

Contribution of Community Organizations to Develop Assets and Development of Poor Communities in Medan City

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Abstract: Empowerment activities carried out by organizations or institutions in developing assets or capital in the community have long been carried out. Assets in the community are developed and empowered to improve their livelihoods. The contribution of local organizations is assistance provided by local organizations to their members through programs implemented such as training to improve skills and find a new skills, providing information, knowledge and insights as well as providing educational motivation to members of the urban poor. These contributions can be mapped according to the vision and mission of local organizations in empowering the assets of urban poor communities in the city of Medan.

1 INTRODUCTION

Efforts to empower local organizations as community empowerment are in line with "People Centered Development" and "Reinventing Government" are not easy, because many factors need to be considered both internal factors which include conditions and characteristics of local community organizations and external factors which include activities, technical strategies and methods, the role and professional skills of community development workers as a companion to the program and the role of other development actors (NGOs, Donor Institutions, Universities and Government) (Widanarto, 2014).

Asset-based community empowerment has been carried out by institutions or organizations engaged in community development in developing countries such as the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and Oxfam. These institutions or organizations develop assets or capital in the community in the process of empowerment or community development to improve community livelihoods. Assets in the community are developed and empowered to improve their livelihoods. In Indonesia, there are many institutions or organizations engaged in the field of community empowerment but it is not seen that actually develops all assets in the community such as human, physical, fiscal, social and natural

assets in the process of community empowerment. One of the most popular empowerment programs in Indonesia today is the Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (PNPM) Mandiri that has not fully developed the existing assets in the community. If you pay attention to this program is still about human development (human assets), physical (physical assets), economic (financial assets). Here there is an assumption that by empowering or developing the people's economy all aspects related to community welfare will be fulfilled (Syamsudin, 2016).

In reality, there are not only one or two aspects that must be considered, but also other assets or capital. This is related to the sustainability of the community empowerment program that has been carried out. Developing the community's economy (fiscal assets) must be accompanied by the development of its human resources (human assets) as well as physical and natural assets as a means of developing the existing economy and human resources. Whereas social assets and technological capital are used as supporting or complementary facilities for the development of other assets (human, fiscal, natural, or physical assets) to meet the needs of the community. So, in this case it appears that assets in the community need to be considered in the process of community empowerment.

2 METHOD

The research approach used is a qualitative, carried out in Medan. The organizations that were the locus of this study were at Serikat Becak Merdeka (SBM), STM Silahturahim, Credit Union (CU) Ayah Bunda, LENTERA Medan, Bina Nelayan, Masyarakat Kebun Kolektif, Kelompok Nelayan Ujung Tanjung (SMI), Serikat Nelayan, Rumah Industri Marjinal (RIM). Data analysis in a qualitative approach focuses on inductive analysis, so that descriptive analysis data can be illustrated (Bungin, 2014).

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The contribution of local community organizations in the process of empowering community assets has a very large role, because many urban poor people are helped by skills training, developing knowledge of knowledge carried out by local organizations to their members.

The development of an empowerment model that emphasizes aspects of intellectuality rather than action activities has also been examined by Thamrin (2006). Community empowerment is an effort to develop understanding of the development of new thinking, analytical, and education rather than an action effort. This model will be closely related to changes in insight and transformation of knowledge. Education becomes the main tool in this empowerment process (Thamrin, 2006). It can be said that the contribution of local community organizations has an influence on the economic, social life of members of the urban poor who are members of local community organizations.

Based on the results of research conducted on the contribution of local community organizations in empowering the assets of urban poor communities in the city of Medan, information is obtained that the contribution of local community organizations in empowering the assets of community members is as follows:

1. Assist the economy of its members through skills training and information knowledge as well as the development of members' insights,
2. Conducting an empowerment process especially for fishermen's wives through skills training programs,
3. Conducting empowerment processes through training programs and skills in developing the ability of members in accordance with the world of work,

4. Help open access to members of the organization in achieving job information, and access in other fields to get a better economic life,
5. Become a means of connecting the aspirations of members of the organization to the Central Government, Medan City Government, the Central House of Representatives and the Medan City House of Representatives, Become a means of advocating for members who have problems with the law or experience acts of violence from other parties,
6. Assist family economic empowerment through business capital assistance and other skills programs.

The contribution of local organizations is assistance provided by local organizations to their members through programs implemented such as training in skills, providing information, knowledge and insights as well as providing educational motivation to members of the urban poor.

These contributions can be mapped according to the vision and mission of local organizations in empowering the assets of urban poor communities in the city of Medan. Mapping the contribution of local community organizations can be done by looking at the potential of local community organizations in empowering the assets of community members of urban poor community organizations in the city of Medan. The amount of contribution made through programs and training by local organizations is very frightening to help members of the organization in meeting their daily needs and to ease the burden on members of local community organizations (Muhtar, 2010).

Furthermore, the activities carried out by the urban poor in addressing poverty are carried out by finding out information from the managers of the local organizations that are followed. The information sought is information on venture capital assistance, information on skills training schedules or information on whether there is assistance provided to the urban poor, whether scholarship assistance for children's education, information about schools or levels of education that will be pursued for children and others. All knowledge, skills and business capital owned by the urban poor are obtained from the management of local organizations through skills training that has been provided to the urban poor communities.

