

IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSIVE VILLAGE POLICY IN BIRA TENGAH VILLAGE, SOKOBANAH DISTRICT

Mustaqima Juliyandari¹, Eni Sri Rahayuningsih²

^{1,2}Economic development at Trunojoyo Madura University

200231100232@student.trunojoyo.ac.id

eni.rahayuningsih@trunojoyo.ac.id

Article Info

Abstract This study aims to examine the implementation of inclusive village policies in Bira Tengah Village, Sokobanah District. The research method used is qualitative with a phenomenological approach. Data collection techniques are carried out by means of observation, interviews and documentation. The findings show that Bira Tengah Village has taken various significant steps to achieve inclusiveness, the village government is trying for all levels of society to participate in the development process in order to maintain the value of equality in the social realm, this can be seen from the inclusion of all levels of society in the preparation of village programs, infrastructure improvements, and increasing access to health services. However, although most of the Inclusive Village policies have been implemented, there are still obstacles in terms of socialization and regulation of the Law from the local government regarding the Inclusive Village Policy, this has caused several programs to not run optimally.

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INTRODUCTION

In the early 1980s, disability issues began to attract global attention. Since the adoption of regulations on international programs for persons with disabilities by the UN General Assembly, the World Decade of Disabled Persons has been established to ensure that debates on disability issues are more inclusive. The great global attention to the issue gave rise to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2006 and was ratified by the Indonesian government in the form of Law No. 19 of 2011. (Ishak et al., 2015). Assuming that the majority of people with disabilities live in rural areas, efforts to overcome the obstacles faced by people with disabilities must begin at the village level. Taking advantage of the moment of the ratification of Law No. 06 of 2014 concerning village strengthening, ideas and perspectives on disabilities can also be linked to building village independence. This is where the idea of realizing the Inclusive Village policy emerged.

Inclusive Village is a condition of village life where every citizen is willing to open up living space and residence for all villagers who are regulated and managed openly, friendly and eliminate barriers to be able to participate equally, respect each other and embrace every difference in development. The formation and development of inclusive villages is not only the provision of basic services, but also improving the quality of basic services and increasing the participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in village administration. Marginalized and vulnerable groups include: the poor, people with disabilities, women, children, the elderly, indigenous peoples, minority groups and other marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Inclusive Village can be achieved if supported by two things, namely by inclusive perception and deeply rooted principles (Ferrie, D., 2008; Hayes, Gray, & Edwards, 2008; Heinicke-Motsch & Sygall, 2003) and building infrastructure that is designed in such a way that it can be accessed by its users (Elina & Ann, 2012). If these two things can be met, then the sustainability of the village can be maintained, developed and what is called a civil society can also be created (Malloy, 2015; Palich, & Edmonds, 2013) (Rifai et al., 2022).

Building an Inclusive Village requires participation from all villagers, where groups that have experienced marginalization and exclusion are encouraged and drawn into village development processes. To open up space and involve these groups, especially groups that have experienced marginalization and exclusion such as the disabled and minority groups, indicators are developed to measure progress and achievement. The indicators in building an Inclusive Village are:

Governance which includes policy aspects, namely the availability of discretionary space for villages according to their locality to drive local emancipation in building inclusive villages, public service aspects that guarantee the availability of accessible and quality public services for vulnerable and marginal groups and local democracy aspects that encourage democratic performance as indicated by the strengthening of participation of vulnerable and marginal groups, institutionalization of transparency and creation of accountability in the village.

Arena which includes formal aspects which make formal arenas such as village deliberations or village development planning deliberations which open up participation space for vulnerable marginal groups and informal aspects namely maintaining and safeguarding informal arenas which can build public discourse and as dialectical spaces such as apostle activities, community meetings, patrols and others.

And finally, the Actors include aspects of leaders and village government where the leadership model is open and listens and facilitates ideas for change including those that emerge from vulnerable and marginalized groups, the social institution aspect, namely reviving social institutions that have so far been informal arenas as a space for the growth and development of local initiatives in discussing public issues that carry the narrative of inclusive villages, and finally the individual aspect that can build critical awareness of residents to participate not only in formal arenas but also in informal arenas that revive local values and traditions. (Ministry of Villages & Development of Disadvantaged Regions, 2021).

