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Community Participation in the Development Plan of Mande Village, Mande District, Cianjur Regency

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze community participation in the Village Development Planning Conference (Musrenbangdes) in Mande Village, Mande District, Cianjur Regency. The research uses qualitative methods with data collection techniques in the form of observation, interviews, and documentation, as well as data analysis of the Miles and Huberman interactive model. The results of the study show that community participation in Musrenbangdes includes four dimensions: decision-making, planning, utilization of results, and evaluation. Despite the active involvement of the community in the decision-making process through hamlet-level deliberations (Musdus) and supervision by the Village Consultative Body (BPD), the level of community attendance and contribution in providing input is still low, with an average attendance of only 19% of the number of invitees. The main challenges include budget limitations, lack of public awareness, and the perception that Musrenbang is only a formality. Nevertheless, several priority programs, such as the construction of the Sports Building (GOR), road repairs, and the construction of drilled wells, have had a positive impact on the quality of life and the economy of the community. This study emphasizes the importance of intensive socialization, budget transparency, and an inclusive approach to increase community participation in village development. In conclusion, Musrenbangdes in Mande Village is able to encourage sustainable development, but it needs improvements in terms of participation and resource management to achieve more optimal results.

Keywords: Community Participation, Village Development, Musrenbangdes.

Introduction

Development is a series of growth and change efforts that are consciously planned by a nation (Riristuningsia et al., 2017). These changes are made in continuity towards a better state. By utilizing the potential of nature, humans and socio-culture. Natural potential must be explored, developed and utilized, while human potential needs to be improved in knowledge, including knowledge about development. The same is the case with village development, which is a process of change and renewal that takes place in the village and is carried out in a planned, gradual manner with the aim of increasing the dignity and dignity of the village community so that they can live a decent and prosperous life (Damayanti & Syarifudin, 2020).



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Village development aims to improve the quality of human resources, including the creation of a climate that encourages the growth of ideas and village community self-help (De Nisa, 2024). Because the village community is a potential human resource that has a dual role, namely as an object of development and at the same time as a subject of development. It is said to be an object of development, because some residents in the village from the aspect of quality still need to be empowered (Nasution et al., 2021). On the contrary, as the subject of development, the rural population plays a very important role as an actor in the process of village development and national development (Cristian, 2015).

The government is aware of the importance of village development, where various forms and programs to encourage the acceleration of rural development have been carried out by the government, but the results are still not significant in improving the quality of life and welfare of the community (Dayadi et al., 2024). As well as development in Mande village, Mande district, Cianjur regency. Therefore, village development must be carried out in a well-planned manner and must touch the needs of the village community. So that development carried out in village areas can be integrated with the community, sustainable village development must be well planned based on the results of a comprehensive analysis or study of all existing potentials (Kusmayadi et al., 2024). Therefore, to achieve an optimal village development process, an action is needed to carry it out, namely by conducting village development plan deliberations or musrenbangdes. Musrenbang is one of the most important parts for development (Mustanir et al., 2022). The general review of musrenbang becomes more meaningful because it is the main medium for public consultation, for actors who have an interest in aligning the main goals of development and village development goals (Mustanir & Lubis, 2017).

Musrenbang is a place where people can express their aspirations in the development process that will be carried out (Alwiah, 2023). This includes what the government should do and vice versa what the community must do in development. In line with Mustanir's opinion (2017), Musrenbang is a planning mechanism, a planning institution in the region and as a mechanism to bring together the proposals/needs of the community (bottom up planning) with what will be in the government program (top down planning). Musrenbang is also an educational forum for residents to be an active part of governance and government development, starting from the stages of the implementation determination process (Fitriyah, 2022). The community also thinks about how to finance and implement the results of the Musrenbang (Basri, 2022). This usually happens when the government sits together with the community to talk about the village development process.

Musrenbangdes is an annual forum organized by the village government, as is the case in Mande Village, Mande District, Cianjur Regency. In the process of designing various development agendas for the next one year. The proposed agenda refers to the village and district RPJM, but in reality in the field often the implementation of Musrenbangdes does not receive good enthusiasm from the community. Therefore, the most important thing to achieve the results of the deliberations of the Development plan, one of which is the contribution of community participation Planning with a participatory approach is a strategy and process for determining



public decisions, this is highly dependent on public awareness to be willing to involve themselves in participating.

Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 5 of 2007 states that participation is the active participation and involvement of the community in the development planning process. Development planning deliberation (Musrenbang) is a forum between actors in order to prepare national and regional development plans, as regulated in Law Number 25 of 2004 concerning the National Development Planning System. Musrenbang at the national level is regulated by the Minister of National Development Planning/Bappenas, while at the regional level by the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda).

The success of a program does not only depend on the government's ability, but also on the community's operation in carrying out the results of the village Musrenbang (Parthasaraty et al., 2019). In line with Ndraha's opinion in Huraerah, (2011), the implementation of community participation in Musrenbang is very necessary at every stage, starting from planning, implementation, utilization, to evaluation. (Adolph, 2016). However, the reality that occurs in the field is often contrary to the government's expectations, as well as in Mande village where some of the residents do not participate in the implementation of deliberation activities, this is a problem that needs to be considered, because it will affect the decision-making of the village government planning work program. As we know, the important role of the presence of the community is one of the determining directions of development in accordance with what is expected by the community itself.

From the village and sub-district profiles in 2022, Mande Village, which is located in Mande District, Cianjur Regency, is one of 354 villages and 6 sub-districts spread across 32 sub-districts. Mande Village has a total population of 4731 people, with 1,397 heads of families (KK). The number of male population reaches 2511 people, while the number of female population is 2,220 people. This village is led by the Village Head who has served two periods, namely the 2014-2019 period and the 2020-2026 period. This village is divided into 4 hamlets led by 4 RWs and 18 RTs.

Based on the results of observations made by the researcher, a number of problems related to the implementation of musrenbang in Mande Village, Mande District, Cianjur Regency are as follows. First, the level of community attendance in the musrenbang is less significant than the initial data taken in 2019 from the number of invitations given by the head of Mande Village, Mande District, Cianjur Regency, as many as 160 invitations and only 15 people attended and received an attendance percentage of 9%, the level of community participation every year has gone up and down and decreased again in 2023 with the presence of 28 people and the percentage only reached 18%, of the total number of invitations. Second, the enthusiasm of residents in the musrenbang to provide input, opinions and suggestions is still minimal, from the average number of people present only 2-3 people who are willing to speak and express their opinions, even only relatively the same people always provide input.

From these two problem phenomena, it can be seen that community participation in musrenbang is as follows. As has been obtained from Musrenbang attendance data from 2019 to



2023, the average public attendance is 19% of the total number of invitations distributed. As strengthened by the opinion of the secretary of Mande District, Mande District, Cianjur Regency.

Table 1. Community Participation Rate in Musrenbang Recording Minutes of the preparation of the RKP of Mande village through Musdes

Year	Invitation	Attendance Figures	Percentage
2019	160	15	9%
2020	160	36	23%
2021	160	32	20%
2022	160	46	29%
2023	160	28	18%
Total Attendance		157	19%

Source: Researcher 2023

According to the Village Secretary, the community is reluctant to attend the Village Development Plan Deliberation because they think that the activity is only a formality. This causes a lack of participation and the public is reluctant to express their opinions. As a result, the community is not serious in every village development plan and tends to only wait for the decision on the results of the musrenbang. In fact, musrenbang is an official event and a forum for the village government and the community to decide on village development priorities. Thus, a harmonious relationship between the village government and the community can be established, so that inequality does not occur, and cooperation to succeed in village development can be realized. With the phenomenon of problems that have been described above, the purpose of this study is to find out and explain community participation in the development plan of Mande Village, Mande District, Cianjur Regency.

Method

This research uses a qualitative research method, which is a problem-solving process by describing the research object clearly and in more detail based on existing facts and analyzing it in order to draw conclusions (Sugiyono, 2019). The information collection methods used in this study are observation, interviews, and documentation (Moleong, 2017). In testing the credibility of the data, the researcher uses the triangulation method. The data analysis applied in this study is using an interactive model data analysis approach. Miles & Huberman (2018) It was stated that the interactive model data analysis technique involves four stages, namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

Program Musrenbangdes Mande

Musrenbangdes is a participatory forum designed to gather people's aspirations and compile development priorities in a "bottom-up" manner. With the active involvement of the community, village leaders, and other stakeholders, Musrenbangdes is a means for residents to



learn to identify development needs, propose action plans, and participate in supervision and evaluation. The main goal is to ensure that the development planning reflects the real needs in each area, especially in Mande Village.

