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Kepada
Ibu Dra. Titik Djumiarti, S.Sos., M.Si
Ketua Program Studi DIII Administrasi Perkantoran
Sekolah Vokasi Universitas Diponegoro
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No	Nama	NIP	Posisi
1	Dr. Drs. Mashudi, SE, MM, CIQaR, CIQnR	196010011990031004	Penulis 1
2	Dr. Dra. Luluk Fauziah, M.Si, CIQaR	H.7.196705142018082001	Penulis 2

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Hormat kami

Dr. Dra. Luluk Fauziah, M.Si., CIQaR
H.7.196705142018082001

The improvement of poor people's economic independence through 4D model approach

Mashudi Luluk Fauziah

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Abstract

According to World Bank calculations, Indonesian population category of poor people and vulnerable to becoming poor have the number of 108.78 million people or 49 percent of the total population of Indonesia. Poor people attach to various deficiencies, including lack of access, such as access to resources, technology, markets, and access to financing sources. This group tends to have lower level of economic independence. The improvement of poor people's economic independence can be conducted through an empowerment. Empowerment which does not focus on the character, ability/competence, conditions and basic needs of the poor, is not effective. Empowerment by adopting 4D model approach (Define, Design, Development,

**THE IMPROVEMENT OF POOR PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE
THROUGH 4D MODEL APPROACH**

By: Mashudi, Luluk Fauziah
University of Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo, East Jawa, Indonesia
Email: emashud_bli@yahoo.co.id

Abstract

According to World Bank calculations, Indonesian population category of poor people and vulnerable to becoming poor have the number of 108.78 million people or 49 percent of the total population of Indonesia. Poor people attach to various deficiencies, including lack of access, such as access to resources, technology, markets, and access to financing sources. This group tends to have lower level of economic independence. The improvement of poor people's economic independence can be conducted through an empowerment. Empowerment which does not focus on the character, ability/competence, conditions and basic needs of the poor, is not effective. Empowerment by adopting 4D model approach (Define, Design, Development, and Dissemination) developed by Thiagarajan (1974) provides space for empowerment with regard to the character, ability/competence, conditions and basic needs of the poor.

Keywords: improvement; define; design; development; and dissemination.

1. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Poverty is social issue in life that always attach everywhere at any time from time to time. When Indonesia suffered from a crisis in the late 1997, the number of poor in Indonesia was increasing, with the number nearly 40% of the total population of Indonesia, or precisely 79.4 million people. This condition resembles what happened in the 1970s.

According to World Bank calculations, Indonesian population category of poor people and vulnerable to becoming poor have the number of 108.78 million people or 49 percent of the total population of Indonesia. These circles only live on less than 2 US Dollars or approximately Rp.19.000 per day (Kompas, December 8, 2006). Indonesian population largely dependent on the agricultural sector. Therefore, there is point when the majority of the poor population are farmers. This is in accordance with the opinion of the Yustika Sudjilah, EA (2005) that the agricultural potential in Indonesia is very large, but until nowadays most of the economic actors which are involved in the agricultural sector (re: the farmer) are also included in the poor people.

Indonesian citizen stand in a very large in number, including farming communities and farm workers are experiencing very poor condition. Whenever the rainy season comes, their surroundings are flooded, while in the dry season they experience water shortages. Such conditions complicate their working mechanism. In addition, every harvest season (any harvest), whether the harvest of rice, coffee, tomatoes, peppers, onions, and other commodity prices are always degenerate. Whereas the cost of production is very expensive, whether for the cost of the purchase of seeds, medicines, fertilizers, as well as labor costs.

The farmers think even though the price of agricultural products slumped, but in meeting their daily needs, they still have an additional effort in the form of maintaining beef cattle or dairy cattle. Such extra effort has the same result with their agricultural products, that is, when the time comes to sell the cows, the cattle price is not profitable, because they are unmatched with imported cattle prices. Likewise with dairy cows. Milk produced by dairy farmers that are sold in the market are purchased

with a less encouraging price. It is because there is only one dominant buyers in East Java, namely Milk Company of Nestle. In the presence of a single buyer, it is very possible that Nestle can dominate the market.

With the enforcement of outsourcing law, it allows the termination of employment (*PHK*) systematically. With the enforcement of the law of outsourcing, the company will cut the employment of workers in accordance with the time period stipulated in the working agreement/ contract. Thus, such action will result in unemployment and poverty at the same time.

