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### The Role of The Village Head in The Development of The Joint Business Group for Poor Peoples Toward Poverty Alleviation

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#### Abstract

Poverty in Widodomartani is still classified as high poverty for about 9 % of its villagers. Central, local, and the village-level government tried to solve this issue. In 2013, Widodomartani Village received some programs to control the poverty from Indonesia Ministry of Social Affairs launching the Kelompok Usaha Bersama Fakir Miskin (KUBE FM) program. The implementation of the KUBE FM Program needs assistance from all parties, thus it can be going well. Widodomartani Village-head (Lurah) is one of the policymakers who can assist the KUBE FM Program. The village head has some authority to run the program, one of which is society's empowerment. Hence, the village head's assistance in KUBE FM Program could help reduce and/or remove poverty in Widodomartani.

**Keywords:** Village Head, Economic Activity Group, Poverty

#### Introduction

Various programs to alleviate poverty have been initiated by the government, both the central, provincial, and district governments, and even village governments have also thought about poverty alleviation programs. Likewise, the Ministry of Social Affairs also initiated various programs to address poverty problems, such as BLT (Direct Cash Assistance), BPNT (Non-Cash Food Assistance), Joint Business Group for the Poor (KUBE FM), and so on. All of these programs are directed at achieving the same goal, namely alleviating the problem of poverty for people who are registered in the poverty data of the Central Statistics Agency. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency called Integrated Social Welfare Data according to the letter from the Head of Data and Information, Ministry of Social Affairs No: 1371/1.7/DI.01/9/2021 the poverty rate in Sleman Regency is 525,315 people, in the Widodomartani Village there are 2,723 people. The Sleman Regency Government has attempted to reduce the rate of poverty in its territory, namely 86 sub-districts, one of which is Widodomartani. It is expected that every year in this region there will be a reduction in the poverty rate. KUBE FM is one of the social welfare program approaches by the Ministry of Social Affairs to accelerate poverty alleviation while empowering the poor to be able to live independently. KUBE FM in Widodomartani has been running for 9 years since 2013. At the beginning of the implementation of KUBE in the Widodomartani Village, there were 10 groups spread across 10 hamlets. The hamlets receiving the KUBE FM program include the Blambangan Padukuhan, Kalijeruk 1 Padukuhan, Kalijeruk 2 Padukuhan, Ganjuran Padukuhan, Klancingan Padukuhan, Jimat Padukuhan, Jangkang Padukuhan, Dalem Padukuhan, Jets Padukuhan, Banglen Padukuhan, Kabunan Padukuhan, Packaged Padukuhan, Karang Padukuhan,

Padukuhan Ngalian, Padukuhan Kwadungan, Padukuhan Pucangan, Padukuhan Pondok 1 and Padukuhan Pondok 2. All KUBEs in Widodomartani is still active although the development of KUBE is different from one another. The ten KUBEs are of different types of businesses, namely goat farming, cattle farming, and fisheries. The number of poor families in the kelurahan is 284 families and there are 100 families targeted by the KUBE FM program. During that period the poverty rate in Widodomartani was still at 9%. This has not changed because poor households who have become poor have not been eradicated and even new families who are poor outside the KUBE FM members have emerged.

This research is important to do because the government thinks that poverty alleviation programs should be bottom-up, not top-down. KUBE FM is one of the top-down government programs and is considered less significant in reducing poverty, so many propose this program be removed. The author is interested in the Widodomartani urban village which has grown a new KUBE in its area. Based on that, the writer is interested in researching KUBE FM. Based on this background, researchers will conduct research with a focus on the problem of the role of the Village Head on KUBE FM in 10 Padukuhan in poverty alleviation in Widodomartani. The issue to be examined is: What is the role of the Lurah towards the Joint Business Group for the Poor People in alleviating poverty in the Widodomartani Village?

The study aimed to find out the role of the Lurah towards KUBE FM in alleviating poverty, especially for households that are included in KUBE FM in the Widodomartani Village. The benefits of the research are seen from the theoretical dimension, this research is expected to be useful for the development of science, especially for enriching the body of knowledge in the field of government science, especially community empowerment, and as a reference for similar studies to come. Judging from the practical dimension, the results of this research are expected to be used as input material for the Widodomartani Village Government in implementing various policies related to poverty alleviation and community empowerment.

## **Theoretical framework**

### **1. Lurah**

Lurah is another name for the Village Head as mentioned in the Village Law. Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages article 23 explains that Village Government is the administration of government affairs and the interests of the local community within the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Village administration is then administered by the Village Government consisting of:

*Leadership element, namely the Village Head;*

The Village Head oversees administering Village Government, carrying out Village development, Village community development, and Village community empowerment. Meanwhile, the authority of the Village Head includes: leading the implementation of Village Administration; appoint and dismiss Village officials; holding the authority to manage Village Finance and Assets; stipulate Village Regulations; determine the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget; fostering village community life; foster peace and order in the Village community; fostering and improving the Village economy and integrating it in order to achieve a productive scale economy for the greatest possible prosperity of the Village community; develop Village sources of income; propose and accept the delegation of part of the state's wealth to improve the welfare of the Village community; develop the socio-cultural life of the Village community; utilize appropriate technology; coordinating participatory Village development; represent the Village in and out of court or appoint an attorney to represent it in accordance with statutory provisions and exercise other powers in accordance with statutory provisions.

a. Village Head assistant element (Village Device), which consists of the Village Secretariat; Regional Executor, and Technical Executor.

