

Effectiveness Of Community Empowerment In Baluran National Park

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Abstract:

Background: Empowerment is an activity to create and increase the community's capacity to solve their welfare problems. Empowerment needs to be measured for its effectiveness to determine its impact on the community's welfare. Baluran National Park (TNB) was chosen as the research location because it has excellent potential for tourist visits to help the welfare of the buffer village community. Buffer village communities directly adjacent to TNB have economic limitations, so knowing how effective TNB empowerment has been is essential.

Materials and Methods: The subjects of this research are the people of Wonorejo and Sumberwaru villages and the managers of Balai TNB. Data collection is carried out by distributing questionnaires and interviews. Questionnaires were conducted to the community to obtain data on perceptions of empowerment implemented in the last 5 years by TNB. Interviews were conducted to obtain data on the implementation process and results of empowerment programs in TNB.

Results: Community respondents rated the tour guide training program as effective with an average percentage of respondents choosing to agree to the assessment questionnaire of 94.33%. Community respondents assessed that the rumpon making training program was also effective with an average percentage of respondents who agreed to the assessment questionnaire at 87.99%. Community respondents also rated the bonsai making training program as effective with an average percentage of respondents who agreed to the assessment questionnaire of 97.20%. However, community respondents assessed that the macu cake making training program had yet to be effectively carried out with an average percentage of respondents who chose to agree to the assessment questionnaire of 57.33%.

Conclusion: The most effective empowerment program is bonsai training with 11 people still actively making and selling *Acacia nilotica* bonsai.

Key Word: Community Empowerment; Effectiveness; Training; Welfare; National Park.

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I. Introduction

Community empowerment is an effort to create or increase the capacity of the community both individually and in groups in solving various problems related to efforts to improve the quality of life, independence and welfare¹. Community empowerment has been widely carried out in Baluran National Park (TNB). The most frequent empowerment program in the last 5 years is training. Training is an activity to create and improve the community's capacity to solve their welfare problems.

Training carried out needs to be measured for effectiveness to determine how impactful it is in the community's welfare. Effective empowerment programs can improve community welfare to date or sustainably. Community empowerment is implemented to strengthen the economic status of the community².

This research was conducted to measure the effectiveness of community empowerment programs in TNB in the last 5 years. This is done to create an ideal condition for buffer village communities to receive benefits by empowering communities by TNB for their welfare. TNB was chosen as the research location because it has an enormous potential for tourist visits to help the welfare of the buffer village community. Buffer village communities directly adjacent to TNB have economic limitations, so it is essential to know how effective the empowerment of TNB has been.

II. Material And Methods

This research was conducted in TNB and two TNB buffer villages, namely Wonorejo Village and Sumberwaru Village. The study was conducted from December 2022 to February 2023. The subjects in this

study participated in the TNB empowerment training program in the last 5 years, namely as many as 115 people and 7 TNB center managers.

Study Design: Observational with questionnaire and interview dissemination

Study Location: The research location is in TNB and two buffer villages, namely Wonorejo Village and Sumberwaru Village, administratively located in Banyuputih District, Situbondo Regency, East Java Province, Indonesia.

Study Duration: December 2022 to February 2023.

Subjects & selection method: The community respondents were people who had participated in the empowerment program for the last 5 years, namely in the form of 4 empowerment training. The 4 training programs implemented are: 1) tour guide training, 2) rumpon making training, 3) bonsai making training, and 4) macu cake making training. Respondents to the management of Balai TNB who had a relationship regarding empowerment, namely the empowerment coordinator and field implementing officials, were selected.

Procedure methodology

Data collected in this study includes community respondents' perceptions of the implementation process and results of empowerment programs. Respondents' perception data was collected using a Likert scale to measure 5 aspects of assessment of the effectiveness of empowerment programs in 4 trainings that have been implemented. The 5 aspects are program socialization, program accuracy, target accuracy, punctuality, and program results.

Research data collection using questionnaire and interview methods. The questionnaire was distributed to people who participated in 4 empowerment training programs, namely 115 people from Wonorejo Village and Sumberwaru Village. Interviews were conducted with the management of Balai TNB to explore information related to the implementation process and results of the empowerment program to complete data from community respondents so that the data is more complete and accurate.

