main points of discussion are how empowerment in the MSME field is related to assistance with access to capital and aspects of implementing coaching to facilitators regarding the development of MSMEs in Badau District to empower the community.

The Office of Cooperatives and Micro Enterprises of Kapuas Hulu Regency, as the person in charge of the sustainability of MSMEs in Kapuas Hulu Regency, has a strategy to be able to create a stimulus for the community to be able to walk independently in the economy, especially for the people in Badau District. Of course, the role of the relevant agencies is significant, considering that the culture of society in the MSME field must be built from the most basic foundation.



Figure 1. Typical Badau handicraft products

Source: researcher documentation, 2022

Guidance of MSME Actors in Empowerment through Non-Governmental Organizations

The formation of a mindset or mindset towards community independence related to micro business activities is the main point of the coaching efforts carried out by the relevant agencies. This is intended so that people who desire to engage in micro-enterprises can run independently and develop these businesses as well as possible. The Office of Cooperatives, UKM, and Trade of Kapuas Hulu Regency guides people who already have micro businesses and every individual interested in starting a business. The guidance that has been carried out is in the form of training, with community training participants

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who run micro-enterprises and other general public who still need to get a business.

One of the trainings held by the Kapuas Hulu District Cooperative, Small and Medium Enterprises Office was making handicrafts with natural materials found in the Kapuas Hulu district. Creative economic activities in Badau District can be carried out because of the initiative by the community itself. On the other hand, implementing this coaching is an effort to create an independent culture in society, especially in the economic sector. Not only people who are already running micro businesses but people who are just starting to run micro-businesses and the creative economy are also allowed to receive special attention.

Empowering MSME Actors Based on Empowering

Empowering can be interpreted as an effort to strengthen the output of the MSME program that has been implemented. In this case, it concerns increasing capacity, opening access to possible opportunities to be taken, and considering all the potential to be used to improve these MSME products. There are two elements in increasing the results of MSMEs, known as the input and output markets. The input market can be interpreted as trading various factors correlated with productivity, such as natural factors, labor factors, entrepreneurship, and capital. At the same time, the output market can be interpreted as a market that trades the results of UKMK activities. Non-governmental organizations in the Kapuas Hulu sub-district have formed a program in an empowering effort in the form of a schedule for consulting and sharing with business actors to discuss various problems.

In addition, this non-governmental organization also provides marketing training. Entrepreneurs are taught how to package, display, and promote handicrafts made to be sold. Non-governmental organizations in Badau District also help every artisan to be able to sell products from these SMEs by holding handicraft shows at various events or activities. In addition to assisting in training related to the creation and marketing of non-governmental organizations, it also assists business actors in the sales field.

So far, non-governmental organizations have sent various products from MSMEs to various events as a sales effort. Goods resulting from these crafts are sold and exhibited in the Kapuas Hulu district and the province. So, the efforts made by non-governmental organizations in the empowering field are opening opportunities for every MSME artisan to sell products that have been produced. In addition, non-governmental organizations also increase the potential possessed by MSME artisans by providing training related to the packaging and marketing of the products they have to increase selling power.

Community Empowerment Model Through Partners

This study proposes a quadruple helix model, which the team of authors formulated as a partnership model in the development of community empowerment in Badau District. Researchers' quadruple helix model presents three interactions between government, society, and academics.



Figure 2. Model of Collaboration Between Partners in Community Empowerment in Badau District, Kapuas Hulu District

Source: processed by the author, 2022

1. Government

Empowerment is the most essential part that must receive special attention from the government. As in empowering the government, it has a role as a regulator, dynamic actor, and facilitator, which, of course, is not just a mere designation but needs to be implemented so that speech and practice can run as expected. The government must be keen to see the conditions in the community and then always look for alternatives to help the community find ideas that can be used as opportunities in the context of empowerment (Musa, 2017).

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In this case, the government's role in the quadruple helix model is essential in improving community empowerment in the Badau District. The government is the leading actor regarding the strategy and long-term design of the potential areas that can be utilized by empowering the Badau District community, becoming a facilitator for the needs of community empowerment, opening up opportunities for people who are empowered to penetrate a broader market; facilitating community empowerment programs in the form of material and non-material; as well as strengthening regulations on the ongoing community empowerment program. The spearhead of the priority for empowering people experiencing poverty is the development of the people's economy, which is interpreted as an economic system that prioritizes participation from the community so that the community as development actors can enjoy the results of development through the work and contribution they make to the ongoing development process (Damanik, 2019). The government, in this case, all the aspects that become the decision of empowerment, must be oriented towards social needs to realize sustainability, both in the form of the sustainability of the empowerment program and the interdependence of every layer of society.

