

# Empowerment of People's Salt Businesses in Self-Sufficiency Efforts Salt in Pangarengan Sampang Regency Madura

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**Abstract:-** The national program called **People's Salt Business Empowerment (PUGaR)** is a form of the government's commitment. PUGaR itself is interpreted as a national program which aims to improve the welfare of people's salt farmers and encourage the realization of National Salt Self-Sufficiency. This research uses qualitative research, primary data is collected using interviews, and is supported by document data that is considered relevant. Qualitative data analysis uses an interactive model consisting of data collection, data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions. The implementation of the PUGaR policy has 3 stages, namely 1) policy planning has gone well, 2) Implementation has gone well, but there are still problems. The facilitator generalizes the technical problems of making salt. 3) The evaluation went well. The PUGaR policy makes salt farmers more empowered in accordance with the program. Self-Sufficiency Ability characterized by; Increased Income for Salt Farmers, Improved Salt Quality, Focus on Salt Making and Increased Salt Productivity. Constraints on self-sufficiency, namely the human resource capacity of salt farmers is inadequate, infrastructure and transportation facilities to the salt factory are inadequate and the weather does not support decreased salt production.

**Keywords:-** Empowerment, People's Salt Business, Self-Sufficiency, PUGaR.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Salt is a strategic commodity that is needed for various things, both used for food production and non-food industrial production. Salt is divided into two, namely consumption salt and industrial salt. The need for salt in Indonesia always increases every year. According to data from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the increase in domestic salt demand increased by an average of 4.3% per year from 3 million tons in 2020 to 3.75 million tons in 2021. If you look at the growth in salt production in 2020, it was only 30.6 thousand tons, this is due to climate change where the rainy season occurs almost throughout the year, thus destroying the salt production cycle. Due to low salt production that year, the government imported salt (Amelia, 2021)..

As an illustration, since the last five years domestic salt demand has almost increased by 30 percent every year. In 2016, national salt demand reached 3.5 million tons. The figure continued to increase in 2017 to 3.7 million tonnes (Agus Suherman, 2022). Consistent increases occurred in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively to 4 million tonnes, 4.2 million tonnes and 4.5 million tonnes. Meanwhile, in 2021 the national need for salt, both for consumption and industry, will increase to 4.6 million tons (Ade Miranti, 2021).

A number of issues surrounding the low productivity of salt, the lack of empowerment of local salt farmers, welfare problems and the monopoly of the salt trading network still color the complexity of developing salt production in Madura (Amelia, 2021). In fact, the PUGaR program initiated by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) has been running for more than a decade, or since 2011. Supposedly, through PUGaR, a number of problems experienced by salt farmers in Sampang, Madura can be resolved (Al Farisi, 2019).

Based on data that researchers found in the field regarding salt productivity results in Sampang district from 2015 to 2023, it shows the following data, in 2015 the total salt productivity results in Sampang district were 398,983 tons, in 2016 it was 4,606 tons, in 2017 it was 170,568 tons, in 2018 as much as 346,665 tons, in 2019 as much as 307,714 tons, in 2020 as much as 174,598 tons, in 2021 as much as 149,947 tons, in 2022 as much as 53,792 tons, and in 2023 as much as 326,193 tons (Anonymous, 2024).

Based on the background description that has been explained regarding the research problem, the problem can be formulated; Can the People's Salt Business Empowerment Program (PUGaR) for Salt Farmers in Pangarengan Village, Pangarengan District, Sampang Regency realize Salt Self-Sufficiency.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of community empowerment or community development in everyday life. This term is even used too often in the language of practitioners of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as social researchers, so that its meaning is increasingly widespread

(Edi Suharto, 2017). Not only that, among bureaucrats, this word is often used to refer to a number of community empowerment programs. Generally, the target of this program is weak or underprivileged communities (Hasri, 2020). In other words, the concept of empowerment means providing power or strength to weak groups who do not yet have the power/strength to live independently, especially in meeting basic needs/basic needs of daily life, such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and health (Hamid, 2018).

In practice, Friedmann states that the empowerment process is carried out through several stages starting with

individual empowerment, continuing with empowering ties between individuals/groups, and finally political empowerment (Panca, 2022). Individual empowerment is the empowerment of the family and each of its members, with the assumption that if each family member is awakened to greater empowerment, social empowerment is formed (Rosilowati, 2022). According to Durkheim's view, individual interests and motives are not included in social facts, because interests and motives are something that is internal to an individual, social facts have three characteristics.

