

The Role of the Village Consultative Body in Development Planning in Umbulan Village, Cikeusik District, Pandeglang Regency

Jeni Minan^{1*}, Defi Nuryadin¹, Eno Rurian¹

¹Department of Government Science, Banten Raya College of Social and Political Sciences (STISIP), Indonesia

*Correspondence Email: minanjeni@gmail.com

Abstract

Development is a process of orderly and natural change in welfare levels, encompassing economic, social, political, and legal aspects. The implementation of regional autonomy relies heavily on the readiness of local governments to structure their governance systems to ensure effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable development, while also fostering community participation. Development activities proceed continuously to bring about change, growth, and progress in line with demands and expectations; thus, development requires prior planning. Data collection techniques employed included observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis involved data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data validity was verified through source and method triangulation. The research findings indicate that the role of the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in village development planning—based on a case study of Umbulan Village, Cikeusik District—manifests in three indicators: (1) discussing and agreeing upon draft village regulations with the Village Head; (2) accommodating and channeling community aspirations; and (3) overseeing the Village Head's performance. Supporting factors identified were (1) the educational background of BPD members and (2) the community; meanwhile, inhibiting factors included (1) insufficient participation of BPD members in meetings and (2) facilities.

Keywords: *Role of the Village Consultative Body (BPD), Development Planning*

Introduction

Planning holds a crucial and decisive position in the development implementation process; indeed, one could argue that the potential success or failure of a development program or activity can be predicted by examining the quality of its planning (Wirawan & Nurpratiwi, 2015). This aligns with the view of Soeres et al. (2015), who argue that—given its role as a benchmark for development success and failure—planning must be subject to continuous or periodic revision. The objective is to rectify past errors and establish guidelines for future development implementation, ensuring that activities proceed in accordance with established expectations and targets.

Consequently, village development requires an organizational structure capable of mobilizing the community to participate in development activities and managing

village development administration (Supriadi, 2021). Such an approach fosters more rational development and administrative execution, moving beyond decisions based merely on emotional demands that lack a verifiable basis (Suwignjo, 1982).

Regarding village development planning, the Village Consultative Body (BPD) serves as one of the entities responsible for village governance—regulating and managing local community interests based on origins and customs recognized and respected within the governmental system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (Roza & Arliman, 2017). The village government, comprising the Village Head and Village Officials, plays a pivotal role in village development. The Village Head acts as the leader of the village government and a key governance official, tasked with managing governmental affairs, development, and community-related matters (Rusdia, 2020). Meanwhile, Village Officials include the Village Secretary and other staff, such as the village secretariat, field technical implementers, and territorial representatives. The Village Consultative Body (BPD) is an institution embodying democracy; its membership comprises Community Unit (RW) heads, professionals, religious leaders, and prominent community figures (Langoy, 2016). The Village Consultative Body (BPD) is the body responsible for formulating policies and overseeing their implementation at the village level. BPD members are elected by the people through a direct, free, and secret ballot. Led by a chairperson chosen from among its own members, the BPD is an organization integral to village governance. This arrangement aligns with the advancement of democracy and aims to establish a stronger institution that serves as a vehicle for democratic participation within the village (Nurcholis, 2005). The BPD plays a crucial role in empowering village governance by providing input to the Village Government on matters requiring program adoption for village progress, coordinating with the Village Government, fostering community support for the execution of work programs, and evaluating program implementation through direct oversight and monitoring (Handayani et al., 2023).

Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014 concerning the Implementation of Law Number 6 of 2014 on Villages—specifically Article 114, paragraphs (1) and (2)—states that: “Village development planning is formulated based on agreements reached during village deliberations. The Village Development Planning Deliberation must be conducted no later than the fourth week of January, with reference to the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJM Desa)” (Pamungkas, 2019). Furthermore, Article 115 of Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014 concerning the Implementing Regulations of Law Number 6 of 2014 on Villages states that “village development planning, as referred to in Article 114, serves as a guideline for the village government in drafting the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJM Desa), the Village Government Work Plan (RKP Desa), and the list of proposed activities for the RKP Desa” (Herdiana, 2020). Additionally, Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 114 of 2014 concerning Village Development Guidelines defines village development planning as a staged process of activities carried out by the village government—in a participatory manner involving the Village Consultative Body (BPD) and community elements—to utilize and allocate village resources for the purpose of achieving village development goals (Rudiadi et al., 2021).

The Village Consultative Body (BPD) plays a crucial role in gathering and channeling the aspirations of the community—including the youth—and in overseeing the implementation of village development. However, in Umbulan Village, the BPD still faces challenges in formulating and implementing effective strategies to foster youth participation. Consequently, the voices of the youth are underrepresented in village development planning documents, despite their immense potential to contribute through innovative ideas, active involvement, and oversight of development activities. The success of village development planning relies on support from various stakeholders, including the village government and village institutions. The BPD serves as a partner to the village government, with the primary mandate and function of gathering and channeling community aspirations, overseeing the Village Head's performance, and deliberating on and agreeing upon draft village regulations jointly with the Village Head.

