

The Role of Village Government in Improving Community Welfare through Porang Farmers

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: This study explores the role of village government in enhancing community welfare through porang farming in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency. Additionally, it examines the supporting and inhibiting factors that influence the success of the program.

Objectives: To describe and analyze the role of village government in improving community welfare through porang farming and to identify supporting and inhibiting factors that affect the success of the program.

Methods: The findings reveal that the village government has successfully implemented its role based on Permendes Number 21 of 2020 concerning General Guidelines for Village Development and Community Empowerment. The program emphasizes community empowerment through porang cultivation, which has led to improved economic opportunities and increased income for farmers. Supporting factors include strong government support and active community participation, while inhibiting factors involve limited resources and inadequate infrastructure.

Results: Egestas diam in arcu cursus euismod quis viverra nibh. Convallis aenean et tortor at risus viverra. Sit amet justo donec enim diam. Sem et tortor consequat id. Purus gravida quis blandit turpis. Consectetur adipiscing elit dui tristique sollicitudin nibh sit amet commodo. Eget dui at tellus at urna condimentum mattis pellentesque. Auctor elit sed vulputate mi sit amet. Consequat ac felis donec et. In dictum non consectetur a erat nam at lectus. Dui vivamus arcu felis bibendum ut tristique. Lacinia quis vel eros donec ac. Ac turpis egestas maecenas pharetra convallis posuere morbi leo. Tortor id aliquet lectus proin.

Conclusions: This study provides significant academic insights into policy implementation, particularly regarding the role of village governments in fostering economic growth through the agricultural sector. The findings serve as a valuable reference for other village governments in designing and implementing effective community empowerment programs.

Keywords: Role of Village Government, Community Welfare, Porang Farmers, Community Empowerment, Policy Implementation

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a vast country and not only centered in the capital city. Economic movement and development as a form of achieving the country's ideals also take place at the village level (Faoziyah & Salim, 2020). 70% of the total population in Indonesia lives in rural areas, so the central point of development is the area in the village area. The existence of villages determines the success of the government in development, both from the regional and central levels. Therefore, the progress of a village determines the progress of a country (Fahmi & Sari, 2020).

Welfare is the desire, hope and dream of every person. Every family wants prosperity, both spiritual and material. By working hard to meet family needs and creating a comfortable and safe environment from hazards, family welfare can be achieved (McNutt & Hoefer, 2020; Sasongko, Widarni, & Bawono, 2021). Social welfare is a condition in which a person is able to fulfill all needs and establish good relationships with the surrounding environment. Social welfare can be seen from several aspects, namely sufficient income, education, and fulfilled health (Vogel, Steinberger,

O'Neill, Lamb, & Krishnakumar, 2021; Priyanto, Widarni, & Bawono, 2022). Well-being is a condition in which a person is safe, prosperous, sentient, and safe from various disturbances or difficulties. These disturbances include various aspects, such as health, education, work, and so on. Therefore, efforts to improve welfare must cover various aspects of life (Afita & Nuranasmita, 2023)

Village development becomes very important in this context. The government has launched various programs to increase the contribution of villages to the national economy. One example is the Village Fund program, which aims to empower village communities and develop village economic potential (Marhaeni, Sudibia, Andika, & Fahlevi, 2024). This program is expected to improve the welfare of rural communities and, ultimately, national welfare. Thus, village development is not only important for the welfare of the village community itself, but also for national welfare. The success of village development will have a positive impact on the national economy and the overall welfare of the community. Therefore, greater attention and investment needs to be given to village development to achieve this goal (Nugroho, Iqbal, Fadhiela, Apriyani, Ginting, & Nurdin, 2022).

The village is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries authorized to regulate and manage government affairs and the interests of the local community. Based on community initiatives, origin rights, and traditional rights that are recognized and respected in the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI), villages are also responsible for improving community welfare. To achieve this goal, the village government makes various efforts through policies that lead to community empowerment. Villages have an identity, traditions, social institutions, and original cultural completeness that form a social system (Ridwan & Widayati, 2020). This system then develops into a democratic government, where villages have autonomy in organizing their own lives. Village autonomy allows the village government to make policies that suit the needs and characteristics of the local community (Kadir & Idris, 2021).

