

MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (Study on the Partnership between the Regional Government and the Community Empowerment Institution LPM Sriwijaya)

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ABSTRAK

Keberdayaan masyarakat dapat dipandang dari berbagai aspek, baik secara ekonomi, sosial, bahkan dari eksistensi masyarakat dalam proses pengambilan keputusan. Pemberdayaan kini tidak dapat hanya mengandalkan uluran tangan dari pemerintah saja, dinamika masyarakat yang terus terjadi membuat fungsi pemerintah pada sektor ini kerap terabaikan. Oleh karenanya, kolaborasi dari berbagai aktor sangat penting dalam pelaksanaan pemberdayaan masyarakat, salah satunya kolaborasi dengan lembaga non pemerintahan. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisa peran multi sektor khususnya NGO dan pemerintah Daerah dalam melakukan pemberdayaan terhadap masyarakat di Kabupaten Ogan Komering Ulu. Jenis penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitatif. Peneliti memperoleh data dengan tiga cara, yaitu melalui observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Pemerintah daerah telah menjalin kolaborasi dengan Lembaga Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (LPM) Sriwijaya untuk melaksanakan fungsi pemberdayaan masyarakat di kabupaten Ogan Komering Ulu. Hasilnya, pemerintah sangat terbantu dengan program yang dilakukan LPM Sriwijaya di beberapa desa dan kelurahan. Pada kolaborasi ini, pemerintah daerah menjalankan peran sebagai pengambil kebijakan dan memberikan pendanaan pada beberapa program yang dilakukan, sedangkan LPM Sriwijaya selaku organisasi non pemerintahan berperan sebagai aktor pelaksana yang mendampingi dan memberikan pengutan secara langsung di masyarakat Kabupaten Ogan Komering Ulu, program yang dilaksanakan melalui program pemberdayaan UMKM, pemberdayaan pemuda, dan pemberdayaan perempuan (ibu rumah tangga).

Kata Kunci : Kolaborasi Pemerintahan; LPM Sriwijaya; Pemberdayaan; NGO

ABSTRACT

Community empowerment can be seen from various aspects, both economically, socially, and even from the existence of the community in the decision-making process. Empowerment now cannot only rely on a helping hand from the government alone, the dynamics of society that continue to occur make the government's function in this sector often neglected. Therefore, collaboration from various actors is essential in implementing community empowerment, one of which is collaboration with non-governmental organizations. The purpose of this study is to analyze the role of multi-sectors, especially NGOs and local governments in empowering communities in Ogan Komering Ulu Regency. The type of research used in this study is qualitative. Researchers obtained data in three ways, namely through observation, interviews, and documentation. The local government has established collaboration with the Sriwijaya Community Empowerment Organisation (LPM) to carry out community empowerment functions in the Ogan Komering Ulu district. As a result, the government is greatly helped by the programs conducted by LPM Sriwijaya in several villages and sub-districts. In this collaboration, the local government plays a policy maker and provides funding for several programs, while LPM Sriwijaya as a non-governmental organization acts as an implementing actor who assists and provides direct support in the community of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency.

Keywords: Collaboration between Government; LPM Sriwijaya; Empowerment; NGOs

INTRODUCTION

In the process of building an empowered society, the role of multi-actors is needed that is interrelated. Community empowerment is the task of every element, both the government, and the private sector, including non-government organizations (NGOs). One of the actors of NGOs is community organizations (CSOs). According to Article 1 paragraph 1 of UU Number 16 of 2017 concerning Community Organizations, CSOs are organizations that are voluntarily established by the community based on the same ideals, needs, interests, activities, and objectives of participation in development to achieve the goals of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

CSOs and NGOs are groups that move independently and separately from government intervention. The formation of CSOs and NGOs is a form of community participation to solve public problems such as improving people's living standards and welfare. From various perspectives, the welfare of the community cannot be guaranteed by the state alone, so the collaboration of various actors is needed to realize it. Community-formed institutions can alleviate suffering, pay attention to the interests of the poor, protect the environment, and provide basic social services through community development.