Method

This study employs a qualitative method with a descriptive analysis approach to gain an in-depth understanding and explanation of the phenomenon under investigation. This approach involves describing facts gathered in the field and subsequently analyzing them to generate a comprehensive understanding of the research problem (Moleong, 2006; Sugiyono, 2009). Data were collected through observation, interviews, and other relevant sources to accurately depict the actual conditions. Research informants were selected purposively using a "key person" approach—identifying individuals deemed to possess the knowledge and experience relevant to the research focus, thereby enabling them to provide accurate information. Data analysis was conducted in stages, comprising data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing and verification. These stages aimed to systematically organize, simplify, and interpret the data to yield valid and credible findings.

Result and Discussion

Research conducted in Umbulan Village, Cikeusik District, indicates that the Village Consultative Body (BPD) has been carrying out its legislative function—specifically in deliberating and agreeing upon Draft Village Regulations (*Raperdes*) alongside the Village Head—in accordance with established mechanisms. This process serves as a cornerstone in formulating local regulations that guide village development policy. The BPD and the Umbulan Village Government periodically convene to scrutinize each draft regulation, ensuring the substance truly prioritizes meeting the local community's basic needs.

Deliberations on draft regulations in Umbulan Village go beyond mere legal formalities; they also take into account urgent development priorities. The synergy between the BPD and the Village Head within these consultative forums creates a vital space for dialogue and the alignment of perspectives. Such a platform for equitable discussion effectively minimizes the risk of abuse of authority or unilateral policy-making by the village government.

Agreements reached between the BPD and the Village Head are subsequently formalized into Village Regulations (*Perdes*), which serve as the legal basis for

development implementation. Through this practice, the Umbulan Village BPD has demonstrated its commitment to acting as an equal partner to the Village Head in legislative matters. Successfully establishing clear village-level regulations has proven capable of providing legal certainty for both physical development and community empowerment programs.

A second key focus of this research is the BPD's capacity to gather and channel the aspirations of the Umbulan Village community. As the institution representing the residents' voices, the BPD acts as a crucial communication bridge. BPD members actively engage directly with the *Rukun Tetangga* (RT – neighborhood unit) and *Rukun Warga* (RW – community unit) levels to identify the complaints, needs, and expectations emerging at the grassroots level.

Aspirations gathered from the various hamlets of Umbulan Village are subsequently categorized and thoroughly analyzed by the BPD based on their urgency. This document outlining community aspirations is subsequently presented and advocated for in both pre-Musrenbangdes (Village Development Planning Meeting) and Musrenbangdes forums to ensure the proposals are incorporated into the village government's work plan. This approach ensures that development planning is not driven by the preferences of village elites but is instead rooted purely in the community's actual needs.

However, the effectiveness of channeling these aspirations relies heavily on the active engagement and social sensitivity of individual BPD (Village Consultative Body) members. In Umbulan Village, this process of conveying aspirations has played a significant role in shaping inclusive development programs. The successful channeling of these aspirations indirectly boosts public confidence in the BPD's credibility as the community's representative.

A third indicator highlights that the BPD's role in overseeing the performance of the Umbulan Village Head is crucial for fostering transparent governance. This oversight focuses on the implementation of ongoing development programs and the utilization of the village budget, ensuring adherence to agreed-upon Village Regulations. The BPD conducts periodic field monitoring to assess the quality of physical projects and verify that non-physical programs are effectively reaching their intended targets.

The results of this performance oversight serve as the basis for a substantive evaluation within the Village Government Implementation Report (LKPPD) submitted by the Village Head at the end of each fiscal year. Should any discrepancies arise between planning and actual implementation, the Umbulan Village Consultative Body (BPD) is authorized to seek direct clarification from the Village Head. This oversight function is vital for preventing irregularities and ensuring the accountability of public funds at the village level.

The implementation of objective oversight by the BPD has successfully fostered a more disciplined and responsible governance climate in Umbulan Village. The Village Head and their staff have become more prudent and transparent in executing every stage of development. Ultimately, this oversight leads to higher-quality development outcomes that directly benefit the village residents.

The success of the Umbulan Village BPD in fulfilling the three aforementioned roles is significantly influenced by supporting factors, notably the educational background of its members. Adequate education equips BPD members with the cognitive ability to comprehend regulations, analyze budget drafts, and formulate policies. This intellectual capacity enables them to engage in rational, equitable dialogue when dealing with the village government.

In addition to the internal factor of education, active participation from the community serves as another crucial, inseparable supporting factor. Umbulan Village residents, who are critical and concerned about their area's progress, voluntarily provide input and field data to the BPD. This moral and informational support from the community lends strong legitimacy to the BPD as it advocates for residents' rights in village planning forums.

The positive synergy between the intellectual caliber of BPD members and the cooperative attitude of the community creates a solid, mutually beneficial relationship. High educational standards would render policies hollow without the flow of information from the community. Conversely, an abundance of community aspirations can only be transformed into strategic policies if managed by BPD members who possess a mature conceptual understanding. Alongside these positive achievements, the study also identifies an internal obstacle: the insufficient participation of some BPD members in meetings. Certain members are reportedly frequently absent or passive during critical discussions due to personal work commitments outside their council duties. This phenomenon often delays decision-making and causes the organization's workload to fall disproportionately upon the few active members.

