

VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS AN  
INDEPENDENT AND PROSPEROUS VILLAGE IN PURWOSARI  
PEMATANG BANDAR VILLAGE

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**ABSTRACT**

Villages are part of the State bureaucracy which carries out bureaucratization in villages. After independence, the existence of villages was maintained with a total of 73,000 villages and 8,000 sub-districts to date. The village regulations that have been in force are no longer in accordance with current developments, especially regarding issues of the position of traditional legal communities, democratization, progress, and equitable development, giving rise to disparities between regions that can disrupt the integrity of the State. In 2014, the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* concerning Villages was issued, which received a reaction from the community, but some parties doubted the ability of this Law to create strong, advanced, and independent villages. Of course, it is interesting to ask, is the material contained in this law capable of creating a strong and independent village? This can be seen from several points of view, namely: The essence and fundamental changes in village development based on the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014*, including from Reconstruction regarding the understanding and nature of villages, balanced authority, and finances, because it is suspected that the The root of the problem is that the difficulty of developing villages has an impact on national development. With the hope that *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* provides a strategic position and great authority for villages to manage village areas supported by adequate funds so that there is no reason for the village government in the future not to develop the village optimally.

**Keywords:** *Village, Independent and Prosperous*

**A. PRELIMINARY**

The *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* concerning Villages has provided legal standing and a strategic foundation for the development and empowerment of village communities, towards independent and prosperous villages. The Village Law provides recognition and transfer of authority on a

village scale. With this recognition and handover of power, villages have authority in the fields of administering village government, implementing village development, fostering village community, and empowering village communities based on community initiatives, original rights, and village customs. To support the implementation of this authority, the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* mandates the central government to transfer funds to villages sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget. In the explanation of the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014*, it is stated that the amount of budget allocation intended directly to the Village is determined at 10% (ten percent) of and outside the Regional Transfer funds (on top) in stages.

Since 2015 the government has allocated village funds. The amount of village funds from year to year statistically increases. The distribution of village funds from 2015 to 2020 experienced a continuous increase. The increase in the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget allocation distributed to villages is intended to support village development which aims to improve the welfare of village communities and the quality of human life as well as overcoming poverty through fulfilling basic needs, developing village facilities and infrastructure, developing local economic potential, and utilizing resources, nature and the environment in a sustainable manner. This is to consistently implement the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* concerning Villages. The hope is that increasing the distribution of village funds will accelerate the reduction in poverty rates in rural areas, thereby also accelerating the improvement in the welfare of village communities.

The village law has provided a more certain guarantee that every village receives funding from the government through the state and regional budgets in multiple amounts, far above the amount currently available in the village budget. The Village Law also provides the basis for community empowerment, namely that villages are no longer subordinate to the region, but become independent communities. So that every citizen and village community has the right to speak for their interests and regulate their village area. It is hoped that policies that used to be top-down in the past can shift towards a bottom-up approach through the involvement and participation of village communities in planning, managing, and supervising development.

However, the allocation of village funds which has continued to increase over the last 6 years has not been able to reduce poverty significantly in rural areas. The Minister of Finance, Sri Mulyani, some time ago expressed this in an interactive dialogue on Fund Dissemination (Ministry of Finance, 2017). This expression is not without reason. If we look at statistical data, the number of poor people in villages has indeed decreased over time. However, the trend of reducing poverty also occurred before the government allocated village funds to the APBN. All parties need to be concerned, with the conditions expressed by the Minister of

Finance above. An important question that must be immediately answered is why the village funds that have been disbursed so far have not yet fully met the expectations of the law. Then how can community empowerment strategies be implemented so that they are effective in improving the welfare of village communities? This article aims to provide a critical analysis of the welfare conditions of rural communities. At the same time, we also try to identify where to start with steps or strategies, to build independence towards the prosperity of the village community as envisioned.

## **B. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Village**

The term '*desa*' (village) comes from the Indian language, namely *swadesi*, which means place of origin, residence, country of origin, or ancestral land, which refers to a living unit with unified norms and has clear territorial boundaries. The terms village or village are often associated with the meaning of rural and village compared to city and urban. Etymologically, '*desa*' (village) comes from Sanskrit which means homeland and birthplace. However, geographically a village or "village" has the meaning of "a group of houses or shops in a country area, smaller than and town". In general, a village is defined as a legal community unit that has the authority to manage its household based on the rights of origin and customs recognized by the National Government. The concepts of rural and urban are based on community characteristics, while village and city refer to an administrative or territorial area that includes several villages.

