



THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN MUSTIKASARI VILLAGE 2023

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Abstract

Development at the village level requires the application of participatory governance principles to ensure that formulated policies and programs align with the real needs of the community. Young men and women are a strategic group in development because they have the capacity to act as agents of social change. This study aims to comprehensively analyze the role of young men and women in the planning and implementation of development programs in Mustikasari Village in 2023. This study used a qualitative method with a descriptive analytical approach. Data were obtained through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation studies. The results show that development planning in Mustikasari Village has been implemented through a formal, hierarchical Development Planning Meeting (Musrenbang) mechanism. However, the involvement of young men and women in the planning stage is still representative and has not been optimal quantitatively or substantively. At the development implementation stage, young men and women demonstrate a more significant role through involvement in mutual cooperation activities, support for program implementation, and informal social monitoring of development outcomes. Supporting factors for youth involvement include institutional support and the existence of youth organizations, while inhibiting factors include limited socialization, time constraints, and low development planning literacy among youth. This study recommends strengthening the capacity and institutionalizing the role of youth in all stages of village development.

Keywords: youth participation, Musrenbang, village development, governance

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Introduction

Development is a process of planned change aimed at improving community wellbeing in a sustainable manner, encompassing economic, social, and environmental aspects. In the context of regional government, development at the sub-district level holds strategic significance because it serves as the government unit closest to the community. Therefore, sub-district development planning must be implemented based on the principles of participation, transparency, and accountability.

Law Number 25 of 2004 concerning the National Development Planning System affirms that the Development Planning Deliberation (Musrenbang) is the primary instrument for ensuring community involvement in the development planning process. Through Musrenbang, communities are positioned as development subjects with the right to express their aspirations and determine development priorities.

Young men and women play a strategic role in development, as mandated by Law Number 40 of 2009 concerning Youth. Youth are positioned as a moral force, social control, and agents of change, expected to drive social transformation at the local level. With characteristics such as creativity, adaptability to technology, and high social energy, youth have the potential to make significant contributions to development planning and implementation.

Mustikasari Village, with its high population density and large proportion of young people, faces various development challenges, particularly related to environmental infrastructure and the quality of public services. Although space for youth participation is normatively available through the Musrenbang (Regional Development Planning Forum), youth involvement in practice remains relatively limited. This situation has the potential to hinder the realization of inclusive development that is responsive to the needs of the younger generation. Therefore, this research is relevant to assess the role of young men and women in the development of Mustikasari Village in 2023.

Research Methodology

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach. This approach was chosen to gain an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of youth participation in development planning and implementation.

The research was conducted in Mustikasari Village, Mustikajaya District, Bekasi City. Research informants were determined purposively, including village officials and young men and women involved in the Musrenbang (Development Planning Meeting) and the implementation of the 2023 development program. Data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and documentation studies of development planning documents.

Data analysis was conducted interactively through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data validity was maintained through triangulation of sources and techniques to enhance the validity of the research findings.



THEORETICAL BASIS

Development Concept

Development is essentially a planned and sustainable process of change aimed at improving the quality of life of society as a whole. Development is not only defined as increasing economic growth but also encompasses social, cultural, political, and environmental dimensions. This perspective places humans at the center of development (people-centered development), thus making society both the subject and object of development (Todaro & Smith, 2015).

In the context of regional government, particularly at the sub-district level, development is realized through programs that address basic community needs, such as environmental infrastructure development, improved public services, and social and economic empowerment. The success of regional development is largely determined by the extent to which the development process improves the welfare and independence of local communities (Bappenas, 2019).

Development Planning

Development planning is a systematic process for formulating development goals, policies, and programs, taking into account empirical conditions, potential, and regional problems. Effective planning must be rational, data-driven, and participatory so that the resulting policies have social legitimacy and can be optimally implemented.

In Indonesia, regional development planning mechanisms are implemented through the Development Planning Conference (Musrenbang), as stipulated in Law Number 25 of 2004 concerning the National Development Planning System. Musrenbang serves as a formal forum to gather community aspirations and align them with local government development priorities (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2019). At the sub-district level, Musrenbang serves as a strategic space for the community, including young men and women, to directly participate in formulating development priorities.

