



The Role of The Village Government in Gender-Based Community Empowerment in Curuglanglang Village, Munjul Pandeglang District

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the role of village government in gender-based community empowerment in Curuglanglang Village, Munjul District, Pandeglang Regency. Gender inequality remains a significant issue at the village level, where women's participation in development is still limited. The research applies the Harvard Gender Analysis Model focusing on four key components to understand gender roles and relations within the community. This study employs a descriptive qualitative method by conducting in-depth interviews with nine informants from various community groups, and data validity was tested through triangulation. The findings indicate that the village government's role in gender-based community empowerment is still suboptimal. The low participation of women in development activities and the lack of public awareness regarding gender equality are major obstacles. The village government is expected to formulate more gender-responsive policies and programs, and to enhance education and public awareness of women's vital role in village development.

Keywords: *Role, Empowerment, Community, Gender Equality, Women*

I. Introduction

Villages have a strategic position as the lowest government unit that plays an important role in improving community welfare through development and empowerment. Based on Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, the village government has the authority to regulate and take care of the interests of the local community in order to strengthen the participation, independence, and welfare of residents. One of the important aspects of village development is the implementation of community empowerment in a fair and inclusive manner, including gender-based empowerment.

Community empowerment is a systematic effort to increase the capacity of individuals and groups to be able to manage local resources and actively participate in development. In the context of villages, empowerment not only includes economic aspects, but also educational, socio-cultural, psychological, and political. However, in its implementation, there are still various challenges, especially gender inequality that limits women's participation in the development process. In many villages, women are still placed in domestic positions, while public roles and decision-making are held more by men.

Curuglanglang Village, Munjul District, Pandeglang Regency is one of the villages with the characteristics of an agrarian society dominated by farmers and farm laborers. Based on village profile data in 2022, the number of male residents reached 1,440 people and women 1,268 people. Although the number of women is quite large, their participation in village development activities is still limited. In fact, women have great potential to contribute to improving family welfare and village socio-economic development.

In the context of gender-responsive village development, the village government has the responsibility to create policies and programs that are able to empower women. This effort is important considering that women often face structural barriers, such as low education, limited access to economic resources, and lack

of involvement in development planning. This inequality not only hinders gender equality, but also slows down the achievement of overall village development goals.

In line with the theory of the Gender Analysis Harvard Model, gender-based empowerment can be analyzed through four main indicators, namely access, participation, control, and benefits. The indicator describes the extent to which women and men have equal opportunities to acquire resources, participate in the development process, influence decisions, and enjoy development outcomes. Village governments play an important role in ensuring that every stage of village development pays attention to gender equality through inclusive policies and activities.

In practice, the role of the Curuglanglang village government in gender-based community empowerment still faces various obstacles. The low level of participation of the community, especially women, is caused by the lack of understanding of gender equality issues and the strong patriarchal culture that places women in subordinate positions. As a result, the various empowerment programs that are carried out have not fully touched the needs of women in real terms.

This phenomenon is important to be researched so that it can be known to what extent the village government carries out its role and responsibility in encouraging gender-based community empowerment. Through this research, it is hoped that it can provide a comprehensive overview of the forms of the role of village government, the obstacles faced, and strategies that can be developed to increase women's participation in village development.

Thus, research on the Role of Village Government in Gender-Based Community Empowerment in Curuglanglang Village, Munjul Pandeglang District is expected to make a theoretical contribution to the development of village government studies and community empowerment, as well as become a practical input for village governments in realizing equitable and inclusive development.

Literature Review

The Role of the Village Government

The role of the village government is the main factor in the implementation of community development and empowerment at the local level. According to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, the village government has the authority to regulate and manage government affairs, development, and community empowerment based on community initiatives, rights of origin, and customs. The village government functions as a mover, facilitator, and motivator for the community to be able to improve their quality of life independently.

