Neighborhood Program in Community Empowerment and Infrastructure Development

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ABSTRACT

This article describes and analyzes the implementation obstacles to the RT Keren policy in community empowerment and infrastructure development in the Sentul Village. The research location was conducted in Sentul Village, Blitar City, East Java Province. There are two sorts of data sources: primary and secondary. Primary data was obtained from the Urban village head, Urban village secretary, and technical executor of development affairs at the RT/RW (Neighbourhood/Hamlet) level. Secondary data consists of data that has been transformed into documents, reports, and other formats. Data analysis consisted of multiple steps, including data collection, reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing or verification. The research results found if The implementation of the Keren RT Program has been running in accordance with Blitar Mayor Regulation Number 6 of 2022. This implementation consists of 4 stages: planning, preparation, implementation, and supervision. From these 4 stages, it can be seen if the community's response is outstanding, the implementation of the program has used the principles of transparency, participation, accountability, sustainability, order, benefit, and obedience, and finally, the RT Keren Program Implementer has understood the procedures and provisions for implementation. The program starts from planning to monitoring correctly.

Key Words: Community Empowerment, Infrastructure, Neighborhood.

1. INTRODUCTION

Implementation is the process, or implementation stage, to achieve the goals set in the policy decision. According to Nugroho R (2009), the implementation management model describes the implementation or implementation of policies in the context of management within the organizing-leading-controlling framework. When the policy has been made, the next task is to organize, exercise leadership to lead implementation, and control the implementation. The management of policy implementation can be arranged through the implementation of strategy, organizing, actuating, leading, and controlling. Good policy implementation is the implementation that encourages the creation of good infrastructure growth. Infrastructure is one of the most significant aspects of efforts to promote the growth of natural and human resources. Regular infrastructure improvement will encourage a region's economic growth to become stronger. Community empowerment is an endeavor to enhance the dignity of segments of society who cannot escape poverty and underdevelopment. To put it another way, empowerment enables and empowers the community. Community empowerment can also be realized by applying the basic principles of community assistance: learning from the community, assistants as facilitators, communities as actors, learning from each other, and sharing experiences (Karsidi, 2002).

In the contemporary administration era, regional development is one of the primary priorities of national development. With the lowest socio-economic, political, and governmental power base, Urban village still requires greater attention from the central government. As the saying goes, "The strength of the chain lies in the weakest link in the chain," meaning that regional strength lies in the smallest area in an area. Administratively, the Urban village/Village area is the smallest area of an area and if you want to take a deeper picture, it is broken down into the RT(Neighbourhood) area. Proper and particular rules must be enacted so that the Urban village/village area can develop evenly and consistently so that there are no disparities in development between the Urban village/village. Gradually the Urban village/village can develop better. In the context of nation-building, development is a sequence of endeavors to accomplish growth and change in a planned and deliberate manner. Development is a country's pursuit of modernity (Siagian, 2008).Urban village is the working area of the Headman which is a sub-district apparatus to assist or carry out some of the tasks of the Head of the Sub-District (Blitar Mayor Regulation Number 77 of 2016). From the definition above, the Urban village area is part of the sub-district area and, in this case, is hierarchically under the sub-district. Urban village

apparatus is also called the sub-district apparatus and the Headman is responsible to the Head of the Kesubdistrict headan. The Urban village is different from the village because the Urban village does not have autonomy. In the view of the Headman administration, it cannot make policies contained in a regulation.

The inside development region not only carries out physical development programs but must also be engaged in non-physical or social development (Effendi, 2002). Therefore, development should have a balance between physical development and non-physical development. What happens is part of non-physical or social development, namely human, economic, health, and education development. The program's implementation is directed at empowering the local village community to increase economic income for their socio-economic and environmental conditions in an independent and sustainable manner (Suhartini, 2005).

Communities have the opportunity in village/Urban village development through the mechanism of deliberation and participation in the process of making village/headman regulations. Balance Isra says that in the modern political system, participation is a space for the community to negotiate in formulating policies, especially those directly impacting people's lives. Community involvement is indispensable in village/Urban village development. Because the development process is not only limited to building the necessary infrastructure and facilities, but the development process requires a long time and many sacrifices and is related to many parties in society. The guarantee of community participation is quite flexible in determining things that are very strategic for village/Urban village development. It has been proven that Musrenbang (Development Planning Meeting) is held from the RT level to the City/Regency government level every year. In the Musrenbang, the community can be active and participatory in proposing development plans in their area. Everyone can determine the list of development priorities for each year.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Public policy

The term public policy in the current era is often used to describe government actions or activities, often interpreted as political actions. The word policy comes from the word wise, which means always using an intelligent mind or proficient. At the same time, policy means intelligence, skill, wisdom in carrying out a job, leadership, and how to act. This is to the concept of policy from Friedrich (2001:3), which defines policy as a series of actions proposed by a person, group, or government in a specific environment by showing obstacles and opportunities related to the implementation of policy proposals to achieve the planned goals. Therefore, public policy contains a minimum of three components. The foundation consists of well-defined, specified goals and the means to attain them. The third component is typically not described in detail, and bureaucracy has a role in translating it into action programs and projects.

