

# How Strategy of Strengthening Family Function Through Community Empowerment?

I. Nawawi, D. Budimansyah and Y. Ruyadi

*Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Jl. Dr. Setiabudhi No. 229, Bandung, Indonesia.  
{inawawi07, yadiruyadi016}@gmail.com, budimansyah@upi.edu*

**Keywords:** Family Function, Community Empowerment, Family Empowerment.

**Abstract:** Community empowerment through family approach is very important in encouraging community development because the family has a strategic role and function. Nowadays, the effect of modernization alters the structure change and weaken the family function, so that the family is considered as an insecurity institution. Whereas in the context of community development, the family has the important function in developing empowered and independent society. This study aims to figure out the family empowerment through strengthening its function in establishing a society. This study uses a qualitative method with phenomenological strategy. Data collection uses interview to the people who are active and passive in the empowerment program. A qualitative analysis uses data reduction, data display, and data verification. The result of this study shows that the community empowerment by focusing on the family through various aspects such as education, health, economy, religion, and art and culture can increase the family functioned and also strengthen the family function can persuade the community empowerment.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The family is a miniature institution and the most essential in a society (Newman and Grauerholz, 2002). However, as a miniature institution, the family has an important role and function in pushing for developing empowered and independent society. Its function is part of the family in establishing society prosperity (Fahrudin, 2012) because one of the indicators of family prosperity can be detected from the function of a family (Ishak, 2012). As a social institution, a family has the primary and social function. The primary function of a family is the hardest to alter and replace by one or other institutions (Fatimaningsih, 2015).

As the time flies which affects people, it same goes to the family. The change is causing alteration of family structure and function. Sociology views half of the alteration of a modern and postmodern family is pushed by industrialization and economic change (Jacobsen, 2004). With a change of the structure and function of family, rendering a family considered as insecurity institution that could no longer apply the family function very well, while the family needs to the role in planning and providing a protection for the children and the family member (McCammon, 2008). If these things let it happen

then will lead to another impact, due to as we have known that a family is a miniature institution that has the vital role in society. The family roles to identify an earlier problem on a child who has emotional issue or behavior issue (McCammon, 2008), most of the problems are rendered by the family that could not deliver an intimacy (Friesen and Stephens, 1998).

The change of family function becomes a primary concern for sociology because it will lead to socialization failure that allows an impact on the development of a child (Ambert, 2001). Nowadays, the forming of a family has altered, it is no longer a partnership as a result of parent interest, relatives, or community that are tied by emotional bound (Stone, 1977). For example, domestic violence caused by the parents on their children, parent-child sexual abuse, even with a change of family structure and function will appear a family run by the same sex. This thing is naturally not recommended biologically and for the marriage itself (Weston, 1991).

Besides the alteration of structure and function, the family faces a lot of challenges such as economic weakness, poor family, the height of unemployment rate, and criminalization (Elliot, 2010), but, the family is still a vital institution in a society. Even

though a family is facing the same problem, it is still a fortress for the society (Zabriskie and McCormick, 2003). Therefore, the family plays the important role for development in the near future (Pettersson, 2002) if the family is empowered because the family also plays to create social empowering and individual economic (Mokomane, 2012). The people empowering can contribute simultaneously to the development of psychology, individual, people and a positive social change (Maton, 2008).

The development of people is identical with a concept of people empowering (Christens, 2012). Therefore, to establish a family requires an empowering. One of the attempts to improve the weakness of family function can be performed by family empowering. The family empowering is an importance because through information and science empowering program which is a determinant for the progress of people can be transmitted to the next generation (Muljono, 2011). The family empowerment center is one of the forums that have a goal and focus on developing people by empowering a family (Muljono, 2013).

## 2 METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with phenomenological strategy. This strategy was chosen with the aim to identify the experiences of communities about the existence of community empowerment through the family, in this study the researchers involved directly in the process of community empowerment activities (Creswell, 2013).

Data collection of this study consists of observation and interview. The respondent of this study consists of 10 respondents for interview. The qualitative data analysis in this study uses analysis from Miles and Huberman which is data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing verification (Miles and Huberman, 2009). The variable of community empowerment measurement utilizes the indicator from the evaluation of community empowerment model Fujikake, which consists of some indicators: (1) participation, (2) opinion, (3) awareness alteration, (4) taking action, (5) concern and cooperation, (6) creativity, (7) new goal arrangement, (8) negotiation, (9) satisfy, (10) confident, (11) managerial skills, and (12) decision-making.

