



THE ROLE OF VILLAGE ASSISTANTS IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN F TRIKOYO VILLAGE, TUGUMULYO DISTRICT MUSI RAWAS DISTRICT

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Abstract

The existence of this village companion is expected to increase the empowerment of the community in the village. Community empowerment is the process of developing human resources or the community itself in the form of exploring personal abilities, creativity, competence and thinking power as well as good actions from the previous time, both through counseling, trainings and others. Empowerment as an effort to provide strength and ability to individuals or groups to be more empowered. The purpose of this study is the role of village assistants in community empowerment in Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency. The informant in this study was the community of F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency. Data collection techniques using interviews. The analysis technique uses descriptions and research results, namely the role of village assistants based on Law Policy Number 11 of 2019 in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency in the form of community assistance and empowerment. Although the mentoring and empowerment process has been carried out, based on the results of the study shows that the empowerment carried out in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency.

Keywords: Village Facilitator; Community Empowerment; Trikoyo Village

INTRODUCTION

Village Assistants have a role to be able to provide progress through the Empowerment process in the Village (Banerjee et al., 2015). The role of Village Assistants in assisting and assisting village governments to carry out development and empowerment of village communities, through their duties and functions, especially in villages in Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency (Suswanto et al., 2019). Musi Rawas Regency was used as a research site

because Musi Rawas Regency was the first district before the regional expansion, namely Lubuklinggau City and North Musirawas Regency. The empowerment of rural communities in the parent district that is the expansion, is it maximized and worthy of being a pilot for the pemekara district or is there still a lot of shortcomings (Tremblay, 2019). The title *The Role of Village Companions in Community Empowerment* is very relevant to the research department so that it is expected to add a contribution of reading materials in the field of Public Policy studies for the development and empowerment of Village communities and become a reference for the pemekaran district of Musi Rawas Regency (Nursyamsu, 2018).

Village Companions as mentioned in Permendesa Number 3 of 2015 concerning Village Assistants in articles 4 to 10 states that village assistants are carried out by assistants consisting of Professional Assistants, Village Community Empowerment Cadres, and third parties (Prasetyo & Muis, 2015). In the article it is also explained that Professional Assistance consists of (Israel et al., 2014) :

1. Village Companion (PD) located at the sub-district level
2. Technical Assistance at the District level,
3. Experts at the provincial or central level.

In order to help and maximize the work of Village Companions located at the sub-district level, it is necessary to have Village Local Assistants (PLD) who are directly located in the Village (Djabbar, 2021). Therefore, a regulation or legal umbrella higher than Permendesa number 3 of 2015, namely PP 47 of 2015 concerning amendments to PP 43 of 2014 concerning Regulations for the Implementation of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, was issued. From PP 47 of 2015, article 129 has added Village Local Assistants including part of Professional Assistance personnel (Eko et al., 2014; Laha & Dorohungi, 2021). The existence of this village companion is expected to increase the empowerment of the community in the village. Community empowerment is the process of developing human resources or the community itself in the form of exploring personal abilities, creativity, competence and thinking power as well as good actions from the previous time, both through counseling, trainings and others. Empowerment as an effort to provide strength and ability to individuals or groups to be more empowered (Ritchhart & Church, 2020).

Community empowerment is very important and is a mandatory thing to do considering the times and technological advances that are so rapid at this time will greatly affect the ability of each individual to meet their needs (Green & Haines, 2015). For this reason, the wider community is expected to be able to keep up with the times by being assisted by Village Assistants through the empowerment process.

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Village Companions in Tugumulyo District are 1 (one) person and one Village Local Companion is assigned to accompany 25 villages. Meanwhile, in the Professional Guide for Village Community Development and Empowerment, it is explained that at least 2 Village Empowerment Assistants and Village Infrastructure Engineering Assistants will be assisted. Sub-districts that have a number of villages of 1 (one) to 4 (four) will be accompanied by one Village Local Assistant, if the number of villages in one sub-district is more than 4 (four) will be accompanied by one Village Local Companion, if the number of villages in one sub-district is more than 4 (four) villages, then the calculation is the number of villages divided by 4 (four), if there is still 1 (one) remaining sampai 3 (three) feeding villages plus one Village Local Companion (Anurogo et al., 2017) .

Trikoyo Village is one of the villages in Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency. F Trikoyo village which is an agricultural area. F Trikoyo village is inhabited by most of the people who work as farmers (Lubis, 2022).

Based on the initial observation carried out, the problem was obtained that the existence of Village Assistants in F Trikoyo village, Musi Rawas Regency has not maximally carried out its role so that the community in F Trikoyo village, Musi Rawas Regency has not been fully deceived.

Seeing the existing phenomenon, researchers are interested in conducting research entitled "The Role of Village Companions in Community Empowerment in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency. The purpose of this study is to determine the role of village assistants in community empowerment in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency.

