

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT IN TARUMAJAYA DISTRICT, BEKASI REGENCY

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Informasi	Abstract
Volume : 3 Nomor : 1 Bulan : Januari Tahun : 2026 E-ISSN : 3062-9624	<p><i>Community participation in development plays a very important role in the implementation of every regional development program, whether in villages or sub-districts, where the community is one of the key elements in the implementation of development and also a key factor in supporting the success of development at the sub-district level. Community involvement not only increases the effectiveness of development program implementation, but also strengthens a sense of ownership and responsibility for the results of development. This study aims to determine the level of community participation in the development process in sub-districts. The research method used is a qualitative descriptive approach through observation, interviews, and documentation. This study shows that community participation is still lacking, with the main factors being the level of education, knowledge about development, indifference, and a lack of community initiative. Therefore, it is necessary to increase community participation so that the community is involved in every stage of development. This is expected to encourage the achievement of sustainable community welfare.</i></p>

Keyword: Community Participation, Bekasi Regency

Abstrak

Partisipasi masyarakat dalam pembangunan sangat berperan dalam pelaksanaan disetiap pembangunan daerah baik itu desa maupun di kecamatan, dimana masyarakat merupakan salah satu elemen penting dalam penyelenggaraan pembangunan dan juga faktor kunci dalam mendukung keberhasilan pembangunan di tingkat kecamatan. Keterlibatan masyarakat tidak hanya meningkatkan efektifitas pelaksanaan program pembangunan, tetapi juga memperkuat rasa memiliki dan tanggungjawab terhadap hasil pembangunan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tingkat partisipasi masyarakat dalam proses pembangunan di kecamatan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif melalui observasi, wawancara dan dokumentasi. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa partisipasi masyarakat masih kurang baik, faktor utamanya antara lain tingkat pendidikan, pengetahuan tentang pembangunan, sikap acuh dan kurangnya inisiatif masyarakat. Oleh karena itu, peningkatan mengenai partisipasi masyarakat sangat diperlukan agar masyarakat terlibat dalam setiap tahap pembangunan. Sehingga diharapkan mampu mendorong tercapainnya kesejahteraan masyarakat secara berkelanjutan.

Kata Kunci: Partisipasi Masyarakat, Kabupaten Bekasi

A. INTRODUCTION

Development planning is a crucial part of achieving a nation's goals, particularly in developing countries. Development planning encompasses a series of strategies to improve both economic and social well-being. According to Luthans (2017), the goal of development is to create a prosperous and equitable society for all Indonesians. Therefore, the core meaning of development is a deliberately planned and implemented activity aimed at achieving a better condition and state than before.

With community participation, development efforts will be more positive and better than before. Undertaking development requires numerous considerations, including conscious will and effort, sacrifice, and a time-consuming process. This requires collaborative efforts involving multiple parties.

Article 78 of Law No. 6 of 2014 explains that village development aims to improve the welfare of rural communities and the quality of life, as well as poverty alleviation through meeting basic needs, developing village facilities and infrastructure, developing local economic potential, and utilizing natural resources and the environment sustainably. Although the village is the lowest level of government within the government structure, the village government is the frontline, directly interacting with the community, and observing and understanding the conditions within it. One of the powers granted to villages is to provide space for community participation in the development of village development programs and budgets (Cahayati, 2019).

Based on the contents of this law, expectations arise from both the government and the community. These include prosperity, strong village government, and a quality of life for the community. With these expectations, a region must fulfill the government's commitment to development, human resource renewal, and other aspects (Chiniara & Bentein, 2016).

Public participation plays a crucial role in development that meets needs, so that it can improve the welfare and quality of life of the community. Public participation is part of the community empowerment process to meet needs or solve problems faced by the community based on an initial plan developed and mutually agreed upon in the form of a program (Soniawan et al., 2024). The success of a region's development is determined by the role of the government and community participation. The community can participate in every development activity, including planning, implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and utilization of development outcomes (Wulansari et al., 2017).

Public participation in a region can begin by attending Musrenbang (Development Planning Meeting) meetings, where the community can also submit their opinions regarding the regional development plan. In implementing the Musrenbang (Regional Development Planning Forum), good communication between the village government and the community is essential to achieve balance and clear objectives. However, in reality, community participation in development planning deliberations in Tarumajaya District is still lacking and suboptimal. This obstacle will undoubtedly impact development in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency.

