The Effects of Social Definition for the Village Development Planning Process of the RKPDES Drafting Team towards the Document Quality in Bumiaji, Batu Indonesia

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Abstract. RKPDES is a yearly Village Development Work-Plan in Indonesia. It is also part of the whole Indonesian development planning schemes. The quality of development planning document reflects the ability of the team in interpreting the legal guidelines. If the document quality is good, it will correlate to the implementation of sustainable development. This paper describes the facts of limited understanding of the RKPDES team of Bumiaji Village, Batu Indonesia, during the drafting document processes. Therefore, it affects the proper quality of RKPDES as well as the village development. This research uses qualitative method aimed to capture holistic facts of the social definition of the team member towards the RKPDES. The research subjects are the RKPDES team member of Bumiaji Village, and the data was collected through an in-depth interview. In addition to the interview, observation, and comprehensive study of the drafting processes of RKPDES were carried out. The framework applies the sociological paradigm of Social Definition in which it is closely related to the interpretative understanding of each RKPDES team member towards the legal guidelines of development planning. There are several factors that influence these facts, such as the minimum capacity of the team members, sociological aspects of community and political interest of related stakeholders. The findings of the study reveal that the limited social understanding of the RKPDES is influenced by the mindset of the team members in addressing Social Definition toward the village development process. The reluctance of the team members to study also leads to the failure to comprehend the regulations and development planning procedures. Besides, they are not adequately assisted by the upper level of government units. These situations result in unfortunate and shortened village developments at the implementation phase.

Keywords: social definition, development planning process, village development planning documents

INTRODUCTION

Village development in Indonesia is implemented within the scheme of the development planning process. This scheme is synchronized within the national and local development planning programs. Indeed, the schemes of development are normatively sustained from time to time. However, there is a space of putting the Social Definition in every presidential era toward the blueprint of proper development planning of Indonesia. This is a distinctive remark of order in emphasizing its regulatory milestones, which is reflected in the presidential vision. Since the administration of President Joko Widodo, which develops the country from the Periphery – villages are part of the peripheral areas- hence this framework gives significant impacts for development across Indonesian villages within the construction of Social Definition. Therefore, this phenomenon is examined within the sociological paradigm of Social Definition. According to Weber, it is an echo of any social actions that shape peoples’ knowledge through history, social experiences, structural networks, and regulations [1]. Also, it constructs interpretive understanding (verstehen) as part of personal exploration [2]. Besides, this is also closely related to personality as well as locations, habits, practices, traditions, and social relations [3].

This is in accordance with the social definition of Presidential Vision towards the direction of national development and in line with the social definition of the Head of Executives in any levels in which this study is referred to (the Chief of Bumiaji village, Batu City, Indonesia). The leader’s vision is reflected in the RPJMDES, which literally means the middle terms or a six-year period of village development planning. Subsequently, these RPJMDES outcomes are divided into a yearly village development work-plans, known as RKPDES. The drafting process of the RKPDES is closely related to the dynamic social definition of each team member towards the RPJMDES, higher regulations, development planning schemes, as well as village existing conditions. This process allows the team members to share their understanding and interpretations of the Bumiaji RKPDES document every year to accommodate and transform the development planning programs into public budgeting and program schemes. Therefore, the quality and competence of Bumiaji RKPDES team members will significantly influence the quality of RKPDES documents. However, Bumiaji Village is dealing with the low competence of its RKPDES team in drafting the documents, so the documents only reveal short-term development perspectives and unsustainable, overlapped programs. As a result, the village public budget or APBDES is used ineffectively to finance sustainable village development and even failed to achieve the vision of the village leader. This study aims to...
investigate the social definition of the RKPDES team member in interpreting the regulations and the village existing conditions in order to produce a good quality of RKPDES document.

METHOD

A qualitative methodology was used in this research in order to construct a sociological perspective of the Social Definition of the RKPDES team member during the process of village development planning process in Bumiaji, Batu, Indonesia. This methodology was chosen because there is an intention to develop theory or pattern from constructing the multiple meanings of the individual experiences before making knowledge claims [4]. Denzin and Lincoln (2005) state that qualitative methodology studies natural setting attempts to make sense, and interprets the phenomena. It also means “different things in each of these moments,” although it could offer an initial and generic definition [5]. The research instruments are displayed in the following figure.

There were several sets of theories applied in this study in order to explain the effect of the social definition of the RKPDES drafting team for the Bumiaji village development and planning processes toward the quality of the document. According to Lincoln and Guba (1985), the “patterns theories” interconnect thoughts that are linked to a whole. Also, Neuman (1991) states that “patterns theories” emphasizes the usage of metaphor or analogies that reflect a make sense set of interconnected concepts and relationship [4]. This is analyzed under the social definition paradigm of sociology. As it has been asserted by Friedrich, a paradigm is a subject matter of a discipline with a fundamental perspective [6]. Since Phenomenology is also part of Social Definition Paradigm, the importance of building the experience from participants is inquired within a rich construct and detailed description.