While to measure the family function, this study used indicators Family Assessment Device (FAD) according to Epstein et al. (1983), which consist of

the indicators: (1) problem-solving, (2) communication, (3) roles, (4) affective responsiveness, (5) affective involvement, (6) behavior control, and (7) general functioning (Epstein et al., 1983). The reason why the researcher uses Family Assessment Device to measure the family function because it can be adapted and fit with the context of social culture system of Indonesia (Fahrudin, 2012).

## 3 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is a concept that relates to power or in other words empowerment means allow or provide a power for somebody else (Pigg, 2009). The power is identical with ability to measure individual to do something what he/she wishes for. Empowerment is a power transmitting process to the weakness one and reduce the power from the strength one to create a balance (Anwas, 2013).

Empowerment is a multi-dimension concept where the effort is to aim to transform an individual or a group of people in facing oppression (Kaiser and Rusch, 2015). Community empowerment can be performed by increasing the efficient and productivity by improving human resource, technology skills, and strengthening institution, also establishing infrastructure and social economic facility (Karsidi, 2011). Empowerment could be performed by utilizing human resource, and local potency, so that through empowerment, people could have been able and independent also no longer a burden for others.

Empowerment has two means that consist of a power transmitting process to the weakness and for being independent. But globally, there are three empowerment dimensions which is: (1) self empowerment which is empowering by taking action individually (2) mutual empowerment is an interpersonal empowerment and the last one is (3) social empowerment or empowerment as a result of social action (Pigg, 2009). Farther more, empowerment means an education process in developing individual ability, or a group of people for being empowered and liberty in organization, politic, social, economic, and spiritual (Rappaport, 1987).

The direction of these empowerment resulting a progress people and invent a social change. First, empowerment persuades in increasing the rate of people empowered, so that one of them can live

prosperity in local community or social events. Second, empowerment shows that the member who has empowered can influence others in wide area, by developing a program in an organization or government policy, and the third is forming an organization as a way to influence other areas, such as in education, service, natural resource, and advocacy policy (Fedi et al., 2015).

#### **4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ORIENTED ON THE FAMILY**

Community empowerment could be more effective if it is started from narrow and important scoop which is family by focusing on family function because if it works well then will influence the people development. The family empowerment center is a local institution to empower people with a family approach by strengthening family functions. The family empowerment center aims to empower the family, it is a forum for communication, information, advocacy, and activity to strengthen family functions integrated (Sumarto and Setiadi, 2014).

The means of family empowerment center is to help the poor family in applying family function. The common aim is to embody an independent family, encourage family to develop, improve the family quality, also maintain social infrastructure based on local culture integrated (Sumarto and Setiadi, 2014).

The family empowerment center gives such a positive impact on people such as increasing awareness change of people for better society. The awareness can embody a positive participation and ability to access information (Prasetyo et al., 2016). Besides the increase of awareness change, concern and cooperation of people are far better to empower, people creativity escalates by utilizing local potency, and the people confident is looking good because of family empowerment center.

The results and the findings of this study by observing, interviewing in the field, showed that community empowerment has been well, detected from the efforts of people to welcome the program enthusiast. The family empowerment programs are saluted by the people, the participation is various, begin with a direct participation in the program, or fund some money for the program or provide ideas for the progress and family empowerment interest.

The attempt of people in empowering can be applied by personal action and taking participation in this family empowerment program. The efforts of

empowerment require a guidance and assistance from the mentor or agent of empowerment for the successful. One of the job descriptions from the agent of empowerment is to encourage and invent an individual and people to be able to create behavior change for being independent. The behavior change involves knowledge, behavior, or supported skills and increasing prosperity and quality life (Anwas, 2013, pg. 55). So that the role of empowerment agent is very important in backing up the people development by empowering people or agent of empowerment.

The agent of empowerment is demanded to have competency that supports empowerment, the competency consists of: (1) competency of comprehending the target, (2) competency of awareness, (3) competency of innovation communicating, (4) competency of managing the change, (5) competency of managing the learning, (6) competency of training, (7) competency of developing the entrepreneurship, (8) competency of leading social network, (9) competency of establishing institution, (10) competency of assisting, (11) competency of technological skill, (12) competency of finding the sponsorship, and (13) competency of persuading mass media (Anwas, 2013).

The four important roles that the agent needs to have in empowering is (1) facilitative roles and skills, (2) educational roles and skills, (3) representational roles and skills and (4) technical role and skills (Maspaitella & Rahakbauwi, 2014). Besides competency and role that the agent needs to have, it will be optimal if the agent is charismatic. Even though charisma is impossible for ordinary people because it is a gift from God (Ruyadi, 2010). However, charisma can push for the agent of empowerment in doing his job.

