

## **Citizen Participation in The Field of Social Welfare Through PKH (Study of Community Empowerment by The Social Service of Nagekeo Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article provides and overview of citizen participation in the field of social welfare through the Famili of Hope Program or Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH) to make citizens a good citizen in the context of citizenship education. This research uses a qualitative approach with the case study method. The result of this study indicate that citizen participation in the field of social welfare is carried out by attending Family Ability Improvement Meetings or Pertemuan Peningkatan Kemampuan Keluarga (P2K2), building latrines with a social welfare system between PKH recipients, attending the Family Planning-Integrated Health Service or Pos Pelayanan Keluarga Berencana Kesehatan Terpadu (POSYANDU) for pregnant woman, toddlers and the elderly routinely every month, fulfilment of children's nutrition, sending their children to school, and joining the Joint Business Group or Kelompok Usaha Bersama (KUBE) consisting of KUBE weaving, agriculture and livestock. With the participation of citizens, it is hoped that PKH can be implement well, because the success of government work programs depends on community participation as program implementers.

Keywords: Citizen Participation, Social Welfare, PKH.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Poverty is one of the global problems that causes social impoverishment for citizens around the world including Indonesia. East Nusa Tenggara is one of the provinces in Indonesia which has high percentage of the population living in poverty. BPS data states that in 2015 the percentage of population living in poverty was 1.159 million people, in 2016 there were 1.149 people, in 2017 were 1.150 people, in 2018 were 1.142 people. Nagekeo Regency which was the object of this study, had a percentage of population living in poverty in 2015 of 20,000 people, in 2016 it dropped to 19.180 people. In 2017 it increased to 19.200 people while in 2018 it became 18.690 people.

In overcoming the poverty problem as a social problem that raises impoverishment of citizens, the cooperation between citizens and the government is needed. Rahayu (2010: 14) states that "in achieving prosperity must be done together between the community and the government, cannot be done individually, achieving prosperity is a shared responsibility". From the view above it can be concluded that in overcoming poverty to achieve prosperity is not only the responsibility of the country but requires cooperation from all parties to realize welfare for citizens to achieve the country goals.

One thing that can be done by the government is through the empowerment process. Roesmidi and Risyanti (2006) stated that empowerment means equitable sharing of power so as to increase political awareness and weak group authority and expand their

influence on natural resources and their sustainable management. Empowerment is a means to an end to strengthen the capacity of organizations or groups of people to be able to change the current situation, have the power to drive the big changes that are needed in society. From the statement above it can be concluded that the empowerment carried out by the government aims to motivate and provide assistance so that people avoid backwardness including poverty experienced.

PKH is one of government work program that is implemented to empower the community. PKH is a program that aims to resolve and reduce poverty, improve the quality of human resources and change the behavior of families living in poverty who are relatively less supportive of welfare behavior (Indriani, 2017). From the view above it can be concluded that PKH aims to cut poverty chains and develop human resources to achieve prosperity.

The implementation of PKH program requires citizen participation as the target of PKH. Citizen participation is essentially a multi stakeholder partnership that involves various elements including the country, companies, public communities and other private actors in which there is management of power and responsibility (Syahri, 2013). Citizen participation is citizens contribution to be accountable to country associations (Reed & Selbee, 2001). From the view above it can be concluded that citizen participation is a partnership and association relationship within the country. The elements in this relationship consist of the state, companies, public communities and other private actors. In this relationship there is a power division and implementation of responsibilities so that these interests can be realized.

The welfare obtained by the community is social welfare which is carried out based on the symbolizing process through PKH. Social welfare is a constitutional social process with a thought system consisting of ideas, actions, beliefs, and systematic practices for developing subjects (Lessa, 2006). From the view above it can be concluded that social welfare is part of social process. The social process is carried out based on the applicable constitution. The social process undertaken to achieve social welfare is carried out by the Office of Social Affairs under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

The problem of poverty as part of social welfare problem is raised and made research material in Civics context, considering the Civics realm which consists of civic education and citizenship education. The view that strengthens citizenship education in this study context, was stated by Cogan in Budimansyah and Suryadi (2008: 5) which states that: Citizenship education or education for citizenship. the more inclusive term and encompasses both these in school or non-formal/informal learning which takes place in the family, the religious organization, community organizations, the media etc, which help to shape the totality of citizen.

From the view above, it can be seen that the essence of Civics is not only the learning experience at school, but through the learning experience of non-formal institutions such as families, religious organizations, media, communities, and others that can shape the citizens' overall personality. Therefore, the citizens participation assessed in this study is part of citizenship education carried out by the social service through the empowerment of people living in poverty through PKH.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study uses a qualitative approach with qualitative research. Data sources in this study consisted of primary data sources (interviews and observations) and secondary data sources (documentation). Data analysis techniques used in this study consist of data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions/data verification. Checking

the validity of the data conducted in this study uses the "triangulation" technique of data sources consisting of interviews, observation and documentation.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Based on the results of field research it can be seen that citizen participation in social welfare sector is carried out by taking part in Family Capability Improvement Meeting (P2K2), building latrines with a social gathering system between PKH recipients, attending the Family Planning-Integrated Health Service (POSYANDU) for pregnant women, toddlers and the elderly routinely every month, fulfillment of children's nutrition, send their children to school and join the Joint Business Group (KUBE) consisting of KUBE weaving, KUBE agriculture and KUBE livestock. Community participation is carried out after receiving guidance from the Social Service. The coaching consists of coaching in economics, health and education sectors. From the research results obtained, it can be seen that the Social Service as a place for citizenship education, guidance and knowledge transfer for citizens, so that the community participates in making PKH successful.

