# Participation Of Riverbank Communities In Development (Case Study Of Riverbank Communities In Kelayan Timur Urban Village, South Banjarmasin Sub-District, Banjarmasin City)

# Erna Suriyani

Faculty of Administrative Sciences, Achmad Yani University Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, Indonesia \* Corresponding Author:

Email: ernasuryani065@gmail.com

#### Abstract.

This research aims to find out how riverbank community participation in development in Kelayan Timur Village. The type of research used in this research is descriptive, while the approach used is a qualitative approach. Data collection was done through observation, interviews, and documentation. The research findings show that the riverbank community in Kelayan Timur Village in overall development is quite participatory, but not maximized. Community participation in decision-making is quite good, such as the delivery of aspirations, ideas, input, suggestions and criticism from the community, although it has not been done directly by the community. Community participation in the implementation of development activities already exists but is still low, both in terms of providing labor and materials. Community participation in monitoring and evaluating development activities is quite good. Meanwhile, community participation in the utilization of development results is good but the maintenance of development results is still low.

Keywords: Participation; community and development.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Development in a country is an activity that must be carried out continuously and uninterruptedly by every country, because development can bring about a better, more advanced, and more prosperous society, as stated by Aprillia Theresia et al. (2015:3), development is a process or series of activities that never stops, continuously bringing about changes in society in order to achieve improvements in the quality of life, within a constantly changing environment. This opinion is also in line with what was stated by Bachtiar Effendi (2002:2) that development is an effort to improve all resources in a planned and sustainable manner with the principles of efficiency and equitable distribution of benefits. Therefore, development is an activity that must be carried out in a planned and continuous manner to bring about changes in society in order to improve the welfare and quality of life of the people in a sustainable manner. This must also be done continuously by the Indonesian state in order to achieve the goals and ideals of the nation. The Preamble to the 1945 Constitution states that the goal of national development is to "protect the entire Indonesian nation and all of Indonesia's blood." This means that by protecting the nation, the government is responsible for creating safe and stable conditions so that people can carry out their activities and innovate without fear. Additionally, the objective of national development is to "advance the general welfare," indicating that national development must be oriented toward improving the quality of life of the people. This means that every development policy and program must be able to benefit all segments of society, especially the less fortunate. By prioritizing the general welfare, national development is expected to reduce social and economic disparities, which often become sources of conflict and dissatisfaction within society.

The third objective contained in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution is to "educate the nation." Education is one of the important pillars of national development. By educating the nation, the government seeks to improve the quality of human resources, which in turn will support the progress and competitiveness of the nation. Furthermore, the objective to "participate in maintaining world order based on freedom, eternal peace, and social justice" indicates that national development is not only focused on domestic interests but also has a global dimension. As an independent country, Indonesia has a responsibility to contribute to creating peace and justice in the international community. By upholding the values of humanity and social

ISSN: 2774-5406

justice, Indonesia can play an important role in the global community. To achieve equitable national development, the government has made various efforts. The development that has been planned so far will be able to run according to expectations if it receives a positive response from the community. Development can be successful and Indonesia can develop into an independent and dignified country in the world, so the government and the community need to work together to achieve this goal. Therefore, public support, attention, and participation in development are essential. According to Isbandi (2007:27), public participation refers to the involvement of the community in the process of identifying existing problems and potential, selecting and making decisions about alternative solutions to address problems, and involving the community in the process of evaluating changes that occur.

Adisasmita (2016:2) states that participation refers to the initiative, active role, and involvement of all development actors, including service providers and recipients, as well as the social environment in decision-making, formulation of plans, implementation of activities, and monitoring of implementation to improve social welfare. The initiative and active participation of community members means the involvement of community members in various community development activities. Sanit (in Suryono, 2001:32, in Muhammad Yusuf, 2019:1862) explains that development begins with community involvement. There are several advantages when the community is involved in development planning, namely, first, development will proceed in accordance with the needs of the community. Second, community-oriented development creates political stability. According to Tjokrowinoto (2007:86), community participation is an effective way to build community capacity for managing development programs to meet the specific needs of the region. Furthermore, community participation is also considered a key to the success of development at the grassroots level. Nana Rukmana D.W. (2003:212) also explains that community participation is important in development because:

- 1. Community participation contributes to the optimal utilization of limited funds. This is because all activities funded by community sources can be directly monitored by the community.
- 2. Community participation opens up the possibility of decisions being made based on the priority needs and capabilities of the community. This can result in more realistic plans, policy programs, and community willingness to contribute resources such as money and labor for implementation, operation, and maintenance.
- 3. Community participation ensures greater acceptance and aspiration for everything that is built. This will encourage better maintenance and even generate pride.

Based on the above opinions, it can be seen that community participation has the potential to determine, support, and influence development. Community involvement in development can function as implementers, supporters, supervisors, and beneficiaries of program outcomes. This means that community participation is essential in development programs implemented by the government. This is no exception for those living along riverbanks; their involvement or participation is crucial to achieving development toward a progressive, fair, and prosperous society. In this study, the riverbank community refers to the riverbank community in Kelayanan Timur Village. In this area, there are communities whose livelihoods are primarily farming and private sector work, with an average economic status of lower-middle class. The government has implemented several development programs in this village, including for communities living along the riverbanks. Those who live and work along the riverbanks must actively participate in and support programs that promote the well-being and welfare of the riverbank communities. Based on observations, community involvement in development in the Kelayan Timur village riverbank area is still lacking.