Community Participation in Development

Community participation is a fundamental element in democratic and sustainable development. Participation is defined as the active involvement of communities in decisionmaking, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation of development.

In the context of village development, community participation reflects the quality of local governance. High levels of participation indicate community trust in the government and a sense of ownership in development programs. Conversely, low participation is often caused by minimal outreach, limited access to information, and limited community capacity to understand the development planning process (Putra & Lestari, 2021).

Youth and Their Role in Development

Youth is a social group characterized by being dynamic, innovative, and adaptive to social change. Law Number 40 of 2009 concerning Youth affirms that youth have a strategic role as agents of change, social control, and moral force in national and regional development.



Theoretically, youth involvement in development contributes to improving the quality of planning and the sustainability of development programs. Youth play a role not only as technical implementers but also as idea initiators, social mediators, and overseers of public policy at the local level (Rahman & Sari, 2022).

DISCUSSION

Development Planning Process in Mustikasari Village

Development planning in Mustikasari Village in 2023 will be implemented through the Musrenbang mechanism, which begins with gathering community aspirations at the neighborhood unit (RT) and community unit (RW) levels. Community proposals are then discussed in a pre-Musrenbang forum before being determined as development priorities in the village Musrenbang.

The research results indicate that procedurally, the development planning mechanism complies with statutory provisions. However, the involvement of young men and women in the planning process remains representative and substantively suboptimal. This condition aligns with the findings of Fitriani and Nugroho (2020), who stated that youth participation in the Musrenbang (Regional Development Planning Forum) is often limited to representatives of formal organizations.

Implementation of Development Programs in Mustikasari Village

Development implementation in Mustikasari Village in 2023 includes environmental infrastructure improvements such as road repairs, drainage, and street lighting, as well as community empowerment programs. At this stage, the involvement of young men and women is more visible than in the planning stage.

Young men and women play an active role in mutual cooperation activities, assisting with neighborhood-scale development, and supporting social activities. This finding aligns with Suryadi and Hidayat's (2020) findings, which suggest that young people tend to be more active in the development implementation phase than in the policy planning phase.

The Role of Young Men and Women in Monitoring and Evaluation

In addition to being involved in implementation, young men and women also play a role in informal monitoring and evaluation of development. Social oversight by youth contributes to increased accountability and the quality of development outcomes.

The use of social media as a means of conveying information and aspirations is a form of innovation implemented by youth in development oversight. This role demonstrates that youth have the potential to act as participatory oversight actors in local governance (Mikasih et al., 2024).



Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Youth Involvement

Supporting factors for youth involvement in the development of Mustikasari Village include support from the village government, the existence of youth organizations, and the availability of the Musrenbang forum as a formal participation space. These factors provide opportunities for youth to participate in development (Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021).

Inhibiting factors include a lack of Musrenbang socialization, time constraints due to educational and work activities, and low youth literacy regarding development planning mechanisms. These obstacles align with previous research findings that indicate limited capacity and information are the main obstacles to youth participation in regional development.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and discussion, it can be concluded that the role of young men and women in development planning and implementation in Mustikasari Village in 2023 has been realized, but not yet optimal. Young men and women play a more dominant role in the implementation and monitoring stages than in the planning stage.

These findings confirm that youth still tend to be positioned as technical implementers of development, not fully strategic actors in decision-making. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen youth capacity, improve development planning literacy, and mainstream youth roles in the village development planning system so that development can be more inclusive and sustainable (Todaro & Smith, 2015); (Bappenas, 2019).

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results of research and discussion regarding the role of young men and women in development planning and implementation in Mustikasari Village in 2023, it is recommended that the village government improve the quality of youth participation by strengthening the socialization of Musrenbang which is more inclusive and sustainable, accompanied by increasing development planning literacy for youth through training activities, mentoring, and public policy discussions, so that youth are not only formally involved but also able to contribute substantively in the development decision-making process. In addition, the village government needs to institutionalize the role of youth in the development planning structure by providing a more permanent and organized space for involvement, and optimizing the use of information technology and social media as alternative means of participation to capture aspirations, disseminate development information, and support participatory monitoring and evaluation processes. Thus, youth involvement in village development is expected to take place in a more inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable manner, and contribute to the realization of village development that is responsive to community needs.



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