Village policies are governed by the village government, which is organized by the village head, or what is called by another name, assisted by village officials as an organizing element. The village government is responsible for the implementation of village autonomy, including the planning, implementation, and monitoring of community empowerment programs. With village autonomy, the village government has full authority to run various programs aimed at improving community welfare (Badaruddin, Kariono, Ermansyah, & Sudarwati, 2021). Community empowerment is an effort made by the community, either with external support or independently, to improve their quality of life. This empowerment is based on the potential and power possessed by the community itself. The village government plays an important role in assisting and facilitating this empowerment process, so that the community can be more independent and prosperous. Overall, villages play an important role in the NKRI government system by managing government affairs and the interests of local communities. Through village autonomy and empowerment policies, villages can develop into strong, independent and prosperous communities. The village government, with the support of the community, continues to strive to create a conducive environment for sustainable development and improved quality of life (Mashuri, 2020).

Law No. 6/2014 on Villages describes the roles and functions of village governments as organizers of governance, development implementation, community development, and community empowerment. All of this is based on the principles of Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, and Unity in Diversity. The basic purpose of this law is to protect the entire Indonesian nation and all of Indonesia's spilled blood, advance the general welfare, educate the nation's life, and participate in implementing world order. In carrying out its roles and functions, the village government is led by the village head who is assisted by village officials as an organizing element (Hardjosoekarto & Lawang, 2021)

The village government is responsible for fostering and preserving the community's socio-cultural values, empowering the community, and developing the community's economy. In addition, the village government also plays a role in developing the potential of natural resources and the environment in the village (Suardana, Gelgel, & Watra, 2022). Community empowerment is one of the main focuses of the village government. Through various programs and policies, the village government seeks to increase the capacity and independence of village communities. This empowerment program covers various aspects, ranging from education, health, to local economic development. Thus, village communities are expected to be more independent and prosperous (Adhinata, Darma, & Sirimiati, 2020).

The village government also has an important role in providing information to the village community regarding the implementation of the applicable village governance system. Transparency and accountability in village governance are essential to ensure that villagers can understand and participate in the decision-making process that affects their lives (Zhang & Zhang, 2020). It also helps to increase community trust in the village government. Overall, Law No. 6/2014 on Villages provides a clear framework for village governments to carry out their roles and functions. With this law, it is expected that village governments can be more effective in carrying out their duties, so as to achieve the

development goals that have been set. The village government, with the support of the community, continues to strive to create an environment conducive to sustainable development and improved quality of life for village communities (Basri, Findayani, & Zarefar, 2021).

LITERATURE REVIEW

A strategy is a set of ideas or notions that are outlined as rules and reasons for plans in carrying out tasks, initiatives, and acceptable behavior. This strategy serves as a guide to achieve certain goals in a structured and effective way. In the context of public administration, a public strategy is an approach that affects every individual in a nation or state. This public approach involves administrative activities aimed at providing government assistance to the wider community (George, 2021).

The public approach is carried out through organized and systematic stages. Each stage is designed to ensure that all the key factors of the various problems to be solved are incorporated and managed properly. Thus, this approach allows the government to identify, analyze, and solve problems faced by society effectively and efficiently (Karanikas, Popovich, Steele, Horswill, Laddrak, & Roberts, 2020).

Public policies are official actions approved by the government and aimed at specific problems or groups of related problems that affect the wider community. It is a form of government intervention that aims to achieve certain predetermined goals. Public policy is designed to address a problem or set of problems that are interrelated and affect most local or national areas (Echeverri-Gent, 2023). In the process of making public policy, the government must consider various factors, including the needs and aspirations of the community, available resources, as well as the potential impact of the policy. This process involves various stages, from problem identification, policy formulation, implementation, to evaluation. Each stage requires active participation from various stakeholders to ensure that the resulting policies are effective and sustainable (Mueller, 2020).