The Musrenbangdes process emphasizes deliberations that consider the scale of priorities, alignment, and sustainability of development. The resulting proposals are then prepared to be integrated into the sub-district and district levels, until they become part of the regional development plan. In addition, this forum also maintains the values of mutual cooperation as an integral part of community culture in supporting sustainable development.

This study uses the participation theory of Cohen and Uphoff (1979) to analyze the effectiveness of Musrenbangdes in Mande Village. Evaluation is carried out through four dimensions: decision-making, implementation, supervision, and utilization of development results. This approach is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the active role of the community in accelerating village development, especially for vulnerable groups who are often less accommodated.

Participation in Musrenbangdes Decision-Making in Mande Village

Community participation in Musrenbangdes in Mande Village is the main component to ensure that the development program meets the needs of the community. The informant stated that this forum functions to unite the aspirations of the community through inclusive discussions, where they can propose development needs. The Village Consultative Body (BPD) plays a strategic role as a supervisor and liaison, ensuring that decisions taken reflect the interests of the community and are monitored transparently.

The decision-making process begins with hamlet-level deliberations (Musdus), where community aspirations are collected through surveys and discussions. The proposal is then summarized and brought to the village level to be prioritized in the Musrenbangdes. BPD and village officials ensure the representation of community groups, such as farmer groups, youth, PKK women, and religious leaders, so that all elements of society have the opportunity to express their aspirations directly.

Although community participation has been good enough, challenges still arise related to budget limitations and resource distribution. Intensive socialization through various media and periodic monitoring is considered important to maintain the sustainability of the program. This participatory approach not only ensures the success of planning but also increases the community's sense of ownership of the development outcomes.

Participation in Planning

The Mande Village Musrenbang emphasizes community participation in formulating village development priorities to ensure that the plan prepared reflects the needs of the community comprehensively. Based on Cohen and Uphoff's theory, community participation involves discussing needs, determining priority scales, and preparing program plans. The biggest challenge in this process is coordinating the views of diverse community groups to reach a



common agreement, especially through the active involvement of RT representatives, community leaders, women's groups, youth, and vulnerable groups.

BPD has an important role in evaluating proposals submitted by the community to ensure conformity with real needs. This evaluation is carried out through direct review and open deliberation to ensure transparency. In addition, community involvement in the planning process creates a sense of ownership of development outcomes. The community is satisfied because their opinions are valued and considered in every stage of planning.

Despite the positive results, coordination challenges and resource constraints still require more attention. Transparency and openness in Musrenbang are very important to build public trust. By involving the community comprehensively and strengthening the supervisory role of BPD, Musrenbang Mande Village can produce a more responsive, inclusive, and sustainable development plan.

Participation in Taking Benefits

The implementation of Musrenbangdes in Mande Village emphasizes community involvement in conveying development aspirations, even though the level of attendance is uneven. Several residents actively submitted proposals, such as improving road infrastructure and sanitation. However, some still feel that they do not understand the Musrenbang process. Therefore, it is necessary to increase socialization so that more people are actively involved in village development planning.

The management of Musrenbangdes results is carried out in a structured manner through reports that include priority needs, funding plans, and event minutes. Collaboration between the village government and BPD is the key to ensuring transparency and effectiveness in the implementation of the program. The Hamlet Deliberation Process (Musdus) is also an important step to capture the specific needs of each region before it is proposed at the village level Musrenbangdes.

Although most development projects, such as road infrastructure and clean water management, have met the needs of the community, budget constraints are still a major obstacle. To overcome this, better coordination is needed between BPD, village governments, and the community. Socialization and technical assistance are also important to increase public understanding of the importance of participation, so that village development can be more equitable and sustainable.

Evaluation Participation

Participation in the evaluation of the implementation of the results of the Musrenbangdes in Mande Village highlights the importance of supervision, transparency, and community involvement. The results of the evaluation show that Musrenbangdes programs, such as infrastructure development and basic services, have been implemented well and on target. Communities play an important role in directing village resources to meet their needs, which reflects the effectiveness of direct participation in ensuring the success of the program.



