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Study of Perception and Participation of Community Recipients of Community Empowerment Program Assistance in National Park Forest Management: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

The management of forest areas in Indonesia faces various challenges and pressures, several factors triggering the high pressure on these forest areas, including population growth that continues to increase, limited land for cultivation, lack of awareness of the people living around the area and low welfare of the people around the area. The existence of the community around the forest area and the high dependence of the community on it is the starting point of the problem causing social conflict due to different interests between the people who live next to the forest area and the interests of managing the forest itself. The Integrited Conservation Development Project (ICDP) program is one of the programs that aims to resolve prolonged conflicts between communities around the area and area managers, which prioritizes the principles of agreement, equality and mutual benefit by prioritizing the principles of mutual trust, mutual respect. respect) and mutual benefit, Wardodjo W (2020).

Keywords: perception, community participation, empowerment program, forest management.

1. Introduction

The management and development of conservation forest areas, one of which is the Kerinci Seblat National Park (TNKS), continues to face pressures and challenges, one of which is due to the existence and interests of the people living around the area. Communities living around forest areas are an integral part of the area management system, so that community development efforts are continuously being made so that they can play an active role in any conservation efforts as well as trying to improve people's welfare and the quality of human life.

It is realized that it is very important for the community to be involved in a conservation area management system in accordance with the mandate of Law No.5/1990 and Law No.41/1999, where the community and the government have the same obligations and responsibilities in preserving the forest. forests can also occur as a result of other problems in the form of social conflicts that occur in connection with the recognition of the rights (property rights) of people who live around the forest to use or manage forests (Colchester and Fay, 2007; Kartodihardjo, 2007).

Based on the facts, the dominant disturbance or threat to the TNKS forest area is the result of illegal logging activities and encroachment or illegal cultivation. There are several main factors that cause this to happen, including: (1) from the side of the government or

management that is still not optimal with various kinds of deficiencies, (2) from the side of the community itself who do not have the level of awareness of the benefits and importance of preserving conservation areas (3) increasing population growth and the need for cultivated land. It is realized that the dependence of the community around the forest is very high, this is one of the main challenges in conserving the TNKS forest area besides the limited land for cultivation due to uncontrolled population growth.

2. Literature Review

Community development around conservation and management areas is something that cannot be separated. Direct or indirect interaction between village communities around forest areas has been going on for a long time, when the intended interaction is an action that can damage it, it will become a threat to the sustainability of the forest itself. Based on data from the TNKS Center for 2020, there are 342 villages directly adjacent to the National Park area and around 616,865 residents. Community pressure on buffer zones to enter forest areas is the impact of several factors, including the importance of livelihoods, low education levels, population growth and land ownership (Sawitri, 2013 in Hamdan, et al 2017)

Community characteristics are very closely related to people's perceptions or understanding of government programs in community empowerment (Zainuddin M, 2014). Slamet (2003) added in Kamahi, M.Z (2021) that community characteristics are closely related to participation in a development program. Hamdan, at. al. (2017) the age of people living in forest buffer areas affects the level of concern and acceptance of new things, where the older the age, the less concern and acceptance of new things. Differences in education levels and lack of socialization greatly affect people's perceptions of the forest area in Wahyuni (2012) in Hamdan, at.al (2017). The work of people who live in forest buffer zones influences awareness of the importance of forests. People who have jobs in agriculture have a higher awareness of forests because they feel forests are a source of water for agriculture. Meanwhile, far and close to where people live from the area is not a determinant of the level of dependence on the forest, but rather is determined by other agricultural activities and the influence of community leaders who care about the forest (Hamdan, at al. 2017). According to Yetty S, at al (2019) community characteristics, especially education and income levels, greatly influence community perceptions and participation in forest management.

Zainuddin M (2014) that the level of perception of the community receiving government program assistance in forest management is very good, this shows that the assistance provided benefits the community. According to Wulandari (2010) in Suhesti E and Hadinoto (2019) perception is the process of a person's awareness of an object that is stimulated through the five senses. Setiastri, C.T, at.al (2019) good community perceptions in supporting government programs are determined by the character of the community itself, including education level, livelihoods, and middle to upper economic status. Meanwhile, according to Ngakan (2006) in Hamdan, at.al (2017) that the level of community perception of forest resources is divided into three levels, where 1) perception is high, if they understand well that their lives depend on forest biological resources and want these resources continue to be managed sustainably, 2) medium perception, if they realize their life depends on forest biological resources but do not understand if these forest resources need to be managed sustainably so that benefits can be obtained

sustainably, 3) low perception, if the respondent's answer fall into the category of not realizing that they depend for life on forest biological resources, or there are other interests that tend to make them think that there is no need to preserve forests. Community perceptions based on characteristics according to age, education, occupation and income levels show that most people already know the functions and benefits of forest areas so they have an attitude of supporting sustainable management (Yetty S at.al .2019)