Overall, public strategies and policies play an important role in managing and solving the problems faced by society. With a structured and systematic approach, the government can provide the necessary assistance and create a conducive environment for sustainable development. Through effective public policies, the government can improve people's welfare and achieve national development goals (Roziqin, Mas'udi, & Sihidi, 2021).

The public approach largely determines the degree of administration in an administration request. It includes guidelines to be adhered to in addition to rules of standardization of public strategies, as well as moral outcomes that influence the presence and execution of public assistance itself. A public strategy is a progression of activities or exercises proposed by a gathering or government in a particular climate where there are obstacles and conceivable outcomes. Ripley suggests that the public approach be viewed as a cycle to understand the relationships that occur within it. Activities proposed by a person or group in a particular climate provide valuable obstacles and opportunities for the proposed strategy to accomplish certain goals (Sadhana, 2011).

The stages of public policy include several important steps that must be passed to achieve the desired goals. The first stage is policy or agenda setting, where issues compete for attention and inclusion in strategic plans. Only a few issues make it into policymakers' strategizing plans. Next, at the policy formulation stage, the selected issues are examined in depth to find the best solutions. Various solution options are evaluated and compete to be selected as the strategy to be implemented (Capano & Howlett, 2020).

The policy implementation stage is the next step, where the planned program is executed. At this stage, various interests will compete with each other, and support or rejection from implementers can affect the success of implementation. Finally, the policy assessment stage is carried out to assess the extent to which the strategies implemented have succeeded in overcoming existing problems. This assessment is important to ensure that public policy has achieved the expected goals and provided the ideal effect. Thus, public policy has cycles and stages that must be passed to achieve an effective and efficient approach (Smith, Li, & Rafferty, 2020).

Policy Implementation, the word "to implement" means to provide the means to carry out something or to cause an impact or effect on something (Shadana, 2011). According to the theory of George C. Edwards III theory, policy implementation is influenced by four variables, namely communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic

structure (Sormin, 2021). These four variables are interconnected with each other and affect the effectiveness of policy implementation.

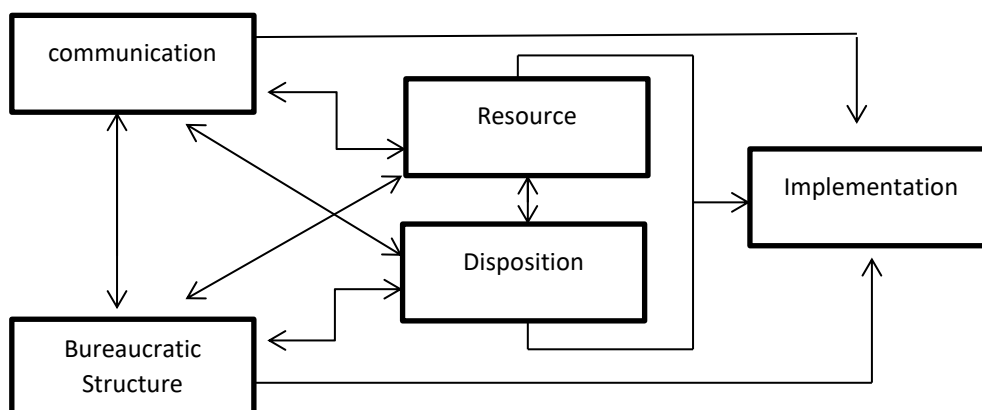


Figure 3. Edward III Policy Implementation Model

Role (role) is a set of expectations addressed to office holders in certain positions. Role theory states that individuals will experience role conflict if there are two or more pressures that occur simultaneously aimed at a person, so that if the individual complies with one of them it will be difficult or impossible to comply with the other. Organization as a social institution has formed a perspective on the role accepted by an individual. Role theory reveals that role is one of the parts played in the overall group structure, is a specific behavior that characterizes an individual in a particular social context (Ahmed, Li, Khan, Qalati, Naz, & Rana, 2021).

