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Participatory Rural Appraisal As The Participatory Planning Method Of Development Planning

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Abstract:

This research is very important to know the use of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) which is as a method of participatory planning on development planning and the efforts of government village in engaging all community groups and stakeholders in deliberation planning. The result of observation of development planning was not optimal as expected. This was due to lack of clarity about the tools used to search for the priority activities. With the use of PRA planning in the process of management of existing resources as well as carried out by involving the community as a whole in accordance with the assessment in each sector. By using the use of PRA methods, this is hoped that it will create a system of participatory rural development planning in the process of management of existing resources as well as it is carried out by involving the community as a whole in accordance with the assessment in each field. For this purpose, the methods required to find out is an observation, interview and conducting studies relating to the research literature. The results seem to be that the application of the PRA method is still minimal. The use of PRA is only limited in the direct meeting of deliberation planning involving the village level with citizens groups widely ranging lowest village levels such as groups of residents or neighborhood associations (RT). Deeper proposed development plan is not through the process of digging the problem by studying the fields of development.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the observation, the development planning has not reached the expected results. It was due to the unclear tools used to find the priority activities. The communities were also not widely involved in analyzing the problems within their environments. The proposed activities more likely came as the results of observation instead of deeper study in each field. Most of the proposal were coming from people who have influence or relation towards the village governments. Moreover, during the deliberation of the proposed activities in

higher level, there were many interventions and interests to engage several activities which are related to the interest of particular person or group.

The World Bank Explained that PRA is a process which extends into analysis, planning and action. It defines PRA as a 'family of participatory approaches and methods which emphasize local knowledge and enable local people to do their own appraisal, analysis and planning. 'PRA uses group animation and exercises to facilitate information sharing, analysis and action among stakeholders.

Alam and Ishan (2012) said that PRA is the most suitable and appropriate method to identify the existing situation of the community. PRA is the most appropriate and suitable method to identify the situation in the community.

Robert Chambers (2007) introduced the PRA method as an alternative for development practitioners who need a research methodology that can help them understand the community faster with actual information and low cost as well as be able to invite the community as the research actors themselves.

PRA is a participatory approach and method that emphasize local knowledge and enable local communities to conduct their own assessment, analysis and planning. PRA uses visualizations and exercises to facilitate information sharing, analysis and action between stake holders (Uddin, M.N. and N. Anjuman: 2013).

Community participation according to Isbandi (2007: 27) is the participation of the community in the process of identifying the problems and potentials that exist in the community, the selection and decision-making on alternative solutions to address the problems, the implementation of problem-solving efforts, and the involvement of the community in the process of evaluating the changes.

The study on the meaning of participation, Yadav in Totok Mardikanto and Poerwoko Soebiato (2015: 82-84) suggested the scope of participation with the sequence of development planning process, in detail the types of participation in development as follows: 1) Participation in decision making; 2) Participation in the implementation of activities; 3) Participation in development monitoring and evaluation; 4) Participation in the utilization of development results. Ahmad Mustanir (2016 : 294).

Sjafrizal (2014: 24) stated that development planning is a way or technique to achieve development goals appropriately, which is directed and efficient in accordance with the conditions of the concerned region.

Arthur W. Lewis (2005) defined the development planning as a collection of policies and development programs aimed to stimulate people and the private sector to use more productive resources.

Ahmad Mustanir (2017: 356) defined *Musrenbang* as open multi-stakeholder forums that jointly identify and define community development policy priorities.

This research focused on the use of the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) method as a participatory planning method in development planning and village government efforts involving all elements of the community and related parties in various development planning including Musrenbang Deliberation of Development Planning in Tonrong Rijang Village, Baranti, Sidenreng Rappang Regency.

2. METHOD

The type of research used is descriptive explanatory research which is a

combination of descriptive research and explanatory research of Keith Punch (2006).

This research used qualitative approach. The characteristic model of qualitative research will greatly facilitate the researcher in finding and understanding the research question. As mentioned by Creswell researchers can use multiple methods that are interactive and humanistic. Creswell (2013: 167) proposed the reasons for using qualitative methods because this approach has advantages in exposing the phenomenon of the prevalent custom of community participation in development planning. Furthermore, because the qualitative approach has a high flexibility for researchers when determining the steps of research, qualitative research can also provide opportunities for greater expression and explanation in the form of interpretation based on logical intuitive certainty.