Statistical analysis

Method data analysis using quantitative descriptive methods. Descriptive analysis methods with a quantitative approach describe the relationship between variables and the effectiveness of empowerment programs using statistical analysis³. The questionnaire result data is inputted into *Microsoft Excel* and calculated in percentage form to determine the effectiveness of each assessment aspect. Effectiveness measurement scale use scale *Likert* The assessment results of community respondent questionnaires referring to the research Jibril with effective interval scales, yet to be effective, and ineffective⁴. The results are then described and linked to interview data. The empowerment program was declared effective based on the assessment of the community respondents questionnaire results.

Assessment aspects of each training program that are measurements variables of empowerment effectiveness refer to Budiani The modified conditions according to the needs of the research location (Table no 1) include: a) Program socialization, namely the ability of program organizers to carry out program socialization by conveying information about program implementation and being able to involve the community in the program planning process, b) Program accuracy, namely the extent to which the program implemented is appropriate and in accordance with the needs of program participants, c) Target accuracy, namely the extent to which program participants are able to utilize the ability of program results to absorb existing opportunities, d) Punctuality, namely the adequacy of time for program participants in understanding the material by not disturbing the daily activities of program participants, and e) Program results, namely the extent to which the program implemented can improve the economy of program participants and the ability of program results can prosper program participants to date⁵.

Table no 1: Empowerment assessment variables

No	Variable	Criterion
1	Program socialization	1) Information reaches the community before the implementation of the program 2) Involve the community in the program planning process
2	Accuracy of the program	1) Timetables according to the needs of the community 2) Speakers and mentors can help the community in mastering program materials
3	Accuracy of the target	1) The community can absorb existing opportunities to improve welfare with the implementation of programs 2) The ability of program results to be helpful in people's daily activities
4	Punctuality	1) The timing of the program does not interfere with community activities 2) The program execution time is sufficient to understand the material
5	Program results	1) The programs that have been implemented can improve the community's economy. 2) The results of the program can prosper the community to date.

Assessment data obtained is based on the results of the questionnaire in the form of percentages, then averaged the assessment results agreed by community respondents per assessment variable to determine the level of effectiveness per training. Furthermore, the average rate of respondents who agreed with the assessment was classified into 3 categories: (1) effective, (2) not yet effective, (3) ineffective (Table no 2).

Table no 2: Effectiveness assessment

No	Effectiveness Assessment	Percentage Weighting
1.	Effective	%n > 67%
2.	Not yet effective	67% > %n > 33%
3.	Ineffective	%n < 33%

III. Result

Characteristics of research respondents

Table no 3: Training in the last 5 years has been conducted more in Wonorejo Village than in Sumberwaru Village TNB.

Table no 3: Number of respondents from Wonorejo Village and Sumberwaru Village

No	Training	Year	Desa Wonorejo	Sumberwaru Village
1	Tour guide	2017	30 people	-
2	Rumpon making	2018	30 people	-
3	Bonsai making	2021	-	25 people
4	Macu cake making	2021	15 people	15 people

Respondents of the Wonorejo Village community amounted to 75 people with the majority of respondents being male. Male respondents comprised 51 people (68.00%), and female respondents included 24 people (32.00%). Community respondents were dominated by adults (24-40) years old, as many as 67 people (89.33%), adolescents (17-23), as many as 4 people (5.33%), and late adults (>40) as many as 4 people (5.33%). Most community respondents are in the age group that is still productive enough to work. The last educational background of the majority of respondents was high school as many as 30 people (40.00%), then elementary school as many as 4 people (5.33%), junior high school as many as 29 people (38.66%), and undergraduate S1 as many as 12 people (16.00%). Most of the respondents were fishermen (40.00%), then farmers as many as 2 people (2.66%), homemakers as many as 3 people (4.00%), self-employed as many as 20 people (26.66%), and honorary workers as many as 10 people (13.33%). The majority of respondents have an income of IDR 1,000,000.00 - IDR 2,000,000.00 (66.66%), then (18.66%) respondents have an income of IDR <1,000,000 per month, and (14.66%) respondents have an income of IDR 2,000,000.00 - IDR 3,000,000.00 per month. Most respondents had secondary education and worked as fishermen with a monthly payment of Rp 1,000,000.00 - Rp 2,000,000.00.

