

Socialization of the Power Relationship of Village Heads and Village Consultational Boards (BPD) in Village Government

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Abstract. *The importance of better understanding the power relations between the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in the context of village government administration. Through socialization activities in Towata Village, North Polong Bangkeng District, Takalar Regency, participants, especially the main elements such as the Village Head, Chairman and BPD Members, gained a deeper understanding of the role and authority of each party as well as the positive impact of creating positive relationships. balance between the two. The results of the socialization show increased awareness of the importance of harmonious cooperation between the Village Head and the BPD in decision making, implementing village programs, and monitoring the performance of the village head. In addition, a better understanding of these power relations also opens up opportunities to resolve conflicts or tensions that may arise within village government. Thus, this paper concludes that a better understanding of the power relations between Village Heads and BPD is an important first step in building effective, fair and democratic village governance.*

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INTRODUCTION

In Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, it specifically orders the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) to implement democratic life. A similar obligation applies to villages, namely to develop democratic life (Amanullah et al., 2015). Towata Village is one of the villages in North Polongbangkeng District, Takalar Regency, which in implementing village government always creates democratic life. Towata Village has a population of 3116 people, consisting of 1516 male residents and 1600 female residents (BPS, 2021). In the village arena, this population is the basic capital for Towata Village in building democratic life. This is because each resident can create patterns of social interaction according to their position and role in the village community (Mokodompis, 2014). In simple terms, we can see the relationship pattern between village communities and the elite who govern as administrators of village government, such as the Village Head and his apparatus and the BPD in the Village (Ruslie, 2024).

In general, in Towata Village, the Village Head has the same duties as other villages, namely organizing village government, carrying out village development, developing village community and empowering village communities. In carrying out their duties, the Village Head receives supervision from the BPD, thereby creating a power relationship between them (Ruslie, 2024). The presence of the BPD has the following functions: (i) discussing and agreeing on the Draft Village Regulations with the Village Head; (ii) accommodate and channel the aspirations of the village community, and (iii) carry out the performance of the village head. Looking at the Village Head's duties in relation to the supervisory function of the BPD, there is at least an unequal

power relationship that creates disharmony in village government. In reality, what has been most widely socialized is the relationship between the Village Head and the BPD in the legalistic/juridical aspect. This is like the Village Head and BPD jointly discussing and establishing village regulations, including discussing strategic matters (Sarga, 2021). Strategic matters include: village structuring, village planning, village cooperation, investment plans entering the village, formation of Village BUM, addition and release of village assets and extraordinary events.

The power relations between the Village Head and the BPD are not much exposed to the public in terms of social aspects, and sometimes they are even of little concern to the Village Head and BPD supervisory officials at various levels of government, especially supervisors from the supra-village government. In the implementation of village government, the power relationship between the Village Head and the BPD seems to be a taboo subject to be discussed in the village community. Empirically, there are 4 (four) patterns of relationship between the Village Head and the BPD (Eko et al., 2014), namely: (1) Dominative, this occurs when the Village Head is very dominant/powerful in determining village policies and the BPD is weak; (2) Collusive, the relationship between the Village Head and the BPD looks harmonious, with both colluding, making it possible to carry out acts of corruption; (3) Conflictual, between the BPD and the Village Head there are often discrepancies regarding village decisions; and (4) Partnership, between the BPD and the Village Head building a partnership relationship, if it is true it is supported, if it is false it is reminded.

In reality, a village does not develop because it is related to the conflict between the Village Head and the BPD (Damanik, 2024). Even though the conflict is only latent, it is quite disturbing in the implementation of village government, implementation of village development, development of village society and empowerment of village communities. Grassroots communities who are starting to be critical in the village are starting to question the power relationship between the Village Head and the BPD because they want to create a balance of power so that the BPD's supervisory function runs well. BPD as a representative of society must not remain silent, but must remain active in carrying out supervision.

