



Implementation of SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Program Policies in Gender Equality: a Study in Kumpay Village, Banjarsari District, Lebak Regency

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Abstract

This study examines the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program policy in achieving gender equality in Kumpay Village, Banjarsari District, Lebak Regency. The policy implementation refers to Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 concerning the implementation of sustainable development goals aimed at promoting equitable human development and social welfare. The study focuses on how far the SDGs program has contributed to enhancing women's participation in village development. The research employs a descriptive qualitative method with Edward III's public policy implementation theory as its analytical framework. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with eight informants representing various community elements and were validated using triangulation techniques. The findings reveal that the implementation of SDGs in promoting gender equality in Kumpay Village remains suboptimal due to low public awareness and limited participation of women in development processes. This condition is influenced by persistent cultural perceptions that confine women's roles to domestic spheres. The study recommends that both local governments and communities increase their awareness and involvement in promoting gender equality as a vital aspect of achieving sustainable rural development.

Keywords: *SDGs, Gender Equality, Policy Implementation, Women's Participation*

I. Introduction

National development is a process of social, economic, and structural change towards improving the welfare of a just society. In the global context, the concept of sustainable development or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the main foundation for developing countries, including Indonesia, to achieve a balance between economic growth, social justice, and environmental sustainability. The SDGs have 17 main goals that focus on poverty alleviation, education improvement, gender equality, health, and environmental conservation. The Government of Indonesia strengthens this commitment through Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals as a form of national responsibility for the global development agenda.

One of the important aspects of the SDGs is the fifth goal, which is to realize gender equality and women's empowerment. In the context of development at the local level, gender equality is an important factor because women's participation has a direct effect on the effectiveness and sustainability of village development. However, the gender gap is still a serious problem in many areas, including in Kumpay Village, Banjarsari District, Lebak Regency. Many people still view women as having a domestic role, while their involvement in public decision-making and economic activities is still limited. This shows that the patriarchal paradigm is still strongly embedded in the social structure of rural communities.

The government has made efforts to integrate the principle of gender equality through various regulations, such as Presidential Instruction Number 9 of 2000 concerning Gender Mainstreaming in National Development and Lebak Regent Regulation Number 34 of 2018 concerning Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting. In addition, Banten Province also ratified Regional Regulation Number 10 of 2005 concerning Gender Mainstreaming in Regional Development. The regulation aims to increase women's participation and ensure that every development policy considers gender aspects fairly and proportionately. However,

implementation on the ground still faces challenges, especially the lack of understanding of the community and village officials on the importance of gender equality.

Kumpay Village is one of the areas with a relatively low level of education and welfare. Women's low access to education and public participation has an impact on their lack of involvement in the planning and implementation of village development. In fact, the involvement of women can provide a new perspective in overcoming the problems of poverty, family health, and children's education. In the context of sustainable development, gender equality not only means providing equal opportunities, but also ensuring structural justice in access to resources, participation, and decision-making.

This study focuses on finding out how the implementation of SDGs program policies in gender equality in Kumpay Village and the factors that affect its success. Through a qualitative approach, this research is expected to be able to describe the social dynamics and policies that occur at the village level, especially in the application of the principle of gender mainstreaming. Theoretically, this research strengthens the understanding of the importance of implementing gender-based public policies in the context of local development. Practically, the results of the research are expected to be considered for local governments in formulating more effective strategies to encourage women's involvement in sustainable village development.

Thus, the implementation of SDGs policies at the local level is not only an instrument of physical development, but also a means to build collective awareness of the importance of women's role in creating an inclusive and socially just society. This effort is expected to strengthen the position of women as agents of change and ensure the achievement of real sustainable development goals.