A role is defined as a part played in an activity, such as in a movie scene or play, where a person tries to play well and actively carry out the tasks assigned to him. In addition, a role is also defined as the behavior of a player who is able to produce and move something good in an event (Anglin, Kincaid, Short, & Allen, 2022).

Biddle and Thomas divide the terms in role theory into four groups: first, the people who take part in social interactions. Second, the behavior that appears in the interaction. Third, the position of people in the behavior; and fourth, the link between people and behavior (Walczak, 2024). The term "government" comes from the word "command" which means to tell to do something, so the government can be defined as the power that governs a country or the highest body that governs a country, such as a cabinet. Government includes all state apparatus or equipment that carry out state duties and authorities, both in legislative, executive, and judicial powers (Heath, 2020). In Indonesia, this is regulated in the 1945 Constitution as the highest legislation (Junaenah, 2021).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The focus of this research is to examine and describe the role of the village government in improving community welfare through porang farmers, with an implementation study based on Permendes Number 21 of 2020 concerning General Guidelines for Village Development and Community Empowerment in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency. This research highlights the implementation of the village government's role based on the Permendes, which includes aspects of communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure. It also identifies the supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation of the village government's role.

This research is a type of qualitative research using Interactive Model Data Analysis which aims to explain the role of village government in improving community welfare through porang farmers, especially in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency. The data sources used in this research include important information from necessary meetings and additional information that provides in-depth insights from the report. In collecting data, researchers used primary data and secondary data. Primary data is obtained directly from the first source, either individuals or groups, without intermediaries. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained indirectly through intermediary media, in the form of evidence, records, or historical reports that have been arranged in archives or documentary data.

In this study, researchers used purposive sampling technique to select informants. This technique was chosen because it allows researchers to obtain accurate and relevant data by interacting directly with informants who have

special knowledge and expertise in the field under study. Thus, the data obtained is more in line with the problem formulation raised in this study.

To collect the necessary data, researchers applied several methods, namely interviews, observation, and documentation. Interviews were conducted to obtain information directly from informants, while observation was used to observe behaviors and situations relevant to the research. Documentation involves collecting and analyzing documents related to the research topic. These three methods complement each other and provide a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon under study.

The data analysis process begins with sorting out the data that has been collected from interviews, observations, and documentation. The researcher then works with the data to identify patterns, find important things, and determine information that can be conveyed to others. This data analysis aims to reveal findings that are significant and relevant to the research objectives, so that they can make a meaningful contribution to the understanding of the topic under study.

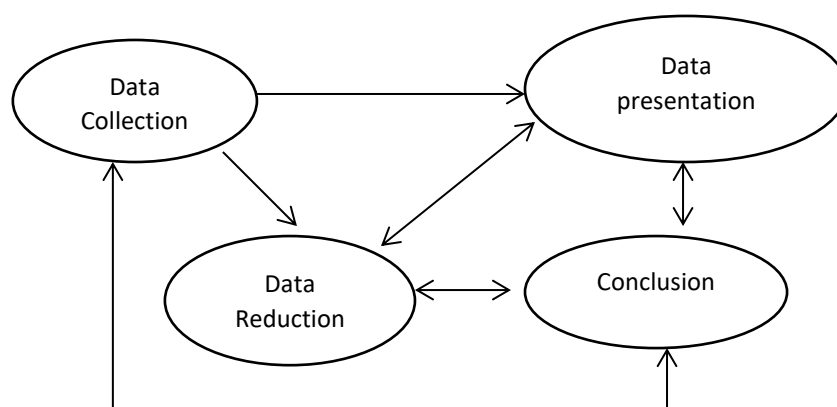


Figure2. Components of Data Analysis Interactive Model

RESULTS

The following are the results of research related to the implementation of the role of the Village Government based on Permendes Number 21 of 2020 concerning General Guidelines for Village Development and Community Empowerment in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency. Communication is the most fundamental element in policy implementation. In the policy implementation process, massive and measurable communication can ensure that information is well absorbed in accordance with the policy objectives. Therefore, communication becomes a bridge in every activity, both by implementers and policy makers.