### **Community Development**

#### **The Definition of Development**

Sukirno (2015) expressed his opinion about the concept of development, which has 3 important characteristics, namely: a process of continuous change, an effort to increase people's per capita income, and an increase in people's income that occurs over a long time. According to Todaro (2016), development is not just a phenomenon, but ultimately development must go beyond the material and financial side of human life. The meaning of development has changed because experience in the 1950s to 1960s showed that development was oriented towards increasing national income. not able to solve development problems. This can be seen from the fact that the standard of living of the majority of people has not improved even though the target for increasing national income per year has increased. in other words, there are signs of a major error in interpreting the term development narrowly. Finally, it was realized that the definition of development was very broad, not just about increasing national income. Economic development cannot be interpreted as activities carried out by the state to develop economic activities and the standard of living of its people. Various points of view can be used to examine rural development (Hanafiah, 2015).

### **The Definition of Society**

The concept of society is all human behavior that is considered appropriate. Does not violate general norms and customs and integrates directly with the behavior of the general public. The concept of society can also be interpreted as a group of people who live together in one place with certain rules and methods. Individuals, families, and small groups are members of a society. Close networks exist among these members, especially through joint donations. Repetitive patterns of social relations are like cooperation activities, this closeness of association fosters unity in the community as a social unit.

## **C. RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Types and Research Approaches**

The type of research used in this research is qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative descriptive research is research that is intended to understand what is experienced by the object of research, for example, behavior or actions and so on (Moleong 2007:6). The type of research used in this research is a descriptive type which aims to provide a clear picture of "Village Community Development towards an Independent and Prosperous Village in Purwosari Pematang Bandar Village".

The reason for using qualitative methods is that it is easier if it relates directly to previously unconceptualized realities about conditions in the field and the data obtained can develop as the research process progresses.

Qualitative methodology is a research procedure that will produce descriptive data in the form of written and spoken words from sources or actors who are observed. The research approach used is a case study. A case study is part of a qualitative method that seeks to explore a particular case in more depth by involving the collection of various sources of information. Creswell (2012). Based on the opinion above regarding the meaning of case studies, the similarity can be seen that case studies are a research approach that focuses on a problem that will be used as research material in accordance with the objectives the researcher wants to achieve. In this research approach, the researcher must be able to position himself and be able to find an appropriate way that solve the problem to be researched because in this research it is the researcher who plays an active role in understanding and describing the research using qualitative research regarding "Village Community Development towards an Independent and Prosperous Village in Purwosari Pematang Bandar Village". Researchers use field studies (Field Studies) with direct research observations in the field to make observations on research subjects and objects.

### **Research Location and Time**

The location of this research is in Purwosari Village, Pematang Bandar District, Simalungun Regency. This research was conducted approximately two

weeks in April 2022.

### **Special Description of Buntu Sarek Village as an Educational Setting**

Purwosari Village is one of 13 villages in the Pematang Bandar sub-district, Simalungun district. In July 2017, the first village head election was held and the person who succeeded in winning the succession was Mr Naspianto, approximately 1 month later Mr Naspianto was appointed as village head by the Simalungun regent. Purwosari Village is one of the villages in the Pematang Bandar sub-district, North Sumatra province.

## **D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Village Community Participation in the Development of an Independent and Prosperous Village in Purwosari Village**

Through the independent village program, it is hoped that the community will have the ability to build food and nutritional security. These efforts are carried out through a community empowerment process to recognize their potential and abilities, look for alternative opportunities and problem solutions, and be able to make decisions to utilize natural resources efficiently and sustainably to achieve independence. Community empowerment is carried out by placing assistant staff in each implementing village for four consecutive years according to the program stages, namely at the preparation, growth, development, and independence stages.

