

The Role of Local Government in Empowering Fishing Communities in Biak Numfor Regency

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ABSTRACT

The role of government is very important in empowering the community. This study aims to determine the role of local government in empowering fishing communities in Biak Numfor district. Data collection techniques are used through; observation, interviews, and literature studies. The informant in the research was from the local government of Biak Numfor regency, in this case, the Fisheries and Marine Service of Biak Numfor district. The informant selection technique is carried out through purposive sampling. The data analysis technique used is qualitative data analysis. The results showed that the role of local governments in empowering fishing communities in Biak Numfor district was carried out through community empowerment programs such as the procurement of fishing gear for fishermen, work accident insurance assistance, and providing skills for fishermen to process processed fish. The inhibiting factors in increasing the income of fishermen in Biak Numfor district are the lack of human resources and weather factors that often change. The novelty of this study lies in its comprehensive and contextual approach to the government's role in empowering fishing communities in the unique environment of Biak Numfor district, as well as unraveling the dynamics that may underlie the success or obstacles of government efforts in empowering fishing communities

Keywords: *Role, Local Government, Empowerment, Fishing Community*

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INTRODUCTION

One of the community groups that utilize fishery resources is the fishing community. The fishing community is a group of people who carry out business activities by earning income sourced from fishing activities. The more, the greater the income received and the income is mostly for family consumption purposes (Sulfati et al., 2018). Thus, the level of fulfillment of family consumption needs is determined by the income they receive (Faried & Nasution, 2018; Hasim, 2021). Fishery resources can actually potentially be utilized to improve the standard of living and welfare of fishermen, but in reality, there are still many fishermen who have not been able to increase their catch, so the income level of fishermen does not increase.

This condition is inseparable from the government's role in providing training through empowering fishermen groups. So that the role of the government is expected to help fishermen increase their catches through training and assistance with adequate fishing facilities. However, the reality that researchers have encountered in the field is that there are still many fishermen who have not maximized in using assistance facilities from the government.

Furthermore, fisheries business provides job opportunities for all family members including women, some studies state that fisherwomen from various different social strata participate in fisheries and non-fishery businesses with various motivations. Most women fishermen carry out production activities to provide additional income with a large enough outpouring of time, the participation of women in economic activities will cause changes in family income with an increase in the amount of money to meet the needs of their families (Iriawan & Edyanto, 2023).

Fishermen's income can be obtained from two sources, namely, fishing and processing. Fishing is an activity to find fish either with fishing gear or not while processing is here the role of the service so that the catch can be utilized optimally, namely by processing marine products in order to get a higher selling value, which is expected with the help of training, marine products can increase in terms of selling value, the training is not only about how to process fish but also about how to process non-fish such as mangroves which can be processed into coffee and shellfish made handicrafts such as making brooches, key chains and so on (Hariyanto, 2014; Setiawan, 2020). Empowerment of fishing communities is defined as conscious efforts that are planned, systematic and sustainable to build social, economic and political independence of fishing communities by managing the potential resources they have to achieve sustainable social welfare. Efforts to achieve empowerment goals must be accompanied by the choice of the right approach (Amanah, 2008; Indarti, 2015). Compared to the individual approach, the institutional approach based on collectivity interests is the most chosen approach to carry out empowerment activities (Edyanto, 2018; Putra et al., 2021)

Based on preliminary observations, there are several problems experienced by fishing communities in Biak Numfor Regency, including; lack of fishing infrastructure, fish produced of low quality so that the price obtained will also fall, fish auction sites (TPI) that have not met operational standards, weather factors, fishermen's skills to process catches that are still low, and therefore fishermen's wives also have to earn a living to meet their family lives in order to continue to meet their daily needs.

The existence of problems experienced by the fishing community, it is hoped that the role of the local government of Biak Numfor Regency through government programs will help solve problems in the field, such as empowering fishermen groups to be organized in providing assistance for fishing infrastructure, training in fishing boat machinery for small fishermen through entrepreneurship in making food and various handicrafts made from natural resources (SDA) beaches, development of fishing facilities, business development through partnerships in the fisheries sector, so that it is expected to help increase fishermen's income.

Role is a dynamic aspect of a person's position, if someone carries out his rights and obligations in accordance with his position, then the person concerned carries out a role (Muhammadiyah & Hasanuddin, 2017). Furthermore, according to Fahmi Amrusi in (Ondang et al., 2019) local governments which are sub-systems of the national governance system have the authority to regulate and manage their own households. The government and local governments facilitate the development and utilization of community creativity and innovation in industrial development (Ahdan et al., 2019; Moses, 2017). Community independence is a manifestation of the development of regional economic capacity to create welfare and improve materials fairly and equitably, which ultimately stems from community empowerment. Community empowerment itself stands on the idea that development

will run by itself if the community is given the right to manage the natural resources they have and use them for community development (Faricandy, 2019; Salatan et al., 2018).