Among the experts, there are still differences in understanding regarding public policy. From various opinions regarding public policy, there are still some similarities. Edward III (2001: 19) defines public policy as what the government states and does or does not do; public policy takes the form of the goals or purposes of government activities. From this opinion, public policies are carried out by the government to overcome current problems the community faces to find a way out, either through government regulations, regional regulations, or decisions of bureaucratic officials.

2.2 Public Policy Implementation

Implementation of public policy is a vital aspect of the public policy process. Public policy programs will only become the subject of discussion if they are not implemented. According to Wahab (2002: 65), the execution of public policy refers to the acts made by government employees, either individually or in groups, to achieve the policy's stated objectives. In addition, Wahab (2002:70) also underlined that policy implementation is an integral part of the policymaking process. Consequently, it is not an exaggeration to argue that policy implementation is the key to attaining the goals established during the policy's initial identification process. This agrees with Udoji (2002: 73), who says that "the execution of policies is as important if not more important than policymaking. Policies will remain dreams or blueprint file jackets unless implemented".

Another view on policy implementation put forward by Mazmanian and Sabatier (1986:21) learn that the problem of policy implementation entails attempting to comprehend what occurred after a program was adopted or established, specifically the events and actions that occurred following the process of ratifying state policies, as well as the efforts to administer them. This perspective demonstrates that the implementation process involves not only the behavior of the administrative bodies tasked with implementing the program and achieving the established objectives but also the political, economic, and social circles of power. According to the opinions of some of the experts mentioned above, policy implementation is a continuation of a program or policy.

2.3 Community empowerment

Empowerment comes from English; power is defined as power or strength. Pranarka and Vidhyandika (1996:56) describe empowerment as making a just and civilized human environment more successful in family life, community, state, regional, and international politics, the economy, etc. In addition, according to Paul (1987), empowerment entails the equitable distribution of power to strengthen the political consciousness and influence of weak groups over development processes and outcomes. While Hulme and Turner (1990: 214-215) say that empowerment fosters a process of social transformation that enables powerless and marginalized individuals to exert more significant influence in the political arena on a local and national level, this is not the case. Thus, empowerment is both individual and communal.

Moreover, empowerment is a process that involves a shift in the power dynamics between individuals, organizations, and institutions. In addition, according to Paul (1987), empowerment entails the equitable distribution of power to strengthen the political consciousness and influence of weak groups over development processes and outcomes. According to Robert Dahl (1983:50), empowerment entails conferring the ability to exert influence or control. People have the right to make social decisions affecting their societies, both as individuals and as groups. Hulme and Turner (1990:214-215) contend that empowerment promotes a process of social development that enables powerless, marginalized people to exert more significant influence in the political arena on a local and national level. Thus, empowerment is both individual and communal.

According to Talcot Parsons (in Prijono, 1996:64-65), power is circulation in the subsystems of society. In contrast, power in empowerment is power, so empowerment is meant as the power that comes from below. This empowerment has a two-way goal, namely releasing the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment and strengthening the position of the layers of society in the power structure. Both must be pursued and become the target of empowerment efforts. So it is necessary to develop a community empowerment approach in community development. Empowerment is easier to explain when humans are in a state of powerlessness (both in actual situations or just feelings), helpless, unable to help themselves, and lose the ability to control their own lives (Prijono, 1996:54

Another journal related to community empowerment was carried out by Bambang Kuncoro (2020) in his research entitled Community Empowerment in Tourism Village Development. This study focuses on enabling rural tourism communities to create employment opportunities, particularly for the younger generation and local autonomy. There is a need for community empowerment in the areas of program development, counseling, training, mentoring, and partnerships supported by various stakeholders. In this study, it was determined that community empowerment is a crucial implementation of participatory development, particularly in developing tourist villages to create employment opportunities, particularly for the younger generation, and village autonomy to combat poverty, unemployment, and urbanization.