Figure 3. Interview with the Head of Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, Source: Field Documentation

Based on information from Mr. Juri as the Village Head and Mr. Yuyus Adi as the Village Secretary in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, in implementing the policy, the Rejosari village government held a meeting between officials to discuss the contents of Permendes Number 21 of 2020 and determine the direction of motion to be focused on. The meeting resulted in a decision that the Rejosari village government would focus on community empowerment by considering several existing aspects. Of course, this will be easier if you follow the procedures from the guidelines provided.

In addition, it was also conveyed that one of the aims and objectives of Permendes Number 21 of 2020 is to increase the quantity and quality of village data collection as a basis for planning and improve the economy of village communities. Thus, the Rejosari village government utilizes the opportunities that exist towards the potential and majority of the village population by taking the focus of these guidelines for community empowerment.

By following the existing guidelines, the Rejosari village government hopes to achieve its stated goal of improving the welfare of the village community through various targeted and measurable empowerment programs. This is expected to have a significant positive impact on the development of Rejosari village.



Figure 4. Interview with the Secretary of Rejosari Village, Bantur Subdistrict, Malang Regency, Source: Field Documentation



Figure 5. Interview with the Chairman of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, Source: Field Documentation

Mr. Adi Suprianto, Chairman of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" in Rejosari Village, Bantur Sub-district, Malang District, said that he was the first person contacted by Mr. Jais about the plan. He was explained about the plan and given directions to mobilize farmers to participate fully. According to him, the socialization activities were conducted in two stages. Initially, only one phase was planned, but due to unfavorable conditions, it was conducted in two phases. The first stage was the delivery of information and the focus of Permendes No. 21/2020, while the second stage was the formation of Gapoktan groups. (Interview, May 27, 2024).

Mr. Adi Suprianto continued that after the socialization, they began to carry out activities by studying Permendes Number 21 of 2020 and looking for suitable land for these activities. They were confused about a place for meetings

to discuss problems in the field. However, with mutual agreement and initiative from friends, they decided to use one of the residents' houses as a place to discuss activities. (Interview, May 27, 2024).

Furthermore, activities carried out to sustain the focus of the activities include monitoring, supervision, and evaluation to lead to the success of the program. All of these activities are carried out by following the guidelines from Permendes No. 21/2020 that have been given. (Interview, May 27, 2024).



Figure 6. Interview with Mr. Dani Oka as Secretary of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, Source: Field Documentation

Mr. Dani Oka, as the Secretary of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, explained that in the implementation of Permendes No. 21/2020, there are three main forms of activities carried out. First, socialization was conducted twice to maintain community focus. In the first socialization, the Rejosari Village Government's decision regarding the policy provided was conveyed, as well as the focus to be followed up and an open view of the potential of Rejosari Village. In the second socialization, a group was formed that would play a major role in the program to be implemented, which would manage and be responsible for the success of this plan. The group is called the "Alam Makmur" Farmer Group Association (GAPOKTAN). The monitoring, supervision and evaluation activities are carried out in the field by the GAPOKTAN itself, with Mr. Dani Oka as its advisor (Interview, May 27, 2024).



Figure 7. Socialization Activity

Documentation of socialization activities carried out by the Rejosari Village Government in implementing the Permendes No. 21/2020 policy shows that the first step taken is the delivery of information through socialization. This socialization was conducted in two meetings; the first meeting was to convey the village government's decision and the contents of Permendes No. 21/2020, while the second meeting was to form a group that would manage and be responsible for the implementation of the policy. The group formed was the "Alam Makmur" Farmer Group Association (GAPOKTAN). Other activities such as monitoring, supervision and evaluation are carried out in the field by GAPOKTAN with the Community Self-Help Forestry Extension Worker as an advisor.



