

## Community Participation In Village Development Planning In Nggembe Village, Bolo District, Bima Regency

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### Abstract

*Regional autonomy is the implementation of territorial decentralization within the constitutional framework of Indonesia. As a result, regions have the rights, authority, and obligations to manage and govern their own household affairs in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Democratization, empowerment, and public participation are the goals of the Regional Autonomy policy rollout in Indonesia. To achieve this, the government implements various decentralization policies. Provinces and districts are granted limited autonomy, while villages are given original autonomy. Both individuals and groups or communities engage in activities known as community participation, aiming to achieve communal goals by aligning their interests or relationships with organizations or the broader community. This study conducts qualitative descriptive research. The findings indicate that leadership, communication, and education influence community participation in Nggembe Village. The results show that the village head acts as a good leader; communication between the village government and the community is effective; and that the Nggembe Village population has a low level of education.*

**Keywords:** Public; Participation; Development Planning

### 1. Introduction

Community participation in development planning is a critical pillar in achieving inclusive and sustainable local democracy (Adasmita and Raharjo, 2006). This participation effort involves a variety of actors from different layers of society, ranging from individuals to local community groups and non-governmental organizations (Tjokrowinoto and Moeljorto, 2002). In the development planning process, community participation is not just an additional aspect, but also a central element that ensures policies and development programs truly reflect the needs, aspirations, and priorities of the impacted communities (Talizidhuhu, 2003); (Tjokromidjojo and Bintoro, 2005). One form of community participation effort is through inclusive public consultation mechanisms, where opinions and inputs from various parties are accommodated in the decision-making process (Soetrisno and Loekman 2005); (Siregar, 2020). Through these public consultations, the community has the opportunity to voice their interests, share their local knowledge, and actively contribute to formulating solutions for various development challenges faced by their community (Sigalingging, & Warjio, 2014).

Furthermore, community participation in development planning can also be reflected in an open and transparent decision-making process (Ali, 2001); (Agustin, 2016). This includes

providing clear and accessible information about development plans, available budgets, and the stages of the decision-making process. With this transparency, the community can better understand how development policies are formed and how these decisions will directly affect their lives (Agustina Setiawan, 2022). Additionally, efforts for community participation can be strengthened through the establishment of participatory forums such as discussion groups, community meetings, or working groups involving various local stakeholders. Through these forums, the community can discuss openly, exchange information, and create networks of cooperation that enable them to collectively find the best solutions for sustainable and inclusive development (Ardilah, 2014); (Akbar, et al 2018).

The primary goal of development in a country, including Indonesia, is to improve the well-being of the community (Dadang, 2004); (Herman, 2019). The objectives of national development in Indonesia, as regulated in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution, are to protect all Indonesian bloodlines, enhance general welfare, and contribute to world order. This development targets not only individuals but also the society at large, with efforts to achieve these objectives (Ginanjar, 2006:23). However, to achieve equitable and sustainable well-being, active community participation in the planning and decision-making processes of development is necessary.

Community participation in development is greatly influenced by factors of leadership, communication, and education (Tjokroamidjojo, 2005: 226). For instance, in Nggembe Village, the lack of community involvement in development planning is caused by poor communication between the village government and the community, as well as low education levels. Leadership that does not facilitate community participation hinders efforts to create inclusive and sustainable development. In this context, a participatory approach to development planning heavily depends on the community's willingness to engage in the process (Slamet, 2003: 11); (Imtihan, & Wahyunadi, 2017).

To enhance community participation, several steps can be taken. First, the monitoring of potential that can be utilized by the local community needs to be increased (Setiawan, et al 2020). Then, the use of appropriate technology should be encouraged, ensuring that it includes creation, development, and dissemination accessible to the local community (Samaun, et.al, 2022). Next, it is important to establish business organizations or executing units responsible for the application of appropriate technology in achieving development objectives. Lastly, the development of guiding or supporting organizations should be enhanced, thus connecting local community development efforts with other organizations (Ginanjar, 2006:23). Through these

steps, it is hoped that community participation in development planning can be increased, thus better reflecting the needs and aspirations of the community and supporting the creation of inclusive and sustainable local democracy (Salamet, 2003); (Setiawan, et al, 2020).

In efforts to realize community participation in village development planning, there are various challenges that hinder the process. One major issue is the phenomenon of tokenism or symbolic participation, where residents' involvement is only symbolic and does not significantly influence the final outcomes (Sastropoetara, 2006). This type of participation is often held just to meet formal requirements without providing space for villagers to express significant opinions or decisions. This results in low community trust in the participatory process, as they feel their voices are not truly heard or valued (Rappang, 2016).

