

Analysis of Women's Economic Empowerment in Sukabumi City

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Abstract

Facing the free market era, local governments need to make structural policies that support and provide incentives for the development and improvement of SME performance. The potential of women in social life has not yet received a reasonable portion. This needs to be handled wisely by the government considering women in terms of quantity ranks first in the composition of citizens. This type of research is a descriptive study with qualitative methods. The discussion in this article is the role of local governments to increase women's empowerment in the economy by providing training in sewing skills, micro-credit business, and women's leadership training for women. Skills training and microcredit business are provided to communities where the economic level is still below standard or underprivileged in order to improve family welfare through the efforts provided by the local government.

Keywords

Women's empowerment, local government, economic distribution, SMEs, gender-based skills

1. Introduction

The potential of women in community life has not yet received a reasonable portion. This needs to be handled wisely by the government, considering that women in terms of quantity rank first in the composition of citizens (Schulz, Borghoff & Kraus, 2009; Bose, Uddin & Mondal, 2013). The principle of broad autonomy and responsibility is exercised, so that opportunities for districts/cities to be widely opened to be able to develop a variety of existing. The essence of regional autonomy must be oriented towards efforts to improve people's welfare (Badrudin & Siregar, 2015). Therefore, talking about regional autonomy is not just talking about fulfilling the budget, but must talk about various things that are oriented towards people's welfare. For this reason, what should be the benchmark for the successful implementation of regional autonomy is to improve the welfare of the people. In other words, if the implementation of regional autonomy has not brought prosperity to the people, regional autonomy needs to be re-evaluated (Kristiansen & Santoso, 2006). In this case, the role of local government as a mediator, innovator, and guidance to the wider community. So, the community groups are willing to participate in supporting regional autonomy. In economic terms, the city government must be able to provide stimulants to the community to accelerate the improvement of people's welfare. In addition, the city government must be able to mediate community groups with third party groups, including investor groups, to access capital and market in marketing the production of community groups. These two things are not owned by the middle and lower economic business groups.

Facing the free market era, local governments need to make structural policies that are impartial and provide incentives for the development and improvement of SME performance (Olssen & Peters, 2005). The intended policy is oriented towards; improving the quality of human resources, protecting small and medium enterprises in competition and expand/strengthen SME participation, increasing competitiveness, facilitating access to capital resources, and helping all market networks. Without alignments with grassroots groups, it is difficult to expect the welfare of the people in this region, especially urban communities, who mostly live and are involved in small businesses. Thus, it is expected to reduce unemployment and poverty in urban communities (Riswanto, 2016a).

Poverty and unemployment are not the faults and sins of the poor. They have become victims of a capitalist-liberal economic system that places capitalists as the only parties who create jobs or job providers, while the poor ask for work (Marston, 2008; Mubyarto, 2004). The current phenomenon shows that there is a tendency for district/city governments to provide space for investors to be able to invest in their areas. Local governments have always admired that investors can open up employment opportunities, reduce unemployment and increase PAD. There is one thing that local governments forget, that is entrepreneurs/investors are also looking for profit. Because the principle of investors is always increasing production and

maximizing profits. For this reason, it is necessary to rearrange the effects of the capitalization of the urban economy, before it gets worse.

The low level of education of women will have an impact on their position in employment and the wages they receive (Castellano, Punzo, & Rocca, 2018). With low education, that means lack of skills and expertise, where suitable jobs are manual workers and the wages they receive are lower than those who are skilled and experts in certain fields. Legally, the opportunity to improve the status and role of women is since Indonesia ratified the women's convention with Law no. 7 of 1984. Underdevelopment of women can be seen from the division of labor based on sex in society, where the role of women in the domestic environment and the role of men outside the home. Sexual division of workers is clearly unfair for women because it can place women in subordinate/marginalized positions of men so that the aspiration to refer to women as equal partners with men both in the family and in society is difficult to implement. For this reason, it is important to empower women so that they do not place women in marginalized positions. For this reason, we face further about attitudes, enthusiasm, and government policies in empowering women to participate in popular economic activities.

2. Research Methodology

This type of research is descriptive research with qualitative methods. According to Muhammad Nasir, descriptive method is a method in researching the status of human groups, objects, situations, and systems of thought or research classes in the present (Nasir, 2003). The purpose of descriptive research is to make a systematic, actual, and accurate description, description or painting of the facts, nature and relationships between the phenomena under study. While the purpose of the qualitative method is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from people and observed behavior.