2. Society

In this case, society can be interpreted as an independent general public (individuals), community associations based on the same hobbies and interests, organizations or groups of indigenous peoples, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Discussing the concept of participation will be easier if you look at it from the point of view of interests. That is, the greater the community's interest in a development program, the higher the level of participation will automatically appear. The level of community participation will significantly determine the success of a development. With higher community participation, the development success will also be more optimal.

Conversely, if there is no participation from the community, then the success rate of development will be low (Nurohman, 2007). The role of the community in the success of community empowerment is enormous. The community itself primarily determines the success of a community empowerment program. Communities should be able to participate not only in participating in an empowerment program but also must be able to be involved in determining policies regarding empowerment programs. The community's involvement in program design and decision-making will undoubtedly lead to responsibility by the community.

On the other hand, direct community involvement in program design can result in targeted program decisions. The role of the community in this case can be started by planning community empowerment programs to implement the empowerment program. This is considering that the community is the main object of community empowerment. So that the benefits of the community empowerment program fully return to the community, of course, in this case, namely improving the quality of the economy. The relationship in every element of society in Badau District is significantly, very closely related to community empowerment. The results of community empowerment oriented towards local wisdom are very much in line with the culture of the people of Badau District, which generally still adhere to their own culture.

3. Academics

Academics are one of the essential elements of community empowerment. Academics have experience regarding policies and expertise related to phenomena that occur in society. So, academics attend, fill in, and provide knowledge-based contributions. Empowerment is building community capacity by encouraging, motivating, raising awareness of their potential, and developing it into concrete actions (Zubaedi, 2007). Raising awareness of the potential of a region is the main point of the role of academics in community empowerment. Academics are here to provide recommendations based on studies and observations of opportunities that can be developed in an area based on the latest innovations and technologies. On the other hand, academics can work with local government and become a connecting link between government and society.

4. DPRD (Regional People's Representative Council)

The DPRD (Regional People's Representative Council) of Kapuas Hulu Regency can carry out its function in terms of supervising the distribution of community empowerment funds; even though not all of the villages in Badau District have not been visited, in general, the distribution of community empowerment funds must be scheduled by DPRD for supervision. Community empowerment funds, in general, must be used by the procedures and their allocation. The findings and evaluation of the DPRD revealed that the poverty rate for residents in the Badau District could be reduced. On the other hand, there is a need to increase the amount of community empowerment funds through the DPRD's struggle in discussing the APBD through the budget post for assistance to the community in the following fiscal year. Furthermore, the DPRD can work with academics to form a formula for the oversight function of empowerment in the Badau District.

The local government, in this case especially the Village Community Empowerment Service, has an integral part in the sustainability of the community empowerment program. The role taken by the government is not just making empowerment plans but also implementing the designs and discourses that have been formed. On the government, community, and academia side, they become one unit that complements each other, giving rise to a trilateral network. The

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intertwining of the trilateral network forms a stimulant among the three to be able to carry out their respective roles.

CONCLUSION

The district government's strategy in dealing with underdeveloped villages in the border area is only limited to designing local economic development, such as development in the field of MSMEs and infrastructure development, empowering village communities in their implementation to develop community independence and welfare by utilizing resources through establishing village development policies and programs. In addition, the provision of village facilities and infrastructure. Increasing the institutional capacity of the business world government, such as MSMEs and village cooperatives.

The design that has been formed has yet to be implemented effectively by the government, so it has not impacted increasing economic resilience in society. Apart from that, access to relatively long distances, the need for more human resources, and the lack of ability to maximize the potential of owned natural resources are supporting factors for the weak economy. The relevant apparatus still needs to support community enthusiasm and concern for empowerment fully. It is coupled with the need for more ability to maximize infrastructure facilities and implement programs that must be appropriately targeted. Community empowerment in the Badau District has stalled. Several villages in Badau District have yet to receive attention from infrastructure development, making it difficult for the community to market their products from the MSME and plantation sectors to shop for necessities of life. Another problem is that every government agency needs to synergize together on the issue of community empowerment in Badau District. Awareness of every agency that can play a role in empowerment must be increased to improve community empowerment and create a prosperous society.

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