## **Community Empowerment**

The definition of community empowerment is an effort to increase the dignity of certain groups of citizens who are in conditions of poverty and underdevelopment. (Sudarmanto, 2021:21). The concept of empowerment arises from activities and efforts to strengthen social capital owned by a community group. (Zubaedi, 2013:162). These two theories will be used to understand the empowerment concept used in the KUBE FM program. The KUBE FM program is a poverty alleviation program that prioritizes community empowerment so that people can be independent in improving their lives. The goals to be achieved from community empowerment according to Mardikanto (2014: 202), namely:

*a. Institutional improvements*

By improving the activities or actions taken, it is hoped that it will improve institutions, including the development of business partnership networks.

*b. Business improvement*

Improvements in education, improvements to business accessibility, activities, and institutional improvements are expected to improve the business being conducted.

*c. Revenue improvement*

With the business improvements being made, it is hoped that it will be able to improve the income earned, including the income of the family and the community.

*d. Environmental improvement*

Income improvements are expected to improve the environment (physical and social) because environmental damage is often caused by poverty or limited income.

*e. Life improvement*

Improved income levels and environmental conditions are expected to improve environmental conditions, are expected to improve the living conditions of every family and community.

*f. Community improvement*

A better life that is supported by a better (physical and social) environment, is hoped a better community life will also be realized.

## **Poverty**

Poverty is a condition that describes the inability of people, both as individuals and groups, to properly fulfill basic rights and develop a dignified life. (Ministry of Social RI, 2016). In general, the term poor or poverty can be interpreted as a condition that is lacking or minimal. The concept of less or less is seen in a comparative way between the real conditions of personal life, or a group of people on the one hand, and the personal needs of a group of people on the other. The definition of minimal here is relative, it can be different with different periods. It can also vary with different environments. (Siagian, 2012: 4). These two theories are very important because this research will examine the poor who are the target of the joint business group program. What kind of poor people will be meant in this study also must have a clear concept.

## **Joint Business Group Program for the Poor (KUBE-FM)**

A Joint Business Group (KUBE) is a group of families belonging to the poor that are formed, grow and develop based on their initiative, interact with one another, and live in a certain territorial unit to increase the productivity of its members, increasing harmonious social relations, meet the needs of members, solve social problems they experience, and become a forum for joint business development (Ministry of Social RI, 2016).

The KUBE FM group in the Widodomartani Village consists of 10 people who have the same social problems, namely belonging to the poor, living in the same hamlet area, and agreeing to solve the problems experienced by forming a joint business group. This group was formed on the initiative of the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs through the KUBE FM poverty alleviation program.

## **Methodology**

The type of research used is qualitative research. This research was conducted directly with the respondents as the main (primary) data supported by secondary data. Research to obtain primary data was carried out using open interviews regarding the problems under study, addressed to the informants to obtain further information so that complete and in-depth answers could be obtained regarding the problems under study. Interviews were conducted with the Lurah Widodomartani. Interviews were conducted directly by asking questions that had been prepared beforehand. Data analysis in this writing is by collecting the data that has been obtained, then analyzing it qualitatively, namely analysis by identifying rules and facts so that an overview of the problem under study is obtained.

## **Result and Discussion**

Based on the formulation of the problem and research objectives, the following research results are obtained:

### ***The role of the Lurah as the person in charge of KUBE FM activities***

The Lurah as the regional head at the village level has regional responsibilities in which the Lurah carries out his duties. Its duties are regulated by Law Number 6 of 2016 concerning Villages. The Lurah as the regional ruler at the village level who is a member of the KUBE FM group carries out activities in his territory, the Lurah automatically becomes the person in charge of KUBE FM activities. Much of KUBE FM's activities in Widodomartani are funded by the Village Budget (APBKal) set by the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body.

### ***The role of the Lurah as a protector of KUBE FM activities***

The lurah plays a role in protecting KUBE FM activities from any disturbance of legal action. The Lurah's strategy to provide legal protection is by forming the KUBE FM Forum at the village level. With this forum, it is easier for the Lurah to guarantee the rights of group members. In the composition of the forum's management, the Lurah is the protector, meaning that the Lurah will assist with legal protection if KUBE FM has legal problems

### ***The role of the Lurah as a motivator for KUBE FM activities***

The lurah plays a role in motivating KUBE FM activities by providing coaching and technical guidance for groups. This group consists of members from poor families whose knowledge is not good about productive economic enterprises so the role of the lurah is needed as the most respected person in the area. People who start from poor families need to be encouraged to have the courage to do productive economic business by providing psychological motivation.