3. Empowering Women in the Economy

Empowerment as an effort to increase and expand community satisfaction is able to play an active role in the development process. Empowerment is intended to solve problems faced by the community in regional unity which is largely caused by gaps in access, capital, infrastructure, information technology, community knowledge, and skills. According to Mahardika (2000), empowerment as a step to open the possibility of change, first seeing the current order as one of the central problems, if there is no transformation of order, the existing problems will never be fully resolved. According to Pambudi et al. (2003); Keating, Rasmussen, & Rishi, (2010); Elyachar (2010) empowerment is an effort to make a fair and civilized humanitarian atmosphere structurally more effective both in family, community, state, regional, international and political, and economic life.

The concept of empowerment is an effort to make something fair and civilized more effective in all aspects of life as in the previous paragraph, written about the problems faced by women so that empowerment is needed. Empowering women is needed so that women get access and opportunities in the economic, political, social culture and be able to play an active role in decision making. Empowerment is development that is made democratically, centralized, and participatory (Eko, 2004) In this case the community occupies the main position in the past in the old paradigm of devolepmentalism, development was dominated by the state and capital. In the new paradigm, empowerment prioritizes local communities and institutions that are built in a participatory manner. The community occupies the main position that starts, manages, and enjoys conditions conducive to the emergence of local community initiatives.

Empowerment is based on the principle of selection in marginalized groups of people i.e. those who are under the social structure or victims of abuse, in order to have a position and bargaining position, so that they are able to solve problems and change their position. Therefore, empowerment is not only to improve short-term economic quality, but also strategically leads to the transformation of order. Namely, the structure of the order that does not favor the citizens of the order in harmony with the marginal community.

In the context of this research, the concept of empowerment is associated with the role of women in increasing efforts to strengthen the people's economy of urban society. In real terms, the role of women in urban communities in creating the informal sector is quite large. For this reason, if the government wants to revive the urban populist economy, the government must have a concern to empower women, to create conditions conducive to the emergence and development of a people's economy. So far, women are only objects and recipients of the development process. Even though it might also be able to see the potential of women who can be played as actors of change and development. For this reason, the need to develop a social order that empowers more women, where women's human rights are protected and gender equality is the norm applied in social and institutional frameworks, as championed by NGOs and world institutions that care for women.

The importance of women in a country is to be able to access the education, employment, tools, and resources needed in the context of regional development. Thus, it will determine various program strategies and development activities that need to be carried out by the state. For elite or policy makers, with knowledge about gender, a set of knowledge about health, life expectancy, productive age and population growth trends and so on will be obtained. Therefore, the decision taken is quite accurate and fundamental with regard to the real condition of the community.

The problem of the role of women according to Mansur Fakhri (Julia, 2003) is divided into two. First, women's problems are caused by the low quality of women's resources themselves. This causes the inability of women to compete with men in terms of development. Therefore, the strategy needed is a step to eliminate

discrimination that impedes efforts to educate women. Second, the efficiency approach is the idea that development fails because women are not involved in the development process. This analysis is more focused on the role of women who are very marginal, and more oriented on the practical role to meet their daily needs. According to Baswir (2006), the people's economy does contain some elements. First, the participation of all members of the community in the process of national formation. Second, the participation of all members of the community in participating in enjoying national products. Third, the activities of shaping the production and sharing of national products must be carried out under the leadership or members of the community. Thus, the participation of community members in the process of forming national production occupies an important role in the community's economy (Baswir, 2006).

In addition, in the framework of the people's economy, the government must have the courage to guarantee that every citizen can enjoy national production, including poor and displaced children. In the regional context, local governments must be able to guarantee that local residents can access various regional economic policies. Thus, popular economy and economic democracy, members of society are not only economic objects. Every member of the community must be sought by the government to become an economic subject. In this case, it does not mean rejecting the policy of bringing investors into development in the city government, but the implementation of these activities must remain under the supervision or control of the community. For this reason, it needs participation of all citizens in the ownership of capital or factors of production in the process of economic development. This will be realized if there is a policy from the city government to access the economy of the city population, especially the middle and lower economy, which is quite large.

