



Community Participation in the Implementation of Development in the South Dampal Subdistrict, Tolitoli Regency

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe how community participation in the implementation of development in Soni Village, South Dampal Subdistrict, Tolitoli Regency. This study uses C. Ericson Slamet's theory, which categorizes community participation into three stages: planning, implementation, and supervision. The research employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive research type. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, documentation, and literature review. The research results indicate that community participation in the implementation of development in Soni Village, South Dampal Subdistrict, Tolitoli Regency is still very low, especially in the stages of implementation and supervision. Factors contributing to this include the community's limited participation in the development process due to specific reasons, prioritizing their individual activities. In the supervision stage, some community members lack awareness to maintain the infrastructure that has been built, resulting in many facilities being neglected. Meanwhile, budget supervision is only carried out by a specific team directly appointed by the community.



INTRODUCTION

National development is one of the efforts to advance the country to create the welfare of society in accordance with the Constitution and Pancasila, particularly the fifth principle. Regional development is part of national development, and regional development needs to be supported by various regional financial resources. Achieving community welfare involves changes in life that are better than before, with these changes being made through development. The goal of community development is to improve economic, social, and cultural conditions, leading to reductions in poverty and improvements in the living environment.

To achieve democratic development activities as an effort to support the functioning of government, the central government has delegated authority to regions to better determine the direction of regional development. The enactment of Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government represents a new step to improve government administration. Through autonomy and decentralization, it is hoped that community participation can be fostered and regional government independence can be enhanced. The implementation of regional autonomy mandated by Law No. 23 of 2014 regarding Regional Government includes, in Article 206, issues related to village authority as follows:

Village government affairs are those already based on village rights. Village government affairs become the authority of the Regency/City, which is administratively delegated to the village. Duties of government assistants include the central government, provincial government, and/or regency/city government. Other government affairs are regulated by laws and regulations and are delegated to the village.

This means that villages must be able to take initiative and be creative in running their own government and fostering democracy among community members in development, so that villages or sub-districts have the space to implement development without being burdened by programs from the regency/city, province, or central government.

In development, community participation is a crucial element of the village development process. Therefore, community participation in development needs to be actively encouraged by other parties such as the village government, so that with the involvement of the village government, the community will likely feel given the opportunity to participate in development, as motivating village participation is one of the goals of development itself.

Community members, as the subjects of development, mean that they are directly affected by policies and development activities. Therefore, community members need to be involved from the formulation of policies to the application of these policies because they are considered more knowledgeable about their environmental conditions. According to Siagian in Suryono (2010:46), development is a series of planned efforts for growth and change conducted consciously by a nation, country, and government towards modernization. Community participation in development implementation is essential; without it, development may only make the community an object. One critique is that the community feels "unengaged" or "indifferent" to existing development programs. Thus, placing the community as a development object is essential so that they can play an active role from planning to execution and monitoring and evaluation of development, especially if we are to approach development with a quality spirit. Local residents, who understand their area's conditions, can provide very valuable input. Local residents, with their knowledge and experience, become a significant resource for implementing development.

Local communities know the problems they face and the potential they have, even having "local knowledge" to address these issues. The study of community participation is important due to the lack of community participation in development in Soni Village, South Dampal Subdistrict. Ideally, community participation in the village should be enthusiastic in welcoming and actively participating in development activities. This is evident in the infrastructure development project in Soni Village, South Dampal Subdistrict, where community participation is still not optimal. Participation in the planning stage is marked by the involvement of Soni Village residents in meetings to plan village work programs. For example, in the infrastructure development project in Soni Village, participation is needed in meetings with village officials to provide suggestions or proposals for the road infrastructure development stage.



The problem observed from the research results is the lack of community awareness of the importance of collaborative work and mutual cooperation to participate in the implementation and supervision stages of development. Community participation in the implementation of development is not yet optimal due to the majority of Soni Village residents prioritizing their individual activities, where they must work to meet their daily needs. Additionally, many residents of Soni Village work in agriculture, from rice farmers to plantation workers. However, a small number of residents contribute donations but do not actively participate in development activities, and some community members are willing to help in development work but do not contribute significantly.