Solution

A crucial problem that is often found in the presence of the BPD is the inability to understand the power relations between the BPD and the Village Head in the administration of village government. In monitoring the performance of the village head in his relationship with the BPD, sometimes the BPD goes too far to carry out the auditor function with the desire to check the village's financial accountability so that the BPD leaves the supervisory function but what is emphasized is acting as an auditor. The supervisory function of the BPD is interpreted as an auditor so that the Village Head feels disturbed in implementing policies, programs and activities. Paying close attention to this problem, the solution offered is; (1) Prepare socialization materials related to the main duties of the Village Head and the Position and Functions of the BPD in accordance with Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages; (2) Preparing teaching materials/socialization materials regarding the power relations between Village Heads and BPD which have so far not been made public, such as understanding patterns of dominative, collusive, conflictual and partnership relations; (3) Providing outreach to the target group regarding the understanding, benefits and impact of the power relations between the Village Head and the BPD in village government.

Outcome Target

This community service activity (PKM) targets 90% of the target group to understand the meaning, benefits and impact of the power relationship between the Village Head and BPD in village government. Through the socialization of power relations between the Village Head and the BPD in Towata Village, it is hoped that it can increase the understanding and insight of the target group, so that the conflictual relations that often occur will be reduced. In fact, the power relationship between the Village Head and the BPD can operate as harmonious partners in the administration of village government, as is the expectation of the village community.

METHODS

The location for carrying out community service activities chosen is in Towata Village, North Polong Bangkeng District, Takalar Regency. In implementing community service activities, the target group is divided into 2 (two) elements, including: (1) the main element is the Village Head together with the Chair and Members of the BPD as village government administrators, who have the function of discussing and agreeing on the Draft Village Regulations together with the Village Head; and (2) the supporting element is the Village Apparatus as a staff element who assists the village head in formulating policies and coordination which is accommodated in the village secretariat. The type of activity carried out is in the form of socialization using lecture and question and answer methods to participants who are the target group, namely the Village Head, BPD and Village Apparatus. The socialization activity was chosen because it only wanted to provide participants with a general understanding of the material without technical knowledge, as in training activities. To carry out community service activities, activity stages are carried out starting from the preparation stage, implementation to the evaluation stage as follows:

Preparation phase

The preparatory stages carried out in this socialization are as follows; (1) Coordination meeting between lecturers and academic services, related to PKM activity plans, forming an Implementation Team, preparing proposals and determining the location for PKM implementation; (2) Coordination of IPDN South Sulawesi Campus Academic Services with the Towata Village Government, regarding plans for community service activities; (3) Through the readiness and approval of the Village Head as the location of the PKM activities, the lecturer will identify the problem to then determine the theme of the PKM activities that will be carried out in each field; (4) Based on the identification of problems and issues faced by the Towata Village Government as a partner, the theme for community service activities was chosen, namely Socialization of the Power Relations of Village Heads and BPD in Village Government; (5) The South Sulawesi Campus IPDN Academic Services together with the Head of Towata Village, determine the schedule for implementing PKM activities as well as plans for calling socialization participants.

Implementation Stage



Figure 1. Implementation of Socialization in Towata Village

The implementation stages carried out in this socialization are as follows; (1) The Village Head carries out a summons for socialization participants according to the theme of the PKM activity, whose participants are from the Village Head and Village Apparatus, Chair and Members of the BPD in Towata Village; (2) Students/Students organize socialization participants, related to filling in participant attendance lists, and other needs required by participants; (3) Implementation of Village Head and BPD Power Relations Socialization activities in the Village Government in Towata Village, starting with the opening, presentation of material, questions and

answers and closing; (4) At the end of the socialization meeting, students/students collect all the results of questions and answers that developed during the socialization, including participants' recommendations for preparation of reports on community service activities.

Evaluation Stage

It is carried out at each stage of the activity by the Implementation Team, both in the preparation and implementation stages to be able to find out developments and obstacles that occur so that the evaluation can provide input for improving future activities. At certain times an evaluation is carried out after socialization, to determine changes that have occurred in the power relations between the Village Head and the BPD in Towata Village.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of community service activities (PKM) carried out in Towata Village, Polong Bangkeng Utara District, Takalar Regency resulted in a better understanding of the power relations between the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in the administration of village government. Based on the activity evaluation, there are several important findings:

The increased awareness of the participants, especially the main elements consisting of the Village Head, Chairman and BPD Members, is a direct result of the success of the socialization carried out. Through this socialization, they become more aware of the importance of understanding their respective roles and functions in the context of village democratic life. They realize that each individual in the village government structure has specific responsibilities and roles in maintaining balance and fairness in decision making and overall village government administration. The concept of power relations between the Village Head and the BPD conveyed in the socialization also provides a deeper understanding (Yubilianti Leno Leton, 2023). The participants became informed about various relationship patterns that might occur between the Village Head and the BPD, such as dominative, collusive, conflictual and partnership patterns. They realize that the dynamic relationship between these two entities has a significant impact on the effectiveness and sustainability of village government.

