

UDC 334

**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES:
A CASE STUDY OF THE RECIPIENTS OF BUDGET AUTONOMOUS RURAL AID GROUP
FOR THE SOCIETY TOWARDS PROSPERITY IN OELETSALA VILLAGE TABENU SUB-
DISTRICT OF KUPANG DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out and describe; (1) Women's Participation in Productive Economic Enterprises in Oeletsala Village of Taebenu Sub-district, Kupang District; (2) Factors which affect Women's Participation in Productive Economic Enterprises in Oeletsala Village, Taebenu Sub-district, Kupang District. This study uses a qualitative approach (in-depth interview), especially in the case study approach. The focus of this research is women's participation in productive economic enterprises with the sub-focuses of the research are; (1) Forms of participation; (2) Factors which affect the participation. This research was conducted in Oeletsala Village, Taebenu Sub-district, Kupang District, East Nusa Tenggara Province. The forms of women's participation in productive economic enterprises in Oeletsala village, Taebenu Sub-district, Kupang District are; (1) Participation in Decision Making; (2) Participation in Implementation; (3) Participation in Benefit; and (4) Participation in Evaluation. In addition, factors which affect women's participation in productive economic enterprises in Oeletsala village, Taebenu Sub-district, Kupang District are internal and external factors.

KEY WORDS

Participation, women, productive economics, public service.

In the midst of the proliferation of empowerment and poverty alleviation programs in the rural areas, the government of East Nusa Tenggara Province also issues a program which is almost similar to the program provided by the central government named Autonomous Rural of Anggur Merah Village (Budget for Society towards Prosperity). This policy was implemented in 2011 with the funding support of Rp250 million for 287 villages in 287 sub-districts in the entire of East Nusa Tenggara Province accompanied by 287 facilitators. For the implementation of this program, DPA/DPPA BAPPEDA (Budget Implementation Document or Budget Changes Implementation Document of Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level) of East Nusa Tenggara Province has allocated a budget of Rp73,328,500,000,00 in goods and services spending, which is on the Autonomous Rural Program Implementation Spending of which the budget is a budget for providing business capital loans to the community through the village, then the community returns the business capital aid to the village. East Nusa Tenggara Province with a total of 2,995 villages, 318 wards and 306 sub-districts (Agency for Community Empowerment and Rural Development of East Nusa Tenggara Province data sources). The Autonomous Rural of Anggur Merah Program, which was implemented from 2011 to 2016, has reached aid receipts villages of 2,658 villages with a budget of Rp664,500,000,000,00 (Six Hundred and Sixty-Four Billion and Five Hundred Million Rupiah). This program was replicated by Kupang District government with an Autonomous Superior Rural Program with the amount of assistance of Rp250,000,000,00 (two hundred fifty million) per village. Kupang District has 160 villages and the number of villages receiving Autonomous Rural of Anggur Merah Fund was 153 in 2016 with a total budget of Rp 38,250,000,000,00.

Poverty and employment alleviation programs are very demanded programs today. These program are clearly not a light program but rather heavy programs, especially if there

is no support from all levels of society. The government needs to hold the community together to carry out the program. Women's participation in almost any momentum always experiences obstacles either from the community cultural factors, political factors and socio-cultural factors. This certainly becomes a problem since women become less involved in every stage of development from the development planning until its evaluation. The government willingness must be the same as the community willingness. Therefore, the success of the program implementation will be realized in the future. Kupang District which is the object of this research consists of 24 sub-districts, 160 villages, and 15 wards.

Among these 160 villages, each village certainly has different characteristics, patterns of empowerment as well as participation in the development and productive economic ventures. It is the same as Oeletsala Village in Taebenu District as part of the focus of this research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Keith Davis (2006) defines participation as the mental and emotional involvement of people in a group situation which encourage them to give a contribution to the group goals and are jointly responsible for those goals. Meanwhile, Ach. Wazir Ws (1999) argue that participation can be defined as a person's conscious involvement in a social interaction in a certain situation. Based on such understanding, a person can participate if he finds himself with or in a group, through various processes of sharing with others in terms of values, traditions, feelings, loyalty, obedience and shared responsibility.