In qualitative research, the researcher can also simultaneously act as a participant observer with activities such as taking notes, recording and observing (Jamaluddin Ahmad: 2015, 52).

There are several data collection techniques in this study, namely Observation, in-depth interview (in-depth interview) and Library Studies (library research). In order to test the validity of data, the researcher uses triangulation method where the data were obtained from several resources.

N. Narayanasamy (2009: 32) stated that Triangulation of data is a technique of checking the validity of data that utilizes something else outside the data for the purposes of checking or as a comparison of the data. In this term, Patton (in Sutopo, 2002: 78) stated that there are four kinds of triangulation techniques, namely: data triangulation, triangulation method, triangulation of researchers, and triangulation theory. Triangulation types used in this research are triangulation of data source and method.

Data analysis technique used in this research is Interactive Model Analysis (Interactive Model Of Analysis) developed by Miles and Huberman (Sugiyono: 2015). The technique suggests that activities in qualitative data analysis are performed interactively and continuously until it is complete, so that the data is saturated. Activities in data analysis contain of Collection Data, Reduction Data, Display Data, and Conclusion Drawing / Verifying.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results show that PRA as an approach and method is a term that is not well known at all by the local community. Although some of the stages of PRA have been firmly attached to local community development planning activities.

3.1 *PRA as a Participatory Approach and Methods Emphasizing Local Knowledge of Society*

The results showed that community participation in development planning activities in Tonrong Rijang Village, Baranti, Sidenreng Rappang District, showed that development planning carried out was not just a mere formal meeting but has become a forum for the community to convey the most urgent aspirations and needs for the village community In informal meetings. However, the research shows that informal meetings are held only when there is a will related to an activity rather than as routine development planning activities.

At meetings of development planning programs implemented in Tonrong Rijang Village, all proposals brought to the forum

are purely the aspirations of the people, not from the willingness of the Head of Village or Village Consultative Board (BPD), which is then forced to be approved by the community as a proposed development plan. It indicates that the proposal is already based on local knowledge, derived from the community itself, not outsider or outside intervention.

The use of PRA methods in development planning activities based on local knowledge of the community can be seen from several basic principles which have been implemented, among others: the community learn from each other and share the experience, the involvement of almost all members of the community who present in a deliberation, practical orientation yet still pay attention to sustainability of the planned program.

In fact, similar with the findings at the time of observation, the activities during the development plan have not used the clear tools in looking at the potentials, problems and efforts to solve the problem. Society in expressing their opinions are still referring to what they know through observation without being able to compare with other opinions that may be more appropriate through a study in related field. The use of PRA methods by using the tools was only once implemented when the community assistance during community service activities was conducted by college lecturers.

The use of PRA method emphasizing the local knowledge of the community and clear tools is more preferred by the community compared to the method of disseminating opinions in the counseling.

Local communities play an important role in development planning activities with this PRA method because the local community consisting of these groups are the main drivers of village activities. On the other hand, the group that grew and lived together became part of the interconnected system hooked up in Tonrong Rijang Village.

3.2 *PRA as Participatory Approach and Method Enabling Local Communities To Perform Assessment Of Their Own Development Programs*

The results of the study showed that community participation in development planning activities in Tonrong Rijang Village, using a cycle of approaches and methods of PRA were conducted in order to assess their own development programs.

Assessment of the development planning program implemented in the PRA approach cycle is based on the results of the study only on the development planning which is not part of the village deliberation of development planning consultation (musrenbang). Moreover it is conducted when the community assistance was performed in community service activities by university lecturers in their area.

Assessment of the development planning program in the village deliberation of development planning consultation (*musrenbang*) is generally no longer taken place because it has become a habit in each activity to carried this out every year. Generally, in these activities, the public only present the wishes of the program they want without ever doing a full assessment and assessment of the previous program and program proposal.

Community assistance in community service activities using PRA methods provides many hopes and benefits for the community on how they conduct their assessment of the development planning program.

3.3 *PRA as a Participatory Approach and Method That Enable Local Communities To Conduct Analysis and Make Planning Programs To Their Own Development Program*

Research shows that community participation in Tonrong Rijang Village in using PRA method in order to analyze and make planning on their own development program has not yet fully exercised. Despite people feel the use of tools in accordance with the study of areas discussed with the PRA method at the time of community assistance in community service activities is very good in making a development planning program.