Based on the description of the problem above, the researcher is interested in taking the title "The Role of Local Government in Empowering Fishermen Communities in Biak Numfor Regency". The novelty of this study lies in its comprehensive and contextual approach to the government's role in empowering fishing communities in the unique environment of Biak Numfor district, as well as unraveling the dynamics that may underlie the success or obstacles of the government's efforts in empowering fishing communities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Role of Local Government

Local governments, which are sub-systems of the national governance system, have the authority to regulate and manage their own households. The authority to regulate and manage this household contains three main things in it, namely: first, the assignment of duties and authority to complete an authority that has been handed over to the Regional Government; second, the granting of trust and authority to think about, take initiative and determine for themselves the ways of completing the task; and third, in an effort to think about, take initiatives and make decisions involving the community both directly and through the legislature (Ruja, 2022). According to (Martins et al., 2017) the role of government in community development is very broad, ranging from operational services to ideological and spiritual matters. So that to carry out the functions and roles of good government, the following roles of the government are needed: the role of the government in making regulations, the role of the government in providing facilities and infrastructure, the role of the government in planning, and the role of the government in supervising.

Community empowerment

Empowerment is one of the government's tasks to lift and support the community in a real way so that it has the power to develop the potential that exists in the community by developing local businesses that will create jobs for the community, as well as developing community innovations independently to meet their economic needs (Iriawan & Edyanto, 2023). Empowerment Theory is the foundation in developing effective empowerment strategies for indigenous Papuan fishermen in Biak Numfor District. This theory refers to the empowerment process which includes the process of developing skills, increasing access to resources, and increasing participation in decision making. Empowerment is one approach to overcome the problems of poverty, helplessness, and vulnerability of weak communities (Ahdan et al., 2019). Conceptually, empowerment in many senses depends on the scope and point of view of the person who defines it. However, the basic idea is a strategy carried out to improve the ability and quality of life of the community, and is able to improve identity, dignity and dignity so that it can survive and develop independently in the regional and national scope in the political, economic, social, and other fields (Laverack, 2006). More specifically, efforts to develop and strengthen the ability of the community to continue to be involved in the development process that takes place dynamically so that the community is able to solve problems on their own and is able to carry out social transformation is the concept of empowerment (Arifudin et al., 2013). Furthermore, to improve the ability of individuals and groups to exercise control over factors that affect people's lives, empowerment is carried out (Nguyen et al., 2022).

Fishermen

Empowerment is the provision of encouragement and motivation and raising awareness of the potential possessed by the community towards a better direction (Putra et al., 2021). In general, the livelihood of coastal communities is in the marine resource utilization sector, such as fishermen, fish farmers, sand mining and marine transportation (Ahdan et al., 2019). Furthermore, fishing communities are people who live on the coast and depend on the sea for their lives (Hidayat & Syahid, 2019; Sulfati et al., 2018). The term coastal community is often identified with fishing communities, this is because the majority of coastal community jobs are fishermen (Sulfati et al., 2018). The problems that occur in fishing communities are multidimensional problems so that to solve them a comprehensive solution is needed and not a partial solution (Ahdan et al., 2019). Furthermore, the problem of limited capital that pockets of poverty basically still exist in fishing communities (Rahim, 2018). Furthermore, the problem of limited capital, low quality of human resources, limited use of fishing gear technology,

uncertain weather conditions, low income and lack of education and knowledge in managing seafood marketing are factors that cause fishermen's poverty (Sulfati et al., 2018). The income level of some fishermen cannot increase because they are unable to increase their catch, even though fishery resources are abundant and have the potential to be utilized in improving the welfare and standard of living of fishermen (Hidayat & Syahid, 2019). Furthermore, the development of independence and welfare improvement carried out by the government are stages in community empowerment (Habibi, 2022)

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted at the Marine and Fisheries Service of Biak Numfor Papua Regency. This type of research is descriptive with a qualitative approach. Research with descriptive methods is research that aims to make descriptions, images or paintings systematically, factually and accurately regarding the facts, properties, and relationships between the phenomena studied. The informant in the research was from the local government of Biak Numfor regency, in this case the Fisheries and Marine Service of Biak Numfor district. The informant selection technique is carried out through purposive sampling. Data collection techniques used in this study are observation, interviews, and literature studies. The data sources in this study can be categorized into two parts, namely primary data and secondary data. Furthermore, the data analysis used in this study is qualitative data analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Local Government in Empowering Fishermen Communities in Biak Numfor District.