According to Cohen and Uphoff (1977), community participation includes the form of Participation in Evaluation in which the community can supervise all government activities without exception. The methods used are direct or indirect through criticism, suggestion, protest, complaint, report and so on which later can be followed up. Meanwhile, Sherry Arnstein (1969) in her concept explains that "in the community participation based on the power of the community to determine a final product, each ladder is distinguished based on the extent of corresponding to the citizens' power in determining the plan and/or program". In general, there are three degrees of community participation in this model. They are (1) Non-Participation; (2) Degrees of Tokenism; (3) Degrees of Citizen Powers.

Types of participation have been raised by several opinions, such as by Cohen and Uphoff (1977) who suggest the types of participation including; (1) Participation in Decision Making which is the community participation in the process of organizational decisions and policy making ; (2) Participation in Implementation which is the community participation in the development operational activities based on the established program; (3) Participation in Benefit which is the community participation in enjoying or using the development results achieved in the implementation of the development; (4) Participation in Evaluation which is the community participation in the form of participation in assessing and supervising the development activities and their results.

In addition, Hamijoyo (2007) also argues that there are three types of community participation based on the terms of participation which are; (1) Social participation which is participation as a sign of the community. For example *arisan* (rotating savings and credit association), attending death, and others can also be a form of attention contribution or a sign of closeness in order to motivate others to participate; (2) Participation in the Decision-Making Process which is the community involvement in any discussion or forum in order to make decisions related to common interests; (3) Representative Participation is participation carried out by giving trust or mandate to the representative who is in the organization or committee.

In relation to the development process, Adisasmita in Solekhan (2014) states that "community participation is the community involvement in the development, including the activities in the planning and implementation of development programs/projects carried out in the local community." Meanwhile, the Law number 25 of 2004 (the explanation of article 2 paragraph 4 letter d) explains that community participation is the participation of the

community to accommodate their interests in the process of developing the development plans.

Empowerment is a transformation of the power relationship between men and women in four different levels. They are family, community, market, and country. The concept of empowerment can be defined in two contexts. First, power in the decision-making process with an emphasis on the importance of women's roles. Second, empowerment in terms related to the focus on the relationship between women's empowerment and its consequences on men in diverse communities (Zakiyah, 2010).

The effort to empower the community can be seen from three sides; First, creating a situation which enables the community potentials in developing communities. Second, empowering the community potential. Third, empowering which also means as protecting.

Protecting must be seen as an effort to prevent unbalanced competition and strong exploitation of the weak. Community empowerment does not make the community to be more dependent on various charity programs because basically everything enjoyed must be produced from its own effort (whose results can be exchanged to other parties, Sumodiningrat, 2002).

Women's position in the development should be placed as participant or subject of the development, not only as the objects as they have been. Reality shows that women's position is still an object of the development, because it is affected by several factors, including: first, the strong social and patriarchal culture which places men and women in different positions; second, there are still many laws, development policies and programs which are not gender sensitive; third, there is a lack of socialization of legal provisions which eliminate the discrimination against women as a whole; fourth, there is no gender awareness among planners and decision makers; fifth, the incomplete elaborated data which describes the position of women and men clearly in the field of development in all institutions; sixth, the awareness, willingness and consistency of women which are not maximal and; seventh, the lack of women's knowledge of the goals and direction of the development. Hence, women lack response, ignorance or indirectly reject the development programs (Fakih, 1996).

METHODS OF RESEARCH

This research uses a qualitative approach (in-depth interview), especially the approach of a case study. The focus of this research is women's participation in productive economic enterprises with the sub-focuses of research are; (1) Form of participation; (2) Factors affecting the participation. This research was conducted in Oeletsala Village, Taebenu Sub-district, Kupang District, East Nusa Tenggara Province. This research specifically determines the characteristics of informants by using purposive techniques (certain considerations). Data collection techniques are conducted through interview, documentation, and observation. Data analysis technique used is the technique proposed by Miles and Huberman (2007), which is a data validity testing technique using the triangulation technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Researchers use Cohen and Uphoff's theory which has four forms of participation. However, this research only uses three forms of participation.