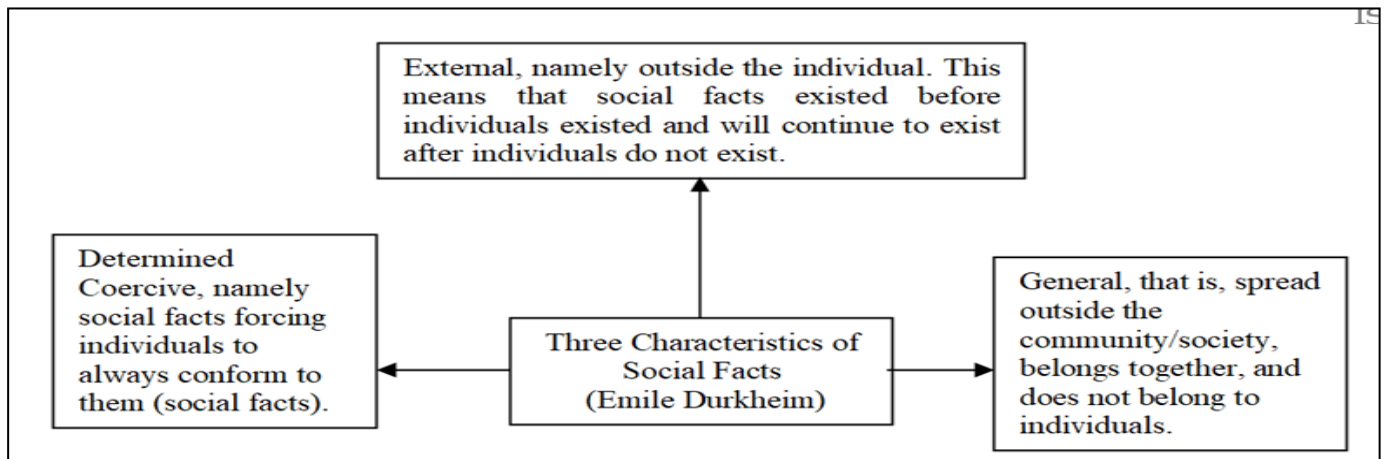


Fig 1: Three Characteristics of Social Facts (Emile Durkheim)

Source: Ferdinand Kerebunu (2023)

Practical steps taken to empower individuals include empowering time by reducing waste of time in meeting basic needs, empowering economic businesses which leads to the formation of business networks between family members, community members and those related to the market economy (Edi Suharto, 2017).

Self-sufficiency is the ability of a nation to meet a large demand for commodities (such as rice, sugar, corn and others) based on its own production (Agus Suherman, 2022). Self-sufficiency is also marked by the absence of imports. The problem in realizing sustainable rice self-sufficiency is related to the growth in demand for rice which is faster than the growth in supply (Nur & Ernarningsih, 2017). Demand for rice increases in line with population growth, economic growth, people's purchasing power and changes in tastes (Agus Suherman, 2022).

Another meaning of food self-sufficiency is the ability to provide food for household members in quantity, quality and variety according to local culture from time to time in order to live a healthy life, and/or the ability of a household to provide adequate food for its members from its own production, and/or purchased from time to time. time to survive and the household's ability to provide sufficient food for its members from time to time to live a healthy life (Rezki, 2018).

**III. RESEARCH METHODS**

The study uses qualitative content analysis of policy documents by considering their context, text, and implications (Cardno, 2018). Researchers used a qualitative approach as a research method in this study. The data collected is data that comes from interviews, not in the form of numbers like quantitative methods. Qualitative research is a type of research that aims to understand phenomena (such as behavior, perception, motivation, action) experienced by the research object (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

The data source was obtained through informants who were considered capable of answering the entire list of questions and understanding the background and conditions of the object under study to obtain more accurate results (Sugiyono. 2016). The qualitative research design, researchers conducted in-depth interviews with who were informants to look for in-depth data or sources of information related to the underlying issues behind class differences which create inequality in access to the same education. Using a purposive sampling technique, researchers selected informants who had knowledge and experience relevant to the selected research topic (Huberman & Saldana, 2018).

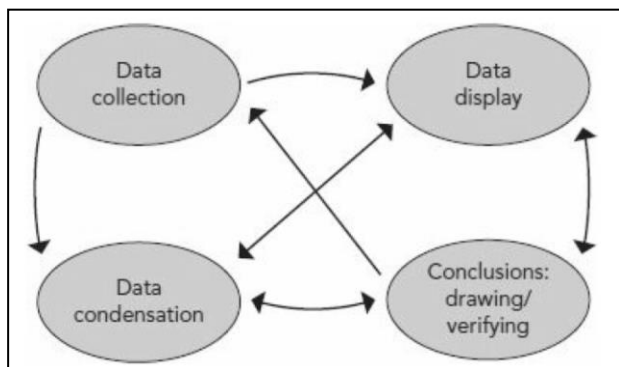


Fig 2: Components of Data Analysis: Interactive  
Source: Miles, Huberman dan Saldana, (2018)