3. LITERATURE SURVEY

Table 2.1. Previous Research Table

Researcher	Research Title	Research focus
Place et al. (2017)	Implementation of Village Fund Allocation (ADD) Policy in Development in Tengku Dancing Village, Tana Lia District, Tana Tidung Regency	research conducted by researchers focuses on implementing policies in village infrastructure development
Rohmah et al. (2016)	Utilization of Village Fund Allocations in Improving Infrastructure Development in Bektiharjo Village, Semanding District, Tuban Regency.	The focus of the research to be carried out is to utilize Village Fund Allocations in improving infrastructure development must refer to 7 (seven) principles of village fund management.
Listiyawati (2017)	Implementing the Village Fund Allocation Policy in Sioyong Village, Dampleas District, Donggala Regency.	Listiwaty's research examines the implementation of village fund allocation policies for government financing and infrastructure development.

Ramly et al. (2017)	Implementing Village Fund Policy in Managing and Increasing Village Potential (Case Study of Kuala District, Nagan Raya Regency).	Ramly's research focused on using village funds to develop village/village potential.
Muhammad Shafar (2014)	Community empowerment in development (Study of Implementing Community-Based Rural Development Policy).	The focus of this research is to identify the process of community empowerment in participatory rural development.
Bambang Kuncoro (2020)	Community Empowerment in Tourism Village Development.	This research focuses on the importance of empowering rural tourism communities to open up jobs, especially for the younger generation and village independence.

Based on Table 2.1 related to previous research, there are differences in the focus study conducted by researchers. Previous research has focused on implementing village funds for development infrastructure only or community empowerment only. Whereas in this study, the researchers focused on community empowerment and infrastructure development starting from planning, budgeting, implementing, monitoring, accountability monitoring, and evaluation.

4. RESEARCH METHODS

4.1 Research sites

This research was conducted in Sentul Village, Blitar City, East Java Province because the RT Keren program was implemented in Blitar City with renewed similar programs that have yet to be fully realized. The RT Keren program is the city government's flagship program for 2020 - 2024.

4.2 Research Informants

Informants are people who are used to providing specific information about situations and conditions in research (Moleong, 2010). The function of the informant is to be able to provide information regarding the situation and conditions regarding the background of the research being conducted. Informants are obtained by finding people who know the research object being studied by researchers. Informants in this study consisted of the Heads of Community Associations and Neighborhood Associations, Community Groups Implementing the RT Keren Program, Assistance, the Head of the Village Empowerment and Development Section, and the Village Expenditure Treasurer.

4.3 Data source

Data sources consist of two types, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is obtained directly from the source or informant in the form of words and actions of the people observed or interviewed. The selection of informants to obtain primary data was purposively based on subjects who mastered the problem, had relevant data, and were willing to provide it. In this research, the informants who will be the primary data sources are the heads of sub-districts, village secretaries, and technical implementers of development affairs at the RT/RW level. While secondary data is data that comes from data that has been processed in the form of documents, reports, and other forms. Documents that researchers can use as secondary data sources are the Blitar City Budget, Local government work/development plan.

4.4 Data analysis technique

This study uses the Analysis Interactive Model by Miles and Huberman for data analysis. It splits the phases of data analysis operations into multiple parts, including data collection by collecting information through interviews, observation findings, and various documents based on problem-specific categorization. The research is subsequently refined by doing additional data

searches. Data reduction (data reduction) is presenting data in the form of systematic narratives that academics have edited to clarify the meaning. This data presentation includes supporting elements such as procedures, schemes, graphs, and tables. Moreover, finally, by forming conclusions or doing verification.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 RT Program Implementation

The mechanism for implementing its activities consists of four stages: first planning stage, where, based on the interviews and observations of researchers, all RW heads have understood the planning mechanism starting from the RT level to the City Government level. RT Keren activity planning is carried out in stages, from the RT to the City Government. At each level, the stages carried out fulfill the principle of transparency. Furthermore, in selecting the priority scale for the RT Keren program, it is only based on budget sufficiency. The reason is that each RT still prioritizes needs whose utilization is still on the RT scale and has yet to consider needs utilized on a cross-scale scale.

Furthermore, at the preparatory stage, the Cool RT Program implementation has been carried out with orderly principles. This preparatory stage was carried out on time. The principle of obedience has also been carried out with all preparations referring to the Blitar Mayor Regulation No. 6 of 2022. From the results of observations and interviews with all Community groups, in terms of making Community groups planning documents, they did not make their own. However, they asked for help from colleagues, consultant services, or someone with expertise in planning because the Community groups only have expertise in project implementation but need to be more capable of making design drawings using application software on a computer. The city-level coordination team only allows building drawings to be made manually but must use computer software. Not all Community groups have expertise in this field. Of course, you have to ask for help from other parties in making it. So, like it or not, the Community groups have to set aside a portion of the budget for wages for making planning documents.