This can be seen from the low participation of some residents in development activities carried out by the village, their limited involvement in community-driven activities such as cleaning drainage channels, and cleaning roads and rivers from trash, even though river cleanliness is important for people living along the riverbanks. Their involvement is crucial given the condition of the riverbanks and the river, which require serious development. River issues need serious attention because they can have harmful effects on the health of people living in the area. Based on the above description, the author is interested in conducting research on community participation in riverbank development (a case study of the riverbank community in

Kelayan Timur Village, Banjarmasin Selatan District, Banjarmasin City). Thus, the research question for this study is: "How does the riverbank community participate in development in Kelayan Timur Village".

According to Aprellia Theresia (2015: 198-199), participation consists of four types, namely:

1. participation in decision-making.

Participation in decision-making is where the community participates directly in the decision-making process. To foster community participation, a forum is needed that allows the community to participate directly in the decision-making process.

2. Participation in activities.

This participation can be interpreted as the equitable distribution of community contributions in the form of labor, cash, and/or various other forms of sacrifice commensurate with what will be received. In addition, participation in activities can also be seen during the maintenance of projects or in programs that have been successfully completed.

3. Participation in monitoring and evaluation.

Participation in monitoring and evaluation aims to gather information related to the progress of activities and the behavior of officials involved in the project or program.

4. Participation in the utilization of results.

Participation in the utilization of results is participation in the utilization of the results of development projects or programs. The utilization of project or program results will stimulate the willingness and enthusiasm of the community to always participate in programs that will be implemented in the future.

Based on the above description, community participation in this study is defined as the involvement of an individual or community group in the development process, including involvement in decision-making (providing input, ideas, opinions), involvement in the implementation of activities in the form of labor, money, or various other forms of sacrifice, involvement in monitoring and evaluation, and participation in utilizing and enjoying the results of development.

## II. METHODS

The type of research used in this study is descriptive research, which will describe the participation of the community living along the river in Kelayan Timur Village in development in accordance with the reality in the field. Meanwhile, the approach used is qualitative and data collection was carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation.

# III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Community Participation in Decision Making

The participation of the community living along the river in Kelayanan Timur village in decision making can be seen from their participation in deliberations, meetings, discussions, providing input, or in the form of rejection of development programs. Involvement in this decision-making process is very important because it concerns the plans and activities that will be carried out. If the community is involved, the plans will certainly be in line with the aspirations and wishes of the community. Based on the results of the study, it was found that the community living along the river in Kelayan Timur village is quite involved in decision-making, but not directly. The community is not directly involved in decision-making regarding development plans. Their involvement in the development planning meeting (Musrembang) in Kelayan Timur Village is carried out through representatives such as RT and RW heads and community leaders. They jointly conduct the development planning meeting with village officials, the Village Community Empowerment Agency (LPMK), the Regional Development Planning Agency (Barenlitbangda), the Public Works and Housing Department (PUPR), the Urban Development Agency (Perkim), the Village Defense Officer (Babinsa), and the Village Security Officer (Bhabinkantibmas). In addition to Musrembang, there are monthly meetings attended by RT and RW heads and LPMK members. They provide suggestions, opinions, and input on development activities and other matters carried out by the Kelayan Timur Village Government based on the opinions and aspirations of the community.

RT heads collect community aspirations, ideas, and desires to be conveyed at the village meeting held once a month. RT chairpersons gather aspirations through various methods, such as community members coming directly to express their opinions or gathering with the community to listen to their opinions, ideas, or objections. However, not everyone can attend such gatherings because they are working. However, to gather aspirations, desires, or suggestions from the community at the RT level, almost none of this is done formally by the RT Head, such as by formally inviting them to meetings to understand their needs and priorities. If they reject development activities because they feel they do not align with their aspirations, the RT and RW Chairmen explain the programs until they understand and accept the development plans. However, in essence, the development programs implemented so far have faced little rejection from the community because they are carried out in accordance with their needs. In fact, suggestions, criticisms, and rejections from the community are collected and used as input for improvements in future development. Based on the results of this study, community involvement in decision-making is quite good because all elements of the community are involved in development planning through village development planning meetings. This is in accordance with the guidelines for the implementation of village development planning meetings issued by the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas and the Minister of Home Affairs. However, during the process of absorbing community aspirations and opinions at the RT level, whether for Musrenbang or monthly meetings attended by RT, RW, and LPMK chairs along with village officials, this must be done sincerely so that the results truly align with community needs. If the Musrenbang process and other meetings related to development can effectively capture community needs and priorities, the direction of development will align with the community's desires and needs.