The first stage of data analysis used in this research is data collection, data is collected from competent informants. Then the next step is data reduction, namely the process of selecting or simplifying the rough data obtained during the interview process. This is followed by the data presentation process, namely the information that has been reduced is presented or displayed in an arranged manner for drawing conclusions.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned, Pangarengan Village, Pangarengan District, Sampang Madura Regency is one of the salt center villages, so the following information is presented regarding this matter. Salt production in Sampang Regency, in the 2023 salt harvest season, will reach 300 thousand tons or an increase of 10 thousand tons compared to the salt harvest season in 2022. "This happens because the dry season is good, the weather is very hot and conditions like this are very profitable for salt producers," said Wahyu Prihartono, Sampang Regency Government Maritime and Fisheries Service (DKP), in a press statement delivered to the media in Sampang, East Java, Friday. In the 2022 salt season, the total amount of salt production in the district will be 290 thousand tons from a total of 2,800 hectares of salt ponds in Sampang Regency. "Total production is 300 thousand tons in this production season, based on data collection carried out by the team until September 2023.



Fig 3: Salt fields in Pangarengan Village, Pangarengan District, Sampang Regency  
Source: <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/3772674/produk-garam-di-sampang>

Empowerment of People's Salt Enterprises (PUGaR) in Pangarengan Village, Pangarengan District, Sampang Madura Regency is closely related to various parties, these parties must respond and resolve the problems faced by the surrounding community, especially salt farmers.

Salt farmers' participation in implementing the PUGaR program started from planning, the People's Salt Business Group (KUGAR) was present at the socialization organized by the department and the head of Pangarengan Village. As explained;

"The community empowerment program in the salt business which has been launched by the government in Pangarengan Village, Pangarengan District, Sampang Regency has been carried out several times. Collaboration between various parties is an inseparable part of achieving the empowerment goals of the PUGaR program. The program that has been implemented so far involves the Sampang Food Security, Food Crops and Livestock Services Department. Sampang Regency Regional Government. Technical Implementation Unit for Salt Processing Services and Companies."

"If you want the program, you have to follow the socialization. If you don't follow the socialization, you are afraid you won't know various information. Obtain information on PUGaR program policies through invitations or announcements every time there is socialization. Usually the socialization comes from the village head, then it is conveyed to the KUGAR heads and then conveyed to the KUGAR farmers. But sometimes directly through invitation from the village.

Training is provided to equip salt farmers to produce the best quality salt productivity. Training was carried out in Pangarengan Village, in the sub-district, at the Sampang Regency Maritime and Fisheries Service and directly in the fields/farmers' salt ponds. The provision of training materials is carried out by expert salt engineers, accompanying teams, or officers from the Sampang Regency Maritime and Fisheries Service and it is not

uncommon for salt farmers who have more knowledge in the salt field to provide knowledge to fellow friends. The training was attended by salt farmers, a team of facilitators, officers from the Sampang Regency Maritime and Fisheries Service and local Pangarengan Village officials.

