

Deconstructing the Concept of Community Empowerment in the Use of Village Funds in Borobudur District 2015-2017

Habib Muhsin Syafingi¹, Suharso², Dyah Adriantini Sintha Dewi³, Heniyatun⁴
{habibsyafingi@yahoo.com¹}

Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Magelang, Magelang, Indonesia^{1,2,3,4}

Abstract. The aim of this study is to determine the perception of the village government on the concept of community empowerment. This perception leads to the development of policies on the use of village funds. Therefore, this research is based on the practice of using funds which are mostly used for physical developmental activities than for community empowerment. To achieve this goal, empirical legal research methods would be combined with the sociological juridical research model. Therefore, it is required to explore the perceptions of the village government on community empowerment. The sample location was determined purposively in 20 villages in Borobudur District. Furthermore, the data obtained through in-depth interviews were then analyzed and presented qualitatively. The results showed a change in perception in the dichotomous concept of empowerment towards development. This perception, therefore, creates a document for planning, budgeting, and reporting the use of village funds. Furthermore, the policy used in channeling village funds sourced from the APBN and APBD has helped in accelerating village development, but, it has also degraded the local values of the village community, in terms of cooperation. However, it is important to formulate and make policies on participatory village fund distribution based on local community values.

Keywords: Perception, village funds, community empowerment

1 Introduction

Village funds are used to finance governance, development, community empowerment, and make societies more developed and empowered [1]. This provision is the basis for the use of village funds in Borobudur District, Magelang Regency on 2015-2017. Allocation of the use of village fund in the district of Borobudur showed on Table 1.

Table 1. Allocation of the use of village funds in the district of borobudur Magelang 2015-2017

Year	Use of Village Funds			
	Development	Empowerment	Coaching	Financing
2015	96%	2%	2%	-
2016	84%	12%	2%	-
2017	85%	12%	3%	-

Source: Consolidated Report on the Realization of Village Fund Absorption at Magelang Regency in 2017

The disparity in the use of village funds for development and empowerment gives a perception that empowerment is different from development. However, development gets a bigger budget, because it is considered more important. Priority use of village funds for development is based on considerations first, physical infrastructure is important for community development. Secondly, the outcome of the development is directly felt by the community. Thirdly, it is easily accountable. Fourth, the benefits enjoyed by the community, and fifth, it can create jobs for the community [2].

There are differences between the classification of priorities in the field of development and community empowerment. Although when interrelated, empowerment is one of the development strategies. However, not all development is empowerment. In line with the above phenomena, the hypothesis appears as a misperception of the community. Which in this case, is the village government, towards development and empowerment. This perception will, in turn, create policies for the use of village funds. Therefore, this study aims to analyze various legal phenomena related to the use of village funds for community empowerment. This phenomenon is a result of the perceptions about community empowerment.

2 Methods

An empirical legal research method and a sociological legal research model was used in solving this problem. Furthermore, the object of the research was empowerment activities carried out during the 2015-2017 period. The research object includes 20 villages in Borobudur District, Magelang Regency. There was a lot of considerations to ensure the villages get a lot of physical assistance to decide the Borobudur Temple as a national priority super destination. Legal materials obtained through various studies, planning, budgeting, and reporting on the use of village funds were presented descriptively after carrying out a qualitative analysis.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Perception as an attitude shaper

The Reasoned Action Theory place attitudes in a central position over human actions [3]. Attitude are human actions determined by personal and group beliefs. It consists of three components: cognitive, affective, and conative [11]. The Cognitive components are in the form of perception and belief. The affective components refer to the emotional aspect, while the conative components refer to the tendency to act.

Based on this theory, perception of the village government towards the concept of community empowerment, affects the policies for planning, budgeting, and accountability of village funds. Furthermore, there is a relationship in the perception that development and empowerment are two dichotomous terms.

However, this perception implies that development is interpreted as physical or infrastructural. Meanwhile, non-physical development such as human resource development, places of worship, and spiritual activities are categorized as community empowerment.

3.2 Village fund users

Village funds are not only financial aids, but a form of recognition from the central government to the governing body of the village. The purpose is to increase its empowerment, using the principle of recognition and subsidiarity. These two principles have a crucial role because they are the original rules for the governance of villages in Indonesia.

Village funds allocated annually in the APBN, increases every year in this form, 3% of the 2015 APBN, 6% of the 2016 APBD while in the 2017 APBD, it increases to 10%. These funds are mainly used to finance village development, empowerment of communities, and government administration. The main aim is to ensure community empowerment and development. It could be used also for development of basic education, health, and infrastructural services. Furthermore, even in the context of poverty alleviation, village funds can also be used to meet the primary needs of food, clothing, and community housing [4].