Participation in the supervision of infrastructure is also not optimal due to the lack of community awareness of the importance of maintaining the road infrastructure built. Similarly, Soni Village residents find it challenging to be involved in community service activities to clean the weeds growing along the road edges. The community refuses to participate, citing their busy schedules with farming and gardening activities. Therefore, only a small portion of the community is willing to participate.

In the context of development in Soni Village, South Dampal Subdistrict, Tolitoli Regency, participation is crucial to achieving the implementation of development work programs, which can lead to initiatives and self-help programs through community mutual cooperation. Based on this, the author is interested in conducting an in-depth study titled "Community Participation in the Implementation of Development in Soni Village, South Dampal Subdistrict, Tolitoli Regency."

METHOD

The type of research in principle is the classification of research based on the goals of explaining the concept of the research to be achieved. Therefore, the type used in this research is descriptive, which is a type of research that describes what is happening at present. The basis of the research used is qualitative. Essentially, qualitative research is conducted in natural settings, and the data collected is generally qualitative. Therefore, this research is termed qualitative. Qualitative research methods are used to study natural conditions of the object, in contrast to experimental research where the researcher acts as the key instrument. This research is conducted in Soni Village, South Dampal Subdistrict, Tolitoli Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Community participation is a crucial aspect in the process of planning, implementation, utilization, maintenance, and evaluation of development. It is one of the keys to success in every development effort. With this involvement, development can be felt more equitably and not just by certain parties. Unequal development happens when a development effort does not consider the importance of community participation in its administration. Recognizing that development at the village level is for the community itself, the best approach is to remind the community that this development is for their own benefit. This notification is not always well received, and it depends on the methods used by the Village Head to encourage community participation in development.

Participation allows communities to help identify issues to be addressed in development. It also enables the inclusion of more information from the field that is useful for determining faster development strategies. To influence community members, a leader or Village Head can adjust their attitudes and behaviors to meet specific guidelines in each unique situational context using several approaches, including examining the nature and forms of participation. Community participation is a tool to obtain information on needs and living conditions, as without community involvement, development programs will not run smoothly.

Community participation is a key indicator of development success. To understand the extent of community participation, the research employs the theory proposed by C. Ericson (in Yuliana, 2012), which



includes: participation in the planning stage, participation in the implementation stage, and participation in the supervision stage. The reason for using this theory is that participation is not just about involvement, but the community must be actively involved in every stage of development. This position indicates that community members are not only executors of development but also play a role in determining plans and controlling or supervising various development programs, whether from the government or initiated by the community itself.

Participation in the Planning Stage

In the development process carried out in Soni Village, it cannot be separated from community participation because the Village Government cannot make unilateral decisions without involving the community to ensure all their needs are accommodated. Ideas are filtered before being turned into development programs. Development planning will be in accordance with and effective if it meets community needs.

According to the Village Head of Soni, Mr. Padly: "The role of community participation in the planning stage of development is indeed a step taken by the village government to represent the community's aspirations, even in a small scale. At least, with such community participation, it is sufficient to represent the residents of Soni Village so that planning issues are appropriate, can be implemented effectively, and are beneficial. So far, I have seen that community participation in development planning is very good. The community is enthusiastic and always involved in every activity of musrenbang or village meetings, allowing them to provide ideas or suggestions that we then prioritize. However, not all suggestions or ideas can be realized; only those that match community needs are prioritized."

To achieve successful development, consensus and action between the government and the community are necessary to avoid factors that could affect the implementation. Community involvement in planning development in Soni Village can be seen from their presence in meetings held by the government. Based on the above information, it can be concluded that the level of community participation in attending meetings and providing aspirations is already good, with all development programs aimed at empowering the community. Thus, involving the community at every stage of development is essential.

Further, according to Mr. Saifullah, the Chair of the BPD in Soni Village: "I believe that community participation in development planning is very important because broad participation is a key element in successful development. The community always participates in development planning. Every development program starts from the village level and is discussed again at village meetings. The community is given opportunities by the village head to be involved and attend village meetings to express their aspirations."