Development in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency, is relatively lagging behind other districts in the same region. Several problems in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency, are related to road access that is not as good as other districts, and the environment and drainage that are not well organized. Road access is disrupted by industrial development projects, which greatly disrupts residents who access the road. However, the crucial problem that occurs in Tarumajaya District is related to environmental degradation, namely the threat to the mangrove ecosystem, which occurs due to the conversion of mangrove land into community ponds, this certainly has an impact on environmental damage. Other environmental problems that occur are issues of cleanliness and environmental management. In several sections of the district, piles of garbage are still visible and river flows are polluted by industrial waste, so this is certain to affect the quality of life of the community (Robbins & Judge, 2016). This phenomenon shows the great need for active participation from the community, especially young people. The government and the community must encourage a solid collaboration to encourage programs to improve the quality of life of the community. Therefore, the author is interested in examining more deeply the issue of community participation in development in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency.

Theory of Planned Behavior

The descriptive literature we presented in this research aligns with the Theory of Planned Behavior, which explains that community participation in development activities is inseparable from supporting factors, namely a positive attitude toward government programs. This theory also states that the emergence of community participation is inseparable from strong social norms. People believe that participating in development is crucial and can contribute to overall economic growth (Ajchen et al., 1977).

Furthermore, the link between the SDGs and community participation in development is also based on self-awareness, or what the SDGs refer to as perceived social control. When someone has a high level of perceived social control, they are more likely to participate

voluntarily. Therefore, the supporting dimensions of the SDGs are closely related to community participation in development. The greater the community's participation, the more successful and advanced a region's development will be.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

Our current research is qualitative in nature. We attempt to draw a detailed picture of the factors driving changes in community participation in Tarumajaya Village, Bekasi Regency. The information and data used in this research are sourced from interviews conducted with village officials and several residents. The data used is primary, meaning data directly collected and processed by the researcher (Hair et al., 2019)a. Furthermore, the researcher ensures that the data and information obtained in this research have not been previously published by other parties.

The interviews were conducted informally and unstructured. Several questions were asked of respondents regarding the forms of active participation undertaken by residents, particularly young people, including factors that motivate them to participate. The data analysis method used is descriptive. In this research, the researcher attempts to provide a logical narrative based on the interview results. Furthermore, the findings will be strengthened by elaboration of relevant theories (Sekaran & Bougie, 2017).

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Community participation is crucial in all aspects of development. The higher the community participation in development, the more optimal the results will be. This study uses Cohen and Hoff's theory in Gonzales-Bustos et al., (2020) with four participation variables: participation in decision-making, participation in implementation, participation in benefit sharing, and participation in evaluation. Based on interviews conducted with several community leaders and youth in Tarumajaya Village, Bekasi Regency, it was identified that community participation can be grouped into four types of participation, namely:

Community Participation in Decision-Making

According to Yadav in James et al., (2015), in general, every development program (including the utilization of local resources and budget allocation) is always determined by the central government, which in many cases reflects the needs of small, elite groups in power and less so the desires and needs of the wider community. Therefore, community participation in development needs to be fostered by establishing forums that allow the wider

community to participate directly in the decision-making process. The community participates by providing suggestions, advice, and criticism through meetings.

Research results indicate that the level of community participation in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency, is still inadequate. Although there is a significant presence in the development planning deliberations (Musrenbang), some residents demonstrate a passive attitude during the development planning deliberations (Musrenbang). This opportunity should be a forum for conveying community aspirations and needs. Due to this inactivity, the results of development planning tend to be less reflective of the needs of the wider community. The lack of community participation in providing ideas can be caused by several factors, namely a lack of community understanding regarding musrenbang, a feeling of indifference because they feel their ideas/thoughts will not be implemented, and a feeling of reluctance due to a lack of skills in expressing opinions.



Figure 1 Implementation of the Tarumajaya District Musrenbang

Figure 1 shows that residents of Tarumajaya village voluntarily participate in a number of meetings held by village officials. They indirectly monitor policies adopted by the village government. They actively provide opinions and suggestions for the advancement of Tarumajaya village in Bekasi Regency.

Participation in Implementation

According to survey results, the second form of community participation is participation in activities to plan the village development process. Community participation in development implementation can take the form of monetary donations, labor donations, or material donations (Hidayah, 2024). Community participation in monetary donations tends to be low.

This is because the development process already has a designated budget, and the community is aware of this. Community participation in labor donations is quite good. Although some villages in Tarumajaya District rarely volunteer their labor, many villages consistently engage in mutual cooperation (gotong royong) in development within their area. This participation in implementation is related to the community's active participation in various meetings to formulate development policies in Tarumajaya Village, Bekasi Regency. The community is also given the opportunity to submit suggestions and opinions, thereby providing solutions to various problems that arise, particularly within the village.