Figure 8. Interview with the Secretary of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, Source: Field Documentation

Added by Mr. Dani Oka as Secretary of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, by conveying other forms of activities such as monitoring, supervision and evaluation; "For monitoring, supervision and evaluation carried out as well as checking that this program will be implemented in accordance with the guidelines given. Although at the beginning there were still many mistakes, but it can all be resolved properly with the help of the advisor and Permendes Number 21 of 2020 itself." (Interview, May 29, 2024).



Figure 9. Interview with the Chairperson of Gapoktan Wanita Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, Source: Field Documentation

Siti Maimunah, the Chairperson of Gapoktan Wanita "Maju Makmur" in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, continued: "Our supervision aims to ensure the safety of the program, both in terms of the process and the implementers. After that, we conduct an evaluation to identify aspects that need to be improved and developed." (Interview, May 29, 2024).



Figure 10. Interview with the Secretary of Gapoktan Wanita Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, Source: Field Documentation

Ibu Rina Agustin, as the Secretary of Gapoktan Wanita "Maju Makmur" in Rejosari Village, Bantur Sub-district, Malang Regency, explained that the reference from Permendes 21/2020 is used in implementing existing programs. Therefore, monitoring, supervision, and evaluation are carried out to ensure that the program runs according to the guidelines provided and achieves the maximum level of success, so that the aims and objectives of Permendes 21/2020 can be fulfilled. The following is documentation of monitoring, supervision, and evaluation activities carried out by the Rejosari Village Government in implementing the policies of Permendes Number 21 of 2020.



Figure 11. Monitoring, Supervision and Evaluation Activities, Source: Rejosari Village Government

Based on the results of interviews and documentation, the Rejosari Village Government, Bantur Sub-district, Malang District, implements the Permendes No. 21/2020 policy through several activities, including two-stage socialization, as well as monitoring, supervision, and evaluation. These activities are in line with the Permendes policy. In addition, this policy has encouraged the development of Rejosari Village through community empowerment programs, especially porang tuber crop farmers. The formation of the GAPOKTAN "Alam Makmur" group also played an important role in this program. As a researcher and community member of Rejosari Village, I can see and feel the development and positive results of this program.

Resources are an important element in every policy implementation to achieve success in accordance with the desired goals and objectives. Without resources, policies will be difficult to implement and achieve success. The following are the facilities and infrastructure provided in implementing the role of the Village Government based on Permendes Number 21 of 2020, in accordance with the focus of the Rejosari Village Government, Malang Regency.



Figure 12. Porang cultivation field, Source: Field Documentation



Figure 13. Porang Cultivation Processing Tools, Source: Field Documentation



Figure 14. Porang Cultivation Seedlings, Source: Field Documentation

Mr. Jais, as the Community Self-Help Forestry Extension Officer and Advisor of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" in Rejosari Village, Malang Regency, said that the land used belongs to the village government which is managed by the village head. To accelerate the implementation of the program, the village head immediately gave directions for the land to be used for the porang cultivation program. This aims to minimize the implementation budget, so that the budget can be allocated for other needs such as equipment and facilities for program implementation based on Permendes Number 21 of 2020. (Interview, May 27, 2024).

Mr. Juri, as the Head of Rejosari Village, Bantur Sub-district, Malang District, added that the use of land owned by the village government aims to accelerate the implementation of the program according to their focus. By using land that is already available, they do not need to look for other land, which will take a lot of time and procedures. This directive was given directly by the village head to ensure the smooth implementation of the program. (Interview, May 27, 2024).

With the direction and use of land owned by the village government, the porang cultivation program can be implemented more efficiently and effectively. This step also allows for a more optimal budget allocation for various other program needs, in accordance with the guidelines of Permendes No. 21/2020. (Interview, May 27, 2024).

According to Mr. Yuyus Adi, Secretary of Rejosari Village, Bantur Sub-district, Malang District, "The land we use is owned by the village government and is under the management of the village head himself. This provides flexibility in utilizing the land for various programs that benefit the people of Rejosari Village. This decision demonstrates proactive leadership and responsiveness to local needs. Utilizing land owned by the village government demonstrates an effort to optimize existing local resources. It is a strategic move to maximize the benefits of assets already owned without the need to incur additional costs." (Interview, May 27, 2024).

