

The Impact of Empowerment of the Maju Horas Farmer Group on the Economic Welfare of the Community in Huta Bosar Bayu Village, Huta Bayu Raja District, Simalungun District.

Agus Marito Saragi ¹, Robert Sitio ², Elvri Teresia Simbolon ³, Rusmauli Simbolon ⁴, and Tio R. J Nadeak ⁵

¹ IAKN Tarutung, Indonesia ; email : maritosaragi@gmail.com

² IAKN Tarutung, Indonesia ; email : robersitio60@gmail.com

³ IAKN Tarutung, Indonesia; email : elvriteresiasimbolon@gmail.com

⁴ IAKN Tarutung, Indonesia ; email : simbolonrusmauli@gmail.com

⁵ IAKN Tarutung, Indonesia ; email : tionadeak2728@gmail.com

Abstract: Empowerment can be interpreted as an effort to increase the ability of the community to participate, negotiate, influence and control the institutions of their community on a large scale for the sake of improving their lives. Describe the impact of empowerment of the Bosar Bayu Farmer group in improving community welfare. In this study, the researcher used a qualitative research type with a descriptive approach. Qualitative research is research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the research subject, for example behavior, perception, motivation, actions, and others holistically and by means of description in the form of words and language. The reason for choosing the type of qualitative research with a descriptive method is because the process of formulating the problem carried out in the study was carried out comprehensively, broadly, and in depth in discussing the phenomena that occurred in the field. Then the data obtained from farmers in the form of information both verbally and in writing that describes the situation directly in the field, so that it is able to describe what happened at the research location in more detail, and try to obtain and reveal data on the impact of empowerment of the Maju Horas farmer group in improving community welfare in Bosar Bayu village. Building Farmers' Knowledge and Skills, Increasing agricultural production, Increasing the standard of living and equalizing income levels, As a means of cooperation between group members. Based on the results of the research that has been discussed regarding the empowerment of the Maju Horas farmer group in improving the welfare of the community in Bosar Bayu Village, it can be concluded that empowerment is an effort to make the community independent. Keywords: Jeremiah 22:10-12, Disobedience, Exile, Leadership, Obedience to God, God's Judgment, King Shallum (Jehoahaz), Spiritual Destruction, Divine Justice, Social Suffering, Promised Land, Consequences of Disobedience, Hermeneutics, Judah's Kings, Spiritual and Political: Consequences.

Keywords: Empowerment, Farmer Groups, Community Welfare, Income Increase,

1. Introduction

Indonesia's economic development cannot be separated from the important role of the agricultural sector in (Awaru et al. 2023) The agricultural sector provides a very large contribution in building the community economy both nationally and at the regional level. Fundamental development in the agricultural sector is very much needed because the results can increase the income of the population and have an impact on the welfare of the community.

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In general, people who live in rural areas are people who depend on nature for their livelihood, this is the basis for why Indonesian citizens are often referred to as an agricultural country because most of the people work as farmers. According to (Soetrisno 2016 in, Fuad 2016) the term agriculture is said to be an activity carried out by the community by utilizing the availability of natural resources available in the area. The purpose of the management carried out by the community is to obtain agricultural products that are being cultivated by farmers such as rice and corn.

The challenges often faced by farmers are declining agricultural yields while market demand is increasing, resulting in farmers being overwhelmed in meeting the supply of goods in the market, then the low availability of superior seeds, the high price of fertilizer, and the low knowledge of farmers about technology become obstacles for farmers in getting maximum results. This condition needs special attention from the local government, because if left unchecked it will have an impact on the welfare of the community.

Farmer groups are a collection of several farmers or livestock breeders who gather themselves in a group that has harmony in motivation, goals, motives, and the same hopes. Farmer groups are formed based on a decree and are formed with the aim of being a forum for communication between farmers to exchange ideas in increasing agricultural production, while according to (Mardikanto 2009 in Lendo 2019) the definition of a farmer group is a group of people who are bound together in a region or group consisting of the basis of harmony and have motivation and goals of shared needs. Farmer groups function as a place for teaching and learning for their members to improve knowledge, skills, and attitudes as well as the growth and development of independence in farming with increased productivity, increased income, and a more prosperous life (Hermanto and Swastika 2016)

Increasing farmer productivity and agricultural businesses needs to be done gradually and sustainably with the hope of increasing agricultural production as much as possible so that it can increase farmer income and achieve prosperity (Fitriani 2018). The prosperity in question includes increasing farmer income and stable income. In general, dominant farmers expect a stable and adequate income so that they can meet their daily needs.