METHODS

The type of research used in this study is qualitative descriptive research, which is a problem-solving procedure that is investigated by describing the current state of the subject or object of research based on facts that appear or as they are (Sugiyono, 2013). Research using a qualitative approach aims to obtain a comprehensive and in-depth picture Analysis of the Role of Village Companions based on Policy Law Number 6 of 2014 in Community Empowerment in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency. Data collection techniques using interviews.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Companions are facilitators or agents of change who have high motivation and idealism to be able to serve and be part of the development process in the village. Village assistants have a

complete role ranging from village assistance cadres stationed in the village and professional assistance consisting of village assistants domiciled in the sub-district, technical assistants domiciled in the district and community empowerment experts in the province. Village assistants have the knowledge, knowledge and skills that have been obtained in lectures to be applied and developed in development in village communities. They can provide new enthusiasm, knowledge, inspiration and access for the community to work harder in planning, implementing, and reporting on development activities in rural areas. In addition, they are expected to assist in managing the Village Budget (AD) and Village Fund Budget (ADD) starting from planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on answers so that they are right on target and on budget from village development programs (Ahyaruddin & Ramadanis, 2019).

Village assistants can play a role in providing understanding and skills in managing and implementing the use of village funds and avoiding potential corruption. The role of village assistants can play a role in planning, implementing, and monitoring village development, then implementing village community empowerment.

In addition, by assisting the implementation of public service management, developing economic businesses in the village, and utilizing natural resources and appropriate technology, in addition to playing a guiding role, village assistants also become facilitators, mediators and partners for the community and village government in identifying and finding solutions to the problems faced, potential resources owned and finding development prospects in the village. They can also:

1. Become an agent of village development that can monitor, evaluate and aspire to local governments and people's representatives about the problems, conditions and needs of the community, potential resources possessed and prospects found.
2. Forming and strengthening economic institutions, especially the young generation in the village to create and develop jobs or businesses in the village, so that the younger generation no longer leaves the village to find work in urban areas (urbanization).
3. Build and expand network access with universities ranging from students, alumni and lecturers to be able to help and cooperate in advancing village community development with research programs, community service, practicum lectures, practical work, internships and Real Work Lecture (KKN) programs.

Village assistants are tasked with helping the community in groups and individuals based on the needs, resources and abilities of the village community by developing a process of communication or interaction with participatory insip namely from, by and for the village community, as well as developing solidarity or solidarity. However, there are still some problems that are found as a challenge for village companions, namely, not all companions placed in the village can optimally play a role and apply their knowledge, knowledge and skills in the village, because in each village location has different characteristics both in terms of social, cultural, economic and political.

The interaction that occurs is still formal, where there is a distance between the companion and the village community, it is still less responsive to community business activities in the village, so it is not optimal to make observations and direct interactions with the

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community in the village (Sulaiman et al., 2016). The focus of mentoring is still oriented towards managing village development budget allocations from the Village Budget (AD) and Village Fund Budget (ADD). Village assistants should be able to assist and become empowerment actors to encourage the formation and development of community economic empowerment. It takes a long adaptation process to be able to blend in, get to know each other with the community, get to know well regionally and the potential of the village. Village assistants in carrying out their roles and functions, can carry out a study process or study on an ongoing basis with fellow assistants as a team work to be more helpful in identifying and analyzing problems, potential resources and development prospects in the village. Phase I study studies conducted on village leaders are: (1) Literature studies, literature studies and documentation analysis of several academic research results, scientific journals, and concepts and theories as well as analysis of events in print and online mass media. (2) Approach, direct observation and information search through informal, dialogical, open and participatory interviews to generate agreements and joint activities between village assistants and the community. This is done to establish closeness or ensure that there is no distance between village companions and the community. Through dialogical and participatory approaches and communication, it can be easily constructed natural and original reality in obtaining data through the research process. Village assistants can carry out studies or discussions with colleagues, colleagues, community leaders, village governments, practitioners and experts to discuss problems and potentials found, to agree and produce participatory community empowerment programs.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and analysis conducted in this study can be concluded The role of village assistants based on Law Policy Number 11 of 2019 in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency in the form of community assistance and empowerment. Although the mentoring and empowerment process has been carried out, based on the results of research shows that the empowerment carried out in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency, Kelumbayan District has not been maximized.

The supporting factors that help in the implementation of the role by the Village Local Companion F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency, Kelumbayan District are, openness from the village government who welcomes the presence of village assistants so that good cooperation between Village Assistants and village governments occurs both Village Head F Trikoyo, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency, sekdes/carik, treasurer, kaur, RT/RW and others. Residents of F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency responded positively and opened up happily to collaborate with village assistants by carrying out empowerment in order to realize a progressive village to realize peace and prosperity in F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency.

The factor that is considered as an obstacle by the Village Companion in carrying out its role is that the distance traveled from the Companion's residence to F Trikoyo village, Tugumulyo District, Musi Rawas Regency is calculated to be far less than two hours of travel with fairly damaged road conditions. And the obstacle that is considered quite heavy is the number of villages assisted by Mr. Idiyanto there are eight villages. Meanwhile, in the program, one Village Local Companion must accompany a maximum of four villages. Mr. Idiyanto realized that the assistance he carried out was not optimal because of limited time and distance between the assisted villages.

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