Similarly, Mr. Akib Syaib, a community leader in Soni Village, stated: "To this day, the community plays a significant role in development planning in Soni Village. They are very pleased with the development taking place as it benefits everyone, so the community is enthusiastic about participating in planning. Development at the village level is a shared responsibility among the community, leaving no reason to avoid participation."

Mr. Abdul Hidar, a community leader in Soni Village, said: "Community involvement in planning development is very good. When hearing about development such as road infrastructure, I feel pleased as it facilitates our activities. Not only myself but a large part of the community participates in planning development by joining village meetings and providing inputs and suggestions to the village apparatus to ensure the planning is feasible and timely."

Based on the information provided, it is evident that every development carried out is a result of ideas sourced from the community of Soni Village and is aligned with their needs since the community as a whole



participates in meetings or gatherings organized by the village government. Community participation is an urgent and crucial element in development. The community is a key component that must be involved in development, and their needs and expectations should guide every policy. Providing opportunities for community participation is a component to achieve intensive development. Therefore, for successful development, the community must be involved in the planning stage by attending meetings and providing ideas, suggestions, and input.

Participation in the Implementation Stage

Participation in the implementation of development requires support and community involvement as a reflection of shared responsibility and willingness to contribute to successful development aimed at improving community welfare. Historically, community members, especially those living in rural areas, have completed various tasks based on mutual cooperation or self-reliance. Despite their limited resources, they manage to complete their tasks successfully. For instance, in the construction of road infrastructure, village halls, and others, the involvement of the community in Soni Village is not solely dependent on budgeting aspects but also on contributions in terms of labor, skills, and materials, which significantly influence development implementation.

According to Mr. Saifullah, the Chair of the BPD in Soni Village: "During the implementation of road infrastructure development, a small portion of the community participates directly due to other commitments, while some contribute money, material such as sand, and provide refreshments to workers. Ideally, the community should also participate directly in the construction work, not just through contributions, as direct involvement can speed up the completion of the development. We see that community participation in implementation is still lacking, so further socialization is needed to emphasize the importance of participation in development implementation. The involvement of community members in construction work is based on the awareness of the importance of road infrastructure, which facilitates activities in Soni Village."

Mr. Abdul Hidar, a community leader in Soni Village, stated: "In the implementation of development, some community members participate, while others do not due to their own work commitments, particularly those who work in agriculture or farming. They do not have time to participate in development activities. However, the community is enthusiastic about development, although there is still a lack of awareness about the importance of participation in implementation. Some members contribute money, material, but do not participate directly. I hope that all community members will participate in development implementation as it is for our collective benefit."

It must be acknowledged that community participation in Soni Village is still relatively low during development implementation, though many have work commitments to support their families, making it difficult for them to participate directly.

Mr. Akib Syuaib, a community leader in Soni Village, said: "When discussing community participation in development implementation, it certainly exists. Some members contribute labor, money, and material like sand, but others are unable to participate due to work commitments necessary to support their families. Despite this, there is enthusiasm for development, although participation in implementation is not optimal due to the constraints of daily work needs."

According to Mr. Sulaiman, a resident of Soni Village: "Community participation in development implementation certainly exists, especially as it is for the collective good. Some members participate by contributing money according to their ability and providing material like sand. Others contribute labor in



construction work, although not everyone participates. Nonetheless, the community's enthusiasm for development is evident."

The information from the interviews indicates that community participation in the implementation stage of development is not mandatory but voluntary. This willingness arises from the awareness that involvement in labor, financial, and material contributions is an effort to achieve benefits for many people, such as donating sand and other necessities to support development. However, it also shows that community participation in the implementation stage is not yet maximized, as not all members participate. Some contribute financially or materially but do not engage directly in implementation, often due to their work commitments.

Participation in the Supervision Stage

Participation in the supervision or controlling stage is a control stage. The goal of supervision is to minimize the likelihood of discrepancies in implementation and to determine how far the issues or problems deviate from the initial estimates. Furthermore, it is crucial to identify the causes of these problems and then take corrective measures.

Supervision of infrastructure should be conducted continuously and periodically to ensure that the reporting system from the supervision sector is well-managed and organized, especially concerning infrastructure supervision.

