



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF TRADITIONAL FISHERMAN FAMILIES IN MALABERO, BENGKULU CITY

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to understand the economic empowerment provided by the government and non-government institutions to traditional fishing families in Malabero Village using a descriptive qualitative approach. Informants were determined using purposive sampling involving the Malabero Village environmental government and traditional fishing families who were included in the informant category. Data was collected through non-participant observation and semi-structured interviews, this research was also supported by documentation. The data obtained is reduced to similar groups and variations are recorded and then verified to obtain the validity of the data and meet the needs for answers to research problems. The conclusion as the final result of the research is drawn up after all the data has been reviewed. The data were analyzed using public administration science using empowerment theory. Empowerment theory was first put forward by Barbara Salomon in 1977. Empowerment theory is related to human problems in the social, political and economic order. Empowerment theory not only introduces interaction and mutual influence between humans and society, but also places human problems in the perspective of humans and the environment. This research identifies two problem formulations, namely how to implement economic empowerment for fishing families in Malabero Village, Bengkulu City and examines how effective traditional fishermen empowerment activities are for improving the economy in Malabero, Bengkulu City. The aim of this research is to determine the implementation of empowerment that has been carried out by the traditional fishing community in Malabero, Bengkulu City and to find out how effective the empowerment activities carried out by the government and non-governmental organizations are for traditional fishermen to improve the economy in Malabero, Bengkulu City.



INTRODUCTION

Community empowerment is one of the development strategies so that people take the initiative to rebuild their own situation through a process of social activities. Empowerment is a goal and a process, empowerment is also a program to optimize the empowerment of weak groups in underprivileged communities. The issue of community empowerment in development in an era of transparency where openness of public information is the key to effective governance is increasingly sought after in discussion forums held by the government and non-governmental institutions, in national and even international aspects. According to Rika (2023), the aim of empowerment is to know the purpose of social change, it is necessary to understand that the expected result is a society that is independent, has broad insight and resilience to meet their physical, economic and social needs.

Law Number 7 of 2016 regulates the Protection and Empowerment of Fishermen, Fish Farmers and Salt Farmers, fishing is carried out in waters which are traditional fishing rights which have been used for generations and have become the local wisdom of local residents. Most of the fishermen who live in Malabero Village settlements still use simple fishing gear, fishing gear such as nets, fish traps, bait and other environmentally friendly tools. The fishing community in the Malabero Beach area utilizes the local wisdom they have as their daily livelihood to meet their family needs. Climate change is a big problem for coastal communities, including fishermen on Malabero Beach. Traditional fishermen on Malabero Beach, who use simple fishing equipment, are affected by the unpredictable and ever-changing dry season. Weather has a significant influence on fishing activities by fishermen.

Several weather factors influence fishing activities, such as sea water temperature, wind direction and speed, rainfall, wave conditions. These weather factors can influence fish behavior in the sea, food availability and migration patterns.

The fishing community still lacks the creative ability to improve the economy and thus requires empowerment, this can be seen from the way fishermen overcome the unstable economic situation, especially in the Malabero Village community, which causes them to fall into the lower middle economic class and their welfare still needs to be paid attention to by the government. , this can be seen from the fishing community who received the Hope Family Program (PKH), which is empowerment from the Ministry of Social Affairs. This activity is a form of empowerment and government assistance to poor communities in Malabero Village. The Head of Malabero Village explained that there were 182 communities who received assistance from the Family Hope Program from the Ministry of Social Services, of the 182 communities, 80% of them were fishing families.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this research, the type of research approach data used is a qualitative research method. Qualitative research methods are a type of research method that understands phenomena, events, social dynamics, attitudes, beliefs and perceptions. Rukajat (in Adiputra, 2022) explains that descriptive research involves creating systematic, accurate and fact-based descriptions of the phenomena being studied. This method aims to describe in a realistic, grounded and contemporary manner the facts, characteristics and relationships observed. Descriptive research involves collecting data to



answer questions or test theories related to the research topic. This method is used to investigate actual events regarding groups of people, objects, circumstances, systems of thought, or current events with appropriate interpretations.

It is considered important to carry out activities to empower traditional fishing communities and fishermen's wives so that they can form stronger and more advanced fishing communities without being tied to fishing results alone. The phenomena that occur are analyzed according to events that actually occur in the field. The use of qualitative methods in this research aims to obtain information from traditional fishing communities and fishermen's wives at Malabero Beach, Bengkulu City in participating in empowerment activities carried out by the local government and non-government activities.

Data collection technique

The data collection techniques used in this research are as follows:

Observation

The use of non-participant observation techniques in this research means that the researcher does not participate as someone who is being observed. The object of observation was the fishing community of Malabero Village. According to Adler and Adler (1987: 389), observation is the main basis for data collection techniques in qualitative research, especially in social sciences and human behavior. Observation is also known as "the main tool in ethnography" (Hasanah, 2017). The researcher used non-participant observation techniques because in the research process of economic empowerment of traditional fishing families, the researcher only observed empowerment from the local government or non-government, and analyzed the activities carried out by fishing

families so that they did not depend on the uncertain results of fishing.