Several previous studies have linked social inclusion to village development. The first is the work of Prima Putra Budi Gutama and Bambang Widiyahseno entitled "Social Inclusion in Village Development". This study examines the social inclusion policy that has been implemented in Tempuran Village which involves the community to have an impact on the realization of economic rights, participation and community empowerment. However, this is hampered by the slow improvement of services and infrastructure and the lack of community regeneration and creativity. Second, the work of Budi Harsono and Hario Damar entitled "Inclusiveness of Village Heads in Supporting State Revenue through the Development of Village-Owned Enterprises" the main findings of this study are the need for a planning and implementation framework for the Village Budget that can provide assurance to policy makers that changes have led to positive things in the political, social and/or economic dimensions.

In recent years, the Indonesian government has integrated inclusive policies into various development programs, especially at the village level. This program aims to strengthen the capacity of villages to design and implement policies that support inclusivity. Bira Tengah Village, located in Sokobanah District, Sampang Regency, is one of the villages that has great potential for development. As one of the Independent Villages in Sampang Regency with all the achievements that have been achieved, including receiving the National Indonesian Tourism Village Award held by the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemenparekraf), research on inclusive villages in Bira Tengah Village has a crucial role in advancing sustainable development that is inclusive and equitable for all its people.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach that is sourced from real life experiences as basic data from reality (Littlejohn 1996:204). So in phenomenological studies, what is important is the development of a method that does not falsify the phenomenon, but is able to describe how the phenomenon appears.

Data collection techniques are carried out using observation, interview and documentation methods. This study uses primary and secondary data sources. Data analysis techniques use an interactive analysis model with stages of data collection, data reduction, data

presentation and finally drawing conclusions (Sugiyono, 2013). Data that has been successfully collected and recorded as part of the study must be checked for validity and truth. In this study, the validity of the data obtained is by using source triangulation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Research Location

Bira Tengah Village comes from the Madurese language where the word bira means the edge of the beach or coast and also the word tengah which means indicating its location in the middle of one area and another area that coincides with the coast, so Bira Tengah means a coastal area located in the middle. Bira Tengah Village is located in the lowlands where the northern boundary is directly connected to the Madura Strait.

Based on administrative data from the village and sub-district governments of Sampang Regency in 2021, the population of Bira Tengah Village is 9,388 people, consisting of 4,626 men and 4,762 women. The population of productive age is around 63.45%, which is valuable capital for the procurement of human resources. In an effort to improve human resources, the role of education is very crucial in advancing villages and improving the quality of life of local communities. Education in Bira Tengah Village is at most up to junior high school, while secondary education and above are in other areas that are relatively far away, indicating that educational facilities and infrastructure in Bira Tengah Village are still relatively minimal.

Meanwhile, the health conditions in Bira Tengah Village recorded that there were 7 people with physical disabilities, with details of 1 male and 1 female deaf, 1 male and 1 female mute, 2 male and 1 female blind, while there were almost no people with mental disabilities. (Agus, 2023).

Implementation of Inclusive Village Policy in Bira Tengah Village

Inclusive village is a concept that aims to ensure that every villager, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, can participate equally in the social, economic, and political life of the village. To implement this concept, comprehensive strategic steps are needed in accordance with existing guidelines. The Inclusive Village Guidelines, as stated in the guidelines document, emphasize the importance of involvement in various aspects of village life, starting from participation in village government to access to basic services.

Active community participation in the planning and implementation of Inclusive Village policies is the key to the successful implementation of this concept. Through the village deliberation forum, residents are invited to participate in decision-making related to projects and programs to be implemented. This process begins with the involvement of all levels of society in the Village Deliberation (Musdes) to actively participate in the village development planning process. In Musdes, the involvement of various parties such as community leaders, youth and other villagers is very important to ensure that every voice is heard and every need is met. By involving all villagers, the decisions taken will be more representative and in accordance with the real needs in the village, thus creating a more inclusive and equal environment for all. In addition, to build and strengthen relationships between villagers, Bira Tengah Village also organizes various social activities involving residents such as mutual cooperation, regular

religious studies or religious activities, joint business groups and village festivals such as rokat tase'. These activities are carried out not only to strengthen relationships between residents, but also to eliminate differences and create a more inclusive and harmonious environment for everyone, including people with disabilities.

To create an inclusive village, the village government and community are committed to ensuring that all villagers have equal opportunities in various aspects of life. One of the main programs in the implementation of the Inclusive Village in Bira Tengah Village is infrastructure improvement.

