

Community Economic Empowerment With The Tabulampot Method In Medan Sinembah Village, Deli Serdang, North Sumatra

Julianto Hutasuhut^{1*}, Abd. Rasyid Syamsuri², Adrial Falahi³, Yayuk Yuliana⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Economic Faculty, Muslim Nusantara Al Washliyah University Medan, Indonesia

* Corresponding Author:

Email: julianto@umnaw.ac.id

Abstract

This community service was conducted in Medan Sinembah Village, Tanjung Morawa District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province. Based on the the research results, information was obtained that in general the community faces several problems regarding economic empowerment, one of which is their lack of ability from the aspect of science and technology to make their home gardens more productively. The purpose of this community service is to provide direction and socialization for the community through women from Family Welfare Empowerment regarding vegetable cultivation using the Tabulampot method (Planting Fruits in Pots) so that they are more motivated and proactive to solve the economic problems they are facing. The benefits that are expected from this community service activity are the people can use the land around their home yards for more productive results and at the same time can make it a valuable experience in entrepreneurship. At least vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method, a group of families can save household costs by no longer buying vegetables to meet their daily needs. The methods used in this activity are as follows: (1) Focus Group Discussion (FGD), (2) Lecture method, and (3) Demonstration method. The expected outcome of this community service is an increase in the knowledge and technology possessed by the community about vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method.

Keywords: *Economic Empowerment, Vegetable Cultivation, Tabulampot Method (Planting Fruits in Pots)*

I. INTRODUCTION

Human Resource Development (HR) is a very valuable investment because it will determine the progress of a nation. Human resource development can be conducted with empowerment programs because in general the purpose of each empowerment program is to increase the independence and welfare of the community. Independence can be built by increasing knowledge, attitudes, behavior, abilities, skills, awareness and creativity in utilizing various resources they have. Furthermore, so that independence is effective and has a direct impact in improving the welfare of the community, the policies determination, programs, activities, and assistance must be in accordance with the essence of the problem and the local community priority needs. In other words, the empowerment paradigm which has been top-down in nature must be changed to a bottom-up one, [1]. Empirical facts that strengthen this statement is the problem of poverty experienced by poor families is not only dominated by elements of material deficiency but also elements of physical weakness, isolation, vulnerability and helplessness which of course afflicts poor families with levels of suffering, which

differ from one another, [2]. Considering the current concept of village development, several things that must be addressed are the economic aspect that is focused on the impact of sector development in agriculture, the national economy which is still relatively weak. Even the saddest thing is that even though Indonesia is an agrarian country, the contribution of the agricultural sector to economic growth (Gross Domestic Product = GDP) is still lower than the trade sector [3]. This condition will be even more critical if the cooperation between the parties involved in the development program feel right about themselves.

Historically, the development of the agricultural sector has remained one of the economic challenges from the old order era to the present. This problem is increasingly evident, especially in rural areas such as in the village of Medan Sinembah, where there are still a lot of agricultural lands that are not used productively. One of the strategic efforts that can be used as a solution to solve the stalemate that occurs is to conduct a community economic empowerment programs which include production, distribution and community consumption activities that are conducted independently in managing any resources that they can control and shown to meet basic needs and their families. Mardikanto [4] said that there are six objectives of the community empowerment program, namely: institutional improvement, business improvement, income improvement, environmental improvement, life improvement, and community improvement. Seeing the various potentials that exist, the main problems that hinder the goals achievement of economic empowerment are basically ignorance and Indifference. Ignorance can be sourced internally or externally. Internally, for example, due to low education and lack of access to the world of education. Externally, for example, the lack of agricultural extension and dissemination of science and technology in agriculture. Indifference can also be sourced internally and externally. However, what is more dominant to bring about improvement is the concern of external parties, they are initiators and facilitators. This means that if there is concern from highly competent parties such as the active role of local governments, academics and even companies that have been registered in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, the change towards the concept of humanization will be realized more quickly. This phenomenon is also experienced by people in Medan Sinembah Village. The majority of the population is working in agriculture, partly as micro-scale craftsmen (such as household handicrafts of brooms, bamboo baskets and the like), employees, etc.

Medan Sinembah Village is one part of the sub-district in Tanjung Morawa District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra. The Tanjung Morawa area is connected to the city of Medan via the BELMERA toll road and can be reached in about 15-20 minutes from the city of Medan. Medan Sinembah Village has 9 hamlets and is inhabited by 1,689 families. The results of interviews with the community and village officials, they said that most of the needs for vegetables and fruits are non-local products imported from other areas such as from Karo Regency and even from outside

North Sumatra. In addition, the raw materials used by craftsmen in making brooms and bamboo baskets are also imported from outside the region. In fact, if it can be produced locally, it will reduce unemployment and other social problems. The next fact found by the community service team explained that the "Community Economic Empowerment" program in Medan Sinembah Village was still minimal. For this reason, the team wanted to do this service. Some facts and problems found by the team, there are many yards and yards of residential houses that are not productive. This can actually be used to produce higher economic values by cultivating plants using the tabulampot method. Because economically, the potential for growing vegetables independently will reduce the cost of spending money to buy daily needs. Considering that the community economic empowerment program aimed to reduce poverty, it is hoped that the target group will be able to explore and utilize the potential wealth of the resources. Even with this program, the local community will be more empowered to overcome the various economic challenges that are currently being faced and in the future.