Role is a dynamic aspect of a person's position and because of that position he performs an action or dynamic change movement where from the effort it is expected to create a desired condition or result, the action is carried out by utilizing the authority, power and facilities owned because of his position (Pakasi, 2009; Pariangu, 2020). In empowering the Fishermen community in Biak Numfor district, there are several activities carried out by the local government, namely:

Provision of Facility Assistance

In terms of livelihood, fishermen are those whose activities are related to the marine and coastal environment or those who make fisheries their livelihood. Based on the results of interviews with informant 1, it was stated that:

“ We as the Fisheries and Aquaculture Service always make assistance programs to fishing communities, so that fishing communities can prosper, the Fisheries Service assists fishermen in the fishing process by providing fishing facilities such as nets, fishing rods, boats and providing good training for fishermen such as managing various types of marine products and providing facilities after becoming processed such as assistance in marketing products such as in showrooms, excellent products and so on. Government assistance can increase the income of fishing families in Biak Numfor district. (September 2022 Interview Results)

Furthermore, based on the results of interviews with informant 2 stated that:

“ In helping fishermen's livelihoods we provide facilities in the form of nets, fishing rods, boats and provide good training for fishermen such as managing various types of marine products." (September 2022 Interview Results)

Based on the results of the interview, informants were obtained that the local government of Biak Numfor district through the Marine and Fisheries Service empowered fishing communities by providing assistance in the form of nets, fishing rods, and boats. This is done to provide convenience in fishing at sea, it can also increase fish catches which will be able to increase fishermen's economic income.

Provision of Insurance Assistance

In terms of way of life, the fishing community is a mutual aid community. The need for mutual aid and help is very important when overcoming circumstances that require large expenditures and a lot of labor direction, such as when sailing, building houses or wave retaining dikes around the coast. Based on the results of interviews with informant 1 stated that:

" We provide work accident insurance assistance at sea and land, and this is proof of the government's high concern for them. For fishermen who are anglers and use nets that are not prohibited by the government, there is no need to worry about going to catch fish in the sea, because it has been insured. However, fishermen who get accident insurance, of course, who have registered with the Marine and Fisheries Service of Biak Numfor Regency, for small fishermen who have not received an accident insurance card, immediately take care of it by bringing their ID card or other necessary identity. Fishermen who will be given insurance assistance, of course, for those who use environmentally friendly fishing gear or approved by the government". (September 2022 Interview Results)

Furthermore, the results of interviews with informant 2 stated that:

" That's right, fishermen must register to get work accident insurance at sea and land, because if they have registered for anglers and using nets that are not prohibited by the government, there is no need to worry about going to catch fish into the sea, because it has been insured." (September 2022 Interview Results)

Based on the results of the interview, information was obtained that the local government has shown high commitment in providing accident insurance assistance for fishermen. Overall, the results of the study illustrate the importance of accident insurance for fishermen as a concrete action from local governments to maintain the safety and welfare of fishermen. With insurance, it is hoped that fishermen can work more calmly and confidently and they feel supported by the government in carrying out their profession.

Skills Training

In terms of skills, although the work of fishermen is hard work, in general, they only have simple skills. Most of them work as fishermen is a profession passed down by parents, not one that is learned professionally. Based on the results of interviews with informant 1 stated that:

" Fishermen's skills are lacking, because their level of education is generally only graduates or do not finish elementary school. Low levels of education are caused by economic limitations, lack of educational awareness, and difficulty for primary school graduates to access secondary schools as a result of geographical barriers. The low level of education affects the work ethic of fishermen, the vision and mission of the business going forward, as well as broad insight on how to manage the potential of coastal economic resources optimally and sustainably. The efforts made by the Fisheries Service to overcome problems in the field are by conducting coaching and training to increase the capacity of human resources to increase the knowledge of fishing communities both in fishing and processing. (September 2022 Interview Results)

Furthermore, the results of an interview with infoman 2, stated that:

" Most fishermen at their lack of education are generally only graduates or do not finish elementary school, so their ability to catch fish is not good". (September 2022 Interview Results)

Based on the results of interviews, information was obtained that the skill level of fishermen is very low, this is largely influenced by the low level of education among fishermen. In addition, the Marine and Fisheries Service has made efforts through coaching and training to increase human resource capacity among fishing communities, where the aim is to increase their knowledge both in terms of fishing techniques and catch processing.