Participation in Benefit Sharing

Community participation in utilizing development projects is quite good, such as road construction, road repair, multipurpose buildings, integrated health posts (Posyandu), fields, libraries, and others. However, the lack of community involvement in planning impacts the maintenance of some existing developments. A low sense of ownership also affects the level of community participation in the care and maintenance of constructed facilities. Without a sense of engagement, communities may not feel responsible for maintaining the continuity and quality of these facilities. This can lead to damage or misuse of facilities, ultimately reducing the benefits of the development itself (Octaningrum et al., 2025). Therefore, involving communities in planning is crucial to increase their commitment to maintaining development outcomes.

Participation in Evaluation

Evaluation plays a crucial role in any development process. The purpose of program assessment is to ensure that all stakeholders involved in program implementation feel accountable for the success of the program (Latupeirissa, 2023). However, community participation in providing feedback in Tarumajaya District remains inadequate. Communities only receive development results and rarely offer criticism or suggestions.

Based on the above description, it can be concluded that community participation in development planning is a source of innovation and creativity. The success of any development is largely determined by active community involvement, which includes contributing ideas, implementing plans, monitoring progress, and evaluating results. Therefore, the success of program planning depends on the active involvement of every individual in the community (Latupeirissa, 2023).

According to Kaehe et al., 2019, cited in Octaningrum (2025), each individual in a community has a unique perspective on what is best for their environment, and this

participation opens up opportunities to explore more innovative and effective solutions. In this way, communities not only act as beneficiaries but also as drivers of change, encouraging more progressive development. Conversely, without community participation, this potential for innovation is lost, and development becomes less responsive to changing needs. Without community input, development tends to stagnate, relying on ideas that may be outdated or irrelevant to current conditions. Therefore, community participation is crucial in development, ensuring that it is not only efficient but also sustainable.

Factors Barriers to Community Participation

According to our survey results, we found several factors that reduce community involvement in village development. These factors include the low level of education among village residents, a lack of community awareness of the community development planning (Masrenbang) activities in Tarumajaya Village, Bekasi Regency, and a lack of community initiative to actively participate in village development.

The low level of education among residents of Tarumajaya District results in a lack of public awareness about the importance of community participation in development planning, such as contributing ideas and thoughts, criticism, and suggestions. People with low educational levels tend to be less active and lack confidence in expressing their opinions. A second factor contributing to low community participation is a lack of interest in the Musrenbang activities, where many residents feel that the ideas and thoughts they express will not be used in development planning. Some of the people who participated in the Musrenbang were on average over 40 years old and often had difficulty understanding planning procedures, so many people chose to remain silent and simply accept the planning without expressing criticism. Meanwhile, the third factor that drives low community participation in the village is the lack of community initiative. The low community initiative in Tarumajaya sub-district can be seen from the lack of awareness and voluntary community initiative in maintaining development results.

DISCUSSION

According to the analysis of observations conducted with several trusted sources, it was found that community participation in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency, can be observed in four forms: participation in decision-making, participation in implementation, participation in benefit sharing, and participation in evaluation. From the perspective of participation in decision-making, a group of community members participated in the formulation of development policies in Tarumajaya District. These community members actively

participated in meetings and presented a number of ideas that reflected the interests of the wider community. The contributions of ideas, suggestions, and corrections made by community representatives are expected to encourage progress and equitable development in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency, both now and in the future.

Community participation in development in Tarumajaya District can also be seen from their participation in implementation. Communities who previously participated in the formulation of decision-making or policies also actively participate in the implementation of programs that have been mutually agreed upon. The programs followed are related to improving environmental quality, developing community potential for developing MSME-based businesses in order to equalize income and various other development programs. The third form of community participation in Tarumajaya District in development is participation in obtaining benefits, in this case the community who actively implements development programs, gets benefits from programs that are agreed upon and carried out together, the benefits felt in the form of equal income and community welfare in Tarumajaya Village, Bekasi Regency. Furthermore, the form of community participation in development is seen from participation in evaluation, namely community participation to provide an assessment of the success of the program that has been implemented, through evaluation it is hoped that a more appropriate policy will be born to improve development in Tarumajaya Village, Bekasi Regency in the future.

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D. CONCLUSION

In accordance with the description of the analysis of the results of observations that have been carried out on several trusted sources, it was found that the form of community participation in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency can be observed from four forms of participation, namely participation in decision making, participation in implementation, participation in taking benefits, and participation in evaluation. In accordance with the survey results, it was found that there were a number of factors that were inhibiting community participation in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency to participate in the development sector, namely the low quality of community education, the second factor being that most of the community was elderly, and the third factor was the lack of awareness among the younger generation to play an active role in village development in creating community welfare, especially in Tarumajaya District, Bekasi Regency.

Researchers are aware that the research that has been carried out currently still has limitations, namely related to the analysis model used which only uses descriptive analysis, therefore, future researchers are expected to use a mix method approach by first looking for an analysis of factors that influence community participation in development using the Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) concept to then be modeled with a more advanced statistical approach.

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