YOUTH ROLES IN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract - This study was aimed to measure and analyze the role of the youth in rural community development process, starting from the stage of decision-making, program implementation, utilization, and evaluation on the achievements of community empowerment programs. In addition, the study also was aimed to identify supporting and limiting factors of youth participation in the Community Empowerment Program in rural area of Negeri Luhu, District of Huamual, Western Seram Regency, Maluku Province, Indonesia. The samples used in the study consisted of 100 young men and women who were not randomly selected from a population of 651 youths who were members of the NPCE Mandiri. The samples were selected using purposive method. Data were collected through questionnairs and interviews and then the data were analyzed using multiple regression analysis. The result shows that when the young people were involved in all stages of the program (the stages of decision-making or planning, implementation, utilization, and evaluation), their involment significantly influenced the success of the programe but partially the role of the youth in the program implementation and the utilization stages only significantly affected the outcomes of the rural community empowerment program. However, the youth's role in the decision-making and evaluation stages , had no significant effects on the outcomes of the program. The major supporting factor was the youths' strong enthusiasm and willingness to participate in rural community development programs; while the main inhibiting factor was the lack of good communication between the youths and their parents (elder generations) during the meetings at the stages of decision-making and evaluation.

Keywords - Youth's role, community empowerment, rural community, decision-making, program implementation

I. INTRODUCTION

The youth is a part of the community that has great potential to be developed in order to optimally contribute to all aspects of development. Youth is an important agent in the community development, and therefore, the youth's capacity is very important to be improved continuously. In eastern part of Indonesia, especially Negeri Luhu, social and economic conditions of the community do not encourage active participation of the young people in the community development. Most of the young people have low levels of education, knowledge, and income that give the youth the lack of ability to contribute, both in the forms of materials and ideas.

Therefore, the involvement or participation of youth at all stages of development and community empowerment programs is needed for several reasons: 1) the young people have courage and openness to absorb new values and new ideas, innovation and creativity, commitment, and the desire to display an independent attitude, personality, passion and spontaneity of devotion. These qualities are basically inherent in youth. if the qualities are developed and awakened, then naturally the youth can play an important role in pioneering and leadership to mobilize the potentials and resources that exist in the community (Ishardino, 2009). The main objectives of this study are: 1) to measure the effects of youth participation on the success of the National Program for Community Empowerment (NPCE) in Negeri Luhu District of Huamual, West Seram Regency, Maluku; and 2) to identify the supporting and limiting factors of the youth's participation in the National Program of Community Empowerment (NPCE) in the study site.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Types of the Community Participation in the Development

Keith Davis (Prabhakar, 2015) stated that "participation is defined as mental and emotional involvement of a person in a group situation which encourages him to contribute to group goals and share responsibility in them".

Community participation in a development generally starts from the stage of decision-making, implementation of decisions, enjoyment of the results, and evaluation of activities.In more detail, participation in a development is to have a role in the development process, either in the form of a statement for actively participating the activities, giving input in the form of thought, effort, time, expertise, capital or materials, as well as take benefit and enjoy the results (Prabhakar, 2015).

Community members can participate in different stages of a development process. Ibrahim (2009) suggested three development program stages in which a person can get involved, namely: (1) planning stage (idea planning stage): participation at this stage means the involvement of a person in the planning

activities, including preparation of the committee and the budget of an activity/project. People here participate by making suggestions, advice and criticism through meetings; (2) implementation stage: participation at this stage means the involvement of a person at the implementation stage of a project.The community here can provide labors, money or material/goods, and ideas to support the implementation of a program; and (3) Utilitazion stage: Participation at this stage means the involvement of a person in the utilization stage of a project after the project is completed. Public participation at this stage is in the form of effort and money to operate and maintain the project.

B. Factors Influencing the Community's Participation

Factors influencing people's participation consist of factors within society (internal factors) and factors outside of the society (external factors). Internal factors are the ability and willingness of the community to participate, while the external factors include the roles of the apparatuses and the existing formal institutions. Internal factors also include the ability of people to associate themselves with the social stratification in society, which include: age, gender, knowledge, family dependents, employment, and income. External factors can also come from the stakeholders (stakeholders) eg. ideas, policies made by the government, the needs of the community, outreach activities and geographical factors that exist in the local environment of the community.

Ningrum (2014) divides the factors that affect a person's participation in three ways, namely: a) The state of society include education level, income, needs, habits, and position in the social system. b) The state of the development program, this activity is an activity that is defined and controlled by the government. c) The state of the natural surroundings that includes physical factors or circumstances that exist at the regional geographic environment around the community.

C. Community Empowerment

Moebyarto (Wahyono, 2001) stated that Community empowerment is an attempt to actualize the potentials owned by the community in order to give a role to the individuals as actors and not as subjects that shapes their lives. According to Sulistiyani (2004), empowerment can be defined as the process to obtain power/strength/ability, or the process of transferring power/strength/ability from the parties that have power to parties that are lack of power.