Community empowerment is essentially the main function of the government. However, in its implementation, the government can cooperate with the private sector to anticipate the "failure" of the government in carrying out this function, considering that there are limited resources in the government (Lestari, 2023). The concept of community empowerment means positioning the community and its organizations as a fundamental force of development in the economic, political, social, and cultural sectors. So, with empowerment, it is possible to increase community strength and market demand and encourage development in the implementation of government activities. The government has a very important role as a policy-making actor in supporting the economic empowerment of rural communities and the poor, especially in the context of implementing regional autonomy. The concept of collaborative governance exists because of the interdependent relationship between parties. Collaborative governance has a long process to create satisfactory results. (Sujatmiko, 2023). Furthermore, in the context of community empowerment, various strategies can be applied, ranging from CSR programs, and social entrepreneurship, to zakat management, all of which aim to improve the welfare and independence of the community (Fathaniyah & Makhrus, 2022). Multi-sector collaboration in community empowerment is an important approach to strengthen the empowerment programs carried out. Like the private sector, through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), it can make a significant contribution to supporting community empowerment programs (Prihanti, 2023).

Collaboration contains several elements of development that can be synergized, such as (Salman, 2012): Resources, which consists of data collection on the type, number, and condition of natural resources, financial, human, and physical resources owned. An organization is an organization or actor that carries out its role by combining and integrating various resources. Norms, namely are related to the values or principles used in carrying out activities, related to the level of appreciation for the mechanism. Based on this concept, it can be understood that collaboration can occur in various fields, both collaboration in the sector of fulfilling the resources needed in the implementation of the program, collaboration in the fulfillment of actors in the implementation of the program, and collaboration in various principles used to carry out certain programs. Of course, in the implementation of this collaboration, each party who collaborates has a portion of the role by the needs of the program being run. Collaboration between various parties, including

the government, the community, and the private sector, is key to building a strong and independent community (Purnomo, 2023).

Another problem, as a stakeholder in the empowerment function, Non-Governmental Organizations can become partners in local government cooperation in efforts to develop human resources and solve poverty problems. Empowerment is a way to carry out development based on humanitarian principles, where all efforts are intended to meet the needs of the community. Therefore, in empowerment, it is necessary to have a large direct role in the community, as well as in its implementation involving the government or other non-governmental institutions. Local governments certainly understand that non-governmental organizations can prove competence as an integral part of the institutional structure that always strives to overcome the problems of poverty, rural development, gender equality, environmental conservation, disaster management, human rights, and other social issues (Nursansiwati, 2022). Non-governmental organizations can be interpreted simply as non-governmental institutions, non-profit organizations, and collective action structures that provide means of articulating interests and providing services for the community as beneficiaries of their programs and real actions. Saifuddin Yunus Prijono S. Onny and Pranarka define empowerment as a process of strengthening individuals and society so that both have strength in various sectors. Empowerment can also be interpreted as a process or goal. Empowerment as a process refers to a series of activities that have the goal of providing strength to weak groups in society. Empowerment must also have to realize social change, such as making the community, both groups and individuals have enough power to encourage them to meet the needs of a dignified life.

Community empowerment is certainly expected to be able to contribute to improving the quality of life of the community from various aspects of life. The partnership pattern in empowerment has a higher value and more efficient business results compared to the non-partnership pattern (Situmorang, 2022). The difference in values is certainly due to the guarantee control and guidance provided by the empowerment implementation partners.

An empowered community will become an independent community of people, which is cognitively, conatively, psychometric, and affective in the future. The expected cognitive condition is essentially the ability to think based on the knowledge and insight of a person or society to find solutions to the problems that occur. Stakeholders in the community empowerment process are official institutions that have the ability and responsibility for the community itself, namely the government. (Simanjuntak, 2023) However, along with the social dynamics in society that are so large, of course, the government needs to collaborate with various parties to optimize the implementation of government functions, one of which is community empowerment.

How many community empowerment programs can be carried out by non-governmental organizations, including: a) Education and Training: education and training programs to improve community skills and knowledge. b) Economic Empowerment: a program to increase community income through entrepreneurship training, business capital assistance, and cooperative development. c) Health: Health programs that include health education, free health services, and disease prevention campaigns. This includes vaccination programs, routine health checks, and nutritional education. d) Women's Empowerment: special programs to empower women, such as skills training, increasing access to education, and support

for micro-enterprises. e) Environment: programs that focus on environmental conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. f) Infrastructure Development: assistance for the development of basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sanitation and clean water facilities. g) Community Capacity Building: a program that aims to strengthen community capacity and participation in the development process. This could include leadership training, strengthening community organizations, and increasing participation in local decision-making.