Literature Review

Public Policy Implementation

The implementation of public policy is an important stage in the policy process, because it determines the extent to which the policies that have been formulated can achieve their goals. According to Edward III (in Subarsono, 2011), the success of policy implementation is influenced by four main variables, namely communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure. Communication is needed so that policy goals and objectives are understood by implementers in the field. Without clear communication, there will be distortions that lead to policy failure. Resources, both human, financial, and infrastructure, are important factors for effective implementation. Disposition is related to the attitude and commitment of policy implementers; The higher the commitment and integrity of the implementer, the more likely the policy will be successful. Meanwhile, an efficient and not too long bureaucratic structure helps to speed up the implementation of the program without administrative barriers.

Grindle (in Wibawa, 1994) added that policy implementation is determined by two things: the content of policy and the context of implementation. The content of the policy includes the interests affected, the benefits generated, and the desired changes of the policy. Meanwhile, the context of implementation involves political forces, the characteristics of implementing institutions, and the social conditions of the communities that are the target of the policy. In the context of the SDGs program, the success of implementation is highly dependent on the ability of local governments to adapt global policies to local situations, including paying attention to the socio-cultural conditions of local communities such as a strong patriarchal mindset.

The Concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global development agenda agreed by United Nations (UN) member states in 2015 as a continuation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs include 17 goals and 169 targets that are interconnected, with the key principle of no one left behind—no one is left behind in development. These goals include poverty eradication, improving the quality of education, gender equality, reducing inequality, and preserving the environment (Iskandar, 2020).

In the Indonesian context, the SDGs are translated into national policies through Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017. This regulation affirms that all stakeholders, including local governments, the private sector, academics, and civil society, must play an active role in achieving the goals of sustainable development. At the village level, this concept is known as the Village SDGs, which focuses on holistic and participatory development by involving the community as the main subject of development (Kinerja, 2021). The implementation of the

Village SDGs is expected to be able to strengthen the competitiveness of the local economy, maintain environmental sustainability, and improve community welfare equally.

Gender Equality in Development

Gender equality is a fundamental issue in sustainable development. Gender itself is defined as the social role constructed by society towards men and women, not solely biological differences (Fakih, 2008). According to Hadiati (2010), gender is a perspective that shapes the perception of the roles of women and men in society. Gender inequality occurs when one gender experiences discrimination in access to resources, economic opportunities, education, and political participation.

Gender equality is one of the main goals of the SDGs, which is the fifth goal that emphasizes the importance of empowering all women and girls. There are five global goals in this goal, namely: (1) eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, (2) eliminate gender-based violence, (3) eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage, (4) recognize unpaid domestic work, and (5) ensure women's full participation in social, economic, and political life. In the context of development in Indonesia, the government has issued various policies that emphasize the importance of gender mainstreaming, including Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2000 and various regional regulations that support gender-responsive budgeting.

However, in practice, gender equality often faces structural and cultural barriers. Patriarchal values are still deeply rooted in rural societies, which place women in subordinate positions. As a result, women's roles are often limited to domestic work and are not involved in public decision-making. This condition also has implications for women's low access to education and decent work. Therefore, the effective implementation of the SDGs must include strategies for women's empowerment through education, skills training, and public awareness of the importance of women's role in development.

Implementation of SDGs and Gender Mainstreaming at the Local Level

In the context of village governance, the implementation of the SDGs requires active community participation and policy integration that is responsive to gender needs. The village government is the spearhead in the application of the principles of sustainable development because the village is the social entity that is closest to the community. For this reason, village development policies must accommodate the interests of women as a group that is often marginalized.

According to Edward III, the success of the implementation of gender-based SDGs policies at the village level is influenced by three main factors: first, the effectiveness of communication between the village government and the community in socializing the SDGs goals; second, the availability of human resources who understand the principles of gender equality; and third, the attitude of village officials in supporting the active involvement of women. These three factors are important indicators in assessing the extent to which SDGs policies are effectively implemented.

Kumpay Village as a research location shows that the implementation of SDGs policies still faces challenges in the form of low public awareness of the importance of gender equality. People still tend to consider village development matters as the responsibility of men. Therefore, the implementation of the SDGs with a gender perspective requires cross-sectoral support, especially through education, socialization, and village institutional capacity building.