At this stage, the community in Soni Village is required to form a supervisory team. The purpose is to oversee the managers in preparing and managing the development budget according to the design and budget created by the Planning Division. This supervisory team is directly appointed by the community to monitor and provide advice to facilitate the construction stage to ensure openness and transparency in financial matters and the development program activities.

From the presentation above, the researcher aims to understand whether community involvement in the supervision stage is as expressed by one of the community leaders of Soni Village, Mr. Akib Syuaib, who said: "In terms of infrastructure supervision, I feel we all must be involved, whether it is the government or the community. The community must participate in supervising infrastructure development so that we can understand how far the development has progressed. The community should also be involved in the maintenance of the infrastructure that has been built. However, currently, regarding infrastructure maintenance, community participation is lacking. For example, when I invite people to participate in communal work to clean the wild grass growing on the roadside, the community usually gives many excuses to avoid participating. Yet, I believe that doing communal work is for our collective benefit. By clearing the wild grass growing on the roadside, it will not disturb the comfort of road users."

From this interview, it is explained that community participation in the supervision stage is not yet optimal, as people prioritize their individual activities and resist communal work for infrastructure maintenance. Another opinion that emphasizes the lack of community participation in supervision is provided by Mr. Pady, the head of Soni Village, who explained: "For the supervision stage, the community must participate, whether it is in the development, budget, or maintenance of the built infrastructure. During the supervision stage, a special team is formed, usually referred to as a monitoring team, appointed directly by the community to prevent discrepancies, especially concerning the budget used versus the results achieved. However, there are some challenges in maintaining infrastructure. The community finds it difficult to be invited to work together in maintaining the roads, such as cleaning the wild grass on the roadside. Even though this is for collective comfort, when the community is invited to participate in communal work, there are always



excuses from the people. I believe community awareness regarding infrastructure maintenance needs to be further improved. It is essential not only to be enthusiastic about the construction but also to be committed to the maintenance and supervision of the infrastructure."

The involvement of the community in infrastructure supervision, especially in maintenance, is mentioned by Mr. Saifullah, the head of the Soni Village BPD, who said: "For the supervision and maintenance stage, besides forming a special team or monitoring team, it cannot be denied that not all community members have the awareness to collectively supervise and maintain both the infrastructure and the monitoring of budget conformity with the planned budget to avoid community suspicion of village officials. In terms of infrastructure maintenance, it becomes a shared responsibility where road users must participate in maintaining the road infrastructure for collective comfort. However, it is seen that a significant portion of the community finds it difficult to be invited to work together in infrastructure maintenance, such as participating in communal work. When roads are damaged, the community rushes to request repairs, but once repaired, and when asked to maintain it, the community tends to be indifferent and does not participate in the maintenance. I believe this needs to be addressed by the community, as having development without proper infrastructure maintenance is futile."

Furthermore, Mr. Sulaiman, a resident of Soni Village, said: "Regarding budget supervision, there is already a special team appointed to oversee the budget used, and this team will report to the community to avoid suspicion. Concerning the supervision of infrastructure maintenance, it indeed becomes a shared responsibility, but there is a special team for infrastructure supervision. I believe that the existence of this special team is sufficient for conducting supervision. As a community member, I usually rarely participate in communal work because I need to work on the farm as it is my daily job to earn money, so I always prioritize my farm work. However, I will try to participate in infrastructure maintenance activities."

From the above explanations, it is known that infrastructure maintenance supervision is still lacking. This is due to the lack of community awareness about the importance of maintaining the infrastructure that has been built collectively, resulting in visible damage to the village's infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings regarding community participation, it can be concluded that, first, community participation in the planning stage is already optimal. Community members are very enthusiastic and actively involved in attending village meetings and discussions. Second, participation in the implementation stage is not yet maximal, due to a lack of cohesive communal spirit. In this stage, only a portion of the community is involved, with various reasons, including work commitments, contributing to this lack of engagement. Third, participation in the monitoring stage of infrastructure is not effective. The presence of a specialized monitoring team leads some community members to believe that they no longer need to be involved in oversight, resulting in a lack of responsibility for maintaining and caring for infrastructure. This has led to the deterioration of infrastructure and a lack of awareness among the community about the importance of maintaining the infrastructure that has been developed.

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