Government collaboration through community participation and other sectors is an important element of sustainability in regional development (2018:1). Since 2021, the local government of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency has collaborated with one of the non-governmental organizations, namely the Sriwijaya Community Empowerment Institute in terms of social welfare development. In the partnership, the two agreed to implement the annual work plan for social welfare development for a sustainable program to fulfill the rights of children and youth in Ogan Komering Ulu Regency. The purpose of community welfare development is to increase the development of their potential and increase community participation in the decision-making process that affects them.

From this partnership, the local government of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency has opened opportunities for the community to be empowered and developed, of course with the hope that there will be an improvement in the standard of living of every family in Ogan Komering Ulu Regency. LPM Sriwijaya has carried out various empowerment activities with the focus of its assistance, namely five sub-districts or villages in Ogan Komering Ulu Regency. The five villages include Talang Jawa Village, Batu Putih Village, Kemelak Bindung Langit Village, Terusan Village, and Sepancar Lawang Kulon Village.

METHOD

The type of research used in this study is qualitative. Researchers obtained data in three ways, namely through observation, interviews, and documentation. Then to analyze data, the data analysis techniques used by researchers are divided into three processes, namely data reduction, data presentation or data display, and conclusion or verification.

Results and Discussions

The essence of the discussion of collaboration/partnership is a process where several parties view a problem from different points of view but have the same goal in solving the problem faced. Collaboration/partnership can only be established if each party has the ability and is willing to follow and heed principles, share benefits, strengthen together, and share risks. The partnership is carried out to support the program implementation process initiated by the government, both the central government and local governments. Partnerships carried out between the government and non-government institutions can be divided into several partnership arenas, namely: (1) collaboration between government institutions (internal), (2) collaboration between government institutions and business institutions; and (3) partnerships between the government and civil society institutions (Warsono:2020, 43).

Empowerment can be started from within and outside the community, with the intervention of the government and other organizations outside the government. In the collaboration carried out by the Ogan Komering Ulu Regency Government with LPM Sriwijaya as an effort to improve community welfare, both

have a role as community empowerment actors with different positions and functions but have the same ultimate goal such as improving the welfare and independence of the community in Ogan Komering Ulu Regency. The local government as the implementation of empowerment has responsibility for the programs carried out by LPM Sriwijaya through all its activities and policies as well as a source of financial providers in financing the implementation of the empowerment programs carried out. Meanwhile, LPM Sriwijaya has a role as an implementing actor who interacts directly to coach and empower the community with the help of facilitators who have been selected by LPM Sriwijaya itself.

The synergy between the Ogan Komering Ulu Regency government and LPM Sriwijaya can be observed through the output produced from these activities. As a result, the community has become more independent and has improved welfare both economically and in social life. As an empowerment implementing actor who has been given the authority by the local government to go directly to provide empowerment to the community, LPM Sriwijaya has succeeded in providing confidence and opportunities to communities throughout its assisted areas to explore their potential according to their abilities and resources, both through training programs and other empowerment programs.

The results of the study show that the empowerment programs that meet the needs of the people of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency include strengthening women and children, strengthening adolescents or youth, and strengthening the economic sector such as MSMEs. Seeing this need, of course, qualified cooperation is needed between local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have partnerships. Of course, to be able to become a problem solver in the problems faced by the community. Optimal synergy between the two empowerment actors can create a program that, if implemented sustainably, can increase strength in society. Currently, in addition to opportunities and trust, most people also need support or strength to be able to increase their power/strength. Without real evidence as a form of support from outsiders, the community certainly lacks confidence in their abilities so it may be difficult to develop more optimally.

Empowerment means giving strength or improving abilities to an object, meaning that the concept of community empowerment is to make people have the strength and or ability to develop their potential. Empowerment is the process of changing both individuals and groups from having little or no power, to gaining the ability and resources to make choices that affect their lives (Rahma 2023: 148). Empowerment is one of the steps in increasing the strength obtained through support, motivation, and recognition of their potential. As an effort to strengthen community power, the role of stakeholders greatly affects the sustainability of each stage of activities that will be carried out. Local governments, as the most responsible implementing actors, play a key role in the decision-making process to formulate various policies or through partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Through the implementation of collaboration between organizations, of course, it is hoped that it can facilitate and accelerate the achievement of common goals, namely welfare in every element of society.