In this case, the role of the regional government to improve the economy and employment of women is to develop work independently and in an integrated manner aimed at increasing the competence and independence of workers, increasing workers' wages, guaranteeing welfare, protecting work and women's freedom association, and make various integrated efforts to accelerate the process of alleviating people from poverty and reducing unemployment which is the impact of the economic crisis.

If the efforts to empower women carried out by the regional government are in accordance with their roles and accompanied by a good planning pattern, it will produce something good. In the context of empowerment, the most important efforts are to increase the level of education and health status, as well as access to sources of economic progress such as capital, technology, information, employment and markets, therefore the role of local government is needed in increasing community independence, through government activities to increase women's empowerment.

To carry out the empowerment function properly, according to Tan (1991) and Oey-Gardiner (1996), there are three ways of creating a climate that enables women's potential to develop; strengthening the potential or strength of women, and

empowerment also means protecting. Thus, the role of government in increasing women's empowerment is to motivate/increase community motivation and community participation in women's empowerment programs so that they can have a positive influence on community productivity, to achieve independence and increase community empowerment, especially for women (Kabeer, 2008).

The role of local governments to increase women's empowerment based on the essential functions of the government according to (UCLG.org, 2015) is empowerment. The function of women's empowerment is an effort to improve the dignity of women who now cannot be separated from the traps of culture, poverty, and underdevelopment. Efforts to empower women must begin by creating a climate that allows women's potential to develop. This effort starts from the introduction that every man and woman has the potential to be developed. Empowerment by encouraging, motivating, and increasing awareness of its potential and trying to develop it. Another way is to strengthen the potential or strength of women. This effort requires more positive steps, apart from just creating climate and the atmosphere. In this case, women must be given the opportunity to open access to capital, technology, information, markets, and various other opportunities. Here, empowering also means protecting. In the process of empowerment, it must be sought so that the weak do not become weaker because of the lack of strength in the presence of the strong. Therefore, the protection and partiality of the weak is fundamental in this concept of empowerment. Empowering women enables and empowers women as citizens who are equal to men.

Empowering women in the economic and employment sector of women is to develop work independently and in an integrated manner aimed at increasing the competence and independence of workers, increasing wages, guaranteeing welfare, protecting work and freedom of association, and making various integrated efforts to accelerate the process of alleviating poverty and reduce unemployment which are the impact of the economic crisis.

The role of local governments in increasing women's empowerment in the economic sector is by making various integrated efforts to accelerate the process of alleviating women from poverty and reducing unemployment which are the impact of the economic crisis. To reduce poverty and unemployment for women in the economic and employment fields, the role of local government can be seen through the basic functions of government in empowerment (Sumartini & Riswanto, 2017).

4. The Development of Women's Potential in the Economy in the City of Sukabumi

The role of local governments in increasing the potential of women in the economic sector through work programs that have been realized during the formation of the women's empowerment section.

In Sukabumi City, women's skills training was carried out in sewing training activities. The purpose of this training is to improve women's knowledge and skills

in the field of sewing clothes and the aim of improving the quality of human resources and developing their potential business for the welfare of the family and community. This program also provides insight and skills for women as an effort by the City Government to empower women in development. This skills training is carried out in the target area. This training is given to human resources with relatively low education and seriously handled because they have very strong carrying capacity for the people's economy. The garment manufacturing/sewing business is one of the positive answers for the people's economic movements that can contribute to economic development.

The potential of women in the economic field can be developed through existing work programs and receive input from other experts who work together in dealing with women's empowerment such as non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and others that are more affordable to the target community. This is a positive input for women's economic progress and development. By looking at the lack of women's education level due to economic, cultural and educational conditions far from home, the role of non-governmental institutions that have worked with the government such as P2TP2 can provide training activities related to the progress and development of women.

The lack of education level, the opportunity for women to work in public spaces is very minimal, if it can be seen from the greater activities of women as housewives when compared to women who work outside the home. With some of the activities of women who work as housewives, it is more suitable for women to earn a living as entrepreneurs by increasing the family economy. In order for women to have reliable potential in the family which can help with family registration, the role of the local government is to increase it through various efforts through programs that have been provided and can be directed towards joint progress (Riswanto, 2016b).

Motivation is given by local governments to women in terms of business management, design development, and development of production quality and capital assistance in order to develop and compete with other advanced businesses. The material provided in sewing skills training is in the form of materials and sewing practice exercises.