Since the economic crisis that occurred in the late 1997, a lot of efforts have been made to reduce the number of poor people. However, there are indications that the number of poor people is still very high. The high number of poor people are coming from farmers, farm workers, and factory workers.

The poor people are defenseless and do not have strong bargaining position to perform the control to the policy. These groups tend to be more marginalized that lead to the alienation of the state against the interests of the fulfillment of their basic needs and rights. This group tends to be dependent on the assistance from other parties.

Poor people attach to various deficiencies, including lack of access, such as access to resources, technology, markets, and access to financing sources. Thus, this group tends to have lower level of economic independence.

B. Problems

In accordance with the description of the background of the problem, then the problem statement can be formulated as follows: indication of high number of poverty rate, poor people tend to be more helpless and the lower level of economic independence.

2. DISCUSSION

A. Concept of poverty and powerlessness

The definition of poor people according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2002) is those who are not affluent; suffer from deprivation. Meanwhile Sajogjo (1993) distinguishes three types of poor people, namely, poor, very poor, and the poorest. This classification is based on the income of each person in each year. Poor people are those who earn in the form of rice of 320 kg/ person/year. The amount is considered sufficient to meet the minimum food needs (1900 calories/person/day and 40 g protein/person/year). The category of very poor people earn between 240 kg, 320 kg of rice/person/year, and those who are classified as the poorest have the income ranging between 180 kg 240 kg of rice/ person/year.

The total amount of household expenditures to reach the sufficient level of meal add by other basic needs become "poverty line": breaking down the number of households (and the number of inhabitants) which is under the "line": they are the poor people.

In general, the World Bank classifies people with earnings less than US\$ 370 per year is categorized as poor. This number of poor people is approximately 1.116 millions or 33% of all people in developing countries.

The World Bank defines poverty as the inability of minimum living standards. On that basis, the two kinds of indexes are created based on the level of consumption and minimum living standards. The *first* index is specific poverty in each country. The *second* index globally compares the cross-country. This second index generates high poverty and low poverty line which include the income per capita between US \$ 275.0 - US \$ 370.0.

In the case of Indonesia, World Bank seems to follow the poverty line measurement made by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), which is the minimum food requirement of 2.100 calories per person per day, in addition to the minimum needs for shelter, clothing, health, and education. Many of the criticisms that can be leveled on the measures above. In addition to the revenue side, clothing, housing, health, etc., there are also other dimensions of poverty, such as limited access to public services and lack of political and social status. There are other indicators, such as infant mortality, life expectancy, the percentage of school children, literacy, and so on.

In the level of scale, poverty according to some experts' perception as a form of life that is under the standard or the level of welfare is still very poor. According Sajogjo (1987), poverty is a level of life that is under the minimum standard of living needs are determined based on the basic needs of food that makes people quite work and live a healthy life based on the needs of rice and nutritional needs. More concretely views on poverty due to situational problems. It is described by Mubyarto (1998: 4) that poverty is a situation of deprivation of the population that materialized in the form of low earnings and caused by low skills, productivity, income, weak exchange rate of production, and limited opportunities to participate in development. The low income leads to low productivity of poor people and increase the dependency load for society.

Although the notion of poverty is highly diverse, economic experts classify the indicator of the poverty into two kinds. *First*, absolute poverty, as a state of absolute income level of a person that is not sufficient to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, health, and education. This indicator is associated with limitations on basic needs or minimum basic requirement that allows one to live decently. A person's income is below minimum requirements can be said to be poor. Second, relative poverty, which is related to the measure of inequality of income distribution. In relative poverty, someone who has been able to meet the minimum needs are not necessarily called non-poor. If a person or family income is lower than surrounding communities, people/families are categorized as poor. In other words, poverty is determined by the circumstances surrounding of individual's residence (Arsyad, 1997: 70).

Poverty can be seen from various dimensions. Institute (as cited in Suharto et al., 2004: 7-8) states the following dimensions: 1) inability to meet basic consumption needs (food, clothing and shelter), 2) lack of access to other basic necessities of life (health, education, sanitation, clean ditch, and transportation), 3) the absence of future guaranty (because of the lack of investment in education and family), 4) vulnerability to shocks that individual or mass, 5) low quality of human resources and lack of natural resources, 6) exclusion from social activities, 7) lack of access to sustainable employment, 8) inability and social disadvantage (neglected children, women suffer from domestic violence, poor widows, remote and marginalized groups, and 9) inability to strive for physical or mental disability.