The collaboration between the government of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency and non-governmental organizations, in this case, LPM Sriwijaya, has carried out various efforts to present a climate or atmosphere that supports the community to develop (enabling). Enabling is the initial stage in strengthening a community that aims to create conditions and climates that can grow the potential of individuals or

community groups. This process can be a recognition that everyone and the community has skills that can be developed and optimized. Based on some information obtained in the research process, the researcher argues that enabling can be achieved through programs that are implemented directly to empower the community regardless of race, ethnicity, belief, or social status. LPM Sriwijaya also strives to strengthen every potential that the community has.

In its implementation, the community empowerment process not only emphasizes the creation of a developing climate and community conditions but also provides knowledge reinforcement and various possibilities and opportunities to be able to strengthen community conditions. Efforts are made in the empowerment process not only through improving the level of education and health but also through increasing access to resources that can improve the economy such as market resources, capital, technology, information, and job opportunities. LPM Sriwijaya has realized community empowerment through the provision of education, training, and maximum access to various resources for people from various groups in the Ogan Komering Ulu regency. LPM Sriwijaya has also strengthened the potential of the community by presenting the PKHLK (Life Skills Education and Financial Literacy) program for youth, responsive and parenting programs. Life skills education and financial literacy are two important things where NGOs can play a significant role in community empowerment. Life skills include the skills necessary to face daily challenges and make effective decisions in personal, social, and professional life. LPM Sriwijaya provides life skills education through various means, such as; technical skills training (sewing and cooking for culinary market traders in Talang Bandung), social skills training in the form of leadership and teamwork training for youth organizations, health training, especially nutrition, for housewives in the Kemelak Bindung Langit sub-district.

Financial literacy includes the understanding and skills needed to make wise financial decisions and manage finances effectively. NGOs can help improve financial literacy through various initiatives such as: a) Provide basic knowledge about finance, such as understanding the value of money, the importance of saving, and how to make a budget; b) Teaches basic concepts such as income, expenses, debt, and savings; c) Training on how to manage personal finances, including how to set a monthly budget, track expenses, and save for the future; d) Provide tools and resources to help people manage their finances, such as budget management applications or financial notebooks; e) Educate the public about how to use credit wisely, understand interest rates, and avoid debt traps; f) Providing assistance and consultation services to help people overcome their financial problems; g) Helping people make financial plans that suit their needs and goals.

From the several programs above, LPM Sriwijaya as an NGO collaborating with the regional government of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency, has implemented several points related to financial literacy. Such as financial planning education, establishing a group savings program, and providing assistance and consultation on financial issues in the five sub-districts and villages within the scope of its empowerment. The local government is expected to be able to directly review the condition of the community to find out the needs of the community. This is to encourage policies and programs that will be implemented together with cooperation partners to the needs and conditions in the community. Furthermore, both the position of the local government and the position of NGOs as partners in the established cooperation can focus more

attention on the conditions and situations of the community, especially people who in their lives are still in dire need of empowerment both in social and economic aspects.

Community empowerment can be realized through active community participation facilitated by empowerment actors. (Widjayanti: 2011, 2) The empowerment actors are a group that has good skills in the decision-making process and can finance programs. The main target of community empowerment is weak groups who do not have the power, strength, or ability to be able to access productive resources or marginalized communities in the implementation of development. Empowerment can be interpreted from two perspectives, namely as a process and as a goal. As a process, empowerment is seen as a series of activities aimed at empowering individuals or empowering disadvantaged groups, including those facing poverty problems. In terms of goals, empowerment refers to the conditions or results achieved through social change, that is, a society that is empowered or has the knowledge and ability to meet its material needs, physical, economic, and social status, such as having the confidence to be himself. (Usman 2023:15)

Furthermore, the empowerment process can also be interpreted as a protection effort. Protecting vulnerable community groups is the main focus in the implementation of the concept of community empowerment. Community empowerment is certainly not expected to create community groups that have a dependence on the program (charity) that is implemented. Talking about protection in strengthening the community, of course, not only protects vulnerable groups but also controls the sustainability of the empowerment programs that have been implemented. This process can be carried out by providing a basic understanding to the community which is the target of empowerment. This is carried out as an effort to ensure that the community gets a sense of security and comfort in a series of empowerment processes and guarantees all that are the rights of the community.

The purpose of protecting the community is to foster the spirit of community participation in every decision-making process that affects people's lives. One form of protection carried out for vulnerable communities is the existence of clear regulations on empowerment programs run by local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. Regulations certainly have a very important role as legality and guidance in the implementation of empowerment programs, especially in a country based on law such as Indonesia.