Relevance of Theory and Previous Research

Previous studies have shown that gender mainstreaming has a positive correlation with development success. Waston Malau (2016) emphasized that gender injustice is still a major obstacle in community development, while research by Niken Prasetyawati (2018) shows that gender perspectives in national development strengthen the quality of policy planning. The results of another study by Sunjoyo Jatmiko (2020) revealed that the SDGs program initiated by UNDP plays a major role in improving gender equality in developing countries, including Indonesia.

By referring to the various theories and research results, it can be concluded that the success of the implementation of SDGs policies in realizing gender equality is largely determined by the synergy between government policies, community support, and the commitment of implementing institutions at the local level.

II. Research Methods

Approaches and Types of Research

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach that aims to understand social phenomena in depth based on the perspective of the participants. This approach was chosen because the problems studied are related to the implementation of public policies that are contextual and require a thorough understanding of the social dynamics of the community in Kumpay Village. According to Sugiyono (2017), qualitative research methods are based on the philosophy of postpositivism, where researchers play the role of the main instrument directly involved in data collection through observation, interviews, and documentation. This approach is relevant to uncover the meaning behind the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program in realizing gender equality, as well as to explore the supporting and inhibiting factors that arise in the process of implementing the policy at the village level.

The descriptive method is used to describe the empirical reality systematically regarding how the SDGs policy is implemented in Kumpay Village, Banjarsari District, Lebak Regency. Thus, the results of the study are expected to provide a concrete picture of the implementation of government policies in the field of sustainable development and gender equality in rural communities.

Research Location and Time

This research was carried out in Kumpay Village, Banjarsari District, Lebak Regency, Banten Province. The selection of the location was carried out purposively with the consideration that this village has adopted the SDGs program through the implementation of Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. However, in practice, there is still a low level of women's participation in village development and a lack of public understanding of the importance of gender equality. The research was conducted over a period of four months, including the preparation, data collection, analysis, and report writing stages.

Sources and Techniques for Determining Informants

The data sources in this study consist of primary data and secondary data.

- Primary data was obtained directly from the field through interviews and observations of key informants.
- Secondary data were obtained from official documents, village archives, government reports, books, scientific journals, and laws and regulations related to SDGs policies and gender mainstreaming.

Informants were selected using the purposive sampling technique, which is the selection of resource persons based on the consideration that they have direct knowledge and experience related to the implementation of the SDGs program in Kumpay Village. The research informants totaled 12 people, consisting of Village Heads, Village Secretaries, Village Local Assistants (PLD), SDGs officers, PKK cadres, Posyandu cadres, community leaders, and women activists. The selection of diverse informants is intended to obtain comprehensive views from various parties directly and indirectly involved in village development policies.

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection technique in this study was carried out through three main methods, namely observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation.

Observations were carried out by directly observing village government activities and the implementation of SDGs programs related to gender equality. Through observation, the researcher gained an understanding of behavior, social interaction, and community participation in village development.

In-depth interviews were used to extract information from key informants regarding their perceptions, experiences, and views on the implementation of the SDGs program. Interviews were conducted openly using semi-structured interview guidelines so that researchers could adjust the direction of the questions to the field situation.

Documentation is carried out by collecting secondary data in the form of village archives, regional regulations, SDGs activity reports, and photographs or other documents that support the results of observations and interviews.

These three techniques are used in an integrated manner to obtain accurate and in-depth data so that they can describe the empirical conditions as a whole.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was carried out from the beginning of the research inductively, with emphasis on the process of interpreting the meaning of the collected data. The analysis process follows the Miles and Huberman interactive model which includes three stages, namely:

- Data *reduction*, which is the process of selection, concentration, and simplification of field data to be relevant to the focus of research;
- Data *display*, which is the preparation of information that has been reduced to a narrative form to facilitate understanding of the phenomenon being studied;
- *Conclusion drawing*, which is the stage of interpreting the meaning of the pattern of relationships between variables and events found in the field to answer the formulation of the research problem.