#### **5 STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY FUNCTION THROUGH FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER**

The family as a miniature society has vital role and status in supporting people's live for prosperity and peace. One before takes a part of society, naturally, he/she is taught a moral, value and norm by the family. Therefore, the family has a particular function that cannot be played by other institutions.

The indicator of roles and general function of the family is at the low level because the indicator of roles generally only measures fairness, prestige, and

the job description of household (Dai and Wang, 2015), it only shows a little role of a family. Besides that, the result of the study from an interview that generally a family has worked in a good shape. While general function is at the low level because the indicator of general function only measures the liberty of the maximum member of the family activity (Dai and Wang, 2015). However, the findings in the field show that the family function generally has worked as it is supposed to.

The findings of the study show that the functional family around the family empowerment center has applied and run the eight family functions. As we have known that the eight family functions are a primary concern of the family empowerment center in strengthening the family function. The strengthening of the eight family function consists of: (1) religion function or monotheism, (2) cultural function, (3) compassion function, (4) protection function, (5) reproduction function, (6) education function, (7) economic function, and (8) environment function. The institution of the family empowerment center is integrated with the increasing of the family functional cannot be replaced by the early function before, but, it will strengthen all functions integrated.

The strengthening that's performed by the family empowerment center can be viewed in Table 1:

Table 1. The Role of The Family Empowerment Center in Increasing The Family Functional.

Field and Program	Target of Family Function
<b>Education</b> a. Kindergarten b. BKB (Program For Family With Young Children) c. BKR (Program For Family With Teenage) d. BKL (Program For Family With Elderly) e. Reading House f. Training Family Empowerment Center g. Jeruk Lembang Training Center	Education Function
<b>Healthy</b> a. Integrated Service Post b. Ministry Integrated Post c. Stimulation Detection of Early Intervention Developmental d. Birthing Class e. Neighborhood f. Gymanstic	Reproduction and Healthy Function Protection Function
<b>Economy</b> a. Loan b. <i>Warung binaan</i> c. The Making Chips Cutting Tools d. <i>Home industry</i> (Foods) e. People savings f. Marketing The Products "Bazar" g. Training and Coaching Clinic of Entrepreneurship	Economic Function

<b>Environment</b> a. Nutritious Garden b. Garbage Bank c. Biopore d. Friday Clean e. Utilization of Land f. The Nursery Center of cavendish banana and lembang orange g. Environment Counseling	Environmental Function
<b>Religion</b> a. Recitation for mothers & fathers b. Teenage <i>Santri</i>	Religion Function
<b>Cultural Art and Skill</b> a. Choir b. Nasyid c. Reog d. Gondang e. Recycling Garbage Skill	Cultural Function
<b>Concern</b> a. Renovating an uninhabitable home b. Trading garbage with rice (Raskin) c. Financing Children Care PAUD d. PMT (Supplemental Feedings) for toddlers and pregnant women e. Care of Family Empowerment Center	Compassion Function Protection Function

Source: calculation result from the researcher, 2017

The programs of the family empowerment center aim to strengthen family function integrated where the program covers all social structure from the toddlers until elderly. So that in increasing the family functional, the family empowerment center not only focuses on the parents. To strengthen a family through the family empowerment center is urgent because a family is a key factor in establishing social development for the child, teenage, and young adult. The family has a role and responsibility for the early effect and the sustainable of the child in associating, threat, education and making a friend (Latimer, 2001; Henggeler, 1989; Loeber and Dishion, 1983; Loeber and Stouthamer-Loeber, 1986; Barnes, 2006; Knoester and Haynie, 2005). So that with this strengthening, it is expected that the program will be generating a prosperity and advantage family.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

Community empowerment by focusing on family empowerment is an effective community empowered approach. The family empowerment center is the right place for people to self developed and empowers the family.

The good program of family empowerment is a program that can comprise all social structures beginning with the toddler until elderly. This institution improves the family functional through some programs in education, healthy, economic, environment, religion, cultural art, and skill and concern. The role of family empowerment center in increasing the family functional is applied not with

substituting the early family functions but by strengthening the family functions before.

The empowerment needs to fit in people's needs, without oppression, sustainable, continually, started from the family, so that right on the target. The key success of community empowerment is people's participation and the role of empowerment agent. The agent of empowerment needs to have an advantage and dynamic competency in following the change as the empowerment target requires. Besides that, agent of empowerment must work and serve well and use his/her philosophy, because it will lead to the better result.

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