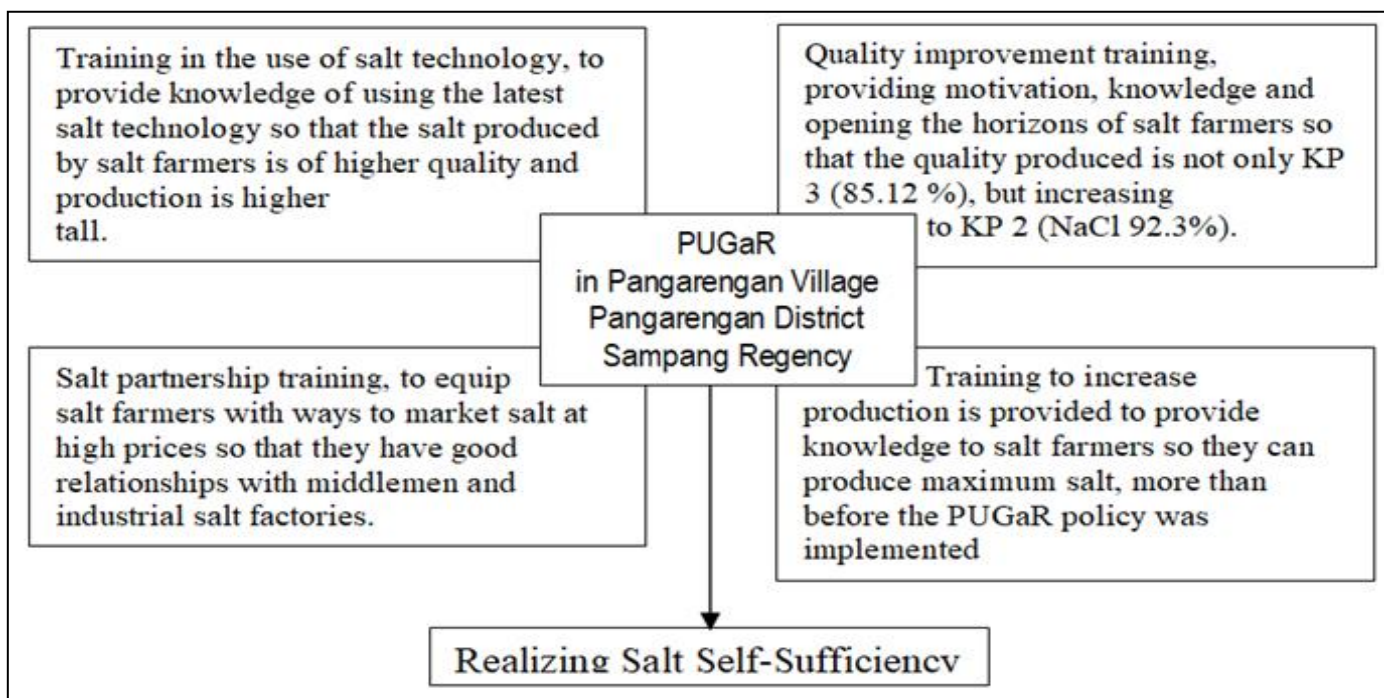


Fig 4: Recommendations for Empowerment Related to Social Capital and Salt Self-Sufficiency  
Source: Theoretical Studies and Previous Research Processed (2024)

The productivity of salt farmers in Pangarengan Village has been quite worrying, many salt farmers produce little salt, experiencing a decline and even the production obtained is the same as the previous season (Erna & Andriani, 2018). It is feared that salt farmers will experience losses with low salt production, but it is hoped that high productivity will bring success to salt farmers in Pangarengan Village. The lack of knowledge in salt management means that salt farmers in Pangarengan Village produce low salt. Increasing salt productivity as explained by Finsterbusch and Motz (Agus Suherman, 2022). Evaluating the impact of policies using a single program before after is carried out to measure the target group in conditions before and after the implementation of a policy. From the explanation of the single program before after evaluation theory, researchers carried out measurements of the target group before and after the implementation of PUGaR.

In carrying out poverty alleviation programs, there should be cooperation between the government, society and the private sector by accommodating poverty alleviation programs so that they are right on target, including PUGaR (Rosilowati, 2022). The PUGaR policy provided by the government can be implemented until salt farmers are truly empowered so that they can increase

production, quality and in the long term the welfare of salt farmers can increase. When providing BLM, you should be on time.

There is a need for infrastructure development to support the accessibility of salt farmers to increase income. Actor or Implementer of PUGaR policy. Providing serious assistance, not only based on theory but lacking practice. The facilitator should not only equate the technical problems of making salt because each farmer has different problems. Salt farmers, in accepting policies, should understand each other without being jealous of one another. Salt farmers should not rely too much on BLM from the government so that if the aid is disbursed too late it will result in less than optimal production.

## V. CONCLUSION

The process of implementing the PUGaR policy with bottom-up principles has been going well in Kedungmutih Village, salt farmers feel their participation and involvement in implementing the PUGaR policy. The implementation of the PUGaR policy has 3 stages, namely 1) policy planning has gone well, 2) Implementation has gone well, but there are still problems. The facilitator generalizes the technical problems of making salt. 3) The

evaluation went well. The PUGaR policy makes salt farmers more empowered in accordance with the mentoring, training and guidance programs they receive. Policy administrators carry out their duties well.

Self-Sufficiency Capability which is characterized by; Increased Income for Salt Farmers, Improved Salt Quality, Focus on Salt Making and Increased Salt Productivity. Constraints on self-sufficiency, namely the human resource capacity of salt farmers is inadequate, infrastructure and transportation facilities to the salt factory are inadequate and the weather does not support decreased salt production.

Considering the limitations in measuring Salt Self-Sufficiency related to the People's Salt Business Empowerment Program (PUGaR) for Salt Farmers in Pangarengan Village, Pangarengan District, Sampang Regency. So it is hoped that further research can be carried out which can provide more complete and in-depth information for measuring Salt Self-Sufficiency. Carry out sharper analysis, so that you can make more optimal theoretical and academic contributions.

- Funding: The author received no financial support for the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.
- Declaration of conflicting interest: The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.
- Competing Interests: This article original is a requirement for completing for Tri Dharma Universitas, which must be published and I chose the this Journal. I am willing to comply with the rules of journal and I have assumed responsibility for any made to the manuscript, if problems occur in any form, then I declare full responsibility for my paper.

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