Documentation

Research on this obtains data by means of documentation. Documentation in qualitative research is a data collection method carried out by examining documents to obtain information related to the problem being researched. The method of collecting information through documentation is by examining documents to obtain information related to the issue being researched. Documentation study is a method used by qualitative researchers to realize the subject's perspective through written materials or documents created by those who participated directly (Mathematics, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this research regarding the economic empowerment of traditional fishing families, the author establishes several theories that can explain the concepts in this research, namely:

1. Empowerment

Empowerment is a strategy to facilitate the development of skills and abilities for individuals so that they can develop further. Empowerment can also be interpreted as a process that gives someone the freedom to be responsible for their ideas, decisions and actions. According to Wuradji (in Sari, 2012) empowerment is a process of community awareness by means of change, participation and consistency through improving mindsets in controlling the basic problems faced, this helps improve the situation in accordance with goals and hopes. Likewise, fishing communities need to be empowered to develop their skills and abilities. According to the Amin Jaya Village Website, Pangkalan Banteng District, West Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan



in the Village Community Empowerment journal (Amin Jaya Village, 2024) explains that community empowerment is divided into three, namely Community Empowerment in the Village Government Sector, Community Empowerment in the Institutional Sector, Community Empowerment in the Economic Sector, Basic material assistance or funds.

2. Fisherman's Family

A fishing family is a family led by a father who works as a fisherman, and consists of wife, mother, children and other family members who live in coastal areas or fishing villages. Fishermen are a group of people who are connected to the results of fishing both for fishing and other activities in the fisheries sector. The income of fishing families usually comes from two sources of income from the fishing sector and income from the non-fishing sector (AK, 2015). The fishing sector's income comes from fisheries, while the non-fishing sector's income comes from trade, services, fish processing, etc.

Most of the fishermen in Malabero, Bengkulu City are traditional fishermen and labor fishermen. Only a few fishermen become master fishermen. According to Imron (2003), fishermen are not bound to one unit, they are divided into several groups, which are differentiated in terms of fishing gear, such as worker fishermen, owner fishermen and small (individual) fishermen. Labor fishermen are identified as fishermen who work using rented fishing equipment, whereas master fishermen are fishermen who own fishing equipment rented by other people. Individual fishermen are fishermen who have their own fishing equipment and do not involve other people in their fishing activities. The image

of fishermen's poverty is a matter of concern, even though Indonesia has a very large sea zone, wider than the land zone. In the marine zone there are various rich resources that have high economic potential, this opportunity should be used as an opportunity to ensure the prosperity of the lives of fishermen and their families. Fisherman families are often considered poor because of their low income. Fishermen's helplessness is caused by many factors such as (Imron, 2003) apture technology limitations Fishermen, weak capital capabilities Fishermen, Fish selling price game, and low education Fishers.

3. Traditional Fishermen

According to Sastrawidjaya (in Rifaldi, 2019) fishermen are people who live in coastal areas and depend for their economy on processing marine resources. Traditional fishermen are fishermen who still use traditional fishing equipment which is environmentally friendly equipment, examples of traditional fishing equipment such as fishing rods, nets, traps, fish traps, shrimp traps, and tangguk/sieves.

Law Number 7 of 2016 concerning the protection and empowerment of fishermen, fish farmers and salt farmers requires the government to develop a fishermen protection scheme, including:

- Facilitate facilities/infrastructure in the fisheries sector
- Guarantee business certainty
- Guarantees the risk of fishing in the form of fishermen's insurance
- Prohibit expensive economic practices
- Regulate imports of fishery products
- Ensure safety and security.

4. Empowerment of Traditional Fishing Families



Wahyono and colleagues (Suwandi & Prihatin, 2020) explained that in an effort to increase the prosperity of fishermen and find solutions to the problems they face, empowerment remains an option to ensure that these problems can be completely resolved. This empowerment process focuses on active community participation, in this case meaning involving the community directly in solving problems. This empowerment process is based on the awareness that the determination to solve the problems faced by society lies within oneself, and that it is impossible for a society to forever be in a situation that is detrimental to itself. The empowerment process runs on the awareness of people who actually have the unconscious ability to change it for the better, so that it becomes a solution to the problems they face.

All parties must support economic empowerment, because economic empowerment has a broad impact on people's lives. Efforts to empower the community are also on the people's agenda, and the benefits of strengthening the economy in principle also provide benefits to the people. Economic empowerment is an effort to improve or strengthen the economy of less empowered communities. This increase is actually supported by a number of (Ulum and Lessy, 2007):

- Community cares about the environment
- MSME development
- Women's empowerment community
- Community empowerment of fishermen
- Establishment of tourist villages
- Increased crop yields

In direct practice with individuals, the implementation of empowerment can help

individuals to develop psychological abilities or skills in coping and adapting to the social environment.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that this research process aims to determine the implementation of empowerment that has been carried out by the traditional fishing community in Malabero, Bengkulu City, to find out the importance of counseling, socialization and guidance provided by local government and non-government institutions for fishermen and fishermen's wives in order to support the economy family and find out how effective the empowerment activities carried out by the government and non-government organizations are for traditional fishermen to improve the economy in Malabero, Bengkulu City.

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