However, administrative constraints are a challenge in the Musrenbangdes process. The informant highlighted problems such as tiered bureaucracy, limited time to collect proposals, and lack of efficiency in data archiving. Simplification of administrative procedures and increasing the technical capacity of village apparatus are needed to overcome these obstacles, so that community proposals can be followed up optimally. In addition, supervision by the BPD provides important social control to maintain transparency and accountability in the implementation of the program.

Improving communication and transparency in the use of village funds is also an important focus in the evaluation. The informant noted that the open report on budget allocation and realization has increased public trust in the village government. This approach allows the community to be more involved in overseeing and supporting the success of village development programs, ultimately strengthening the sustainability of development oriented to the real needs of the community.

Evaluation of Products and Results in the Mande Village Musrenbang

The results of the Musrenbang evaluation in Mande Village show that priority programs, such as the construction of the Sports Building (GOR), road casting, environmental road repair, and the construction of drilled wells, are in accordance with the needs of the community. This program has a positive impact on the quality of life, accessibility, and economic development of the village. Infrastructure development, such as roads and borewells, supports community mobility, distribution of agricultural products, and access to clean water that is vital for daily needs and other productive activities. However, challenges still exist in the maintenance of the facilities that have been built and the gap in their utilization. Lack of community participation in maintaining infrastructure can reduce the useful life of these facilities. A more inclusive strategy is needed so that the benefits of development are felt equally by all levels of society. The village government is expected to increase supervision and education to residents about the importance of maintaining shared facilities.

In the future, Musrenbang planning needs to integrate sustainability principles, such as considering environmental impacts and future community needs. Education, transparency in budget allocation, and synergy between village governments and communities will be the key to the success of sustainable village development. With a combination of strict supervision and active community involvement, Mande Village can continue to grow and face challenges in the future.

Conclusion

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers in the field by collecting data to discuss the Evaluation of the Musrenbang Program based on Cohen and Uphoff's theory, the following conclusions can be drawn: 1) Participation in Musrenbang Decision Making in Mande Village: Musrenbangdes in Mande Village is a participatory process that actively involves the community in development planning. Starting from the Hamlet Deliberation (Musdus), this



process ensures the representation of various community groups and is guided by village officials as facilitators. The Village Consultative Body (BPD) plays a role in absorbing aspirations, overseeing deliberations, and supervising implementation. Extensive socialization and periodic monitoring ensure development according to the needs of the community, although budget constraints remain a challenge. Musrenbangdes reflects a commitment to village development that is transparent, accountable, and oriented to the needs of residents. 2) Participation in Planning: An evaluation of the inputs in the Mande Village Musrenbang shows that the success of development planning is highly dependent on the active participation of the community, the transparency of the process, and the involvement of all groups, including community leaders, women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Mutual agreement is a major challenge, but an inclusive approach ensures every aspiration is taken into account. The role of BPD in supervising and evaluating proposals is also key to ensuring that the development plan is in accordance with the needs of the community. With this approach, the Musrenbang of Mande Village is able to produce a development plan that is responsive, fair, and supported by the community. 3) Participation in Taking Benefits: The evaluation of participation in the Mande Village Musrenbangdes shows that the community has begun to be actively involved through the Hamlet Deliberation (Musdus) which is effective in capturing aspirations. This process is supported by good coordination between the village government and BPD, which ensures that the management of the proposal runs transparently and in a targeted manner. Although most of the development is according to the needs of the community, budget limitations are still an obstacle. Increased socialization and technical assistance are needed to encourage wider participation and ensure more optimal development according to the aspirations of residents. 4) Evaluation Participation: Musrenbangdes in Mande Village shows success in increasing active community participation, which allows the village development program to be more targeted according to local needs. This process is also supported by intensive supervision from the BPD which ensures that the implementation of the program runs according to plan and budget. In addition, the village government seeks to create an inclusive communication space to accommodate the aspirations of the community and implement transparency in the use of development funds through open reports. With this approach, Musrenbangdes in Mande Village has succeeded in encouraging accountability, strengthening community trust, and creating sustainable village development that is oriented to the real needs of the community.

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