It is clearly illustrated that farmers play a very important role as the driving force of the country's economy, so it is necessary to empower the community. Empowerment according to (Mas'ood 1990 in Siswanto 2019) the meaning of empowerment is interpreted as an effort to provide power (*empowerment*) or strength (*strengthening*) to the community which is carried out to enable and make the community independent. In other words, empowering the community is increasing the ability and increasing the independence of the community. In line with that, empowerment can be interpreted as an effort to increase the ability of the community to participate, negotiate, influence and control the institutions of their community on a large scale for the sake of improving their lives. Farmer Empowerment is all efforts to improve the ability of farmers to carry out better farming businesses through education and training, extension and assistance, development of agricultural product marketing systems and facilities, consolidation and guarantee of agricultural land area, easy access to science, technology and information, and strengthening farmer institutions.

The government as the driving force is doing various ways to encourage changes in the farmer's economy. The local government works together with the community to build farmer independence by forming farmer groups in various villages that function to facilitate

the learning process carried out through guidance, counseling, training, field studies, and mentoring that is adjusted to the needs of farmers and the abilities of farmers according to the situation and conditions faced by farmer groups according to the conditions of the agricultural area.

Huta Bosar Bayu Village is one of the villages in the Simalungun area, North Sumatra. The majority of the population living in this area mostly work as farmers, this is because this village has the potential for fertile land and soil so that it is very suitable for farming activities according to the changing seasons. Rice and corn are one of the main commodities that are widely cultivated in the Simalungun area so that this area is dubbed as the largest rice and corn producing area in the Simalungun area, especially in Bosar Bayu Village. However, the lack of knowledge and minimal technology has resulted in farmers being overwhelmed and farmers experiencing many obstacles in managing and overcoming the harvest. Various efforts have been made by farmers to improve the economy from agricultural products, one of which is by forming a group that has the same vision and mission which is part of a farmer group.

Based on the results of observations made by the author in March 2024, the author observed that it was true that various efforts were made by the Government to empower farmer groups in Huta Bosar Bayu village in advancing agricultural products so as to have a positive impact on community welfare. To obtain more accurate information, the author conducted an intensive interview with one of the administrators of the Maju Horas farmer group, namely with Mr. K. Tampubolon, he said that the purpose of forming a farmer group is to empower farmers so that the farming efforts carried out by farmers can develop further, and achieve the welfare of all its members evenly. He also said that he was greatly helped by the existence of a farmer group because with the existence of a farmer group there is a forum for exchanging ideas in increasing agricultural production. The problems that often occur in Bosar Bayu village are the lack of supply of superior seeds, increasing fertilizer prices, and the lack of public knowledge seeing the various problems faced by the community made the author interested in discussing more deeply about "The Impact of Empowering the Maju Horas Farmer Group on the Economic Welfare of the Community in Huta Bosar Bayu Village, Huta Bayu Raja District, Simalungun District".

2. Literature Review

Conceptually, empowerment or power (*empowerment*), comes from the word "*power*" which means power or empowerment. So the basic concept of empowerment is directly related to the concept of power. So that power becomes an object that is always related to the ability to use authority so that other people do the things they want even though behind our desires they also have their own desires that are set aside (Suharto, 2014: 57 in Kasming 2019)

Empowerment according to (Mas'oeud 1990 in Siswanto 2019) the meaning of empowerment is interpreted as an effort to provide power (empowerment) or strength (*strengthening*) to the community which is carried out to enable and make the community independent. In other words, empowering the community is increasing the ability and increasing the independence of the community.

Strategy is a main goal that is played by a community as a whole, strategy here is a way to use the best choice in achieving a vision and mission of an organization. According to Comelis and Miar in (Kiromah 2022) stated that community economic empowerment is divided into 2 strategies, namely:

- a. Providing an opportunity for modern society to be better for the progress of the nation.
- b. Empowering communities in the economic realm who are left behind or marginalized, because empowerment is a condition.

In the author's opinion, the empowerment strategy is expected to grow and develop the following directions: a party and community empowerment, strengthening regulations and representation of authority in striving for regional development developed by the community, strengthening the character of modernization so that later structural changes can occur in the socio-economic sector.