The government with support from local governments and village non-governmental organizations continues to strive to improve infrastructure development, one of which focuses on road paving. The road paving is spread across six hamlets, namely, Polai Timur Hamlet, Polai Laok 1 Hamlet, Polai Laok 2 Hamlet, Polai Barat Hamlet, Goalorong 1 Hamlet and Goalorong 2 Hamlet. In addition, the construction of concrete roads, normalization of drainage, and the installation of five solar-powered street lights along the main road of Bira Tengah Village are also carried out to make it more accessible to all residents, including those using wheelchairs or other walking aids.

Another equally important program is improving access to health services. Public facilities such as community health centers have been renovated to ensure that they are disability-friendly. There are special wheelchair ramps, widened entrances and exits to facilitate access for wheelchair users, the application of running text to facilitate the deaf in queuing, the availability of priority seats, the presence of handrails at the registration counter, bathrooms equipped with ramps to facilitate the disabled, the provision of wheelchairs at community health centers to the availability of companions for the disabled.

In addition to physical accessibility, innovation is also carried out in non-physical accessibility, starting with improving the quality of health center officers so that they understand how to provide special services to people with disabilities. Service improvements are also carried out in terms of communication that is tailored to people with disabilities. In addition, activities aimed at families of People with Mental Disorders (ODGJ) where there are special forms of service, namely health services in the form of a program to pick up and drop off people with disabilities and the elderly, providing socialization about disabilities to the entire community so that non-disabled people also play a role in improving health services.

On the other hand, what happens in the field of education is that the facilities provided do not meet inclusive policy standards, such as the lack of teaching materials such as Braille for blind children, or hearing aids for deaf children, and school buildings that do not provide special facilities such as ramps for wheelchairs and special bathrooms for students with disabilities, so that children with special needs have difficulty in carrying out activities at school. Then in terms of non-physical accessibility, several classic problems were found in the implementation of inclusive education, namely the lack of special assistant teachers (GPK), the unavailability of special rooms for handling children with special needs, and minimal socialization about inclusive education in the community

around the school. This causes less than optimal handling of children with special needs at school (Sangadji, 2022).

Furthermore, the assistance program for poor families as part of the implementation of the Inclusive Village policy is one of the strategic steps to create a more just and prosperous village society. Through this program, the village can ensure that the village community, especially those in difficult economic situations, have the opportunity to improve their quality of life. In Bira Tengah Village itself, the village government has completed the distribution of direct cash assistance from village funds (BLT DD) for one year to 49 beneficiary families. Each beneficiary family received cash assistance of IDR 300,000/month. In addition to cash assistance, the provision of basic food assistance was also carried out in Bira Tengah Village, this basic food assistance aims to ensure that poor families in the village can meet their basic needs more comprehensively. The Bira Tengah Village Government also distributed Bulog rice assistance for food security to beneficiary families. The distribution of this assistance was carried out at the local village hall. A total of 417 beneficiary families received Bulog rice assistance from the central government.

In general, the concept of Inclusive Village has been successfully implemented in Bira Tengah Village, creating a more open and friendly environment for the entire community including vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, the elderly and the poor. However, although some of these steps have been implemented, there are still challenges that need to be overcome to ensure the success of this policy as a whole. The challenge that needs to be overcome is the lack of clear socialization and regulation from the local village government regarding the Inclusive Village policy. Without effective socialization, many village communities

not fully understand the objectives and benefits of the Inclusive Village policy. In addition, the absence of clear and structured regulations from the village government also has an impact on the implementation of the program which is not optimal.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Inclusive Village policy in Bira Tengah Village has shown several significant steps that are in accordance with the inclusive village guidelines. By involving various community groups, improving disability-friendly infrastructure, increasing access to health services, and active community participation in decision-making, Bira Tengah Village has made significant progress in creating a fair and friendly environment for all levels of society. However, to achieve a true Inclusive Village, ongoing efforts are needed to strengthen the capacity of the village government and community in understanding and implementing the principles of inclusivity. These steps must be continuously monitored and evaluated to ensure that the goals of inclusivity are achieved and that all programs and policies are truly effective in improving the welfare of the entire village community, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Suggestions for Bira Tengah Village are to continue to improve education and socialization on the importance of inclusiveness in all levels of society. Training and workshops on inclusiveness should be held periodically to improve understanding and commitment to the principles of inclusiveness. Regular monitoring and evaluation should

also be carried out to identify areas that need improvement and to ensure that all villagers receive equal benefits from the development carried out. In addition, village regulations regarding Inclusive Villages in Bira Tengah Village need to be immediately prepared and ratified even though there are no specific regulations on Inclusive Villages, the village can refer to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages and Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities as a temporary legal basis.

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