Some research results show differences related to the relationship between perceptions and community participation in forest management (Hudiyani I, at.al 2017) in Suhesti and Hadiono (2019), Purnomo at.al (2017) in Suhesti and Hadiono (2019) found no relationship between perceptions and community participation in forest management in KPH Sarolangun. Likewise, Tesfaye's research (2017) in Suhesti and Hadiono (2019) which shows that the good perception of the Ethiopian community towards forest management is not followed by good participation either. However, according to research by Ayunita and Hapsari (2012) and Hehanussa (2013) in Suhesti and Hadiono (2019) it was found that there is a relationship between community perception and participation in the management of conservation forest areas. According to Dafis Krech (1976) in Zainuddin M (2014) that perception depends on the individual's expectations of the object, if the object will bring positive things then people's perceptions tend to accept the object and provide full support.

According to Zainuddin M (2014) The participation of beneficiary communities in preserving the TNKS forest based on the rank spearmen correlation test shows that the relationship between community characteristics and the HKD fund management work group has a correlation value of 0.90, where the calculated rs value is compared to the rs table showing that rs count > rs table, then H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted, which means there is a participation relationship between the two respondents. Then the relationship between public perception of the benefits of HKD funds has a correlation value of 0.80, the calculated rs value compared to rs table shows that rs count > rs table, then H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted, this illustrates that there is a relationship between the two variables and when interpreted with the interpretation table of the Correlation Coefficient of the de Vaus version shows that the two variables have a very strong relationship. Meanwhile, according to Setiastri CT, *at.al.* (2019) that the level of participation or behavior of the community around the mangrove forest is of poor value, resulting in a decrease in the diversity of mangrove species and disturbance of the mangrove forest. Community participation in forest conservation efforts will be constrained if inhibiting factors such as low education levels, unsupportive infrastructure and low community income Budi Yanto, EW (2013).

3. Research Method

This research is a systematic review (Systematic Review, using the PRISMA method (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses) which is carried out systematically by following the correct research steps or protocols. The procedure of this systematic review consists of several steps, namely 1) compiling Background and Purpose, 2) Research Question, 3) Searching for the literature 4) Selection Criteria 5) Practical Screen 6) Quality Checklist and Procedures 6) Data Extraction Strategy, 7) Data Synthesis Strategy. This research was conducted in May 2023. A search for research articles that were relevant to the topic of this research was carried out using the keywords:

prevention, control, management of leptospirosis leptospirosis health education, interventions on knowledge of leptospirosis, methods of teaching leptospirosis, control of leptospirosis, prevention of leptospirosis, intervention of leptospirosis, knowledge intervention for leptospirosis, health education for leptospirosis obtained from Google Schoolar, PubMed, Researchgate and gray literature. The population in the study were all articles published in national and international journals and gray literature which had topics on Perception and Participation. communities in empowerment programs in forest management.

4. Findings and Discussions

Community Characteristics. Based on the article search that has been carried out, there are 3 articles which state that community characteristics influence the management of forest areas. As the analysis carried out shows that the characteristics of community education affect the level of perception and participation in forest management, it is assumed that higher education will have better insight and mindset in perceiving forest areas, (Hamdan, at.al 2017). Meanwhile, according to Yetty S, at. al (2019) that the characteristics of a person's educational level are a reference for seeing the level of mastery of science and its application in life behavior. The low level of education and limited access to information will affect the level of participation. According to Irawan A, at al (2017) the socio-economic characteristics of the community are key factors in implementing forest management programs. The social characteristics of the community must be considered in managing community-based forest areas because they influence one's perceptions and behavior. Mamuko, at al (2016) in Irawan (2017) that the education factor which is one of the socio-economic factors influences perceptions and participation in forests and rehabilitation programs and forests. Based on the foregoing, the characteristics of the level of community education are one of the most influential factors in determining the level of community perception and participation in the implementation of government programs related to forest area management.