In addition, the strategy undertaken by the urban poor in dealing with poverty, in particular preparing education funds for school children, is to reduce unnecessary expenses and set aside daily expenses for unnecessary expenses and the funds are used for

education costs. Setting aside daily spending money is the strategy most often done to reduce spending money is expected to raise funds for children's education, besides getting used to living frugally by reducing unnecessary expenses in the family. This strategy is most often done by the urban poor in anticipating the cost of education for children.

Then the strategy taken by the urban poor if there are family members who are sick by visiting the Community Health Center (Puskesmas), the puskesmas is the choice of the urban poor, especially if there are members who are sick. And if a family member is seriously ill or cannot be treated at the puskesmas then the family member is taken to the nearest hospital. By using government assistance through the BPJS, the urban poor can access health facilities from the puskesmas for free. Even though there are still urban poor people who do not yet have BPJS Health, they still choose the puskesmas to get health facilities because of the low cost compared to going to the hospital.

Strategies undertaken by the urban poor to gain access to health services are carried out by seeking additional income by working to utilize skills acquired from local community organizations, then setting aside spending money and daily necessities to be used as savings when there are family members sick. And indebted to the family is another strategy that is commonly done in accessing health facilities.

The strategy undertaken by the urban poor is a natural thing for them, for example, telling his wife and children to work to help the family economy. If only the husband or head of the family works, their income will not be sufficient in one month for that cooperation from all families is needed in order to increase family income. Likewise with other things, such as working more than eight hours a day to meet the necessities of life carried out by members of the organization or the urban poor, even though they are more than eight hours a day still their income is not sufficient to meet the necessities of life. By joining urban poor communities in organizations that provide skills training, information, insights, and venture capital assistance, members can use them to work more effectively. So as to create additional income and get a more decent income to meet the daily needs of the family.

Based on the results of the research and expert opinion above regarding the strategy of the urban poor in dealing with poverty, it can be concluded as follows:

1. Work more than usual (work more than eight hours) in one day,

2. Reducing the cost of the need to be used as a savings fund if there are family members who are sick or used for the new school year school children (for the allocation of children's education funds),
3. Looking for side jobs by utilizing the skills and expertise of local organizations,
4. Asking other family members to help work (wife works to help the family economy and children work after school),
5. Selecting Puskesmas to get health care facilities using BPJS and selecting hospitals if there are family members who have chronic pain that cannot be handled by the puskesmas,
6. For children's education, it is dealt with by reducing the cost of daily necessities and saving lives by not buying unnecessary things,
7. Utilizing local organizations to borrow venture capital assistance,
8. Owe money to the family if you are in a desperate need of money, because you owe money to the family without interest and the payback period can be longer (if you already have money),
9. Live in the house of relatives /relatives if you cannot afford to rent a house, and build a house on government-owned land if you don't have a family to board.

The urban poor also use community organizations to become facilitators in order to receive assistance. The assistance is a program from the central government such as raskin, BLT. PKH is received regularly by the respondent. Not all respondents received the assistance aside from the problem of incomplete administration of members plus other problems such as the uneven collection of the poor population. The magnitude of help received by respondents in helping daily life is very minimal ranging from 1-10% for this reason, in meeting the needs of life members of local community organizations must work hard outside of normal work hours to above eight hours each day. The money collected is also used as a reserve fund for example for children's schools, medical expenses if there are sick families and others.

The assistance is used as a way to help the daily lives of the urban poor, although the assistance received is not maximally able to help the livelihoods of the urban poor. To meet the needs of daily life, the urban poor must work harder up to eight hours more per day, and set aside costs from daily shopping. Based on the results of the study it is also known that there are still urban poor people who have not received all the assistance such as

PKH, raskin, BLT and other programs beyond the factors of uneven data collection, limited funds, etc.

Strategies undertaken by local organization managers in empowering the urban poor or members who are members of these local community organizations. The strategy is a variety of ways by local community organizations, one of which is to invite members to be active or participate in activities and programs carried out by local community organizations.

Based on the results of the study it is also known that it is not easy to invite members to participate in activities, the low awareness of members on the importance of training and skills as well as programs implemented by local community organizations makes the community managers must carry out specific strategies in empowering the urban poor, this is compounded with the low motivation of members in the empowerment process which is also influenced by low economic factors, social factors, and environmental factors around the residence of members of local community organizations. This was also found in the issue of empowerment in a 2013 study by Sulili. The problem that often arises when giving opportunities to the community to participate in the development process is that capacity is considered by many to be still low so that it does not have sufficient capacity to jointly with the government, the private sector manages the implementation of development, including public services.

However, with the community empowerment program being carried out by various groups today, gradually these doubts have diminished and even today many government programs have involved participation. This development is certainly a good sign for the community empowerment process. Hope that participation becomes a culture that is embedded in community life as a possible thing. Community participation becomes an integral part of community life and a culture in social life. In true Indonesian culture the principle of participation has long been contained in culture and social life. The values of mutual cooperation and participating in community activities have long been implemented in every ethnic community.

4 CONCLUSION

The contribution of local organizations is assistance provided by local organizations to their members through programs implemented such as training in skills and skills, providing information, knowledge

and insights as well as providing educational motivation to members of the urban poor. These contributions can be mapped according to the vision and mission of local organizations in empowering the assets of urban poor communities in the city of Medan.

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