Participation by citizens in social welfare sector is a manifestation of civic skills consisting of intellectual skills and participatory skills. Wadu, Ladamay & Dadi (2018) stated that civic skills are skills developed from citizenship knowledge, so that the knowledge gained becomes meaningful because it can be utilized in dealing with national and state life problems. Furthermore, Branson in Budimansyah and Suryadi (2008:33) states "civic skills include intellectual and participatory skills of relevant citizens". From the two views above it can be concluded that the citizens skills consist of intellectual skills and participatory skills that are used to solve and overcome citizenship problems.

Regarding to this research, participatory skills are carried out by citizens after receiving intellectual skills training. Karliani (2014:76) states that Civic skills include "participation skills in national and state life, for example, playing an active role in realizing civil society, skills in influencing and monitoring the government and political decision-making process, skills in solving social problems, cooperation, and managing conflict ". From the view above it can be concluded that the citizen skill is the participating skill. The participation implemented is participation related to the skills to influence and monitoring the government and political decision-making process, skills in solving social problems, cooperation, and managing conflicts in civil society as an effort to realize the country objectives.

Citizen participation through PKH is done in order to achieve social welfare. Social welfare is social development that is implemented based on social policies implemented by charitable organizations or political movements as service providers to improve the economy and fight poverty (Jawad, 2002). From the opinion above it can be concluded that social welfare is part of social development. This social development is carried out to fight poverty through empowerment carried out by the Social Service under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs as a social organization by utilizing PKH as an agreed social policy program and then implemented within the country.

In Indonesia itself, regarding to social welfare obtained by citizens through community empowerment, Act Number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Welfare Chapter I General Provisions Article 1 intended by: 1) Social Welfare is a condition of meeting the material, spiritual and social needs of citizens in order to be able to live properly and be able to develop themselves, so that they can carry out their social functions; 2) The implementation of social welfare is a directed, integrated and sustainable effort undertaken by the government, regional government and the community in the form of social services to meet the basic needs of every citizen which includes social

rehabilitation, social security, social empowerment and social protection; 3) Social empowerment is carried out in the form of: diagnosis and giving motivation, skills training; accompaniment; providing capital stimulants, business equipment, and business premises; increasing access to marketing business results; supervision and social advocacy; strengthening social harmony; environmental management; and / or further guidance. From the statement of Act Number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Welfare it can be concluded that social welfare is an activity undertaken to meet the needs of citizens through the empowerment process. These activities include motivation, training, mentoring and direct guidance with the aim of empowering the community to carry out their social functions well.

The provisions of Act Number 11 of 2009 which have been described above are in line with the objectives of PKH, which is increasing the reach or accessibility of people living in poverty to public services, especially education and health. For the short term, through the provision of cash assistance to RTSM, this program is expected to reduce the burden of RTSM expenditure. While for the long term, through the prescribed obligations, it is hoped that there will be a change in mindset and behavior towards improving the health status of children and pregnant women and the education of these RTSM children (Suprijono & Carolina, 2016). From the perspective above it can be concluded that the general objective of PKH is to open access to public services for the people living in poverty in the education and health sectors. The specific purpose of this program is to open the mindset of the community so that they can make improvements to nutrition, health and education consciously.

Community empowerment carried out by the social service by seeking citizen participation through PKH is the role of the country as social protection. Mackenzie (2019) said that the government exists to protect the people. Suryadi (2017: 31) further stated "it is dearly missed the country figure that protects the entire nation and all spilled blood, so that no citizen feels lonely in the facing disaster and only based on patience". From the view above it can be concluded that the state is responsible for overcoming poverty and protecting the entire nation through all policies taken, one of them through the PKH policy. This is done so that citizens do not feel lonely so they may have the power to face the social problems they deal with.

Empowerment activities carried out by the Social Service are a form of Civic Education in the context of Citizenship Education or Education for Citizenship in the perspective of Community Civic to shape the totality of citizen. Dunn in Lukiyadi & Farisi (2016:34) states that community civics are "the first meaningful movement from theory to practice in emerging social studies literature". From this statement it can be concluded that community civics is a movement from theory to practice in social studies. This means that this theory can be obtained from institutes that provide education through social studies. Then this education is applied in the community where the recipients of this social study live. In this case, the Social Service is a distributor and driver of community participation through social studies so that the community can properly carry out citizen participation in the social welfare sector through PKH to form good citizens who are able to overcome poverty as one of the social problems.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that citizen participation through PKH is carried out by attending the Family Ability Improvement Meeting (P2K2), building latrines with a social gathering system between PKH recipients, attending the Family Planning-Integrated Health Service (POSYANDU) for pregnant women, toddlers and the elderly routinely every month, fulfillment of children's nutrition, send their children



to school and join the Joint Business Group (KUBE) consisting of KUBE weaving, KUBE agriculture and KUBE livestock. This participation is carried out with guidance and assistance from the government through the Social Service. With the presence of PKH and community participation in implementing and succeeding PKH, it is expected that the poverty problem as a social problem can be overcome so that the specific goals of PKH and the country objectives in general can be realized properly.

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