Moreover, the rigidity of the village government in managing and responding to initiatives and inputs from the community often becomes a barrier. The bureaucratic structure's rigidity and lack of flexibility in rules often prevent the village government from adapting new ideas or more innovative approaches in development. In addition, the indifference of village residents also poses a significant challenge (Koentjaraningrat, 2004). Many residents do not actively participate in the planning process due to a lack of information, understanding of the direct benefits they will receive, or because they feel that their individual influence is too small to make a significant change. The lack of communal solidarity also adds to the complexity of the issue, where solidarity and cooperation among residents are diminishing, making it difficult to mobilize collective participation on a larger scale (John, 2007); (Purwaningsih, 2008).

The daily busyness of village residents, who primarily farm and garden, also contributes to low participation in development planning (Krihatnolo & Nugroho, 2006); (Larisu, & Jopang, J. (2022). Many village residents spend most of their time in fields or gardens, leaving them little time or energy to engage in activities not directly related to their daily needs. This often leads to apathy towards development activities organized by the government or other institutions (Rahman, 2016). To overcome these barriers, more structured and sustained efforts are needed to build awareness and capacity among residents, as well as governance reforms that facilitate innovation and more authentic participation in village development planning (Laily, & Imro'atin, 2015).

The research conducted in Nggembe Village, Bolo District, Bima Regency has the primary objective of identifying and analyzing the components that influence the level of community participation in current village development planning. This goal is crucial given that community participation is key to the success and sustainability of village development.

By understanding the factors that influence both positively and negatively, more appropriate and effective interventions can be designed to enhance community involvement in every stage of development.

The novelty of this research lies in its specific focus on Nggembe Village, which may have unique social, economic, and cultural dynamics compared to other villages in Indonesia. This allows the research findings to provide deep insights into how local conditions influence community participation. Additionally, this research also aims to delve deeper into how various elements such as the role of the village government, local policies, economic conditions, socio-cultural values, and individual capacity of residents interact and contribute to the level of participation. Thus, this research not only strives to identify the components that influence community participation but also seeks to understand how these components are interconnected and affect the overall process of development planning.

## **2. Methodology**

This study was conducted using a descriptive approach and qualitative analysis. Descriptive research can be comparative and correlational. According to Narbuko and Achmadi (2004: 44), descriptive research is a type of study aimed at presenting, analyzing, and interpreting data to address current issues. This study is qualitative in nature, aiming to provide qualitative information, thereby emphasizing the process and meanings through problem explanation. The research is descriptive. The location of this study is Nggembe Village, situated in the Bolo District of Bima Regency. The researcher chose this location due to its proximity to the author's home. Primary Data: Core or primary data in this study were used in the conducted research. This data is reliable as it was obtained directly from informants. In Nggembe Village, Bolo District, Bima Regency, the author used this source to collect data directly. The purpose of this approach is to analyze the components influencing community participation in development planning. In this study, the Village Head, Village Secretary, Village Government Official, four community members, and community leaders served as informants. Secondary Data: In addition to quoting directly from books relevant to the thesis topic, the author used this source to collect data. For this research, qualitative data analysis was employed; field data was presented and then analyzed to consider previous issues. Subsequently, the collected data was analyzed using reasoning to link data and information for a better understanding of the research subject. Finally, conclusions were drawn from the study."

### **3. Result and Discussion**

#### **Development Process**

Successful development cannot occur without the participation of community members, both as a system as a whole and as individuals. This participation is crucial for the dynamics of the development process because the principle of development is to realize a prosperous society. Therefore, both the community and the government are responsible for development failures. The success of development depends on community awareness and active participation. To achieve development goals, governmental wisdom must be demonstrated. Issues Related to Community Participation in Village Development Planning Here, the community as both the subject and object of development must actively participate in development, enjoy its results, and continue to preserve the process itself. Therefore, the development process naturally must originate from the community, be carried out by the community, and be enjoyed by the community.

#### **Development Leadership**

Leadership is a process to enhance community life, such as a life that is prosperous, safe, and peaceful. To achieve this, it is crucial for the community to be involved in the development process. The principle of directly involving the community is that the community's interests are paramount. To achieve this, the community must participate in the development process, be involved in the entire development process, from planning to implementation. The main factor influencing community involvement in development is leadership. Leaders play a very significant role in this development, including village heads, officials, and the Village Consultative Body (BPD). Development must meet community needs, so the village head and his team must understand the community's conditions and needs. Therefore, the leadership factor is highly dominant in influencing community participation in village development. The results of field research are discussed here, consulting with the community to create a development program. Research indicates that the village government has collaborated with the community to determine the priority levels of village development. The government plans village development without involving the village community.