According Nawawi Ismail (2009) there are several groups in the community that can be categorized as powerless groups: 1) the group who is structurally weak, both in class, gender, or ethnicity; 2) the group with specific vulnerability, such as seniors,

children and adolescents, persons with disabilities, gay and lesbian, isolated communities; and 3) the group of personally vulnerable, those who are experiencing personal and/or family problem. Furthermore, Nawawi Ismail (2009) reveals that groups within a particular community who experience discrimination, such as low socio-economic class people, ethnic minorities, women, the elderly population, and people with disabilities, are the ones who experience helplessness.

B. Empowerment of poor people

Empowerment, according Huraerah, A (2008) is derived from the English of "empowerment", which literally can be translated as *pemberkuasaan*, with definition of the provision or improvement of "power" to the people who are weak or disadvantaged. Soetarso (2002) explains that community empowerment has two meanings intrinsically interrelated, namely 1) an increase in the ability, motivation and role of all elements of society in order to become a source of lasting to support all forms of social welfare; and 2) the use of public resources that have improved the ability, motivation and role. Furthermore, Soetarso (2002) reveals that the increase in ability, motivation, and the role of the community are with regard to: 1) understanding the environment; 2) the provision of information; 3) dramatization of the problem; 4) support raising; 5) momentum development; 6) provision of land dedication; and 7) training and development.

According to Michael Lipton (in Adelma, 1994), poverty eradication and alternative solutions consist of three points: (a) labor intensive growth (policy instruments, deregulation, infrastructure development, etc); (B) human capital formation (education, training, etc.); and (c) social safety net (health, labor warranty, etc.).

From the description above, it appears that the government's role is crucial, especially in defining who is given the rights to have the resources and through what mechanisms these resources are distributed. This implies that poverty reduction programs should be based on long-term national commitment which is needed to maintain the sustainability of poverty reduction programs. An integrated approach ranging from problem identification, program targeting, planning, evaluation and supervision are necessary for all construction-related sectors. The prevention program should also involve active participation of society and the private sector.

From the explanation above, it can be stated that poverty eradication strategies should consider the following matters:

- 1) Human Resource Development has a strategic position in poverty reduction which are supported by the development and use of technology to improve labor productivity.
- 2) Poverty alleviation can not be handed over to the market mechanism. Therefore, the government, private, and non-formal institutions are indispensable.
- 3) Strategies to eradicate poverty must comply with economic growth since implementation is always associated with the types of specific economic growth.
- 4) Efforts to eradicate poverty requires the implementation of double-sided programs which fit together and reinforce each other. The most effective way includes a combination of several elements of policies which focus on the property that is supported by agencies to facilitate the poor people to reach the employment; investments that increase productivity of the poor and belongings that they can

sell; and strategies that lead to the rapid increase in the demand for unskilled labor.

- 5) To achieve this, each of the elements described above need to be adjusted to the initial conditions, resource base, the distribution scale of property, institutional structures, and socio-political patterns.
- 6) Selection of poverty eradication program package is essentially political. Important terms in the choice of objectives and efforts competing is about the dimension of time.
- 7) The order of political interference include policies fixing property and institutional changes are given to the poor in an attempt to reach high-productivity jobs.

Empowerment process contains two tendencies. *First*, empowerment as a form of primary tendency, empowerment emphasizes more on the process as a grant or transfer of power, strength, or the ability of the community to individuals more empowered. Second, the empowerment as a secondary tendency which emphasizes more on the process of stimulating, encouraging or motivating individuals to have the ability or the empowerment to determine what became of his choice through a process of dialogue (Perse & Stiefel in Pranaka, 1996: 24).

Community empowerment should be done in three ways, namely: (1) creating an atmosphere that enables development of community potential; (2) strengthening potential of power or the public by implementing concrete measures, accommodates various inputs, providing the means and the physical and social infrastructure that is accessible to the bottom layers of society; (3) protecting and defending the interests of the powerless community (Kartasasmita, 1995).

Adimihardja, Kusnaka (2003) states the rationale of participation are programs, projects, or community development activities that come from "above" or from "outside" the community that often fails and does not correspond to the needs of local communities. Therefore, reorientation towards community development strategies appear to be promoting community participation and empowerment as a strategy in the development of society.

Community indeed has a lot of potential in the natural resources, as well as from social and cultural resources. Society has the "power" that will be great energy for poverty alleviation. The way to explore and utilize the resources that exist in the community is the essence of community empowerment. The important point in empowering the community is how to make the communities of the development actors active and not becoming passive recipients. The community which has better understanding about the needs and the problems should be empowered so that they are able to recognize their needs.

