

Rattan Craftsmen Community Empowerment in Gorontalo Indonesia

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Abstract:- This study aims to describe the Empowerment Study of Rattan Craftsmen Community Groups in the Chair of Mitra Utama Limba B, Gorontalo City. This research is a qualitative descriptive study. Data collection techniques in this study use interviews, observation, documentation. The analysis technique used is qualitative analysis. Based on the results of research and discussion can be concluded conclusions in the effort of community empowerment in the economic field through this capital aspect are: (1) how the provision of capital assistance does not cause dependence on the community; (2) how to solve this aspect of capital is done through the creation of a new conducive system of micro businesses, small businesses, and medium-sized businesses to gain access in financial institutions; (3) how the scheme of use or capital allocation policy is not trapped in a subsistence economy or poor economy. These three things are important to be solved together. The core of empowerment is community independence. Providing capital grants to the public, in addition to not educating the public to be accountable to the mselves, will also distort the money market.

Keywords:- Craftsmen and rattan.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rattan is one of Indonesia's biological sources, a large country foreign exchange earner. As the largest rattan producing country, Indonesia has contributed 80% of the world's rattan needs. Of this amount 90% of rattan is produced from natural forests found in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and about 10% are produced from rattan cultivation. The value of Indonesian rattan exports in 2010 reached the US \$ 208, 183 million (Arifin Budi 2010: 12). Rattan resources can be used as a medium for empowerment. The starting point is that every human being, in every society, has potential that can be developed. This means that there is no community at all without power. Empowerment is an effort to build up power to push to motivate and raise awareness of the potentials and strive to develop it. Abdul Rahmatdan Christina Catur Widayati (2016).

In the context of rattan craft life skills education, the implementation of empowerment aimed at the interests of the economic life of the community is important. The concept of empowerment can be seen from the approach in the empowerment process, among others: through *self reliance*, namely an approach that is oriented towards creating a sense of self-worth, self-confidence, and independence.

According to the results of an inventory carried out by the Gorontalo City Forestry Production Development Directorate, out of 143 million hectares of forest in Indonesia, it is estimated that forests are covered with rattan covering an area of approximately 13.20 million hectares, spread across Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Gorontalo, Java, and islands. others who have natural forests. In Indonesia there are eight rattan clans which consist of approximately 306 species, only 51 species have been utilized. This means that the utilization of rattan types is still low and limited to the types of benefits that have been known and sold in the market. It is estimated that more than 516 types of rattan are found in Southeast Asia, originating from 8 genera, namely for the genus Calamus 333 species, Daemonorops 122 species, Khorthalsia 30 species, Plectocomia 10 types, Plectocomiopsis 10 types, Calopspatha 2 types, Bejaudia 1 type and Ceratolobus 6 type (Dransfield 1974, Menon 1979 in Alrasjid, 1989). Of the 8 genera, two rattan genera of high economic value are Calamus and Daemonorops (Arifin Budi 2010: 12). The problem is, the facts on the ground are not optimal in the empowerment process at the stage of developing self-awareness and the potential of the community so that the community has not fully developed its creativity. The next step has not fostered self-confidence and developed capabilities. If the sense of awareness is not owned then the community will find it difficult to develop confidence in the mselves to take action, learn and practice the skills they need to improve their quality of life.

Thus, empowerment becomes important for craftsmen in strengthening the ability to improve themselves and improve their position in society. Therefore, the process of empowerment will also relate to cultural values such as hard work, frugal living, openness and responsibility ertanggung b, b aik of capital and processing. The purpose of empowerment in relation to realizing a learning society is a concept that also contains social values in addition to economic values. The concept of empowerment is broader than just meeting *basic needs* or providing a mechanism to prevent further impoverishment, whose thoughts have been developed lately as an effort to find alternatives to the concept of economic growth in the past.