Activities are focused on food insecure areas by implementing various models of community empowerment in realizing existing food security at the village level by involving all community participation. Purwosari Village was chosen as the location for the food-independent village program because the village in question is a food-insecure village with conditions of food adequacy and access that are still low. Conditions for community participation already exist by utilizing existing local institutions but are relatively not yet optimal. This is in accordance with Max Weber's theory regarding the action aspect of value rationality, namely that value rational action has the characteristic that the existing tools are only conscious considerations and calculations, while the goals already exist in connection with absolute individual values. Example: worship behavior or someone giving priority to older people when queuing for groceries.

To grow and further optimize the role of existing institutions, it is necessary to increase human resources from actors so that they will be able to manage existing natural resources optimally and evenly distributed according to community needs in carrying out management and service functions. This is related to the theory of the Effectual Action aspect, namely a type of social action that is dominated by feelings or emotions without intellectual reflection or conscious planning. Affective actions are spontaneous, and irrational, and are an emotional expression of the individual. In the food-independent village program, increasing human resource capacity is carried out through activities in the form of

technical training, administrative management, organizing, increasing community skills in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries, entrepreneurship as well as internships at existing institutions so that they can implement development strategies towards independence.

**Implications of Village Community Participation in the Development of an Independent and Prosperous Village in Purwosari Village**

To increase the independence of poor communities, especially those who lack access to development resources to improve their lives, the Food Independent Village program has attempted to help the program's target communities to be able to recognize and assess development needs, problems, and opportunities. Based on the food self-sufficient village program framework, poor families in the Purwosari Village community need three things to achieve the main goal, namely:

- 1) Development of community institutions based on affinity which is a forum for developing both social and financial capital.
- 2) Opportunities to increase income for families/groups on an ongoing basis
- 3) The ability to use these opportunities to support the community in realizing the first two things mentioned above at each stage of the food-independent village program activities.

Affinity groups are groups of poor people formed and integrated into the village organization system by the food-independent village program, and are representatives of predetermined target groups. The program hopes that the group will be able to facilitate its members to participate in decision-making forums carried out by the local community. The people in Purwosari Village have a culture of active cooperation and are accustomed to participating and even donating their resources to solve problems or needs of their community. Like organizations, affinity groups are groups that are grown, developed, and nurtured. This group will grow and can form other affinity groups if they feel that their group is large and can carry out its functions and there are efforts to separate and develop further to improve and increase the quality of the group which will be able to perform better for the development of the business. larger at the village or inter-village level.

The monitoring and evaluation system is expected to play a role in implementing the food-independent village program strategy in Purwosari Village, Simalungun Regency, and in monitoring the process of assessing the stages of community activities regarding the priorities and strengths of village communities in the context of developing affinity groups. Another thing that needs to be considered and maintained in the food independent village program in Purwosari Village is that there should be no wrong participation, namely participation that involves the community in the program just to have their voices heard without actually giving them the opportunity to take part in making decisions, indeed making decisions. Participatory practices are not always harmonious and there are

often many priorities that must be chosen, therefore compromises over conflicts of interest that occur must continue to be socialized as part of solving problems that arise in the food-independent village program.

## **E. CLOSING**

### **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the research and discussion of the research entitled "Village Community Development towards an Independent and Prosperous Village in Purwosari Pematang Bandar Village" the conclusion is drawn:

1. The food-independent village program in Purwosari Village, Simalungun Regency is at the partnership level in accordance with Arstein's level of participation which is characterized by active participation from the community in the program both at the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages, including in solving problems that arise. The community also feels that they have received real benefits from implementing the program, including fulfilling their needs for life, both social and economic. The government's role in implementing this program is felt to be very large, there is a clear division of authority between the roles of the government and the community and they do not feel that there is too much intervention from the government in program activities that have become a mutual agreement with the community in the village.
2. The existence of a food-independent village program enables village communities to play an active role in every activity both in the food-independent village program itself and in other development programs that already exist in the community. With the critical power of the community, it is hoped that the steps taken will be truly in accordance with what the community needs. So that along with the implementation of the food-independent village program, other development agendas planned for Purwosari Village in the future will run successfully and smoothly so that great benefits can be obtained.

### **Suggestion**

It is necessary to refine the stages of implementing participatory planning so that it can be implemented simply and easily by both village and sub-district government officials and the community without compromising participatory principles.

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