C. 4DModel

4D Model (Define, Design, Development, and Dissemination) developed by Thiagarajan (1974), is often used in the development of teaching materials, such as modules, *LKS* (Student Worksheet), and textbooks. In this paper the author adopts the 4D model in the model development context of empowerment of the poor people, figure 1.

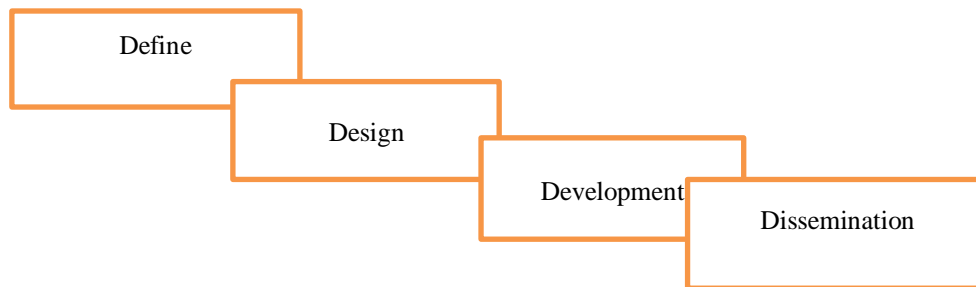


Figure 1. The Concep 4D Model

Activities undertaken through 4D model are as follows:

1) Define

Activity at this stage has the focus to establish and define the terms of development. This stage is often called requirements analysis phase. Needs analysis can be done through literature studies or preliminary research. The steps in developing the model of empowerment of the poor people, namely, identifying the character, ability/competence, background experience, resources, and basic needs of the poor.

2) Design

In the design phase, the initial draft (*prototype*) is compiled which consists steps that will be done rationally and strategically or empowerment model of the poor people. At this stage, the trial test of initial model or design (prototype) empowerment of the poor is conducted and also stimulates prototype model of empowerment of the poor in a small scope.

3) Develop

In this stage Thiagarajan splits into two activities: *Expert appraisal* and *Developmental testing*. Expert appraisal, or in other words the implementation of feasibility assessment/ validation of the product/model design of empowerment of the poor by colleagues/ lecturers or by an expert/ specialist. While in the Developmental testing, or the implementation of design product on the real target, namely the poor people. In this activity, the data about the response, reactions, and comments from users target models are obtained. The trial results are used to improve the product quality. Once the product is repaired, then it continues to obtain effective results.

4) Disseminate

Thiagarajan divides this stage into three activities: *validating testing*, *packaging*, *diffusion* and *adaption*. Validating testing, focuses on the products that have been revised during the development stage and then it is implemented on the real target (poor people). The achievement measurement of the objectives is employed at this stage. Measurements are done to determine the effectiveness of the developed products. The purpose of the step needs to be achieved to find a solution so that the same mistakes will not be repeated after the product is distributed.

Packaging, diffusion and adoption. This phase is carried out so that the product can be used by wider audience. Packaging model of empowerment of the poor can be done by printing empowerment guidebooks for the poor people. Once a book is printed, the book is distributed so that it can be absorbed (diffusion) or understood others and used (adoption).

Disseminating models of empowerment of the poor. Socialization guide of the poor empowerment model is done through distribution in limited quantities. This distribution is intended to obtain the target user response. If the target user response is positive, then the printing in large numbers is employed, as well as the marketing so that the guidebooks can be used by wider target.

3. CONCLUSION

The poverty rate is still high, as well as poor people tend to be more helpless and has the lower level of economic independence. Community development activities that come from "above" or from "outside" the community often fail since they do not correspond to the needs of local communities. Therefore it is necessary to reorientation towards community development strategy that emphasizes community participation and empowerment.

Community indeed has a lot of potential in the natural resources, as well as from social and cultural resources. Society has the "power" that will be great energy for poverty alleviation. The way to explore and utilize the resources that exist in the community is the essence of community empowerment. The important point in empowering the community is how to make the communities of the development actors active and not becoming passive recipients. The community which has better understanding about the needs and the problems should be empowered so that they are able to recognize their needs.

By adopting 4D model, the empowerment of the poor provides an opportunity to pass up extracting resources, understanding the needs and problems, as well as channeling the potential to become great resource for poverty alleviation.

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