The levels of empowerment of forest farmer group in coastal village development in South Malang, Indonesian

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to determine the level of empowerment of the Forest Farmers Group (KTH) through the implementation of nonformal education programs in the South Malang region. This study used a mixed research approach (mixed methods). The quantitative method is done by survey methods, while in-depth interviews support the qualitative. The results of the research as a whole show that the level of empowerment of the Forest Farmer Group (KTH) through the implementation of nonformal education in the South Malang region is good with a percentage of 79.56%. These results are supported by the suitability of the results for each sub variable, namely sub-variables (1) power within; (2) power to; (3) power over; and (4) power with. The level of empowerment is influenced by factors including the intensity of group counselling which is expected to provide life skills for KTH members and make it easier to obtain information related to the forest area development.

Keywords: Community Empowerment, Forest Farmers Group, Nonformal Education, Coastal Village Development

1 INTRODUCTION

Community development is something that must be taken in order to create independent human resources. Community development will be more effective and productive if regional development is based on the geographical condition, character and talents of the community concerned as an influencing factors in village development (Yilmaz et al. 2010). Therefore, the village development mechanism needs to be endeavoured based on a portrait of regional potential, as potential natural resources as well as human resources. To make this happen, it requires hard work from all elements of the village community who can describe the physical condition of the village as the potential and talent of the community in understanding and managing specific potentials.

Building a strong community cannot be separated from the community's habit, therefore efforts are needed to equip oneself with knowledge. This is based on the increase in human resources not only focused on physical development. Therefore, the readiness of the community must also be improved, the community is also required to be able to take advantage of their potential, considering that society also has dynamics that make them able to survive in difficult circumstances. This is a potential that can be developed to improve their standard of living. The existence of development with this approach is known as bottom-up development. The development is considered more meaningful for the community, because it fully involves the community (Brem & Wolfram 2014; Khadka & Vacik 2012; M'hamdi & Nemiche 2018).

The empowerment of coastal village communities cannot be separated from their local wisdom. Therefore, socio-cultural institutions must be the main foothold. Community empowerment will

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not be well received by coastal village communities if they do not pay attention to local socio-cultural aspects (Rukin et al. 2018). The Forest Farmers Group or Kelompok Tani Hutan (KTH) is a community group under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) of the Republic of Indonesia which is currently being optimized in implementing activities to form and develop social forestry management in the form of groups or individuals living in forest areas and managing the area. Forestry workers have collaborated and obtained permits with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Following this, the Ministry of LHK has issued a decree number SK.945/MENLKH-PSKL/PKPS/PSL.O/3/2018 dated March 5, 2018, concerning the granting of Social Forestry Forest Utilization Permits/IPHPS to the KTH Bangkit Sejahtera and KTH Tunggul-Wulung areas: 3,102 Ha (2,393 Ha in Permanent Production Forest Area; and 709 Ha in Protected Forest Area), and location of Gajahrejo and Tumpakrejo Villages, with 2,200 KTH Members.

One of the people who live in the forest area is the people of Bajulmati, Gajahrejo Village, Gedangan District, Malang Regency. The condition and culture of the people of Gedangan District who work as farmers. With the collaboration between Perhutani and the community living in forest areas, it provides opportunities for the community to manage the forest. One form of management is through the Social Forestry Business Group (KUPS). Forest management is a system that can guarantee the realization of the sustainability of forest functions and benefits from economic, ecological and social aspects. Sustainable forest management does not only talk about cutting forest products but can also create an ecosystem where people live in forest areas which further serve as a form of coastal village development.

This research was conducted in Gedangan District, Malang Regency. Due to the formation of empowerment for the community through the Forest Farmers Group, efforts to protect the environment and develop the community to take advantage of the potential that exists around them. The condition of community empowerment is closely related to the science of nonformal education, namely in community empowerment, it is hoped that this program will create human resources who can overcome problems such as social, economic, and community independence. Based on the description, the researcher wants to examine the level of empowerment of The Forest Farmers Group through the implementation of nonformal education programs in the development of coastal villages in the South Malang region.