Enterprises of the Main Partner Furniture, one of which uses rattan resources. Rattan craft business, for the Main Partner Furniture, is generally a business that has long been occupied and is a hereditary business from the previous generation. Rattan is widely used commercially because it has a flexible, strong, and relatively uniform shape. Rattan is a tree that belongs to the palm group. One of the functions of rattan is used as raw material to make household

furnitures such as tables, chairs or other furniture. Tulus Suryanto, E. I. T. (2017).

Empowerment efforts that have been and are being carried out through three (3) dimensions (Partners, 2010: 3), namely: first, atmosphere or climate that allows the potential for developing rattan craftsmen society. The starting point of this thinking is the understanding that every human being and society has potential that can be developed. Empowerment in this context is defined as an effort to build that potential by encouraging, motivating and raising awareness of the potential of the community and trying to develop it. Second, to strengthen the potential or power possessed by rattan craftsmen, so that more positive and real steps are needed, various access to opportunities that will make people more empowered in taking advantage of opportunities. Third, protect, that is, in the empowerment process, it can provide courage in trying.

➤ *Research purposes*

Based on the formulation of the problem above, this study aims to describe the empowerment of rattan craftsmen community groups in the Department of Mitra Utama Limba B, Gorontalo City.

II. THEORETICAL STUDY

A. *The Nature of Community Empowerment*

Community empowerment can be defined as a social action where residents of a community organize themselves in making collective plans and actions to solve social problems or meet social needs in accordance with their capabilities and resources. In reality, often this process does not appear automatically, but grows and develops based on the interaction of the local community with outsiders or social workers who work both on a charitable drive and a professional perspective. These social workers act as social companions (Suharto, 2009: 90).

Social assistance greatly determines the success of poverty alleviation programs. Referring to Ife (1995: 44), the companion role generally includes three main roles, namely: facilitators, educators, community representatives, and technical roles for the poor they accompany. One approach that is now often used in improving the quality of life and elevating the dignity of poor families is community empowerment. This concept becomes very important especially because it provides a positive perspective on the poor. The poor are not seen as people who are deprived (for example, lack of food, lack of income, lack of health, less dynamic) and passive objects of mere service recipients. But as a person who has a variety of abilities that can be mobilized to improve his life. The concept of empowerment provides a frame of reference regarding the power and capability that covers social, economic, cultural, political and institutional levels.

Conceptually, empowerment or empowerment comes from the word 'power' (power or empowerment). Therefore, the main idea of empowerment comes into contact with the concept of power. Power is often associated with our ability

to make others do what we want, regardless of their desires and interests. Traditional social science emphasizes that power is related to influence and control. This understanding assumes that power is something that is unchanging or irreversible. Real power is not limited to the above understanding. Power is not vacuumed and isolated. Power is always present in the context of social relations between people. Power is created in social relations. Therefore, power and power relations can change. With this understanding of power, empowerment as a process of change then has a meaningful concept. In other words, the possibility of an empowerment process depends on two things: (1) That power can change. If power cannot change, empowerment is impossible in any way; and (2) That power can be expanded. This concept emphasizes the notion of power that is not static, but dynamic. (Arifin Budi 2010: 32).

B. *Review of Rattan Crafts*

The rattan to be harvested is rattan which is ripe for cutting, with the characteristics of the bottom part of the stem that is no longer closed by the leaves of the petals or selundang, some of the leaves have dried up, the thorns and leaves of the petals have fallen out. Harvesting rattan is done by looking for rattan that is ripe for cutting, then cutting the base of the rattan with a hook up to 10 to 50 cm high, then with a hook the trunk is pulled to detach from the support tree. The rattan that has been harvested is then cleaned from the leaves and thorns and cut into the desired size. After that, the rattan is transported to the Collection Place. Temporary (TPS) to the collection places Rattan (TPR) by means bear, boat/canoe and using horses (Sinaga, 2006: 45).