The analysis is carried out continuously during the data collection process until valid and consistent conclusions are obtained.

Data Validity Test

The validity of the data was tested using triangulation techniques, which included triangulation of sources, methods, and data.

- Triangulation of sources is carried out by comparing the results of interviews from various informants to ensure the consistency of information.
- The triangulation method was carried out by comparing data from interviews, observations, and documentation.
- Data triangulation is carried out by confirming the findings to the informant and comparing them with relevant official documents.

In addition, the validity of the data is also strengthened through discussions with peers and re-examination by informants (member checks) to ensure that the researcher's interpretation is in accordance with the reality of the field. This step is important to increase the credibility and validity of the research results.

Research Limitations

Researchers are aware of several limitations that can affect the results of the study. First, time constraints cause the observation and interview process to not be carried out more widely. Second, some documents related to the implementation of the SDGs program at the village level have not been well documented, so researchers must confirm directly with related parties. Nonetheless, triangulation and data verification measures have been carried out to ensure the reliability of the research results.

III. Results and Discussion

Overview of Research Locations

Kumpay Village is one of the villages in Banjarsari District, Lebak Regency, Banten Province, with an area of about 545 hectares consisting of four Neighborhood Units (RW) and seventeen Neighborhood Units (RT). Most of the population makes a living as farmers and farm laborers, with a relatively low level of education. The social conditions of the society tend to be traditional and influenced by a strong patriarchal culture, where the role of women is more positioned in the domestic realm. Administratively, this village has implemented the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since the issuance of Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017, but public awareness of the issue of gender equality is still limited.

The Kumpay Village Government has a complete organizational structure with the support of institutions such as the Village Consultative Body (BPD), Community Empowerment Institution (LPM), PKK, Youth Organization, and Posyandu. These institutions play a role in the implementation of development programs, including those related to gender equality and women's empowerment. However, the implementation of the program still faces challenges in the form of lack of women's involvement in decision-making and development activities.

Implementation of SDGs Program Policies in Kumpay Village

The results of the study show that the implementation of the SDGs policy in Kumpay Village is still in the early stages, with varying levels of effectiveness between development fields. SDGs programs at the village level are generally carried out through family data collection activities, community empowerment, and improving the quality of public services. However, the integration between SDGs policies and gender equality aspects has not been fully optimal.

Within the framework of Edward III's theory, the implementation of public policy is influenced by four factors, namely communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure.

First, from the communication aspect, the village government has conducted socialization about the goals of the SDGs, but the delivery is still limited and has not reached all levels of society, especially women in rural areas. This causes some people to not understand the relevance of the SDGs to their lives, especially in terms of gender equality.

Second, from the aspect of resources, the implementation of the SDGs program in Kumpay Village is still constrained by budget limitations, support personnel, and the capacity of human resources who understand the concept of gender mainstreaming.

Third, from the aspect of disposition or attitude of implementers, some village officials have shown commitment to the implementation of the principle of gender equality, but this attitude has not been followed by a change in the mindset of the community as a whole.

Fourth, from the aspect of bureaucratic structure, coordination between village institutions is not fully synergistic so that the implementation of the program is still partially carried out and has not been integrated across sectors.

Women's Participation in Village Development

One of the important indicators in the implementation of the SDGs is the increase in women's participation in social, economic, and political activities at the village level. The results of the study show that women in Kumpay Village still face limitations in active participation. Women's activities are generally focused on PKK organizations, Posyandu, and religious activities. Women are rarely involved in the Village Deliberation Forum (Musdes) or in the development planning and budgeting process.

This condition is influenced by a social view that places men as the main decision-makers in the family and society. Many women have not dared to voice their opinions in the public space because they are considered to have exceeded their natural roles. In addition, the low level of education is also a major inhibiting factor in increasing the capacity of women to play an active role in development.