Community empowerment is a process that aims to increase the capacity and ability of communities to manage and utilize existing resources for their own welfare. Some elements of community empowerment in (Kiromah 2022) include:

1. Access to information flow

The first local organization's absorption capacity, in relation to information, is very much needed in community empowerment, because information can be used in strengthening which can provide broad space for movement, services, so that it can create an independent society.

- a. Participation and involvement

Participation and involvement are necessary because of who and how will be involved in development activities.

- b. Responsible

Responsible for accountability from the beginning to the end of the activity.

According to the Author, community empowerment has an important factor in achieving community welfare. In terms of providing policies on the environment, being able to manage households, and having high loyalty in supervising problems. The success of community empowerment is the existence of a desire and having the ability of the community to involve the empowerment process. Community empowerment does not provide limitations in participation and participation in empowerment techniques.

Mardikanto (1993) a group is a collection or unity of humans who live together so that there is a reciprocal relationship and mutual influence and have an awareness to help each other. According to Marzali in (Chasan 2020) based on several theoretical studies, farmers are people who live in rural communities who manage the land with the help of their own family, connected to market center cities and sometimes metropolitan cities.

According to (Maulidina 2019) , a farmer group is a collection of farmers and fishermen based on similarities, harmony of a socio-cultural environment to achieve the same goals. A farmer group is a collection of farmers, ranchers, and planters formed on the basis of common interests, common environmental conditions (social, economic, resources) and familiarity to improve and develop member businesses.

According to (Mardikanto 1993 in Maulana, 2019:6), the definition of a farmer group is a group of farmers or farmers consisting of adult farmers (men/women) and cadet farmers (young men/women), who are informally bound in a group area on the basis of harmony and shared needs and are in the sphere of influence and leadership of a farmer contact.

3. Method

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative research type with a descriptive approach. Qualitative research is research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the research subject, for example behavior, perception, motivation, action, and others holistically and by means of description in the form of words and language (Moleong, 2005:6).

The reason for choosing the type of qualitative research with a descriptive method is because the problem formulation process carried out in the study was carried out comprehensively, broadly, and in-depth in discussing the phenomena that occurred in the field. Then the data obtained from farmers in the form of information both verbally and in writing that describes the direct situation in the field, so that it is able to describe what happened at the research location in more detail, and trying to obtain and reveal data on the impact of empowering the Maju Horas farmer group in improving the welfare of the community in Bosar Bayu village.

4. Results and Discussion

Empowerment Stages

a. Stages Preparation (engagement)

Stages preparation or engagement in activity empowerment public emphasize on attitude that is : build trust public about a activity or the program that will implemented in the empowerment process . On stages This usually done with giving understanding And awareness for public For empowered And go out from problem . Stage preparation This focus the main thing give explanation as well as convincing a public will activity direction of the empowerment program that will done so that the community participatory inside it as well as give solution for public For go out from a problem . In activity development society , stage preparation consists of from two thing , namely preparation officer And preparation field . Preparation officer done use equalize perception or opinion between member team as actor or change about approach What will chosen in do development society . While that , preparation field done with studies eligibility to area or the area to be made into target Good done formally or informally . If Already found the area you want developed , officer must try do breakthrough formal channels for get licensing from party related . Beside that , officer Also must to weave proximity with figures . Stages preparation inside implementation empowerment public through plant paddy And corn on Group farmer proceed horas in the village Forest Boss Bayu , District Forest Bayu King Regency Simalungun , where with see condition geographical in the village boss wind the suitable For farming . As for other things after collected coordinator per RT then role companion here give directions How direction forward Village boss wind with still utilise

source Power nature provides . After agreed then per coordinator convey to members per RT who have assigned .

b. Stage investigation

In the stage This that is method investigation conducted in a way individual and also group in the a society . In matter the officer give identification what is needed by society , and see ability potential owned As for the stages in question here in the Group Farmer proceed hour that is a coordinator the after formed Then together For identify , needs What only the community , then see source Power nature owned in bosar wind with use technique that is technique investigation . Like as it is Father 's speech head village as Group Instructor Farmer proceed morning : *" On Initially, we do the meeting that was held in the ball village For do discussion together with member group farmer proceed hour use know What only that becomes a very necessary need by farmer "*