Based on research, the protection needed by the people of Ogan Komering Ulu, in empowerment efforts is: First, there needs to be clear regulations or legal basis for the implementation of the empowerment program carried out. Second, protecting the community from domestic violence (KDRT) and violence against children. In this case, the object that needs to be strengthened is women as mothers through parenting programs or child psychology. Third, protection in the economic sector is carried out through business training for MSMEs or the provision of skills for the community so that they can empower themselves, their families, and the community around their residential environment. Fourth, protection for young people or adolescents (youth). Empowerment programs that can be implemented can be in the form of life skills training, education about promiscuity, and prevention of drug or illegal drug use. This is expected to be able to protect young people from negative things and open their minds to prepare for the future as best as possible as the nation's next generation.

Local governments, as parties with the authority to make policies, should always establish partnerships with institutions or actors other than the government. Furthermore, local governments can use this partnership as a form of main support in achieving their empowerment goals. In the implementation of the collaboration/chemistry program, the government, the private sector, and the community must have the same interests and commitments in overcoming the problem of empowerment. There is no need to feel that one is more powerful than the other. The three parties must interact and have the same rights and responsibilities to participate in achieving community welfare and independence. To empower the community, the OKU Regency Government needs to make special regulations regarding community empowerment in all areas of life. This is expected to be a turning point in the empowerment efforts carried out in the OKU district and further protect the fulfillment of the rights of the weak community who urgently need support from the government and NGOs as partners of local government cooperation.

To protect the community of MSME actors in the Talang Bandung Culinary Village, the role given by the OKU Regency Government is very minimal. In addition to business capital assistance, the community is still not guaranteed in terms of business license management and business assistance. The role of local governments is only limited to providing space and opportunities for the community to develop but has not provided material or moral support directly. The condition of MSMEs in Talang Bandung Culinary Village is a group of young people and housewives who can make several traditional food preparations for sale. They have the ability but do not have the strength in terms of capital and access to start their own business. Therefore, this group of people needs capital support and access from other parties so they can use their expertise as a source of income. Here, LPM Sriwijaya is present as a government partner to accommodate this community group in a program, namely Culinary Village, so that this small business group can be known by the wider community so that this group's access to market their products becomes wider. For the sustainability of this program, of course, the collaboration between LPM Sriwijaya and the regional government of OKU Regency needs to increase protection for the community. The regional government protects the form of the legality of culinary market activities so that they do not come under pressure from other groups in society.

Meanwhile, LPM Sriwijaya itself makes protection efforts by providing assistance and support to the people of Talang Bandung, starting from assistance with educational facilities and infrastructure, operational assistance for the Talang Bandung Culinary Village such as decoration and marketing, disaster protection by providing disaster education, and protection of children and women from sexual violence. Thus, the partnership between the OKU Regency Government and LPM Sriwijaya to empower the community, when viewed from the aspect of protecting the weak community (protecting) has not been running optimally. The causative factor is the lack of support in the form of control and supervision of the sustainability of the program provided by the Ogan Komering Ulu Regency government.

CONCLUSION

The collaboration between the OKU Regional Government and LPM Sriwijaya in efforts to empower the community has not been optimal, but it has been enough to empower the disabled community, especially the people in the LPM Sriwijaya assisted area. As a partner of local government cooperation, LPM Sriwijaya has tried to build an atmosphere or climate so that the community develops (enabling)

through life skills training for young people and parenting education for mothers or caregivers. LPM Sriwijaya has also tried to strengthen the potential and power of the community (empowering) by spearheading the formation of the Talang Bandung Culinary Village and sending young people to participate in life skills training. In addition, LPM Sriwijaya has also protected the weak community (protecting) through the protection of mothers and children. Finally, multi-sector collaboration in community empowerment can be a more holistic, sustainable, and inclusive solution to addressing complex and deep-seated problems in society.

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BRIEF PROFILE

Aprilia Lestari, born in Ogan Komering Ulu Timur Regency on April 21, 1989. Completed undergraduate education in 2010 at the Department of Government Science, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta, concentrating in public management. In 2014, completed my postgraduate education in the Master of Government Science Study Program at the University of Lampung, concentrating on government management. Currently working as a lecturer and serving as Head of the Local Politics and Regional Autonomy Laboratory in the Government Science study program, FISIP, University of Baturaja.