The dynamics of change and development always bring new aspirations and demands from the community to realize a better quality of life. The aspirations and demands of the community are based on the desire to participate more in realizing a society that is advanced, independent and based on justice. In increasingly complex development, the community needs to be given stimulation to think about development problems faced and contribute to formulating solutions, so that active participation of the community will foster togetherness and have implications for accelerating the improvement of the welfare of the people that are just, prosperous and prosperous. Efforts to empower the community, it takes care that is manifested in partnership and togetherness in those who have advanced to the undeveloped party. P emberdayaan society is a process of change from dependency towards the independence. Various views that develop in the theory of development, both in the economic and administrative fields, place the community as the center of attention and target as well as the main actors of development, or in other words, the community is not only an object but as the subject of development. This view emerged as a response to the occurrence of inequality along with increasing economic growth. Rahmat, A. (2017).

III. RESEARCH METHODS

This thesis research is located at the location of rattan craftsmen in Mitra Furniture. The approach used in this

study is a qualitative approach, where research wants to emphasize more on the disclosure of meaning and process with our background as a direct data source or called case study research (Moleong, 2006: 54).

The source of this research data is the managers and employees of the Main Partner Furniture which functions as a subject or *key informant*, the data source is taken purposively, and not done randomly. A purposive sampling technique is used to direct the collection of data according to needs through selection and selecting informants who are truly information and problems in depth and can be trusted to be a source of data.

Moleong (2006: 85) suggests there are four stages in qualitative research, namely: (1) Pre-field, (2) Field activities, (3) Intensive analysis, (4) Research and reporting.

IV. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Empowering Rattan Craftsmen

To obtain data on the empowerment of rattan craftsmen, the researcher conducted an interview with one of Pak WD's informants as follows: Small Industry (IK) Rattan in the Chair of MitraUtama Limba B, Gorontalo City In the Chair of Mitra Utama Limba B, Gorontalo City has been in existence since 2003. In carrying out its activities, IK rattan faces many problems in maintaining its existence and to grow bigger. Every year the volume of rattan *furniture* sales always increases, but the growth rate is still low. In addition, the marketing area is still limited to the local market. (W.WD.K-MMU.13-05-12).

More details can be seen in table 1 below:

Table 1.

Total Production, Average Sales, Marketing Purpose of IK Rattan in the Chair of Mitra Utama Limba B, Gorontalo City

Year	Total production (set)	Average sales (set)	Growth (%)	Regional Marketing
2013	7,537	6,956	-	Local
2014	8,257	7,216	3.7%	Local
2015	13,004	7,507	3.4%	Local

Source:Processed from Data UtUtilFurnitureand Limba B of Gorontalo City, 2016

Based on the results of these interviews, p roses empowerment containing two tendencies, namely: *First*, the community empowerment process that emphasizes the process of giving or transferring some power, strength, or ability to the community so that individuals become more empowered. This process can also be complemented by efforts to build material assets to support the development of their independence through the organization. *Second*, the process of stimulating, encouraging or motivating individuals to have the ability or empowerment to determine what their life choices are through a dialogue process.

This role is understood as an effort of capacity, independence and self-reliance of the community, especially for small and poor communities. So in implementing it in empowerment, there are five dimensions that are carried out holistically and integratively. The five dimensions include; The dimensions of welfare, dimensions of power of access, dimensions of critical awareness, dimensions of participation, and dimensions of power sharing.

B. Business capital assistance

To obtain data on capital assistance from rattan craftsmen, researchers conducted interviews with one of the AD pack informants as follows: One aspect of the problem faced by society is capital. The slow pace of capital accumulation among micro, small and medium entrepreneurs is one of the causes of the slow pace of business development and low business surpluses in the micro, small and medium enterprises sector. Capital factors also become one of the reasons for not emerging new businesses outside the extractive sector. Therefore, it is not wrong, if in the community empowerment in the economic field, the solution in this aspect of capital is important and indeed must be done. (W.AD.WK-MMU.13-05-12).