Some of the problems that become a challenge for the community in Medan Sinembah Village to be able to take advantage of the surrounding land include: 1) Limited knowledge and technology in agriculture such as vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method, 2) Lack of community understanding and skills in managing existing local resources, 3) Limited facilities and infrastructure to follow up on empowerment activities that have been carried out, and 4) Lack of motivation to open new businesses due to the unclear concept of empowerment. This is mainly due to the lack of initiators and facilitators. The existence of this community service program was expected to increase the motivation of the community, especially mothers from Family Welfare Empowerment in Medan Sinembah Village to help overcome the economic problems they face. In addition, the market demand for organic vegetables that tends to increase can be used as an opportunity in doing entrepreneurship. Tabulampot stands for plants growing in pots which means plants that are cultivated in pots for decoration or to produce fruit. Scientifically, tabulampot is a plant cultivation technology by utilizing limited space to be able to grow productive plants in pots, [5]

According to the team, vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method has the potential to be used as a strategic effort in empowering the community's economy in the Medan Sinembah village. Some of the main things that underlie these reasons include: 1) Geographical conditions which are mostly land but are not managed productively, 2) Average of residential houses yards are quite spacious but economically less productive, 3) Lack of socialization and counseling about vegetable culture using the tabulampot method, 4) Lack of information and knowledge of the community about "tabulampot" agricultural cultivation and its benefits, 5) The community enthusiasm and about the tabulampot concept. The identification conducted by the community service team regarding to the existing problems then several program activities that can be offered, they are: describing the design and procedures for cultivating vegetables with the tabulampot method, either vertically, horizontally or

by combining them. So the home yard environment that has been planted with ornamental flowers can be engineered by planting plants with a higher economic value as described in the following picture:



The yard of the house, where the terrace and yard are not too wide, the terrace wall can be decorated by attaching or hanging used bottles containing various types of vegetable plants. Used plastic bottles can be obtained for free from the surrounding environment without spending a lot of money. To make the aesthetic values more attractive, the bottles can be beautified by painting them according to the desired color type. In addition, a house will look more beautiful and comfortable because it has the feel of a green environment and views with creative aesthetic values.

Furthermore, to facilitate the implementation of the program, partners are directed to seek additional information from several media sources such as the following



With the information obtained, it can be said that growing vegetables with the tabulampot method is very practical because it can be learned self-taught by reading books that can be obtained at bookstores or purchased online. The type of book can be selected according to the type of plant that we will cultivate. In addition, it can also be learned online, for instance via the internet (youtube). To obtain the desired plant seeds is also not difficult to find. At the plant maintenance stage, the fertilizer can be produced by yourself by utilizing household waste such as rice washing water, fish washing and others, [6],[7].

II. METHODS

The approach methods offered to find solutions in this service activity are: (1) Focus Group Discussion (FGD) which is the initial evaluation stage which aims to find out the potential of participants in an effort to realize the goals and solutions offered (2) The lecture method is the activity of the socialization stage and briefing on the concept of community economic empowerment through vegetable cultivation with the tabulampot method. (3) The demonstration method is an activity in the early stages of farming using the tabulampot method.

This Community Service Program was conducted in January 2022-February 2022. To realize the implementation of this program, the community service team conducted activity steps in December 2021 with the following work procedures: 1) Field survey by conducting interviews and finding the phenomenon of problems in the community Medan Sinembah Village, 2) Observation, that are analyzing problems and formulating solutions to be offered, 3) Arranging schedules and stages of community service implementation, 4) Implement socialization and community economic empowerment program activities in Medan Sinembah Village according to schedules and plans, 5) Evaluation of activities, that are analyzing developments and problems faced by partners after implementing the offered program.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Some of the results that the team can describe from this service activity include: 1) Increased insight, knowledge and knowledge of partners about vegetable farming using the tabulampot method, 2) The emergence of community motivation to be more independent and economically empowered by farming vegetables using the tabulampot method, 3) The community looked more creative and enthusiastic to identify business opportunities around them, especially in overcoming various limitations of their resources, 5) Partners were more active in identifying more effective solutions to overcome their household economic problems. At least they were more motivated to live independently in meeting their daily vegetable needs.

The outputs obtained from this service are: 1) Increased knowledge of the community, which are Family Welfare Empowerment mothers about vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method, 2) Increased understanding of Family

Welfare Empowerment mothers about the benefits and prospects of vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method, 3) Increasing public confidence and family welfare Empowerment mothers about the business prospects of vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method, 4) Community in Medan Sinembah Village, Kec. Tanjung Morawa was more motivated to be independent and economically empowered through vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method.

The points used as references in the success of community economic empowerment in Medan Sinembah Village are: 1) The community understands its potential and be able to anticipate current and future social change conditions, 2) The community was more economically empowered, 3) The community has bargaining power to conduct mutually beneficial cooperation, 4) The community was more responsible for their family life. The plan for the next stage was to assist housewives to become entrepreneurs through vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method, and for a long-term program to cultivate vegetables using the tabulampot method, it can be a source of life for the community in Medan Sinembah Village, Tanjung Morawa district.

IV. CONCLUSION

Community Service in Medan Sinembah Village, Tanjung Morawa District in general can be said to run accordingl. This can be seen from the attitude of partners who were cooperative and enthusiastic in attending and participating in the activity events step by step until the event finished. In addition, partners actively asked questions and discussed and were more motivated to follow up on the programs offered. At the end of the activity, they hoped that there would be more intense collaboration as a follow-up to this Community Service program so that it would be more beneficial to the community in Medan Sinembah Village.

To accelerate the process of achieving the next stage of the plan, it is necessary to improve cooperation and better communication between the local government as a facilitator, academics as the initiator and the local community as the main actors in this activity. For example, this can be followed up by holding more formal meetings involving the parties involved. Even if it is possible to conduct seminars to examine the phenomenon of local community problems in finding more appropriate solutions so that vegetable cultivation using the tabulampot method can be a source of life for the community in Medan Sinembah Village, Tanjung Morawa District.

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