This training is given to underprivileged communities in the target areas. Residents who are given training can be seen from their needs by village officials who have been recorded. This training is held every year in each of the various assisted districts and continued with the embroidery stage. This is to increase the creativity and selling power of the production.

Second, empowerment with microcredit for the purpose of starting a business. This business is given to all those who want to run a small business, with loans at very low interest rates without platforms such as land houses and so on because the target of this business is a weak or poor economy community. To ensure that the borrowed funds reach the target, there is a team that surveys the actual situation of the borrower or recipient of the credit so that the funds can be disbursed to run a small business.

This microcredit business effort is to improve the economy of underprivileged families and improve the economy of the city and reduce poverty. Funds that are used to help small businesses through the micro-credit business are funds that come from the Regional Budget (APBD).

The role of local governments in improving the people's economy through microcredit businesses is given to people who run small businesses such as rice shop traders, swordsmen warriors, and other small traders. These traders are prioritized by local governments in improving the welfare of their families and reducing poverty in the city. With this effort, the role of the regional government is increasingly heavy in increasing the level of female labor force participation and women's education in various fields.

Third, to realize increased knowledge about women's leadership, training is given to women management and leadership in development using modules from the Office of the State Minister for women's empowerment, namely the potential and role of women in development, management and leadership of women, and women as program managers.

Women's leadership training is given to gender cadres, leaders/prospective leaders are held, as an effort to increase women's involvement in various strategic roles and positions that are relatively low compared to men to be prepared as trainers, mobilizers, development actors and beneficiaries of the results good development in the family, people as equal partners are men.

The role of the local government in empowering women in the economy is carried out through efforts to develop interests and motivation in business and skilled labor through a directed and sustainable learning process. This effort is carried out through a group approach by empowering community institutions. These efforts lead to improving the quality of women and their families so that families become professional entrepreneurs and skilled workers. Thus, it can be said that efforts will be made to realize the quality of women's roles and their independence in the economy and improve family living standards (Riswanto, 2016a).

Every woman, especially women who are still left behind in accordance with the potential and opportunities available, will be helped to develop themselves. The effort was carried out by growing enthusiasm and motivation to try and improve skills, especially for women/girls of fertile age couples and underprivileged families.

5. Strengthening the Potential of Women for Entrepreneurship

In the City of Sukabumi, the steps taken by the local government in order to increase income were through the development of human resource productivity, where women who do not have business interests directed at improving their skills in accordance with their interests, talents, and potential. The role of local governments in increasing women's empowerment in the economic sector through efforts that need to be implemented in developing these skills is carried out in several ways.

First, improving network skills. This method is to access the institutions/skills activity centers so that they can provide the skills needed by women according to their talents, interests, and potential and in accordance with the demands of the labor market. The aim is to increase skilled workers who can meet work needs and even is expected to create new jobs that can accommodate other workers.

Skills and networking are needed to identify potential areas and skills centers. This effort is to record interests, talents owned by women so that they can be channeled to the skills center according to their interests, talents, and expertise. This is an initial scarcity in local government efforts to identify the potential of women that they have. Identification of the areas of skills needed by women related to the fields of small industrial economy, trade, and services. Efforts made by women in skills related to the economics of small industries such as handicraft businesses will be used as a home industry to help the women's economy, while trade and services needed by women are skills in trafficking that provide opportunities for women to work together with other parties in increasing trade and services provided.

Second, network strengthening is also carried out with local government efforts to help connect skills centers in accordance with the fields of interest of women. Areas of interest for women can be linked according to the skills center with their interests. Furthermore, so that skills training can go according to plan such as increasing the economic potential of the family, the government can facilitate by providing very low interest credit assistance to continue small businesses and skills training facilities for those who have not yet conducted training.

The development of skills in the use of skilled workers is an effort to foster cooperation with related institutions both the government, the private sector, NGOs, and the community in utilizing women who have skills in certain fields.

6. Conclusion

The role of the local government is to increase women's empowerment in the economic sector by providing training in sewing skills to women, micro-credit businesses, and leadership training for women. Skills training and microcredit business are provided to communities where the economic level is still below standard or pre-prosperous to improve family welfare through the efforts provided by the local government. This role leads to local government targets, namely the middle and lower classes, so that the steps taken to increase women's empowerment achieve their goals of improving the welfare of their families and communities and reducing poverty.

7. References

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