Disposition is part of the behavioral tendencies or characteristics of policy implementers, its role is very important in realizing policy implementation in accordance with the objectives. Disposition in this case is how the character of the implementers is transparent, participatory and has a high commitment. As a policy implementer, of course, you must have this attitude when carrying out your duties and obligations, even in difficult situations and conditions to realize the objectives of the policy implementation itself.

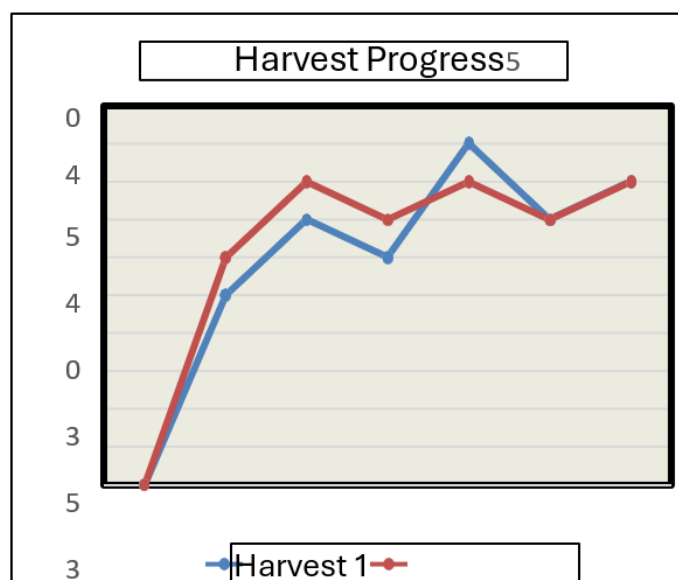


Figure 15. Development of Porang Cultivation Yields, Source: Field Documentation

Mr. Adi Suprianto, Chairman of Gapoktan "Alam Makmur" in Rejosari Village, Bantur Sub-district, Malang District, said, "The development of crop yields that we have achieved in the course of this program is very satisfying for us. Every month we achieve a good increase, and of course this is a positive thing for the village. Gapoktan Wanita 'Maju Makmur' can do any processing. In addition, based on Permendes Number 21 of 2020, this is a factor in increasing the yield of our cultivation." (Interview, May 29, 2024).



Figure 16: Product of Porang Cultivation, Source: Field Documentation

Based on the information and documentation above, the implementers' compliance with the Permendes Number 21 of 2020 policy is a benchmark in carrying out their duties and authorities. This compliance is very measurable in the implementation of programs based on this policy. This can be seen from the success of the program and some positive highlights from the local government, such as the development of crop yields, product processing, and awards obtained by the Rejosari Village Government, Bantur District, Malang Regency.

The bureaucratic structure is a unity of the organizational hierarchy contained in government institutions, in which there is a chart of the division of tasks between each unit or field. So that all forms of implementation can be measured and well organized according to applicable procedures. In implementing policies, every element of the bureaucracy certainly works together in accordance with the vision and mission adopted, even though they actually have different main tasks and functions (Tupoksi) based on the existing structure. However, there is one thing that needs to be done on the basis of bureaucratic institutions in presenting good policies for the community.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussion regarding the role of the Village Government in improving community welfare through porang farmers in Rejosari Village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, it was found that the implementation of the role of the village government based on Permendes Number 21 of 2020 concerning General Guidelines for Village Development and Community Empowerment is very significant. This implementation includes aspects of communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure, all of which play an important role in the implementation of the policy. Effective communication, optimal resource utilization, good disposition, and an organized bureaucratic structure are the keys to the success of this program. In addition, there are supporting and inhibiting factors in implementing the role of the Rejosari Village Government. Supporting factors include support from the community and the availability of adequate resources. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors include bureaucratic constraints and a lack of coordination between units. Nevertheless, efforts to overcome these obstacles continue so that the program can run smoothly and provide maximum benefits to the village community.

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