Respondents of the Sumberwaru Village community amounted to 40 people with the majority of respondents being male. Male respondents comprised 25 people (62.50%), and female respondents included 15 (37.50%). Community respondents were dominated by 36 adults (24-40) years old (90.00%) and 4 late adults (>40) (10.00%). Most community respondents are in the age group that is still productive enough to work. The last educational background of the majority of respondents was junior high school, as many as 23 people (57.50%), then elementary school, as many as 7 people (17.50%), and high school, as many as 10 people (25.00%). Most respondents were 21 farm workers (52.50%), 8 farmers (20.00%), 6 housewives (15.00%), and 5 entrepreneurs (12.50%). The majority of respondents have an income of IDR <1,000,000 per month (42.50%), then (32.50%) respondents have an income of IDR 1,000,000.00 - IDR 2,000,000.00 per month, and (25.00%) respondents have an income of IDR 2,000,000.00 - IDR 3,000,000.00 per month. Most respondents had secondary education and most worked as farm laborers with a monthly income of Rp <1,000,000.00.

Most respondents participating in tour guide training were male, dominated by the adult age group. Most respondents educational background is high school, and most are self-employed. The monthly income of the majority of respondents is Rp. 1,000,000.00 – Rp. 2,000,000.00.

Most respondents participating in rumpon making training were male and were dominated by the adult age group. Most respondents educational background is junior high school and working as a fisherman. The monthly income of the majority of respondents is Rp. 1,000,000.00 – Rp. 2,000,000.00.

Most respondents participating in bonsai making training were male and were dominated by the adult age group. Most respondents educational background is junior high school, and most are farm laborers. The monthly income of the majority of respondents is Rp. 1,000,000.00 – Rp. 2,000,000.00.

Most respondents participating in macu cake making training were women, dominated by the adult age group. Most respondents educational background is junior high school and the type of work most respondents are housewives. The majority of respondents' per-month income is below Rp. 1,000,000.00.

Assessment of the effectiveness of community empowerment programs

Tour guide training

Table no 4: Percentage of community respondents assessment of tour guide training

No	Variable	Criterion	Valuation		
			Disagree	Neutral	Agree
1	Program socialization	1) Information reaches the community before the implementation of the program	0%	0%	100%
		2) Involve the community in the program planning process	0%	0%	100%
2	Accuracy of the program	1) Programs according to the needs of the community	0%	6,66%	93,33%
		2) Speakers and mentors can help the community in mastering program materials	0%	3,33%	96,66%
3	Accuracy of the target	1) The community can absorb existing opportunities to improve welfare with the implementation of programs	0%	0%	100%
		2) The ability of program results to be helpful in people's daily activities	0%	6,66%	93,33%
4	Timeliness	1) The timing of the program does not interfere with community activities	0%	6,66%	93,33%
		2) The program execution time is sufficient to understand the material	0%	3,33%	96,66%
5	Program results	1) The programs that have been implemented can improve the community's economy	0%	13,33%	86,66%
		2) The ability of the program results can prosper the community to date	0%	16,66%	83,33%
Average rating percentage (agree)			94,33%		

Table no 4: Average community respondents voted in favor with a percentage of 94.33%. This shows that the average respondent considers the tour guide training program adequate. Program socialization by managers by visiting the community and community leaders or RT leaders who will be included in empowerment activities goes according to plan or is effectively carried out. Program socialization is adequate if information about program implementation can be conveyed to program participants⁴. The accuracy of the program carried out by the manager in creating and determining the empowerment program is also practical by accommodating the aspirations and needs of the community so that the empowerment program should be based on the needs of most people. According to the empowerment program, adjustments to speakers are also carried out using experts in their fields. Managers effectively carry out the accuracy of targets in selecting participants by adjusting the characteristics of community groups based on the priority needs of community groups. Khadafi and Mutiarin Explained that the accuracy indicator of the target is the first benchmark for solving problems in the field, if the program is not correct on target then the problem will continue to run⁶. The timing of the program implementation is also suitable for the community or effective. The results of the tour guide training program impact community welfare when viewed from the assessment of community respondents, and even most people agree that the results of empowerment can prosper the community to date. The achievement of program objectives can be seen by increasing the welfare, economy, and life motivation of program participants⁷.

Community respondents who chose the answer "neutral" may still be hesitant or even not feel the benefits of the empowerment that has been done. Many people change professions after training because few visitors need *guides* with uncertain timing. There are about 5 people who are still active as *guide* TNB. This requires special attention in promoting and packaging it so that this service can be used better and benefit the surrounding community. The role of tour guides in addition to conveying information is as a liaison between tourists and the community and to educate tourists through local wisdom that applies in the community⁸.