Based on the results of the interview, u Raha on the Chair of the MitraUtamaLimba B Office of Gorontalo City is a form of business carried out by most people and is able to provideand absorb employment, develop and empower the local economy, create new markets, source of innovation, and donations in activities export. Therefore, the Rattan Business at the Main Partners Office has a strategic role in realizing the structure of the national economy. However, the Rattan Business at MeubelMitraUtama is still faced with various obstacles and constraints including meeting capital requirements.

C. Development Assistance for Infrastructure Facilities

To get data on Assistance for Construction of Infrastructure Facilities rattan craftsmen, researchers conducted interviews with one of the SS pack informants as follows: Efforts to boost productivity and encourage business growth, will not have an important meaning for the community, if the production cannot be marketed, or if it can be sold but at a very low price. Therefore, that important component in the effort of community empowerment in the economic field is the development of production and marketing infrastructure. The availability of marketing infrastructure and/or transportation from the production location to the market will reduce the marketing chain and in the end will increase the acceptance of micro-entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs, small-scale entrepreneurs, and medium-sized entrepreneurs. That is, in terms of economic empowerment, the infrastructure development projects supporting underdeveloped villages are indeed strategic. (W.SS.PR.19-05-12).

Economic empowerment in the community is weak, initially carried out through an individual approach. This individual approach does not provide satisfactory results, therefore, the approach taken is a group approach. The reason is that capital accumulation will be difficult to

achieve among the poor, therefore capital accumulation must be carried out together in groups or joint ventures. Likewise with the problem of distribution, the poor cannot control the distribution of production and production inputs individually. Through groups, they can build strength to help determine distribution.

Thus, understanding the development of economic institutions needs to be redefined. If the group approach is intended for the purpose of capital accumulation or building a separate financial institution, then it is not easy to achieve it. The most realistic thing is that if the grouping or organization of the economy is directed at the ease of obtaining capital access to existing financial institutions, and to build an economical scale of business.

D. Institutional Strengthening

To obtain assistance data for assistance in rattan craftsmanship, the researcher conducted an interview with one of Pak TZ's informants as follows: The strength of institutions and institutions of an organization is determined by aspirational elements namely organizational goals, legality, name and logo and the legal status of the organization of structural elements which includes the organizational structure and organization secretariat which is the last constitutional factor consisting of Articles of Association (AD) and Bylaws (ART) and other decisions / decisions The strength of these institutions and institutions will develop through two stages of process, namely the stage of inception and the actualization stage. (W.TZ.PR.29-05-12).

V. CONCLUSION

It must be observed in the effort of community empowerment in the economic field through this capital aspect are: (1) how the provision of capital assistance does not cause dependence on the community; (2) how to solve this aspect of capital is done through the creation of a new conducive system of micro businesses, small businesses, and medium-sized businesses to gain access in financial institutions; (3) how the scheme of use or capital allocation policy is not trapped in a subsistence economy or *poor* economy . These three things are important to be solved together. The core of empowerment is community independence. Providing capital grants to the public, in addition to not educating the public to be accountable to themselves, will also distort the money market. Therefore, a fairly elegant way of facilitating capital problem solving for micro businesses, small businesses and medium-sized businesses are to guarantee their credit in the existing financial institutions, and or subsidize interest on their loans in financial institutions. This method, besides educating them to be responsible for credit repayments, can also be a vehicle for them to get used to working with existing financial institutions, and prove to financial institutions that there is no reason to discriminate in lending.

Suggestions, u foster productivity and encourage business growth, will not have an important meaning for the community, if the products cannot be marketed, or if they

can be sold but at very low prices. Therefore, that important component in the effort of community empowerment in the economic field is the development of production and marketing infrastructure. The availability of marketing infrastructure and/or transportation from the production location to the market will reduce the marketing chain and in the end will increase the acceptance of micro-entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs, small-scale entrepreneurs, and medium-sized entrepreneurs. That is, in terms of economic empowerment, the infrastructure development projects supporting underdeveloped villages are indeed strategic.

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