Women's Empowerment Through The Women Farmers Group Program In Patangkai Village, Bone Regency

Marlina Rajab
Haluoleo University
linarajab50@gmail.com

Abstract
This study aimed to assess the empowerment of women, employing a qualitative research approach with a descriptive research type. The research focused on key figures such as the Head of Patangkai Village, Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Women Farmers Group (KWT), as well as the community members. Data collection involved various techniques, including observation, interviews, and documentation, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the empowerment process. To enhance the data's validity, source triangulation and technical triangulation were implemented. The analysis followed a systematic approach, encompassing data collection, reduction, presentation, and drawing conclusions. The findings revealed that the empowerment process through the KWT program exhibited positive outcomes in terms of planning and implementation indicators. However, the evaluation indicators demonstrated a shortfall, indicating a suboptimal level of goal achievement in the women's empowerment process. This study sheds light on the nuanced dynamics of women's empowerment within the KWT program. While planning and implementation aspects showcase success, the evaluation phase indicates a need for further scrutiny and improvement. Recognizing these intricacies is vital for refining and optimizing women's empowerment initiatives, ensuring their effectiveness and impact align with the intended goals. Moving forward, future efforts should focus on addressing the identified gaps in the evaluation process to enhance the overall success of women's empowerment through the KWT program.

Keywords: Women; Empowerment; Farmer

INTRODUCTION
Empowering communities and villages is often associated with various issues, including poverty, access to basic needs, social inequality, ineffective institutions, and the self-reliance of rural communities, which depict the challenges at the rural level. On one hand, rural
communities possess the strength of social capital in the form of a communal way of life with a strong sense of mutual cooperation, which has become a distinct culture for rural communities.

Women, considered to face numerous challenges in all aspects of life, are interesting subjects for discussion. Whether in politics, economics, law, or even socio-cultural aspects, women always attract attention as figures of concern and objects of inequality. This is due to the social construction within society, where there is always a noticeable and tangible difference in treatment between men and women. However, this perception does not always require evidence and solutions on how to treat women in the right capacity.

The role of women in addressing family economic difficulties has been sought through legislation, aiming to elevate the status of women to be on par with men in specific areas such as social, political, economic, and cultural aspects. One of the regulations governing women's empowerment is Law No. 25 of 2005 concerning the National Development Program (PROPENAS) for the years 2000-2004. This law encompasses: (1) programs to improve the quality of women's lives, (2) programs for the development and harmonization of women's empowerment policies, and (3) programs to enhance community roles and the institutional capacity of gender mainstreaming.

Empowerment involves making individuals capable of standing on their own and even assisting others. We often hear the phrase "helping people to help themselves," meaning that when empowering someone, we are helping them become self-sufficient. In this context, the legislation, particularly Law No. 25 of 2005, underscores the importance of enhancing the quality of women's lives, developing policies for women's empowerment, and improving community roles and institutional capacities related to gender mainstreaming. This legislative framework is designed to create an environment where women can actively contribute and support themselves and others, thereby addressing economic challenges within families.

Adi, as cited in (Sakir et al., 2024), defines empowerment as a continuous process, an ongoing activity as long as the community desires to make changes and improvements. Essentially, empowerment aims to shape individuals and communities into self-reliant entities. Novian, as mentioned in (Sakir et al., 2023), describes Women's Empowerment as the efforts of women to gain access and control over resources, both economic and political, as well as social and cultural aspects. This enables women to self-regulate and enhance self-confidence, empowering them to play an active role in problem-solving and building their capabilities and self-concept. To assess the success of the empowerment process, (Hayati, 2021) outlines the key elements: Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation.

(Wardany et al., 2020) concludes from his research that in the empowerment process through the Women Farmers Group (Kelompok Wanita Tani - KWT) Cempaka, there are still challenges such as a lack of knowledge and insight into agricultural cultivation and processing among the group members. This deficiency hampers the group's activities. Similarly, Faisal Amin (2019) finds issues in the empowerment process of the community in the Lentera Joint Business Group (Kelompok Usaha Bersama - KUBE) program. Problems include a lack of active participation from the community, particularly among those of productive age who lack specific skills. Furthermore, there is insufficient support for the implementation of the Joint Business Group (KUBE) in addressing poverty comprehensively through community empowerment.

Regarding community empowerment, there are government efforts in empowering women through the establishment of Women Farmers Groups (Kelompok Wanita Tani - KWT), where the majority of members are women. KWT serves as a platform that provides opportunities for women to empower themselves and actively participate in advancing the agricultural sector. The aim is not merely to have women engage in labor-intensive tasks in the fields but to act as processors of agricultural products. This is expected to enhance the marketability of harvests and improve the well-being of the members.