Inhibiting factors in increasing fishermen's income through in Biak Numfor district

Local community development or empowerment is a process aimed at creating social and economic progress for the community through active participation and initiative from community members themselves. Community members are seen not as problematic client systems but as unique and potential, but as those potentials have not yet been fully developed.

The inhibiting factors in increasing fishermen's income are:

Lack of Human Resources

Low quality human resources will affect stagnation or decrease in catch productivity and coastal economic dynamics. We can see this involutive situation in the field of capture fisheries in the dominance of the people's fishery fleet as the largest contributor to the national production value. This also occurs in Biak Numfor regency where the fleet used by fishermen to find fish is relatively small while the position of the fish is in the middle of the sea while fishermen cannot reach the fish point.

The results of interviews with informant 1 stated that, namely:

" One of the fundamental problems faced by coastal communities is the low quality of human resources (HR) because their level of education is generally only graduates or do not finish elementary school. Low levels of education are caused by economic limitations, lack of educational awareness, and difficulty for primary school graduates to access secondary schools as a result of geographical barriers. (September 2022 Interview Results)

Furthermore, the results of interviews with informant 2 stated that:

" The low level of education affects the work ethic of fishermen, the vision and mission of the business going forward, as well as broad insight on how to manage the potential of coastal economic resources optimally and sustainably. To overcome this, fishermen who need help just discuss with their group what is needed by the group and come to the agency, then the service makes a proposal for application for assistance, after which the group leader signs the proposal and is processed by the agency. This is made so that fishermen do not experience difficulties in making depositors applying for assistance". (September 2022 interview results).

Based on the results of the interview, information was obtained that one of the inhibiting factors in increasing fishermen's income is the problem of human resources, this is due to the low level of education. Therefore, concrete steps are needed that can be taken to improve the quality of human resources among fishermen, so that they can be more competitive and contribute sustainably to the management of coastal economic resources.

Weather Factors

Bad weather factors, making catches decrease. Especially in the rainy season, sometimes strong winds and waves are quite high.

Based on the results of interviews with informant 1 stated that:

" The catch of fish is indeed decreasing every year. One of them is due to weather factors. Fishermen are also anxious to go to sea. In addition, the amount of expenditure is not proportional to income. As we know, in recent years, fishermen have experienced a famine season where there are very few fish obtained by fishermen so that fishermen continue to earn income, so the Department has carried out a strategy, namely improving the quality of fish. (September 2022 Interview Results)

Furthermore, the results of interviews with informant 2 stated that:

" The weather factor is indeed an obstacle for fishermen, if the weather is not good then automatically fishermen do not go to sea". (September 2022 Interview Results)

Based on interviews with informants, it was found that fish catches in the area are decreasing every year. One of the factors contributing to the decline was unstable weather. Unpredictable weather conditions often discourage fishermen from going to sea, given the risks and uncertainties associated with poor sea conditions. Bad weather conditions can also result in dangerous situations for fishermen trying to go to sea.

In addition to weather factors, informants also mentioned that the amount of expenditure incurred by fishermen was not proportional to the income obtained. The situation has become even more complex as in recent years, fishermen have faced a famine season. During this season, the catch of fish obtained by fishermen is very minimal, resulting in difficulties in obtaining sufficient income. In an effort to overcome this challenge, Dinas has taken strategic steps with a focus on improving the quality of fish caught by fishermen.

Weather factors have a significant role in fishermen's activities. If the weather is unfavorable, fishermen generally decide not to go to sea in order to maintain safety and avoid risks associated with poor sea conditions. Overall, it is known that weather factors have a considerable impact on fishermen's activities and fish catches. Weather uncertainty can affect fishermen's productivity, disrupt fishing schedules, and result in decreased catches. In this situation, strategic efforts on the part of the Department to improve fish quality are one of the responses in facing obstacles caused by weather factors and other challenges faced by fishermen.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research discussed earlier, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The role of local governments in empowering fishing communities through community empowerment programs such as the procurement of fishing gear for fishermen and work accident insurance assistance, as well as coaching and training to increase human resource capacity among fishing communities, where the aim is to increase their knowledge both in terms of fishing techniques and catch processing.
2. Inhibiting factors in increasing the income of fishermen in Biak Numfor district, namely: a) Lack of Human Resources
One of the inhibiting factors in increasing fishermen's income is the problem of human resources, this is due to the low level of education

b) Weather factors. Weather factors have a considerable impact on fishermen's activities and fish catches. Weather uncertainty can affect fishermen's productivity, disrupt fishing schedules, and result in decreased catches. In this situation, strategic efforts on the part of the Department to improve fish quality are one of the responses in facing obstacles caused by weather factors and other challenges faced by fishermen.

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