Community Perception. Perception is generally interpreted as a way of viewing society or a person towards an object, both physical and social objects. According to Pahlevi (2007) in Salim Mando LOA, at.al (2020) perception is a process for making judgments or building impressions about various kinds of things that are in one's sensory field. Based on the search for articles that have been carried out, there are 9 articles which state that people's perceptions of forest management are largely determined by the characteristics of the people themselves. According to Damanik RN, at.al (2013) that people's perceptions are good when they understand well that they depend on forest biological resources and want these resources to be managed sustainably. Meanwhile according to Samosir, YNO at. al (2014) that people's perceptions are high because they are aware that their lives depend on the forest, so forest resources need to be maintained and their potential increased and managed sustainably. Meanwhile, according to Hamdan, at.al (2017) that the level of community perception is different and is greatly influenced by the characteristics of the community itself such as age, education, occupation, distance between residence and area, length of stay and involvement in the program being carried out. Irawan A, at.al (2017) community perceptions and behavior towards forests are largely determined by the social characteristics of the community. Good perceptions of government programs do not have a significant influence on people's behavior towards

forests, however, people's behavior towards forests is largely determined by social characteristics in the form of education, income from outside the forest area and interactions with forests. Karimah and Rahayu (2018) conveyed a different matter, community perceptions have a significant influence on forest management, but efforts must be made to change the community's mindset towards forests and involvement in exploiting the potential of forest resources such as tourism activities.

According to Setiastri, *at.al* (2019) a good level of community perception of the forest is supported by the characteristics of the community itself, including education level, livelihoods, and middle to upper economic status. Suhesti E and Hadinoto (2019) community perceptions of the Forest Farmers Group (KTH) have a good perception of the agroforestry program allegedly related to a fairly good educational background. Likewise, according to Yetty S, at.al (2019) that community perceptions of support and concern for sustainable forest management are determined by characteristics according to age, education, employment and income. Added Salim Mando, LOA,. *at.al* (2020) that community perceptions of forest management through reforestation activities based on age characteristics, education and type of income have a significant relationship.

Based on the opinions and results of the researchers above, the characteristics of the community or respondents, especially the level of education, have a very important role in determining the level of public perception of the forest area management program.

Society participation. According to Sumaryadi, I (2010) Participation is the participation of a person or group of people in the development process both in the form of statements and in the form of activities by providing input of thoughts, energy, time, expertise, capital/materials and taking part in utilizing and enjoying the results of development. Zainuddin, M (2014) that there is a close relationship between community/group characteristics and perceptions of participation in forest area management. Based on a search of 10 articles related to participation, that there is a relationship between community characteristics and perceptions of empowerment programs in managing forest areas. According to Budi Yanto (2013) community participation in forest conservation management can be seen well from the livelihood system, but there are problems if inhibiting factors are not considered such as level of education, infrastructure and income. Samosir, *at.al* (2014) community participation looks different between those directly involved and not in institutions implementing government programs in managing forest areas. Meanwhile, according to Demanik, RN at.al (2013) that community perceptions are not directly proportional to community participation in the management of the Bukit Barisan Tahura forest, this is due to the understanding that there are certain parties who have the authority to manage forests sustainably. Irawan A, *at.al* (2017) community participation or behavior in forest management is not directly proportional to community perception, but participation or behavior is influenced by community characteristics such as educational factors, income level, and level of interaction with the forest.

According to Awaluddin, RA, at.al (2017) that community participation in forest conservation is supported by a good institutional role, productive age to increase welfare, while the inhibiting factors are the functions of forests that have not been felt economically, quality of human resources, accessibility and area of arable land . Karimah, ZZ, and Rahayu (2018) community participation increases in forest management when there is social interaction between the individual concerned and other community

members and other problems under certain conditions. Setiastri, CT at.al (2019) community participation in the management of mangrove forests varies but is generally still low, this is due to a poor understanding of the functions and benefits of mangrove forests.

According to Qodriyatun SN, (2019), the role or participation of the community will be good if it is involved in planning, implementing and evaluating the management of forest areas, such as being involved in preparing zoning, safeguarding and being given the opportunity to give opinions regarding forest conditions. Meanwhile, according to Suhesti E and Hadinoto (2019) community participation in forest management is not only influenced by perceptions but also influenced by other factors, one of which is very influential is the economic or income factor. Yetty, S *at.al* (2019) community participation in forest management is influenced by community characteristics such as level of education, age and livelihoods, this is related to the level of mastery of knowledge and its application, experience in living life and family economic level. The level of community participation in government programs in managing forest areas based on the search results of the article above, states that participation will increase if the characteristics, especially the factors are level of education, income/economy, interaction/involvement in management and age/experience in living life

5. Conclusion

The results of a systematic review of articles related to community characteristics towards government programs in managing forest areas include age, education level, income, distance/interaction with the forest and employment. Community perceptions of government programs in forest area management are not directly proportional to community behavior/participation in sustainable forest area management. Community participation in government programs in managing forest areas can vary due to several factors, but a good level of participation is strongly influenced by the characteristics of the community, especially factors of education level, economy and interaction/dependence on forest functions and benefits.

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