Suharto (2010) and Widjajanti (2011) defined empowerment as a process and a goal. As a process, the empowerment is a series of activities carried out to strengthen its own power or strengthen the vulnerable groups in the society, including individuals who suffer poverty. As a goal, empowerment refers to circumstances or results to be achieved by a social change in the form of an empowered community. An empowered community has power, knowledge, and ability in meeting their physical, economic, and social needs. Thus, members of an empowered community have strong self-confidence, are able to convey their aspirations, are employed, actively participate in social activities, and are independent in carrying out their life tasks.

The process of empowerment is generally based on optimizing process activities. Sulistiyani (2004) defines a process as all activities or steps that are gradually performed in order to strengthen the reforming agents that consist of a) institutional capacity building approach to empower reforming agents, b) New Public Management (NPM) approach to internally improve the managerial capacity of the reforming agents, c) achievement approach to enhance the organization of the reforming agents, d) substantial approach through organizing knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) in order to help the reforming agents master the aspects and substance of poverty and able to choose the right solution and approach to creating community independence.

Basically, the goal of empowerment as suggested by Sumaryadi (2005) are as follows: a) to assist community members who are weak, poor, marginalized, small-holding farmers, the disables, and discriminated women.b) to empower these communities socially and economically so that they can be more independent and able to meet their own basic needs and also able to participate in the community development. According to Suharto (2010), the main goal of the empowerment is to strengthen the power of community, especially the vulnerable groups that are powerless because of their internal conditions (eg. perception of their own), as well as external conditions (eg. oppressed by unjust social structures).

D. The Youth's Role

Demographically, the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 40 2009 on youth states that a youth is an Indonesian citizen who enters a crucial period of growth and development over the age of 16 (sixteen) to 30 (thirty) years. Referring to the Law No. 40, article 17, clause 2, the active role of youth as a social control manifested by:(a) strengthen national awareness; (b) raise awareness of the responsibilities, rights, and obligations as citizens; (c) raise critical attitudes towards the environment and law enforcement; (d) increase public participation in policy determination; (e) ensuring transparency and public accountability; and/or, (f) provide easy access to information.

In honing the power of pioneering, leadership, and active participation in the development of society,

young people must be given a stimulant in the form of opportunities as much as possible in social organizations and youth organizations, both at local and national levels.In these organizations, mental toughness and fresh ideas of a young man can be honed through concrete programs in the organizations (Wahyu, 2009).

III .RESEARCH METHODS

This research was designed using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods (concurrent embedded). The population of this study consisted of all participants (651 people) who joined the activities in the National Program for Community Empowerment (NPCE) in Negeri Luhu. One hundred people as samples were selected from the population using the Slovin's formula (Simamora 2005). Purposive sampling method was used to collect data for both qualitative and quantitative analyses. The criteria used for selecting samples were the youths aged 16-30 years (youth age defined by the law) and from Negeri Luhu. Data were collected using questionnaires with five options (Likert's scale). Data are analyzed with multiple linear regressions. However, for the identification of supporting and limiting factors of the program, data were analyzed using qualitative analysis.

IV. RESULTS

A. Descriptive Analysis of Research Variables

This analysis results explained the participation of youth in decision-making (planning), implementation, utilization, and evaluation of the results of the National Program for Community Empowerment in Luhu. The result of descriptive analysis shows the overall value of the variable participation as follows: In the decision-making stage obtained a value of 3.46 with a moderate level of participation category. Participation in the implementation stage obtained a value of 3.68 with a high level of participation category. Participation in the utilization stage obtained a value of 4.38 with a high level of participation category. For participation in the evaluation stage variable obtained a value of 3.93 with a high level of participation category.

B. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

The obtained results of multiple linear regression calculation as follow:

Coefficient

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	8.297	2.684		3.091	0.003
Planning	0.239	0.124	0.179	1.932	0.056
Implemention	0.24	0.110	0.203	2.194	0.031
Utilization	0.538	0.137	0.357	3.922	0.000
Evaluation	0.127	0.143	0.083	0.893	0.374

Source: Primary Data Processed, 2015

Table I. Results of multiple linear regression analysis

C. Testing the Effect Between Variables

1. Statistic Analysis of t-Test

From the regression output in SPSS above, the value of t (t calculation) and a significance value (sig) as the basis for determining the effects of an individual independent variable towards a dependent variable, at α = 5%. Variable participation at the stage of decision-making has a t value of 1.932 (not significant at α = 5% despite significant at α = 10%), the implementation stages of 2.194 (significant at α = 5%), utilization stage of 3.922 (significant at α = 5%), and evaluation stages of 0.893 (not significant at α = 5%).