Moreover, a case study approach is also applied in order to examine a Bumiaji Village Development Planning Program that involves activities, processes, and RKPDES team. Several data collection procedures were taken, such as observation, interview, documentary, and bibliography for a particular time (Stake, 1995). Furthermore, in this qualitative study, the researcher positioned himself as unbiased from personal, cultural, historical context, and the existing conditions [4].

RESULT

As this research is based on the sociological analysis of Social Definition paradigm, therefore several related theories namely action theory, symbolic internationalism, and phenomenology are patterned in a make sense analogies and a set of concepts and relationship as follows:

Figure 2 illustrates the drafting process of the RKPDES or yearly village development work plan of Bumiaji-Batu composed by the team member during July-September. The RKPDES is part of detailed RPJMDES which is synchronized with indicative village budget allocation and related planning program and activities of the upper level of governments. This RKPDES was used as the basis of the Bumiaji village budget stipulation. The quality of RKPDES document impacts on the implementation of proper sustainable village development. During the drafting process, the RKPDES team have to interpret the related regulations and existing conditions. Based on the field research, it was revealed that the existing condition of Bumiaji community is a gemeinschaft social group, along with the goodwill level of participation during every formal meeting in the villages. However, the majority of the people had a lack of understanding of the village development planning process. This situation of the village human resources also represents the capacity of the village apparatus and the RKPDES team member in particular.

Regarding the village potential, Bumiaji was very rich in natural resources ranging from agricultural, poultry-livestock farms, agro-tourism, and natural mountain scenery sectors. Unfortunately, the people had limited competence in exploring the potential of the village, primarily to be used as a source of income. Besides, Bumiaji consisted of the middle to lower income-society, and had limited public facilities and poor infrastructures. This existing condition of Bumiaji depicted a low level of the human development index, which impacted on the slow achievement of the village development index. In fact, the central government provided financial support for the village developments. However, it did not automatically advance the quality of the village development planning programs.
Although the drafting process of RKPDES document involved public participatory, deliberative process of public policies, and women participation, the problems remained, especially in the social definition used by the RKPDES team member to interpret the whole process of the village development planning program. The field study confirmed that the team failed to interpret the related regulations, existing conditions, and the process itself. The situation was worsened by the reluctance of the team members to study the process, the absence of assistance from the upper level of government units, as well as short-term perspectives of political interests from the village apparatus and the RKPDES team. As a result, the RKPDES team members failed to set the priority for the village development within the available budget. A standard RKPDES document consists of the evaluation of the last year RKPDES; prioritized programs, activities, budgets managed by the village and third parties; synchronized programs, activities, budgets from the upper levels of government organizations, and the executor team of village development programs [7].

The interpretation of the RKPDES team of the village development planning could be analyzed under the pattern theories of the sociological paradigm of social definition. There are three related theoretical frameworks, such as Action Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, and Phenomenology. These theories focus on humans as the creative actors of their social realities and emphasize human thoughts, although further explanation and social process of enthusiasm are not provided [8]. These theories strongly believe that the actors are the one who influences the structure [9].

Firstly, according to the Action Theory, social action is addressed by personal as a subject. This is also a process where individual action is based on norms, values, ideas, and social values that successfully construct the individual action in social life dimensions [10]. In the context of how the RKPDES team member interpreted their social actions in the village development process, they merely relied on specific values and norms, thus neglected the prioritized programs and led to unsustainable and inefficient village development programs. Secondly, contextualizing the Symbolic Interactionism theory means that each of the RKPDES team members interacted and communicated with one another by learning more on drafting the RKPDES document.

On the one hand, they could preserve old cultural and popular values and paradigm. On the other hand, they could make a change by updating their knowledge for the development of the village. It means that every member of the RKPDES team had his own decision to interpret the best way of drafting and producing a good quality of RKPDES documents. Lastly, the Phenomenology is contextualized as subjective and inter-subjective forms of interactions and social awareness in giving the thoughtful meaning that drafting the RKPDES is not merely as a formal routine process of village development planning, but also as a process of building the entire sustainable social civilisation creating better quality of life for the next generation through village development programs [11]. In this case, each of the RKPDES team members should have been willing to learn and collaborate with others. However, the facts showed the contrary. The Bumiaji RKPDES team neither displayed a sustainable social action nor responded to the need for applying transformative cultural values for the betterment of the village development. This resulted in the poor quality of the RKPDES documents, which further impacted on the inefficient use of village budgets and unsustainable village development.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that the social definition problems of the Bumiaji RKPDES team in drafting proper RKPDES documents are: 1) failed to sustainable action for village development planning despite the member prefer to preserve the popular out-dated customs and values; 2) difficult to understand the need for social changing towards the village development program; 3) difficult to interpret the need of giving the thoughtful meanings of sustainable village development for entire future generations.

**REFERENCES**