Rumpon making training

Table no 5: Percentage of community respondents' assessment of rumpon making training

No	Variable	Criterion	Valuation		
			Disagree	Neutral	Agree
1	Program socialization	1) Information reaches the community before the implementation of the program	0%	3,33%	96,66%
		2) Involve the community in the program planning process	0%	6,66%	93,33%
2	Accuracy of the program	1) Programs according to the needs of the community	0%	3,33%	96,66%
		2) Speakers and mentors can help the community in mastering program materials	0%	0%	100,00%
3	Accuracy of the target	1) The community can absorb existing opportunities to improve welfare with the implementation of programs	0%	6,66%	93,33%
		2) The ability of program results to be helpful in people's daily activities	0%	3,33%	96,66%
4	Timeliness	1) The timing of the program does not interfere with community activities	0%	6,66%	93,33%
		2) The program execution time is sufficient to understand the material	0%	6,66%	93,33%
5	Program	1) The programs that have been implemented can improve the	0%	13,33%	86,66%

	results	community's economy			
		2) The ability of the program results can prosper the community to date	0%	70,00%	30,00%
Average rating percentage (agree)			87,99%		

Table no 5: Average community respondents voted in agreement with a percentage of 87.99%. This shows that the average respondent assesses the rumpon making training program as effective. However, regarding the results of the statement 2 program, some respondents chose "neutral" answers. Program socialization carried out by managers by visiting the community and community leaders or RT leaders who will be included in empowerment activities has been effectively carried out. The accuracy of the program carried out by the manager in creating and determining empowerment programs is also practical by accommodating the aspirations and needs of the community. According to the empowerment program, adjustments to speakers are also carried out using experts in their fields. Managers effectively carry out the accuracy of targets in selecting participants by adjusting the characteristics of community groups based on the priority needs of community groups. The timing of the program implementation is also suitable for the community or effective. The results of the rumpon making training program have an impact on community welfare when viewed from the results of the assessment of community respondents. Still, most people agree with the statement that the results of empowerment can prosper the community to date.

Community respondents who chose the "neutral" answer were unlikely to benefit from the empowerment that had been done. The rumpon made is no longer used by the community because they tend to be impatient and painstaking. This is likely due to the chronic factors of people being more comfortable catching fish directly in the sea than catching fish with rumpon. Rumpon or *Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* are specific structures/buildings installed by fishermen in the waters, either in a state of free float or settled to attract schools of fish gathered around it⁹. The community also needs help regarding the capital spent on rumpon aid. So, they choose to return to their initial habits because getting fish in the sea is considered more accessible and faster. The use of rumpon in fishing activities requires the installation and maintenance of rumpon¹⁰.

Bonsai making training

Table no 6: Percentage of community respondents assessment of bonsai making training

No	Variable	Criterion	Valuation		
			Disagree	Neutral	Agree
1	Program socialization	1) Information reaches the community before the implementation of the program	0%	0%	100%
		2) Involve the community in the program planning process	0%	0%	100%
2	Accuracy of the program	1) Programs according to the needs of the community	0%	4,00%	96,00%
		2) Speakers and mentors can help the community in mastering program materials	0%	0%	100%
3	Accuracy of the target	1) The community can absorb existing opportunities to improve welfare with the implementation of programs	0%	0%	100%
		2) The ability of program results to be helpful in people's daily activities	0%	0%	100%
4	Timeliness	1) The timing of the program does not interfere with community activities	0%	0%	100%
		2) The program execution time is sufficient to understand the material	0%	0%	100%
5	Program results	1) The programs that have been implemented can improve the community's economy	0%	4,00%	96,00%
		2) The ability of the program results can prosper the community to date	4,00%	16,00%	80,00%
Average rating percentage (agree)			97,20%		

Table no 6: Average community respondents voted in agreement with a percentage of 97.20%. This shows that the average respondent considers the bonsai making training program effective. Program socialization by managers by visiting the community and community leaders or RT leaders who will be included in empowerment activities goes according to plan or is effectively carried out. The accuracy of the program carried out by the manager in creating and determining the empowerment program is also practical by accommodating the aspirations and needs of the community so that the empowerment program should be based on the needs of most people. According to the empowerment program, adjustments to speakers are also carried out using experts in their fields. Managers effectively carry out the accuracy of targets in selecting participants by adjusting the characteristics of community groups based on the priority needs of community groups. The timing of the program implementation is also suitable for the community or effective. The results of the bonsai making training program impact the community's welfare when viewed from the assessment of community respondents and even most people agree that the results of empowerment can prosper the community to date.