The priority on how the funds is utilized, are regulated by the village ministerial and the regent's regulation every year. This regulatory principle should not limit local initiatives in designing developmental programs/activities, but also give a view on the essential uses of village funds. Therefore, the village still has room for creativity in making programs/activities according to their authority while analyzing priority needs and resources. (Village, 2016)

3.3 Community developments and empowerment

The government has the authority to decide the priorities for development and community empowerment. This is because the village funds directly come from them. Furthermore, the Regent describes the types of development and empowerment activities that have been financed with village funds. Separation of the field of development and community empowerment seems to put the two at different poles, even though they are still interrelated. In general, most empowerment activities are also developmental.

Development is an effort carried out consciously and in an organized way. However, it is continuously carried out by the government together with all levels of society or just by a community with government facilitation. This is done using selected technology, to meet all needs or solve problems that would be likely faced. Furthermore, this action would reveal the standard of living or welfare of all citizens of a nation that plan and carry out this developmental principle.

Furthermore, the society act as both the subject and an object of development. While the community is involved in developmental activities through participation. This is laterl linked to community empowerment mechanism. Development consists of both physical and non-physical. Physical development is felt or seen directly, for example, in the form of infrastructure, buildings, and public facilities [5]. Meanwhile, non-physical development is created through the encouragement of local community and is known to last for a long period. Examples include improving the economics of rural people and improving public health [6].

Community empowerment is a concept of economic development that summarizes the values of the society. It is used to build a new model of development that is people-centered, participatory, empowering, and sustainable [7]. Therefore, development within a community empowerment model is not only to meet the basic needs of the community, but also a means of finding alternatives to local economic growth.

Community empowerment is a developmental model rooted in the society to increase the dignity of some people that are still trapped in poverty and underdevelopment. When viewed from the point of state administration, community empowerment is not just an economic

concept. Furthermore, it implicitly implies enforcement of economic democracy (i.e. economic activities that take place the people, by the people, and for the people).

Empowerment is an effort that originates from the outside order. Therefore, this order develops independently, and it is capable of achieving a condition that allows it to build itself [8]. Empowerment is both a process and a goal. It involves a series of activities used to strengthen weak groups in the society. As a goal, empowerment refers to the circumstances or results that are achieved through social change. This includes a community that is empowered to meet their needs, both physically, economically, and socially [9].

Empowerment is a principle stated in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. It is defined as an effort to develop self-reliance and community welfare. It increases the knowledge, attitudes, skills, behavior, abilities, awareness, and use of resources through policy-making programs and activities. Furthermore, it involves giving assistance to solve any problem including those of priority needs to the village community. Meanwhile, village development is defined as that effort put in place to improve the quality of life for the prosperity of the Village community (Law Number 6 of 2014). According to this concept, empowerment is one of the developmental strategies that provide more space for community involvement in the process.

3.4 Use of village funds for community empowerment in Borobudur district

2017 was the third year for allocation of the Village Fund policy by the Central Government to all villages in Indonesia, including the 20 villages in Borobudur District, Magelang Regency. The amounts of the fund received in these 20 villages was influenced by the size of the area, population, and other factors. The use of this funds generally follows government policy. However, the percentage in which it is used was different in each village. The procedure for using the funds for three years is shown in the Table 2.

Table 2. Allocation of the Use of Village Funds in the District of Borobudur Magelang 2015-2017

Year	Use of Village Funds			
	Development	Empowerment	Coaching	Financing
2015	96%	2%	2%	-
2016	84%	12%	2%	-
2017	85%	12%	3%	-

Source: Consolidated Report on the Realization of Village Fund Absorption at Magelang Regency in 2017

The major use of village funds from 2015 to 2017 was mainly for physical development. Although the percentage used for development and empowerment has changed. The percentage for empowerment grew from year to year, namely 2% in 2015 to 12% in 2016 and 2017. Furthermore, data showing the results of the study were obtained from various community empowerment activities which were sourced by the village funds. Community empowerment activities can be grouped into 4 categories, namely: (1) human resource capacity building, (2) education, religion and nationality, (3) financial assistance/facilities and infrastructure, and (4) equity participation. The details of the four activities are as follows:

- a. Capacity building for Human Resources
 - Training for Social Institutions / Youth Organization / Community Groups
 - Limnas Training
 - Training for Village Heads / Village Officials / BPD
 - Training to improve the economy of the community and MSMEs

- Disaster Preparedness / Disaster Management Training
- Information Technology Training Activities
- Waste Management Training
- Wisma Village Training
- Training to Increase the Capacity of Village Tourism Actors
- Youth Organization Empowerment Activities
- b. Religious, Educational and National Activities
 - NU Muslimat Studies
 - Activities of Preaching
 - Preservation of Religion, Customs, and Culture
 - Kindergarten and early childhood activities
 - Financial assistance and infrastructure
 - Financial assistance for posyandu activities
 - Financial assistance for PKK movers
 - Providing stimulants for the rehabilitation of persons unfit for habitation
 - Alert Village Operational Expenditures.