2 METHOD

This study used a mixed research approach (mixed methods). The mixed-methods approach used in this study is a quantitative approach supported by a qualitative approach. The quantitative approach is carried out with a survey method using a questionnaire instrument. At the same time, the qualitative approach in this study is used to reinforce the quantitative data obtained and to find out what factors could influence the level of empowerment of the Forest Farmers Group in developing coastal villages through the implementation of nonformal education programs. The instrument used in the qualitative approach is in-depth interviews using interview guides, observation and related documentation (see above).

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of a coastal village in was the ongoing efforts community empowerment to help local communities find their problems, needs, potentials and resources, develop development plans and assist development implementation over a while so that people can do it on their own. This independence includes independence to think, act and control what he does (Freudenberg DrPH et al. 2011).

The characteristics and procedures of nonformal education programs for community empowerment are: "generally nonformal education for empowering is an educational approach which learns to gain a greater understanding of and control over social, economic, and political forces through

Figure 1. Comparison of the four level of empowerment indicators.

learning process and working collaboratively to solve mutual problems” (Kindervatter 1979). The perspective of nonformal education is a manifestation of goals to build a learning society, which is based on four pillars: learning to know, learn to do, learn to be and learn to live together (Hadiyanti 2016). Not only do humans have the potential to develop, but systems and mechanisms also develop on their own through a process of interaction (a lifelong learning process) in the environment (Ratanakosol et al. 2016).

To measure the level of empowerment of the Forest Farmer Group through the implementation of nonformal education programs in the development of coastal villages in the South Malang region, the researcher used indicators or parameters of the level of empowerment which consisted of four indicators. The four indicators are: power over, power to, power with and power within (Galiè & Farnworth 2019; Zamenopoulos et al. 2019).

Based on the results, it can be concluded that the overall level of empowerment of The Forest Farmers Group through the implementation of nonformal education programs in the development of coastal villages in the South Malang region shows good results with a percentage of 79.56%. These results are supported by the conformity of the results for each sub variable and the calculations are presented in figure 1.

The success of the development of coastal villages in South Malang, East Java is inseparable from several factors support the implementation of this program; there are: (1) availability of resources has the potential to be developed; (2) the existence of forming a climate that allows the community to develop by awakening the community and motivate them to develop; (3) there is the involvement of other stakeholders who support the performance of implementer and his involvement is in the form of socialization, training, and seminars to improve the performance of implementers; (4) facilitate of lower and middle groups through strengthening access by creating access and technical strengthening. Besides, need to protect the people and partiality for the weak are fundamental in the concept of community empowerment; and (5) active community participation is not only about receiving information but also providing opinions, ideas and thoughts to improve community welfare and resilience, which is pursued by physical and non-physical development. This participation can also be used as a means of communicating the desire of the community to take control of development activities. People believe more in a development program if they feel involved in the development process, so they have a sense of belonging (Cavalieri & Neves Almeida 2018).

The coastal village program is used as a source of community welfare. The manifestation of this is that the community is invited to contribute to developing coastal villages. The existence of community participation in the development of coastal villages in the South Malang region as a form of development is also supported by a variety of activities carried out through the intensity of group counselling to provide life skills for the Forest Farmer Group members and make it easier to obtain information related to the forest area development. Involvement of group members in decision

making and technical group management and development in increasing capacity and innovation in social forestry enterprises. There is an increasing impact on people's access and knowledge in managing the environment, and it can increase the life capacity of coastal communities both in terms of economic and life capabilities. Besides, the public awareness of environmental problems has grown. This is following the principle of sustainable development that starts from the perspective of environmental protection to maintain the progress and development of society. This relationship needs to be cultivated in harmony with the environment (Lijing et al. 2011).

4 CONCLUSION

The overall level of empowerment of The Forest Farmers Group through the implementation of nonformal education programs in the development of coastal villages in the South Malang region is influenced by several factors including learning intensity for the community through counselling and training, increasing life capabilities in the field. Economic and social, and community involvement in overcoming problems of life and environmental sustainability in forest areas. In percentage terms, the level of empowerment of The Forest Farmers Group through the implementation of nonformal education programs in the development of coastal villages in the South Malang region showed good results of 79.56%. From these results, the empowerment of The Forest Farmers Group needs to be increased through learning programs with the community through nonformal education.

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