A second factor hindering the optimization of the BPD's performance in Umbulan Village is the lack of adequate facilities and infrastructure to support its duties. The absence of a proper office, a shortage of office supplies, and the lack of a dedicated meeting room make it difficult for the BPD to conduct internal meetings effectively and professionally. These budgetary constraints often force the BPD to operate with limited resources, which can dampen members' motivation.

The cumulative impact of poor meeting attendance and inadequate facilities has blunted the BPD's legislative and oversight functions. Consequently, the village government sometimes has to proceed without comprehensive input from the BPD, as the council's institutional response is slowed by these obstacles. This situation demands serious attention, requiring both a reform of individual members' commitment and a more proportional allocation of the budget for facilities.

Beyond the BPD's internal dynamics, youth participation in village development planning is a crucial element for ensuring long-term sustainable development. Young people are characterized by a progressive mindset and technological adaptability, bringing innovative, forward-looking perspectives to the village's advancement. Their involvement ensures that today's development investments will address the socio-economic challenges they will face in the future.

From a legal standpoint, Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages explicitly mandates that the Village Development Planning Deliberation (Musrenbangdes) must involve all segments of the community without exception, including youth groups. This

regulation provides a legal guarantee for young people to attend, voice their views, and oversee village budget policies. This national policy aims to shift the old paradigm—which viewed youth merely as objects of development—towards one where they are active subjects determining the fate of their villages.

Integrating fresh ideas from the youth is crucial for modernizing sectors with potential in Umbulan Village, such as the management of the Village-Owned Enterprise (BUMDes) and the digitalization of public services. Young people are seen as capable of identifying new opportunities that often go unnoticed by the older generation dominating the village's formal structures. Consequently, youth involvement in every stage of planning is no longer merely an option but an absolute strategic necessity.

However, empirical realities on the ground reveal a significant gap between the mandates of the Village Law and actual implementation. Youth participation in Umbulan Village's development planning processes remains very low, and young people are rarely seen in formal meeting spaces. Most village youth tend to be apathetic, choosing not to engage in village administrative affairs because they view it as the domain of the older generation.

When young people do attend forums like the Village Development Planning Meeting (Musrenbangdes), their presence is often merely symbolic—serving only to satisfy administrative quorum requirements. Voices, proposals, and criticisms voiced by youth representatives are rarely incorporated into the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDes) or the Village Government Work Plan (RKPDDes). They are invited simply to sign attendance lists and pose for group photos, without being given substantive opportunities to debate or shape program policies.

The dominance of a seniority-based patronage culture at the village level is a primary reason why youth participation remains suppressed and invisible. Senior village figures often underestimate the intellectual capabilities of the youth, thereby limiting their scope for political expression. As a result, young people feel frustrated because their specific aspirations—such as job training, sports facilities, and creative economy development—are consistently sidelined in favor of conventional physical infrastructure projects.

A comprehensive analysis of the research findings indicates a strong link between the weak internal performance of the Village Consultative Body (BPD)—stemming from various inhibiting factors—and the low level of youth participation in Umbulan Village. When some members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD) remain passive during meetings and face resource constraints, the institution's ability to engage marginalized groups—including the youth—is inevitably weakened. The BPD lacks specific work programs or effective methodologies to proactively solicit input from the village youth community.

Addressing the complexity of this issue requires revitalizing the role of the Umbulan Village BPD, coupled with a commitment to transparency from the village government to dismantle the symbolic barriers to youth participation. Strengthening the capacity and discipline of BPD members, providing adequate working facilities, and creating youth-friendly spaces for informal dialogue are urgent strategic solutions. Only through inclusive synergy among a functional BPD, an accountable village government,

and participatory youth can development in Umbulan Village proceed in a sustainable and forward-looking manner.

Conclusion

Based on the research findings and discussion, it can be concluded that the role of the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in development planning in Umbulan Village, Cikeusik District, has been carried out through three key indicators: deliberating and agreeing on draft village regulations with the Village Head, accommodating and channeling community aspirations, and overseeing the Village Head's performance. The successful execution of this role is significantly supported by the adequate educational background of BPD members and active community participation. However, optimizing this role remains hindered by the poor attendance of some members at internal meetings and limited facilities and infrastructure supporting the BPD's institutional operations. Meanwhile, implementing the mandates of Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages – specifically regarding youth involvement in the Village Development Planning Meeting (Musrenbangdes) – faces major challenges, as the reality on the ground reveals very low youth participation. Youth involvement in formal planning forums tends to be merely symbolic (serving only to meet administrative quorum requirements) or entirely absent due to a dominant culture of seniority and a lack of space for expressing ideas. Therefore, a collective commitment is required to improve BPD discipline and facilities while creating inclusive spaces for dialogue, ensuring that progressive ideas from the youth can be accommodated for the sake of sustainable village development.

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