As for besides That that is through awareness society , where awareness here group farmer proceed horas in the village boss bayu , started with existence a outlook or knowledge to Results Interview with Group Leader farmer , farmer hour by father Education siturus . Beginning at first awareness public There is Because There is something that must be done done For responded to in a way responsive .

c. Stage preparation

In the growth This officer give his instructions with society , so that society find ideas when currently happen problem And find the solution . In the stage This on Group Farmer proceed hour focus to plant paddy And corn Then see with ability public in the field the so mentor Then holding hands with Government boss bayu so that with hope can help with existence Activities in Groups farmer proceed horas . Activities in Groups farmer proceed hour There is a number of among them that is processing husk paddy become fertilizer organic . Role government boss wind here very much important , because in activity need Lots funds so government Village boss Bayu is ready too support with activity This is . as spoken by Father Endy anto tampubolon as chairman from group farmer proceed morning : *" The existence of role government here very help especially in BUMDES sector , because from BUMDES Alone play a role when public inhabitant village lack of capital then from BUMDES Alone can lend in accordance with provisions , such as public may buy need agriculture in BUMDES and pay his Later after harvest .*

4 . Stage Formalization

In stage this is an agent of change can give support group For set a design that can control problem . Besides that , agent of exchange also play a role implement idea in form written , for example making a proposal. This is as spoken by Father Endy anto tampubolon as chairman Group Farmer proceed horas : *we submitted a proposal to head village For get help in the form of quality seeds , fertilizer as well as tool adequate agriculture so that later results the harvest we get abundant And Also own high quality*

d. Stage Implementation or implementation activity

Stage implementation This is Wrong One very advanced stage important in development process society , because something that has been planned with Good Can just can deviate in its implementation when in the field , if No can intertwined good cooperation between perpetrator change And society . In stage this is the expected implementation process

public Can work together for the sake of running a program that has been planned . Coordination between officer with public important thing because of sometimes No in accordance with expectations . As stated father Education sitorus , as head village : “ *In carry out activity This Lots parties involved start from public or member group farming , government area And There is Also representative from service agriculture so that activities carried out coordinated And walk with fluent ”*

e. Stage Evaluation

At the stage this , see supervision between inhabitant with officer with involving citizens , so that creation a community in internal supervision and in term long , with utilise potential that is owned . In the Group Farmer proceed hour said , before existence group the Lots very obstacles that must be overcome faced,difficulty get seed quality , fertilizer , pesticide And tool adequate farming , as said father education sitorus : *many difficulties faced public start from seeds, fertilizer tool agriculture and others we as government area submit help to government so that it is given help And public can more easy do activity agriculture*

f. Stage Termination In the levels This that is levels elimination between custom prevailing customs along with a group of people, meaning role between officer with public Already finished . Then period the walk time , there is a number of an institution that is indeed there only bridge during the process but its nature No continued , because it is a work program that is being implemented Already finished its time . Like as it is with Service agriculture Already do training mentoring to Group farmer , with equipped knowledge knowledge And the insights provided with the aim is that later when the mentoring program the Already finished , group farmer proceed hour can walk Alone And No depends with institution others , farmers Already safe , comfortable And peaceful , because Already coordinated Good .

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research that has been discussed regarding the empowerment of the Maju Horas farmer group in improving the welfare of the community in Bosar Bayu Village, it can be concluded that empowerment is an effort to make the community independent, while farmer groups are groups of farmers who grow based on common interests, common environmental conditions (social, economic, resources) and familiarity. to cooperate in improving, developing agricultural productivity, utilizing agricultural resources, distributing its products and improving the welfare of its members. The empowerment facilitated by the government for the advanced Horaas farmer group is as follows: as a study class, as agricultural extension, as a provider of subsidized fertilizer, and as a provider of agricultural equipment assistance. There are many changes felt by the community with the empowerment carried out on farmer groups, various impacts that have been felt by the community as a result of the empowerment carried out by the government, namely: building farmer knowledge and skills, the community gets more maximum results, increased agricultural production, increased living standards and equal distribution of income levels, and has an impact as a means of cooperation between group members . However , overall, the more maximum results of the empowerment carried out in a community not only have an impact on direct economic improvement but also bring broad benefits in terms of quality of life, environmental sustainability, and better social development.

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