Participation in Decision Making is the community participation in the organizational decision and policy-making process. Based on the results of the research, the opportunity for decision making has been given by the companion. However, in the reality, not all members utilize the opportunity. Only a few of them who participate in the decision making, including the group leader or members. The decision making conducted among others are related to the number of loan funds desired and the regulation of group funding. According to the results of the interview above, the researchers can interpret that the level of participation of female group members in the planning stage is still relatively low. The participation of group members is still passive. This can be seen from the fact that there are still many female

group members who only follow the meeting but are inactive in giving ideas or opinions. They just take the decision from the group leader.

Participation in Implementation is the community participation or involvement in the development of operational activities based on the established program. The research results found can be interpreted that there is a lack of coordination between BPMPD (Agency for Community Empowerment and Rural Development) and Bappeda (Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level) of the District regarding the distribution of funds. Thus, the participation is only seen in the monthly report. For the funding itself, BPMPD does not know the process because the village directly submitted the proposal to Bappeda of East Nusa Tenggara Province. It means that there is no good coordination between the Provincial Bappeda and the District Bappeda as well as the District BPMPD. Hence, this budget goes directly from the Provincial Bappeda to the aid recipient villages while the District Bappeda and BPMPD only know the group's development through monthly report.

Participation in Benefit is community participation in enjoying or using the results achieved in group activities. From the results of the research, it can be interpreted that high community participation is only seen in the process of realization of aid funds. However, participation is less visible for other stages. Members of the community only entrust the core administrators in the group.

Factors which affect the activeness of the community to participate in development planning are divided into two. They are internal factors (consist of age, education level, type of occupation, level of income of the community, and the length of stay) and external factor (communication).

Internal Factors:

1. Age. The result shows that the age gap of group members is not relatively far. Hence, it is easy for them to respect each other. There is no categorization of junior and senior in the group. Thus, they all can argue either in the form of input, suggestion or in determining a decision;
2. Education Level. The result of the research finds relatively similar level of education, none of them are more dominant. All are given the opportunity to express their opinion in the decision-making process for the group;
3. Type of Occupation. Since the occupation of Oeletsala Village community is in the agricultural sector, the result of the research concludes that the community who work in the agricultural sector has relatively higher participation than those who work in the entrepreneurial sector. The relatively low participation of people who work in the entrepreneurial sector is due to their work hours in their workplace. In the agricultural sector, the working hours are more flexible than the work schedule in the entrepreneurial sector. This result is in a low level of attendance in the community who work in the entrepreneurial sector because their work schedule collided with the time of group activities;
4. Level of Income. The result of the research shows that the level of income does not affect the community participation because people in the same income group are relatively the same. It means that the group members who have more income or who have lower income have an active involvement in the development, for example in terms of attending the village group evaluation meeting;
5. Length of Staying in Oeletsala Village. The result of the research shows that the community or group members in Oeletsala Village who are either recently living or have long lived in Oeletsala village have the same rights to participate in the community and group.

External Factor:

- Leadership. The result of the research finds that the leadership factor which affects the good communication can affect the active participation of the group members. Hence, the member os the group with a good level of communication have a tendency to have group participation activities. The result also shows that most people have low participation activities because of the low level of communication and vice versa. It means that intensive communication between fellow members of

the group between group members and group leaders as well as between the social system in the community and the outside system can increase the role and participation of the people in the group.

CONCLUSION

The forms of women's participation in productive economic enterprises in Oeletsala Village, Taebenu Sub-district, Kupang District are; (1) Participation in Decision Making which is the community participation in the organizational decision and policy-making process; (2) Participation in Implementation which is the community participation or involvement in the development operational activities; (3) Participation in Benefit which is the community participation in enjoying or using the results of development; (4) Participation in Evaluation which is the community participation in the form of participation in assessing and supervising development activities and their results.

Factors affecting women's participation in productive economic enterprises in Oeletsala Village, Taibenu Sub-district, Kupang District are internal and external factors. The internal Factors include age, gender, education, occupation and income as well as the length of staying, while the External Factor includes leadership.

SUGGESTIONS

The need for coordination between Provincial Bappeda, BPMPD and District Bappeda so that the distribution and utilization of funds can be monitored properly.

It is expected that the provincial government returns the budget to the Satker BPMPD (Work Unit of Agency for Community Empowerment and Rural Development) which is in charge of empowerment in accordance with the objectives of this program namely the community empowerment.

It is expected that the Provincial and District governments will continuously monitor and evaluate this program to ensure that the aid funds can be utilized properly.

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