2. Statistical Analysis of F-Test

To detect a significant effect of all the independent variables together on the dependent variable, the relationship was analyzed using an F-test at α = 5%. The test results are presented in Table II.

ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	68.940	4	17.235	7.056	0.000[b]
	Residual	232.050	95	2.443		
	Total	300.990	99			

Source: Primary data Processed, 2015

Table II. Results F test (all variables)

According to the ANOVA table for the F test from the SPSS output, the results showed that the F value was 7.056 and the significant value was 0.000. Thus, it can be stated that the combination of four independent variables (the decision-making stage, the implementation stage, the utilization stage, and the evaluation stage) significantly affected the success of the community empowerment program.

The coefficient of determination (R^2) was calculated to determine the percentage of variable influence on the results of the National Program for Community Empowerment (NPCE) in Negeri Luhu. The coefficientof determintaion obtained from the calculation using tools of SPSS 20.0, can be seen in Table 5.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	0.479[a]	0.229	0.197	1.563	1.198

Source: Primary data processed, 2015

Table III. Results Coefficient of Determination

The value of the coefficient of determination (R^2) was 0.229, meaning that independent variables of youth participation (planning, implementation, utilization and evaluation) together had 22.9% contribution to the results of the National Program for Community Empowerment (NPCE) in the Negeri Luhu; while the remaining 77.1% is influenced by other variables that were not included in this study.

Based on the F test results above, the multiple linear regression from this study can be expressed by the following equation:

$$Y = 8.297 + 0.239\ X_1 + 0.241\ X_2 + 0.538\ X_3 + 0.127\ X_4$$

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The study results suggested that the effect of youth's role, either partially or simultaneously, significantly affected the outcome of the program. If the involvement of the youth is only partial, their participation is significant when they are involvedat the stages of implementation and utilization; however, when they are involved in all stages of the program, then their role will be more meaningful for the success of the program. In other words, the youth can not only be viewed as an executor and connoisseurs, but they must also be involved as an initiator and evaluator of the empowerment program carried out.At the stage of decision-making, the youth's participation is needed to give feedback or ideas necessary for the programs in the community. Then, at the stage of implementation, the youth should also be involved to contribute energy and ideas and all of their potentials. Demographically, the youth is an Indonesian citizen who enters a crucial period of growth and development at aged 16-30 years, as mentioned in the Act - Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 40 2009 on youth. At those ages, the youth have reached the peaks of their physical strength and passion. Mentally, the youths have the potential of thoughts and innovative ideas which are expected to contribute to the success of the program.In other words, the youth can show their participation in various forms in accordance to their capabilities and potentials, both material and personnel so that the program can be run properly. In the utilization stage, of course, the youth must also be given opportunities toenjoy the program outcomes. Eventually, the youths need to be involved in the evaluation stage of the program by giving corrections and inputs necessary for the improvement and advancement of the NCPE, especially in Negeri Luhu, in the future.

The findings above justify what was stated by Kaho (2010) that the public can participate either partially or in a holistic manner, in accordance to their competence, expertise, and jurisdiction. Community participation can include four important stages, namely: a) participation in the decision-making process; b) Participation in the implementation process; c) Participation in the utilization process; and d) Participation in the evaluation process.

Based on these findings, it is necessary to emphasize that youth should be involved in every stage of the development program to ensure the success of the program. This is in agreement with Slamet in Mardikato & Soebiato (2010) that the growth and development of community participation is determined by three principal elements: 1) the opportunity given to the public to participate; 2) the willingness of people to participate; and 3) the ability of people to participate. Participation is an active initiative process undertaken by the community itself, guided by their own way of thinking, using tools and processes (institutions and mechanisms) by which they can assert effective control (Nasdian and Rosyida (2010). Youth is part of the community that has great potentials to be developed, so they can contribute optimally to the community development efforts. The youth is an important agent in the development, thus, it is very crucial to keep developing the youth capacity.

The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that the partial role of the youth (in implementation and utilization stages) in the National Community Empowerment Program (NPCE) in Rural Areas in the State of Luhu, Huamual District, Western Seram regency, has a significant effect on the success of the program; while role at the stages of decision-making and evaluation did not significantly influence the outcomes of the program. However, simultaneousinvolvement of the youth from the decision-making stage, the implementation stage, the utilization stage, until the evaluation stage, was necessary to achieve the success of theNPCE in rural areas.It is therefore recommended to the decision makers or policy makers that the youth needs to be given the opportunity to be involved in all stages of the program, especially at the stage of decision-making or planning program.On the other hand, the youth also need to have initiatives and a strong and sicere willingness to involve themselves so that their presence can be more meaningful for the country, nation and homeland.Consideration underlying this suggestion is that participation will only occur when there are an opportunities given and there is a willingness of youth to take advantage of such opportunities.

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