However, there are a number of positive efforts made by the village government. Women's empowerment programs have begun to be introduced through skills training activities, health socialization, and productive economic activities such as agricultural product processing. This effort shows the village government's awareness of the importance of women's empowerment as part of the SDGs goals.

Supporting and Inhibiting Implementation Factors

Based on the results of interviews with key informants, there are several factors that support and hinder the implementation of SDGs policies in gender equality in Kumpay Village.

Supporting factors include the existence of clear regulations at the national and regional levels, support from village institutions such as PKK and LPM, and the existence of local village assistants who understand the principles of sustainable development. In addition, the increasing awareness of some young people on the issue of gender equality has the potential to encourage social change.

Meanwhile, the main inhibiting factors are the low level of public education, the limitation of competent human resources in the field of gender, and the strong patriarchal culture that is still attached. Traditional social values often place women in subordinate positions, limiting their role in public decision-making. The lack of a special budget for gender-based programs also makes the implementation of the SDGs not yet touching all aspects of the lives of rural communities.

Discussion of Research Findings

If it is associated with the implementation theory of Edward III, then the implementation of the SDGs policy in Kumpay Village shows that the success of implementation is greatly influenced by the quality of communication and resource support. Lack of socialization leads to low public understanding of the goals of the SDGs, while limited resources hinder the integration of policies into village programs.

From the perspective of Grindle's theory, the implementation of policies in Kumpay Village is also influenced by the patriarchal social and political context. Despite formal commitments through laws and regulations, the social context of the community is still a strong cultural barrier. Therefore, the success of gender-based SDGs programs at the village level requires a change in social paradigm and strengthening the institutional capacity of villages to be more inclusive of women.

Overall, the results of this study show that the implementation of SDGs policies in Kumpay Village has not been fully effective in promoting gender equality. Institutional strengthening strategies, gender literacy improvement, and cross-sectoral collaboration between governments, communities, and women's organizations are needed to ensure that the principle of no one left behind is truly realized at the local level.

Conclusions and Suggestions

Conclusion

This study shows that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) policy in realizing gender equality in Kumpay Village, Banjarsari District, Lebak Regency, is still not optimal. Although there have been clear regulations such as Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017 and various regional guidelines that support gender mainstreaming, its implementation at the local level still faces various structural and cultural obstacles.

In general, village governments have made efforts to implement some of the SDGs' goals, especially in the field of welfare and community empowerment. However, the aspect of gender equality is still not a top priority. This can be seen from the low level of women's participation in the village development planning and decision-making process. Women are still more involved in social and domestic activities such as the PKK and Posyandu, while their involvement in village policy formulation is still very limited.

Based on the analysis of Edward III's implementation theory, the main obstacles to the implementation of the SDGs policy in Kumpay Village are in the aspects of communication, resources, and the disposition of

implementers. The socialization of the program is still minimal and has not touched all community groups. Human resources who understand the concept of gender equality are also still limited, and there is no specific strategy to increase the capacity of village officials in implementing gender-responsive policies. Patriarchal cultural factors are also a significant barrier because there is still a strong view that women's role is only limited to household affairs.

Nevertheless, there are positive indications in the form of growing awareness among some communities and village officials about the importance of women's role in development. This is social capital to strengthen the application of the principle of gender equality in the future.

Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, some suggestions that can be given include:

- 1) The village government needs to increase socialization and public education on the importance of gender equality in development through public forums and village institutional activities.
- 2) Village apparatus and community institutions such as PKK and LPM must be strengthened in their capacity through training on gender mainstreaming and the implementation of the SDGs based on inclusive participation.
- 3) Local governments are advised to provide special budget support for women's empowerment programs and ensure that gender indicators are an integral part of village development planning.
- 4) The community and religious leaders are expected to play an active role in changing the social paradigm that discriminates against women through educational approaches and religious values that support equality.

With synergy between the government, communities, and village institutions, the implementation of the SDGs in gender equality is expected to run more effectively. Women are not only the object of development, but also subjects who play an active role in realizing just, sustainable, and inclusive village development.

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