Dahlan (1994) explained that roles are part of the function or position of a person or institution in the social system. In the context of village government, the role means the dynamic function of the government in managing development that is oriented to the needs of the community. The village government must be able to formulate policies, determine development priorities, and involve all elements of the community in the planning and evaluation process.

Berger and Luckmann (1982) assert that the role of government reflects the institutional order that influences social relations and the distribution of power in society. Therefore, the effectiveness of the role of the village government is not only measured by the policies issued, but also by its ability to create citizen participation, transparency, and social justice in the implementation of development.

Community Empowerment

Community *empowerment* is a development concept that emphasizes the importance of the role of the community in determining the direction and policy of development. According to Ife (1995), community empowerment aims to turn weaknesses into strengths, namely by preparing people to have resources, opportunities, knowledge, and skills to determine their own future.

Pranarka (in Prijono & Pranarka, 1996) states that community empowerment includes educational, economic, socio-cultural, psychological, and political dimensions. Through education, people can increase their capacity to think and participate in development. Economic empowerment creates financial independence, while

socio-cultural empowerment strengthens social cohesion and mutual cooperation values. In the political aspect, empowerment means opening up space for public participation in the public decision-making process.

Supriatna (2000) emphasized that community empowerment can only be successful if the government is able to encourage citizen participation through programs that meet local needs. Empowerment not only provides material assistance, but also builds awareness and social responsibility so that people can manage resources sustainably. Thus, community empowerment is a form of development that places humans as subjects, not objects of development.

Gender Perspectives in Empowerment

The concept of gender is different from gender (sex). Gender is biological and inherent from birth, while gender is a social and cultural construct that determines roles, responsibilities, and expectations for men and women. Alfian (2016) explained that gender is a social role system that distinguishes behaviors, attitudes, and responsibilities based on cultural norms.

According to Abdullah (2016), gender equality means a condition where men and women have equal opportunities to access resources, participate in social activities, and benefit from development. Achmad (2019) added that gender equality requires justice in the division of roles and responsibilities between men and women in various fields of life, including economics, politics, education, and socio-culture.

In traditional societies, women often experience subordination and marginalization due to patriarchal views that place men as the dominant party. This condition has an impact on the low level of women's participation in the development process, especially in rural areas. Therefore, a gender approach is important to ensure that women have equal space and opportunities to contribute.

Harvard Gender Analysis Model

The Harvard Gender Analysis Model is one of the methods used to understand the division of roles and access between men and women in the context of development. According to Widjajanti (2016), this model is used in the Gender Analysis Pathway (GAP) mechanism which focuses on four main indicators: access, participation, control, and benefits (APKM).

- Access: measures the extent to which men and women have equal opportunities to access development resources such as education, capital, information, and training.
- Participation: looking at the level of active involvement of both genders in the process of planning, implementing, and evaluating development.
- Control: identify who has the power to determine policy direction and make decisions.
- Benefit: assessing whether development outcomes provide balanced benefits for men and women.

The Harvard analysis emphasizes the importance of gender-disaggregated data to identify inequality and formulate fairer policies. This model also helps identify internal (government institutions) and external (community culture) barriers that can hinder the implementation of gender equality in village development.

Relevance of Previous Research

Several previous studies have strengthened the urgency of studying the role of village governments in gender-based community empowerment. Hermawan (2020) found that the optimization of empowerment programs in Tirtawangunan Village, West Java, still faces obstacles due to low community participation. Meanwhile, Malau (2021) emphasized that the issue of gender injustice is still the main obstacle in the implementation of development, even though it has been guaranteed by law. Prasetyawati (2022) added that the implementation of national development in Indonesia has led to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but the aspect of gender equality has not been fully achieved at the local level.

Conceptual Framework

Based on theoretical studies and previous research, it can be concluded that the role of village governments in gender-based community empowerment rests on the government's ability to create participatory and gender-responsive policies. Village governments function as facilitators and catalysts for communities, especially in overcoming gaps in women's access and participation. By applying the principles of Harvard's gender analysis, it is hoped that village development can be more inclusive, fair, and sustainable.