### ***The role of the Lurah as a facilitator for KUBE FM activities***

The lurah plays a role in facilitating KUBE FM activities in carrying out its activities. Facilitation activities can be in the form of meetings or providing capital stimulants to groups. This form of facilitation can be outlined in the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBKal). Facilitation is not only in the form of activities but can also be in the form of providing village land for use by the KUBE FM group and even providing business capital stimulants.

### ***Conditions of KUBE FM***

KUBE FM which was established by the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in 2022 is still conducting business activities and some have even grown to add members and businesses. The KUBE FM group, which was developed by the Ministry of Social Affairs from 2013 to 2022, is still carrying out group activities and meetings. The condition of KUBE FM in Widodomartani did not run smoothly but there were group dynamics. The Kelurahan government has formed the KUBE Forum at

the kelurahan level under the name "Widodo Lestari". This effort is made to facilitate group assistance so that it continues to grow and develop.

### ***Poverty Alleviation in Widodomartani***

The number of poor people in widodomartani in 2014 was around 10.12%, in 2015 it was around 9.82% and in 2016 it was around 9.22%, experiencing a decrease of one percent every year according to the Decree of the Sleman Regent on Poor Families. After 2017, things didn't change much, they were still raised around 8.28%, and even during the pandemic, they rose to around 8.46%. The role of Lurah Widodomartani in facilitating KUBE FM is very strategic because Lurah has the authority to run the Village Administration. Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages states that the Lurah has 4 (four) authorities, namely: administering village governance, village development, developing village communities, and empowering village communities. Assistance to KUBE FM is the authority of the Lurah in terms of village community empowerment. According to Sudarmanto, the notion of community empowerment is an effort to increase the dignity of certain groups of citizens who are in conditions of poverty and underdevelopment. According to Zubaida, the concept of empowerment emerges from activities and efforts to strengthen social capital owned by a community group. From this understanding, the Lurah tries to increase the dignity of the people who are members of KUBE FM with the social capital they have, namely the spirit of cooperation of the Kalurahan community. Also according to Mardikanto, there are 6 (six) goals of community empowerment, namely institutional improvement, business improvement, income improvement, environmental improvement, life improvement, and community improvement. The purpose of this empowerment is the basis for the Lurah in accompanying KUBE FM. The role of the Lurah in facilitating KUBE FM as stated in the research results is as the person in charge, protector, motivator, and facilitator of KUBE FM activities. These four roles have become the duties of the Lurah as mandated by Law Number 6 of 2014. KUBE FM which was developed by the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2013 totaled 10 groups and is still running even though the development of each group is different. Advanced groups have even added types of businesses and group members. According to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Joint Business Groups (KUBE) are groups of families belonging to the poor that are formed, growth and develop based on their initiative, interact with each other, and live in certain territorial units to increase the productivity of their members, improving relations. harmonious social life, meet the needs of members, solve social problems they experience, and become a forum for joint business development. The formation of KUBE FM in Widodomartani is what was expected in the meaning of KUBE FM from the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia so that the group can survive until now. To maintain the group, Widodomartani Lurah formed the KUBE FM Forum whose members were taken from the KUBE FM group in Padukuhan. This forum aims to communicate and exchange experiences between groups spread across the Padukuhan area. Poverty in Widodomartani based on indicators published by the Central Statistics Agency from 2014 to 2016 has decreased by one percent, meaning that the growth of KUBE FM can be said to reduce the poverty rate in Widodomartani. After 2017 the poverty rate has not changed, it could be because the income generated is already optimal, but the price of necessities has increased, and even during the pandemic, the poverty rate has risen again, which can be due to the impact of the pandemic which has affected all business sectors.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, it can be concluded that the role of Lurah Widodomartani towards KUBE FM in poverty alleviation in Widodomartani is as follows:

### ***Responsible***

The Lurah as the regional ruler at the village level, which incidentally is the KUBE FM group, carries out activities in his territory, and the Lurah automatically becomes the person in charge of KUBE FM activities. Much of KUBE FM's activities are funded by the Village Revenue Expenditure Budget (APDKal).



### **Protector**

The lurah plays a role in protecting KUBE FM activities from any disturbance of legal action by establishing a village-level KUBE FM Forum. In the composition of the management, the Village Head is the protector

### **Motivators**

The lurah plays a role in motivating KUBE FM activities by providing coaching and technical guidance for groups. This group consists of members from poor families whose knowledge is not good about productive economic enterprises so the role of the lurah is needed as the most respected person in the area.

### **Facilitator**

The lurah plays a role in facilitating KUBE FM activities in carrying out its activities. Facilitation activities can be in the form of meetings or providing capital stimulants to groups. This form of facilitation can be stated in the Village Government Budget (APBDes). Facilitation is not only in the form of activities but can also be in the form of providing village treasury land for use by the KUBE FM group and even business capital assistance.

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