When the village governments were asked about this, they declare that the participatory methods that exist in the PRA has been applied in the deliberation of development planning, especially the village development planning (musrenbang) and run effectively in the community in analyzing the development planning program.

The use of PRA methods that have not been fully implemented during deliberations of development planning in Tonrong Rijang Village as explained earlier is also caused by village government which is carried over by the higher government that the implementation of development planning deliberation schedules have to be adjusted with the presence of sub-district government as well related agencies. Whereas if the use of PRA method is performed optimally, it will take quite a long time, which will not be possible to be continually attended by the sub-district government and its related agencies.

The results showed that the PRA method has not been fully implemented and exercised by the government of Tonrong Rijang village resulting in the involvement of people in various development planning meetings has not been maximized yet. Only certain community leaders attended these activities at the village level. Thus the decisions taken in the deliberations have not fully reflected the will of the whole village community. Decisions taken in the deliberations also have not guaranteed acceptance of proposals from community leaders present. It seems like there is a resigned attitude hoping their proposals generated through musrenbang can be accepted and approved. The community understands that district government has the major role in determining whether or not the proposal is appropriate.

Involvement of the community in the deliberation of development planning occurs only at the time of community assistance in community service activities from universities in their area. The involvement of communities in such mentoring activities occurred because the process of deliberation was carried out starting from the smallest level of community (RW) at the hamlet level and finally at the village level. This is not the case in Musrenbang which its deliberation activities are conducted directly at the village level. Even though in interviews with village officials they said that the community was invited in the musrenbang activities.

In addition, many communities are involved in community service activities because the PRA method is very interesting, eliminating the social barriers among members of the community, and the community is invited visually in the process of making a development planning program.

The findings also show that psychological factors, communication, occupation type, educational level and age

also influence community participation in development planning process in Tonrong Rijang Village. Observations and research show that psychological factors are closely related to the type of work and the level of community education. People who have a relatively low level of education and work as equal farmers tend to be easier to express their opinions and suggestions when planning deliberations carried out in the neighborhoods of the community compare to deliberations carried out at the village level which are already dealing with other citizens whom they deem to have higher education level and better job.

The communication factor also influenced the participation of the community due to the absence of the development planning meeting (musrenbang) because they did not know the information of the activity and were never invited by the village government to attend deliberations.

The age factor in the study findings indicates that those who are already mature, participate relatively higher than in the younger age group (under 41 years old) and the older group (above 55 years). The low participation of these youth groups is thought to be due to the reluctance of parents to be considered senior. While those above 55 years appear to be more concerned with other affairs and less fit in order to follow the process of development planning deliberation.

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusions of this study are as follows:

1. The proposed development planning program has been based on local knowledge of the community itself, not outsider or outside intervention. The use of PRA methods derived from the local knowledge of the community can be seen from several basic principles that are carried out, among others: the community learn from each other and share the experience, the involvement of almost all members of the community groups present in a deliberation, practical orientation yet still pay attention to the sustainability of the planned program. The effort to plan the development has not used the clear tools in looking at the potentials, problems and efforts to solve the problem. The use of PRA methods using tools has only been implemented once during community assistance in community service activities by university lecturers in their area.
2. Assessment of the development planning program implemented in the PRA approach cycle is only carried out in development planning which is not part of the village development planning (musrenbang) consultative meeting, which is only conducted when the community is assisted within community service activities by university lecturers in their area. As the result, some government programs eventually become overlapping. Research of the problems in order to find out the list of community needs often repeated every time a new program / project entered.
3. The use of PRA method has not been fully implemented in Tonrong Rijang Village because the musrenbang schedule must be adjusted to the presence of sub-district government and related offices. Whereas if the use of PRA method is optimally performed, it will take quite a long time, which will not be possible to be continually attended by the sub-district government

and its related agencies. As a result, the involvement of many communities in various development planning meetings has not maximally exercised. In fact, only certain community leaders attended these activities at the village level. The decisions taken in the deliberations have not fully reflected the will of all villagers. The findings also show that psychological, communication, occupational, educational and age factors influence the community participation in the development planning process in Tonrong Rijang Village.

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