II. Research Methods

Approaches and Types of Research

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach, which aims to understand social phenomena in depth through the collection of data in the form of relevant words, actions, and documents. The qualitative approach allows researchers to gain a contextual understanding of the role of village governments in gender-based community empowerment. According to Moleong (2002), qualitative research is a scientific process that produces descriptive data in the form of speech or writing from people and observed behaviors, with researchers as the main instrument.

This approach was chosen because it is in accordance with the purpose of the research, which is to describe and analyze how the village government carries out its functions and policies in community empowerment, especially from a gender perspective. The descriptive approach also allows researchers to describe social conditions factually without manipulating the variables being studied.

Research Location and Time

The research was conducted in Curuglanglang Village, Munjul District, Pandeglang Regency, Banten Province. This location was chosen purposively because the village shows interesting social dynamics related to women's involvement in development activities and community empowerment programs. The Curuglanglang village government has several programs based on citizen participation, such as PKK activities, farmer women's groups, and women entrepreneurs, but women's participation is still relatively low.

The research was carried out for three months, from May to August 2023, including field observation, interviews, documentation, and data analysis.

Data Sources and Types

The data sources in this study consist of primary data and secondary data.

- Primary data was obtained directly from informants through in-depth interviews and observations in the field. This data includes the views, experiences, and perceptions of village government officials and the community towards the implementation of gender-based empowerment programs.
- Secondary data was obtained from various written documents such as village profiles, reports on village government activities, academic literature, and the results of previous research relevant to the research theme.

These two types of data complement each other to provide a comprehensive picture of the social and administrative context of the village.

Research Informant

The determination of informants is carried out by *purposive sampling technique*, which is the selection of research subjects based on certain considerations that are considered to be the most knowledgeable and directly involved in the phenomenon being studied (Sugiyono, 2014). The informants in this study consisted of nine people representing elements of the village government and the community, including: Village Heads, Community Empowerment Institutions (LPM), PKK Chairmen, Posyandu Cadres, members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD), women entrepreneurs, and representatives of Farmer Women Groups.

The selection of these informants takes into account the diversity of their roles and experiences in the implementation of village development activities, especially those related to empowerment and gender equality.

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection technique was carried out by three main methods, namely in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation.

- In-depth interviews were used to obtain comprehensive information from informants regarding their experiences and views on the role of village governments in gender-based empowerment. Interviews are conducted in a semi-structured manner so that researchers can explore data flexibly but remain focused on the research focus.
- Observations were carried out to directly observe the activities of the community and village officials in the implementation of empowerment programs. Through observation, researchers can understand the patterns of social interaction and women's involvement in village activities.
- Documentation is used to obtain secondary data in the form of archives, activity reports, photographs, and official documents of the village government that support the results of observations and interviews.

These three techniques complement each other to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the data obtained.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis in this study was carried out interactively and took place continuously from the beginning to the end of the research. The analysis process refers to the model of Miles and Huberman (1994) which includes three main stages:

- Data Reduction, which is the process of selecting, simplifying, and organizing raw data into a more focused form according to the research objectives.
- Data Presentation, which is the preparation of information that has been reduced in the form of narratives, tables, or matrix to make it easier to understand.
- Conclusion Drawing and Verification, which is the process of interpreting the meaning of the data that has been presented to produce valid findings.

Analysis is carried out simultaneously between data collection and interpretation to ensure the connection between the empirical data and the theoretical concepts used.

Data Validity Test

To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses source and method triangulation techniques. Source triangulation was carried out by comparing information from various informants, while method triangulation was carried out by combining the results of interviews, observations, and documentation. According to Moleong (2007), triangulation aims to test the credibility of data by utilizing something outside of data as a comparison or reinforcement of findings.