Community respondents who chose the "neutral" answer were likely to hesitate still, and those who chose the "disagree" answer were likely because the community did not feel the benefits of the empowerment that had been done. Most villagers have started to abandon making bonsai *Acacia nilotica* because the TNB restricts it. Many people break the rules because they look for bonsai *Acacia nilotica* in zones that are not allowed to be used by the community. TNB prohibits people from entering forbidden zones to maintain the sustainability of ecosystem conservation. However, there are about 11 people who are still actively making and selling bonsai *Acacia nilotica* in Sumberwaru Village. Bonsai plants can be an alternative business in floriculture with market competition that has yet to dominate and price determination that tends to be subjective¹¹.

Macu cake making training

Table no 4: Percentage of community respondents assessment of macu cake making training

No	Variable	Criterion	Valuation		
			Disagree	Neutral	Agree
1	Program socialization	1) Information reaches the community before the implementation of the program	0%	16,66%	83,33%
		2) Involve the community in the program planning process	0%	16,66%	83,33%
2	Accuracy of the program	1) Programs according to the needs of the community	0%	10,00%	90,00%
		2) Speakers and mentors can help the community in mastering program materials	0%	10,00%	90,00%
3	Accuracy of the target	1) The community can absorb existing opportunities to improve welfare with the implementation of programs	0%	66,66%	33,33%
		2) The ability of program results to be helpful in people's daily activities	0%	66,66%	33,33%
4	Timeliness	1) The timing of the program does not interfere with community activities	0%	23,33%	76,66%
		2) The program execution time is sufficient to understand the material	0%	23,33%	76,66%
5	Program results	1) The programs that have been implemented can improve the community's economy	70,00%	26,66%	3,33%
		2) The ability of the program results can prosper the community to date	70,00%	26,66%	3,33%
Average rating percentage (agree)			57,33%		

Table no 4: Average community respondents voted in favor with a percentage of 57.33%. This shows that the average respondent considers the macu cake making training program has yet to be effective. Program socialization carried out by managers by visiting the community and community leaders or RT leaders who will be included in empowerment activities has been effectively carried out. The accuracy of the program carried out by the manager in creating and determining the empowerment program is also practical by accommodating the aspirations and needs of the community so that the empowerment program should be based on the needs of most people. According to the empowerment program, adjustments to speakers are also carried out using experts in their fields. The accuracy of the target in selecting participants has yet to be effectively carried out by the manager based on the assessment of community respondents. Target accuracy is the first benchmark for solving problems in the field, if the program is not correct on target then the problem will continue to run⁶. The timing of the program implementation is suitable for the community or effective. The results of the macu cake making training program have no impact on community welfare when viewed from the assessment of community respondents.

The community has left making macu cakes, and only 1 person is still making macu cakes. People explain that they need help regarding marketing products that have been created. Visitors and the surrounding community also need more trust in the products processed by local people, so many of them have slowly begun to abandon making macu cakes. Making complex cakes is also why people quickly stop making macu cakes. Macu cake is one of the typical snacks from Situbondo Regency. It is made from glutinous rice flour covered with liquid brown sugar with sesame topping¹². This needs to be a particular concern for managers of community complaints, considering that macu cake is a typical culinary that should be preserved.

IV. Discussion

The effectiveness of community empowerment implemented by managers on average has been effective or according to community needs, but the benefits of empowerment results cannot be felt by most people until now or are not sustainable. Community empowerment initiatives implemented by managers have been effective in meeting community needs, but have not resulted in sustainable or widespread benefits. Effective empowerment can not only prosper the community but also bring fundamental changes in the community that has been empowered. The real change in question is a change in people's behavior patterns with

an increase in work ethic and skills so that people are more independent and able to finance the primary needs of their household needs⁷.

Community empowerment becomes ineffective because the activities carried out often only seem active at the beginning of its implementation. After receiving training and assistance, only a few people are immediately applied in their lives⁶. The most important problem is also related to the community's mindset, making it difficult to open and absorb existing opportunities. The behavior patterns of each individual in society can also indirectly affect the success rate of empowerment⁶. The fact is that people tend to want to run a particular or promising business, while in today's modern times, change occurs so quickly. The rapidly increasing population is also a challenge for them.

Empowerment programs implemented in the future should focus more on the results to be achieved so that community empowerment gets results that the community can feel sustainably. Accuracy in Choosing program targets must also be correct with careful data collection to avoid choosing the wrong participants to follow programs that are not in their fields so that program results can be sustainable⁴. Sustainable results will have more impact on improving people's welfare.

V. Conclusion

The most effective training empowerment program is bonsai training with 11 people still actively making and selling *Acacia nilotica* bonsai.

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