In the concept of a dominative pattern, participants understand that if the Village Head has very dominant power, this can result in the BPD becoming weak and playing less of a role in decision making (Bebhe, 2022). On the other hand, in a collusive pattern, participants realize that a harmonious relationship between the Village Head and the BPD can enable collusion which has the potential to give rise to acts of corruption. Meanwhile, the conflicts that often occur between the BPD and the Village Head are also in the spotlight in the socialization. Participants realized that discrepancies with village decisions could hinder the decision-making process and cause tension within village governance.

Through the outreach activities carried out, participants can gain a better understanding of the importance of creating balanced power relations between the Village Head and the BPD in the context of village government administration. They realize that this balanced relationship is the main key in creating a harmonious and effective work environment in carrying out village government tasks. Participants are expected to understand that when the power relationship between the Village Head and the BPD is balanced, this will have a positive impact on various aspects of village government administration (Wongkar et al., 2023). First of all, with this balance, the decision-making process at the village level can be fairer and more representative. The resulting decisions will reflect the aspirations and interests of the entire village community, not just a few parties.

Apart from that, harmonious cooperation between the Village Head and the BPD is also more likely to be realized in conditions of balanced power relations (Agusta, 2014). Participants are expected to understand that this collaboration is very important in deciding which village policies and programs will be implemented. With good communication and coordination between the Village Head and the BPD, the resulting policies and programs will be more targeted and can provide maximum benefits for the village community (Werenfridus et al., 2021). Participants are

also expected to understand that a balanced power relationship between the Village Head and the BPD also allows for effective supervision of the village head's performance. In conditions of balanced relations, the BPD has a strong role in supervising the policies and programs implemented by the Village Head (Mukaddar et al., 2021). This will help prevent abuse of power and ensure that every policy taken is the result of a transparent and accountable process.

A better understanding of the power relations between the Village Head and the BPD opens up opportunities for resolving conflicts or tensions that may arise within village government (Sahdan & Sumarjono, 2022). Socialization participants understand that conflicts between Village Heads and BPD often arise due to a lack of understanding of the roles and authorities of each party, as well as a lack of effective communication and coordination. With a better understanding of power relations, participants are better able to identify the roots of problems and find appropriate solutions. They realize that conflict resolution does not only depend on establishing one party's power or dominance over another, but also requires a willingness to understand each other and work together to achieve common goals.

In this context, a better understanding of the roles and authorities of each party allows the creation of a more harmonious and productive work environment within village government. Socialization participants are expected to understand that each entity, both the Village Head and the BPD, has an important role in carrying out village government tasks and that cooperation between the two is the key to success in achieving common goals (Roy & Asmu'I, 2020). In addition, with a better understanding of power relations, it is hoped that participants can develop skills in communicating and negotiating effectively. They realize that conflicts or tensions that arise can be resolved through constructive dialogue and democratic deliberation, not through confrontation or confrontation.

The results of this PKM activity show that a better understanding of the power relations between the Village Head and the BPD is an important first step in building an effective and democratic village government. Thus, this socialization activity makes a positive contribution in improving the quality of village government administration in Towata Village and is expected to become an example for other villages in efforts to create a higher quality democratic life at the local level.

CONCLUSION

The importance of a better understanding of the power relations between the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in the administration of village government. Through the socialization carried out, the participants gained a deeper understanding of the role and authority of each party as well as the positive impact of creating a balanced relationship between the two. As a result, it is hoped that a harmonious and productive work environment can be created in carrying out village government tasks, as well as increasing the possibility of resolving conflicts or tensions that arise. Thus, a better understanding of these power relations makes a positive contribution to strengthening local democracy and improving the quality of village governance.

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