In addition, the researcher also implements a member checking process, which is reconfirming the results of interviews to informants to ensure the correctness and suitability of the data. This step is important to reduce researcher bias and increase the validity of research results.

Research Limitations

The limitation in this study lies in the possibility of the subjectivity of the researcher in interpreting the data, considering that qualitative research is highly dependent on the interpretive ability of the researcher. To minimize bias, the researcher conducts detailed field recordings and discusses the findings with academic advisors. In addition, the limited research time is also a challenge in reaching more informants, but this is

overcome by the selection of informants who are representative of various elements of the village community.

With this methodology, the research is expected to be able to provide an in-depth picture of how the Curuglanglang village government plays a role in realizing gender-based community empowerment and identifies obstacles and opportunities that can be used as the basis for the development of more inclusive village development policies.

III. Results and Discussion

Overview of Curuglanglang Village

Curuglanglang Village is one of nine villages in Munjul District, Pandeglang Regency, Banten Province. Geographically, this village is located in the southern region with an area of about 1,113 hectares, consisting of eight Rukun Warga (RW) and nineteen Rukun Tetangga (RT). Based on 2022 data, the population of Curuglanglang Village reached 2,708 people, consisting of 1,440 men and 1,268 women. Most of the population works in the agricultural sector as farmers and farm laborers, while a small percentage are engaged in the small and service sectors.

The social condition of the village community is dominated by a traditional lifestyle with strong mutual cooperation and kinship values. However, women's participation in public and development activities is still relatively low. This is a challenge for the village government to optimize the potential of women in the community empowerment process.

The Role of Village Governments in Gender-Based Empowerment

The results of the study show that the Curuglanglang village government has tried to implement various community empowerment programs involving women's participation, although the implementation has not been maximized. Village heads and their apparatus act as facilitators in activities that support community capacity building, such as skills training, health programs, and socio-economic activities involving women's groups, including PKK, Posyandu, and Women Farmers Group (KWT).

Within the framework of the Harvard Model Gender Analysis, the role of village governments can be analyzed through four main indicators, namely access, participation, control, and benefits (APKM).

- **Access** – The village government has been trying to provide opportunities for women to access various empowerment programs. However, gaps are still found in terms of available information and facilities. Many women have not had equal access to training or capital assistance due to time constraints, domestic responsibilities, and a lack of information delivered directly to them.
- **Participation** – Women's involvement in village development activities is generally still limited to social and religious activities. Participation in village deliberations (Musrenbangdes) and development planning is relatively low, as most women consider development affairs to be the responsibility of men. This condition reflects the still strong patriarchal culture that places women in the domestic realm.
- **Control** – Women have a minimal role in the decision-making process at the village level. Although there are female representatives in the PKK and posyandu cadres, their voices often do not have an effect on the village government's strategic decisions. The factor of education and the courage to express opinions are the main obstacles in gaining control over development policies.
- **Benefits** – The empowerment program that has been implemented provides economic benefits for some women, especially through the activities of domestic entrepreneurs and women's farmer groups. However, the social and political benefits of this empowerment have not been fully felt, as women have not yet gained an equal position in village leadership and decision-making structures.

Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Empowerment

Some of the factors that support the implementation of the gender-based empowerment program in Curuglanglang Village include: (1) the commitment of the village head to encourage women's participation in development, (2) the support of community organizations such as PKK and Posyandu which are forums for social learning, and (3) the spirit of mutual cooperation and solidarity among the community.

However, there are also a number of inhibiting factors that hinder the optimization of women's empowerment, such as:

- Women's limited education and skills, which make it difficult for them to compete and adapt to development innovations.
- The lack of socialization and training with a gender perspective provided by the village government means that the understanding of gender equality among the community is still low.
- The patriarchal culture is still strong, placing women as complements in social life, not as the main actors of development.
- The lack of a dedicated budget allocation for women's empowerment programs, which leads to incidental and unsustainable activities.