# 2. Community Participation in the Implementation of Activities

The implementation of development is the next stage of the decisions that have been agreed upon. In development activities, community involvement is also very important, including communities living along riverbanks, especially in programs related to riverbanks, rivers, and other activities, because the most important issue in this area is river cleanliness. Community participation in development implementation is defined as the involvement of the community in the form of labor and materials or various other forms of sacrifice. This means that in the implementation of development activities or programs, community involvement can take the form of labor and materials such as funds, goods, and equipment. The research findings indicate that community involvement in development implementation among residents living along the riverbanks in Kelayan Timur Village remains low, particularly in terms of material contributions (funds, goods, and tools). They still hope for assistance from the government, especially in the form of infrastructure, such as road repairs, bridges, and so on. Currently, there appears to be no infrastructure development that is the result of community self-help. If there are development activities or programs being implemented, community involvement in terms of material assistance is limited to providing whatever they can. Community participation can also be seen from their involvement in providing labor assistance in development activities. In the implementation of development, especially infrastructure such as road or bridge construction, the community is not directly involved, as such projects are already assigned to specific contractors.

However, occasionally some community members participate as part of the process due to their expertise as construction workers. In addition, their involvement can be seen in community service activities such as cleaning the environment, roads, and rivers from trash and weeds like water hyacinth. Some of them participate, while others do not because their schedules conflict with their work, which is essential for their families' livelihoods. Their work takes up a lot of time, so the community has not been able to participate fully in development activities, especially in the implementation of development programs. In addition, for household waste, most people use the services of others, paying individually to have their waste collected and disposed of at the landfill. The research also found that community involvement in sustainable programs is not very active. Their enthusiasm is only temporary and limited to the early stages. For example, river cleaning activities, which were once carried out by some community members known as river guardians, have ceased because no incentives were provided to them. Now, when the river becomes overgrown with

water hyacinths and littered with trash, the village office coordinates river cleaning efforts, involving some community members in the activities.

# 3. Community Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation

Community participation in monitoring and evaluating development programs plays a very important role in improving the quality of development implementation. The results of the study show that the community living along the river in Kelayan Timur Village also participates in monitoring the progress of development activities by providing comments, suggestions, and criticism. Sometimes they also comment and criticize who is involved in the project. In addition, they also participate in evaluating development activities, such as when the results of development are deemed unsuitable for their needs. Although there is monitoring of development activities and evaluation of development activities by the community, this is only done and communicated within their own environment. However, proper monitoring of development progress can help ensure that development programs are implemented effectively and sustainably, enabling the community to benefit from them in the long term. Through monitoring and evaluation conducted by the community, the government can determine whether development programs have achieved their intended objectives or not.

# 4. Community Participation in the Utilization of Development Outcomes

One measure of the success of a development program is when the outcomes of development are utilized well by the community, especially when they are beneficial in improving the welfare of the community. The utilization of development outcomes by the community is a form of community acceptance of development outcomes, based on the assumption that when the community is willing or ready to utilize a development outcome, it means that the community is willing to accept the development outcome. Based on field research, it was found that development outcomes in Kelayan Timur sub-district have provided benefits to the community, including those living along the riverbanks. This indicates that the community has utilized the development outcomes. Roads and bridges are clearly well-utilized. This infrastructure has facilitated their activities, such as commuting to school, traveling to work, shopping, and other daily tasks. However, the public toilets that have been built are not being used because people already have their own toilets.

Community involvement in the form of maintenance of the development that has been carried out so far has not been maximized, such as the maintenance of public toilets that have been built and are now almost unused except for some use by children from the orphanage. There are no efforts to maintain the development using funds from the community itself or in the form of community self-help. Community awareness of environmental cleanliness remains low, with some residents still disposing of waste in rivers and the presence of toilets along riverbanks. In fact, community participation, including those living along the riverbanks, in the form of involvement in maintenance efforts is crucial for the sustainability of development in Kelayan Timur Village.

# IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussions on community participation in the Kelayan Timur riverbank, it can be concluded that: (1). Community participation in decision-making is quite good, as evidenced by the expression of aspirations, ideas, input, suggestions, and criticism from the community, although this has not been done directly by the community. (2). Community participation in the implementation of development activities exists but is still low, both in terms of manpower and material resources. (3). Community participation in monitoring and evaluating development activities is quite good but not yet optimal. (4). Community participation in the utilization of development outcomes is good, but maintenance of development outcomes has not been effectively carried out by the community.

This study recommends that: 1). The community living along the river in Kelayan Timur Village is expected to increase its participation in development programs. 2). It is necessary to foster the establishment of forums that enable the community to participate directly in the decision-making process regarding development programs in their area. 3). There should be a space for the community to convey the results of monitoring and evaluation of development activities. 4). There is a need for strong motivation and concrete

actions to encourage community involvement, especially in the implementation of development and maintenance of development outcomes so that the benefits can continue to be enjoyed.

## V. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to express his deepest gratitude to the Faculty of Administrative Sciences and the Institute for Research and Community Service at Achmad Yani University in Banjarmasin for all the support and facilities provided. To the Head of Kelayan Timur Village and all his staff who have assisted in this research process, as well as to all parties who have contributed directly or indirectly so that this journal could be completed successfully.

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