According to the researcher, this kind of practice is wrong because, according to the rules, Community groups are not allowed to transfer work to other parties. This needs to be minimized because the budget needs to be clarified. So Community groups must arrange a budget to pay planning staff. A regulated budget means diverting it to something other than one intended. Of course, some expenditure items are reduced or can even reduce the technical specifications of the building.

In the third stage, namely, the implementation monthly progress report, which contains the physical work achievements and financial realization achievements in one month, physical and financial realization reports contain the physical work achievements and financial realization achievements up to the last. Another result of this implementation stage is that Community groups implementing self-management are prohibited from transferring their main work to other parties, commitment making official through payment for the implementation of self-management in accordance with the agreement contained in the self-management contract in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, and provisions regarding payment before work performance are carried out in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations. physical and financial realization reports contain the work's physical achievements and financial realization achievements up to the last. Another result of this implementation stage is that Community groups implementing self-management are prohibited from transferring their main work to other parties, commitment making official through payment for the implementation of self-management in accordance with the agreement contained in the self-management contract in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, and the provisions of laws and regulations carry out provisions regarding payment before work performance. physical and financial realization reports contain the work's physical achievements and financial realization achievements up to the last. Another result of this implementation stage is that Community groups implementing self-management are prohibited from transferring their main work to other parties, commitment making official through payment for the implementation of self-management in accordance with the agreement contained in the self-management contract in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, and provisions regarding payment before work performance are carried out in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations.

At the implementation stage of the RT Keren Program, the participatory principle is obvious. It was proven that all implementing workers were taken from residents around the work location. In this case, the implementation refers to a labor-intensive system. The community also responded positively to the RT Keren program. This is the direct concern of the local government by providing budget certainty and direct community involvement in planning and implementation. Many residents support the implementation of this program with various kinds of support, for example, helping to prepare food and drinks for workers' consumption. Some residents are willing to donate part of their land to widen the road to support the implementation of this program.

The last stage in the implementation of the Keren RT Program is the supervision stage, where supervision of the Keren RT program is carried out by a supervisory team formed by Community groups members themselves. Assistants also accompany the supervision of activities. From the observations of researchers in the field, the Supervisory team conducted a job evaluation. Suppose deviations are found in the evaluation results. In that case, the monitoring team reports and provides recommendations to

community group leaders and commitment making official the preparatory team, or the implementation team to take corrective action immediately. Based on the results of the researchers' observations during the work implementation in 2022, the supervisory team did not find any irregularities, which required the monitoring team to make recommendations to Community groups and commitment making official leaders to take corrective action.

5.2 Supporting and Inhibiting Factors for Implementing the RT Keren Program

From the results of observations and interviews as well as document collection, the researchers found that the Supporting Factors for the Implementation of the RT Keren Program include the delivery of good information in the form of socialization that is routinely carried out by the village, both during the Musrenbang and during the preparation of the Activity Plan, clarity of information from policy makers to policy implementers are running well, consistency (consistency) in the delivery of information or orders, there is no conflicting information or orders, the ability of implementers to empower the community in implementing policies, the formation of organizational structures implementing policies, functional arrangements arranged based on rules and regulations valid and legalized through SK,there is action or taking concrete steps to use the RT Keren Program funds for infrastructure development and community empowerment that are guided by applicable rules and regulations, as well as high community participation in implementation.

In the inhibiting factor for implementing the RT Keren program, it can be seen that the ability of Community groups members in the field of planning, especially in the field of using design applications, is lacking. Operational standards that are less simple in implementing the RT Keren program, both in the preparation of implementing documents and in the preparation of accountability documents, considering that the executors of the work are community groups, not construction service providers (private), and human resources are still uneven.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the results of the research and discussing the Implementation of the Keren RT Program in community empowerment and infrastructure development in Sentul Village, Kepanjenkidul District, Blitar City, in 2022, it can be concluded that as a whole, the Implementation of the Keren RT Program in community empowerment and infrastructure development runs by Blitar Mayor Regulation Number 6 of 2022, the community's response is excellent, the implementation of programs that have used the principles of transparency, participatory, accountable, sustainable, orderly, useful and obedient., and finally, the Program Executor This RT Keren has understood the procedures and conditions for implementing the program from planning to monitoring properly.

6.2 Suggestion

After concluding the results of this study, the researchers' suggestions were then presented as a contribution to the research results for the implementation of the following program, namely suggestions for the development of science; Further research is expected to support the results of this research to provide benefits for the development of public administration science in the future. Suggestions for practical use; It is necessary to increase Human Resources, especially for Community groups members who need help to operate computers and prepare planning and accountability documents. Meanwhile, suggestions for policies are to achieve maximum program achievement. It is better if it is necessary to make Operational Work Standards more practical and easier to understand so that there is an understanding among program implementers.

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