Analysis of Findings Based on Harvard Theory

The findings of this study show that the role of the Curuglanglang village government in gender-based community empowerment is still normative and has not fully integrated the principle of gender mainstreaming. Based on the theory of the Harvard Analytical Framework, this condition is caused by the lack of a clear mapping of the division of roles and needs between men and women.

The village government still focuses on administrative activities without conducting an in-depth analysis of the gender gap that occurs. As a result, although women are involved in social activities, they do not yet have equal access to economic resources and opportunities to participate in public decision-making.

The results of this study corroborate the findings of Waston Malau (2021) that gender inequality in development is still caused by weak gender mainstreaming in village policies. In fact, gender equality is one of the main targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which demand equal participation between men and women in development.

Implications of Empowerment for Village Development

Women's empowerment is not only a matter of social justice, but also an important factor in accelerating village development. Empowered women will contribute to improving the family economy, strengthening social resilience, and creating an inclusive community environment. Village governments need to integrate the principles of gender equality in every stage of development planning and implementation through:

- Preparation of skills training programs relevant to the needs of village women;
- Increasing special budget allocation for women's empowerment activities;
- Increasing the capacity of village apparatus through gender mainstreaming training; and
- Increasing women's representation in village government institutions.

With these measures, gender-based community empowerment can directly contribute to improving the quality of human resources in villages, while encouraging the creation of more inclusive, equitable, and participatory village governance.

Overall, the results of this study confirm that although the efforts of the Curuglanglang village government in community empowerment have been running, its implementation still requires strengthening policy aspects, apparatus capacity, and community awareness of the importance of gender equality. With increased

coordination, policy support, and equality-based education, women in Curuglanglang Village have great potential to become the driving force for sustainable village development.

IV. Conclusions and Suggestions

Conclusion

This study shows that the role of village governments in gender-based community empowerment in Curuglanglang Village, Munjul District, Pandeglang Regency is still not optimal, although there have been a number of programs directed to involve women in development. The village government functions as a facilitator in the implementation of empowerment activities such as skills training, PKK activities, Posyandu, and farmer women's groups. However, women's involvement in the development planning and decision-making process is still very limited.

Based on the analysis using the Harvard Gender Analysis Model, it is known that women's access, participation, control, and benefits to development activities have not been balanced with men. Women's access to development information and resources is still low, their participation tends to be symbolic, control over policies is still dominated by men, and the benefits of development have not been fully felt equally by women.

Factors that affect these conditions include: low level of education and public awareness of gender equality issues, strong patriarchal culture, lack of training for village officials on gender mainstreaming, and limited allocation of funds for women's empowerment programs. However, there are positive opportunities in the form of village government commitments and the support of community groups such as PKK and KWT which can be the foundation for strengthening gender-based empowerment in the future.

In general, this study emphasizes that gender-based community empowerment should be seen as an integral part of sustainable village development. Improving gender equality will strengthen the socio-economic capacity of communities, accelerate the achievement of village development goals, and create inclusive and equitable governance.

Suggestions

- 1) For Village Governments, it is recommended to strengthen gender-oriented policies and programs of mainstreaming, by providing special budget allocations and expanding women's access to education, training, and productive economic activities.
- 2) For Village Apparatus and Community Institutions, it is important to increase capacity and understanding of gender equality through continuous training and socialization, in order to change the mindset of the community that is still patriarchal.
- 3) For Village Communities, it is hoped that they can be more active in supporting women's participation, especially by providing space for women to play a role in public decision-making.
- 4) For the next researcher, this research can be developed by expanding the object of study to several other villages in the Pandeglang area or with a quantitative approach to measure the level of effectiveness of gender-based empowerment programs more comprehensively.

With the implementation of policies and joint commitments between the government and the community, gender-based empowerment in villages can be realized as an important part of just, inclusive, and sustainable development.

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