3.5 Equity participation for BUMDes [10]

In general, the concept of empowerment as a means of achieving independence and creating community welfare has not been realized due to the following.

- a. The activity is single or discontinuous, therefore, its effectiveness is low.
- b. Activities to increase human resources and religion have not been oriented towards empowerment. This activity is a non-physical development.
- c. Financial aid given to community groups are operational assistance which could be consumed, and not capital.
- d. Majority of BUMDes were formed after the enactment of the Village Law, so capital participation does not have implications for community empowerment.
- e. There are no activities that encourage the community to be more empowered, such as capital assistance for cooperatives, equipment aids for MSMEs, and aids to community groups in need.

In general, this form of activity is non-physical because it is not oriented towards real empowerment. Analysis of various empowerment activities was carried out during the 2015-2017 periods. It proved the hypothesis about the perception of the village government towards the concept of empowerment to be very dichotomous to development. This means that empowerment is still interpreted as development.

4 Conclusion

The funds used in 20 villages in Borobudur District in 2015-2017 was prioritized for development and not for empowerment. Although the percentage allocation for empowerment increased significantly. The increase in the budget allocation was not matched by correct perceptions about development and empowerment. However, the implication was that development and empowerment are dichotomous or of different concepts entirely.

Various empowerment activities in 2015-2017 periods proved the misperceptions about empowerment. However, they are still non-physical. The philosophy of empowerment is a

strategy used to increase independence and welfare, but this concept is not well understood. Efforts to deconstruct this developmental concept are imperative. However, future use of village funds can contribute more to increasing community independence and welfare.

Acknowledgement

This research was conducted on the Funding Facilities for Superior Basic Research Grants for Higher Education Year 2018 Number 002 / PDUPT-LP3M / II.3.AU.F / 201 with the title Optimizing Village Funds to Improve Community Economy in Magelang Regency through Village-Owned Enterprises in Tourist Areas Borobudur temple. On this occasion, special gratitude goes to first the Ministry of Research and Higher Education for the 2018 Dikti Top Basic Research Grant Facilities with the title Optimizing Village Funds to Improve Community Economy in Magelang Regency through Village-Owned Enterprises in the Borobudur Temple Tourism Area. Secondly, to the Chairman of the Institute for Research, Development and Community Service (LP3M), University of Muhammadiyah Magelang. Thirdly, to the Regent and staffs of Borobudur.

References

- [1] Presidential decree 60 of 2014 concerning Village Funds
- [2] Optimizing Village Funds to Improve Community Economy in Magelang Regency through Village-Owned Enterprises in the Borobudur Temple Tourism Area, Dikti's 2018 Leading Basic Research Report
- [3] <http://ejournal.uinsuska.ac.id/index.php/elriyasa/article/view/17/13>
- [4] Elucidation of Article 19 paragraph (2) of Presidential decree 60 of 2014
- [5] Kuncoro, Mudrajad. "Basics of Economic Development" Yogyakarta: UPP STIM YKPN 2010 page 20
- [6] Wresniwiro, 2012, Building a Village Republik, Jakarta, Visimedia
- [7] Chamber, Robert Village Development Starting from Behind, (Research institute, Economic and Social Training education
- [8] Wahjudin Sumpeno, Integrated Village Planning 2011
- [9] Sipahelut, M. Analysis of Fishermen Community Empowerment in Tobelo District, North Halmahera Regency. Bogor Agricultural University University. 2010.
- [10] Optimization of Village Funds to Improve Community Economy in Magelang Regency through Village-Owned Enterprises in the Borobudur Temple Tourism Area, 2018 Superior Basic Research Report for Higher Education
- [11] Ramadhani, S. B., Dewi, D. A. S., & Syafingi, H. M. (2020). Pengelolaan Dana Desa Untuk Peningkatan Kesejahteraan Masyarakat di Desa Kandangan Kabupaten Temanggung Tahun 2016-2018. *Borobudur Law Review*, 2(1), 40-52.