To make the community aware of the importance of their involvement in the development process of Nggembe Village, the village government has actively encouraged them to participate in development. In planning village development, consider the aspirations of its community. The Village Head has made his best efforts, as shown by interviews with

community members and village officials, in planning village development by considering the desires of the village community. The Nggembe Village Government gives its citizens the freedom to express their wishes, especially regarding current development planning. This is aimed at achieving joint progress. Activities carried out by the Village Head to inform the community about village development plans. The research results show that the Village Head of Nggembe strives to enable the community to be involved in every stage of development planning. The village government has made every effort to involve the community. They ask people in the village to participate in the development planning process. Because they are involved in the development planning process, the community feels more valued as community members. The freedom of the community to speak about village development plans. To realize democratic and participatory development, the community must be involved in the development planning process. They must be given freedom and the opportunity to voice their aspirations.

The study results show that the community of Nggembe Village is involved in the development planning process and does not just receive development results. However, the community is also involved in forming the development program carried out by the government, in this case, the Village Head. The presence of consultations with the community to determine community needs allows community access to be involved in voicing their aspirations. The open nature of the village head allows the community to participate in development planning. The Village Head of Nggembe always gives the community the opportunity to participate in the development planning process. So far, the community has been directly involved in the activities of the village government. Similarly, the BPD has fulfilled its responsibility, including representing the wishes of the village community in the making of development planning. It is very important for the community to participate in the development planning process so that they know about the planned development program and whether the program has been implemented or not.

### **Communicating**

To ensure that development programs meet the needs of the community, leaders must continually engage the community in the development process, as well as continue to conduct socialization, communication, and empowerment of the community. In the process of formulating the development plan of Nggembe Village, informants indicated that the Village government had communicated with the community to establish development programs.

Additionally, the Nggembe Village government disseminated the programs to be implemented. The initial activity undertaken by the Nggembe Village government is socialization, aimed at providing information, understanding, and encouraging community participation in development planning. By implementing it, it is hoped that development planning will involve as much socialization as possible.

This activity will make the community more aware, better understand, and more interested in participating in the entire participatory planning process, from planning to implementation. However, the personnel of Nggembe Village face significant challenges in gathering the community to conduct socialization on development programs. Research results in Nggembe Village indicate that the village government and BPD have communicated with the community about village development and have consistently communicated with them. Studies also show that the community is directly involved in village development after the Village Head and his officials plan development programs. This teaches the community to participate in development. The Village Head and his staff are directly involved in village development. The community is more interested in participating in the development process because the village government has fulfilled its duties and functions to develop the community.

### **Learning**

Research results in Nggembe Village reveal that the majority of young people in this village do not aspire to pursue education beyond the primary or secondary levels. Although their economic conditions are relatively stable, many of them only complete education up to elementary, junior high, or high school. The demographic composition of Nggembe Village is predominantly comprised of migrants seeking livelihoods, while the native population is very limited. This research found that higher levels of education correlate with greater awareness of the importance of development, while lower levels of education tend to be associated with a lack of such awareness. Observations and interviews with the Village Head of Nggembe indicate that a lack of understanding of the concept of participatory planning has impacted community involvement in the village development process.

The basic principle of participatory planning is to involve all elements of the community in formulating and implementing development plans oriented towards common interests. Ideally, this approach allows all villagers to understand and participate in every stage of development, from planning to implementation. However, the research findings indicate that the residents of Nggembe Village do not fully understand this concept. They recognize the

importance of participation in development to achieve shared prosperity but have not been able to effectively implement such participation. This research highlights the urgent need for deeper educational and socialization interventions regarding participatory planning in Nggembe Village. Improving understanding of this concept is expected to strengthen the capacity of residents to actively and critically participate in village development policies, thus making inclusive and sustainable development goals more easily achievable.

### **Village Consultative Body (BPD)**

The BPD, working in collaboration with the village government, must have a more dominant role and serve as a forum or platform to determine community needs. In this way, the community will have bargaining power with the Village government. Communities will be more interested in participating if they understand development programs and their objectives. Research results show that the majority of the community is unaware of the development program processes and the objectives of village development, but they do know when the programs are implemented. This is due to low educational quality. Interview results indicate that the level of education significantly influences community participation in village development planning. The village government must be more active in observing and educating the community about the importance of participation so that development programs meet community desires and garner their support."

### **4. Conclusion**

The research findings in Nggembe Village, Bolo Subdistrict, Bima Regency indicate that village leadership plays a crucial role in community participation in development planning. The village head has implemented the concept of participatory planning, involving the community in every stage of development, from setting programs, planning, to providing information about the plans to the community. This provides space for the community to express their opinions and desires regarding village development. Furthermore, communication between the village government and the community is well-established, enabling the community to be informed and directly involved in the development process. However, the challenge faced is the low level of education in the village, resulting in a lack of understanding among the community about the procedures and details of development. Therefore, to enhance the effectiveness of development, it is recommended that the village government increase interaction with the community and provide better education on the



importance of their participation in village development. The success of development greatly depends on how actively and involved all elements of the community are in the process.

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