The Patangkai Village Government took the initiative to establish the Women Farmers Group (Kelompok Wanita Tani - KWT) in 2020, named "KWT Bersatu." The primary aim was to provide productive activities for rural women, particularly mothers, to stimulate family and
village economies, especially in agriculture. The KWT activities involve utilizing available resources around homes, making use of backyard or vacant land that can be managed and developed by the KWT members. The presence of the United Women Farmers Group (KWT Bersatu) serves as a solution for women, especially in the local community.

During the initial observation of the implementation of the Women Farmers Group (KWT Bersatu) program in Patangkai Village, the activities focus on utilizing backyard and vacant land for cultivating vegetables. However, there is a lack of knowledge about land management and agricultural yields. Despite the significant potential of natural resources in Patangkai Village, this lack of awareness hampers the optimal execution of the program as a women's empowerment effort.

The empowerment of women through the Women Farmers Group (Kelompok Wanita Tani - KWT) in Patangkai Village, formed in 2020 with 33 members, is expected to assist women and housewives in the village. Previously, these women were solely homemakers, and through participation in group activities, they can contribute to increasing the income of low-income families. This effort aims to transform them into more prosperous households, ensuring the fulfillment of primary, secondary, and tertiary needs in their daily lives.

According to Adi cited in (Abdurrahman & Tusianti, 2021), empowerment is an ongoing process, a continuous activity as long as the community is willing to undergo changes and improvements. Essentially, empowerment aims to shape individuals and communities to become self-reliant. The term empowerment denotes strength or capability (Abdurrahman & Tusianti, 2021) can be interpreted as a process toward empowerment, a process of improving someone's ability for the better by exploring and then developing it. Therefore, empowerment is an effort to provide power by encouraging, motivating, and raising awareness of the potential individuals possess and striving to develop it.

Empowerment, as described by (Butarbutar et al., 2020), is an effort to make individuals self-reliant and even capable of assisting others. The term "helping people to help themselves" indicates that empowering someone means helping them to be self-sufficient. From this understanding, it can be concluded that empowerment emphasizes positive change and development. This includes encouraging individuals to have opportunities to actualize their potential through their own efforts, enabling them to be fully aware and shape their own futures.

The goal of empowerment refers to the condition and outcomes desired through social change, namely empowered communities with the authority, knowledge, and ability to meet their physical, economic, and social needs. This goal involves aspects such as self-confidence, the ability to voice aspirations, livelihoods, participation in social activities, and self-reliance in daily tasks. Key indicators of the success of empowerment, as noted by Asep Usman Ismail and cited in (Hanis & Marzaman, 2020), include the emergence of self-confidence in individuals to change their destiny, overcome poverty, and improve their standard of living.

Empowering women is a form of optimizing women's potential in general, providing them with opportunities to actively participate in society and governance. This process focuses on capacity building and behavioral awareness that emphasizes greater female participation, enabling them to play a central role in formulating transformational policies and decisions. In the context of community development, groups, particularly farmer groups, play a crucial role in achieving societal progress. The Women Farmers Group (KWT) is an association of women engaged in agriculture, growing based on familiarity, harmony, shared ideas, and common interests. The aim of establishing KWT is to enhance agricultural productivity and the welfare of its members through cooperation in utilizing agricultural resources.

**METHOD**

The research duration spanned a period of approximately two months, encompassing the months of July and August. The focal point of the study was the Patangkai Village Office situated in Bone Regency. Employing a qualitative approach, the research adopted a descriptive research type, aiming to delve into the intricacies of the subject matter. The key participants in
this investigation were pivotal figures within the community, including the Head of Patangkai Village, along with the Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Women Farmers Group.

To gather comprehensive insights, the research implemented a multifaceted data collection strategy. Structured interviews served as the primary method, enabling the extraction of detailed information from the identified informants. These interviews were complemented by extensive field observations, allowing the researchers to observe and document real-time scenarios and activities related to the study. Additionally, documentary analysis played a crucial role, providing an in-depth examination of relevant records and materials associated with the research topic.

Conducting the research in Patangkai Village aimed to generate a holistic understanding of the dynamics and practices within the community. The combination of qualitative methods facilitated a nuanced exploration of the subject, shedding light on the experiences and perspectives of key stakeholders involved in the Women Farmers Group.

**RESULTS**

**a. Planning**

Planning is a systematic effort that outlines the arrangement or actions to be taken to achieve the goals of an organization or institution. It involves the coordination or utilization of limited resources efficiently and effectively to reach predetermined objectives. Planning is highly essential in empowerment activities, providing a systematic framework for organizing a sequence of actions. In the context of Women Farmers Group (KWT) in the Bone Regency, planning becomes crucial to determine the course of actions and initiatives undertaken by the group. Each activity within the planning phase needs meticulous consideration to ensure its efficient and effective execution, ultimately leading to the accomplishment of set goals.

The planning process within the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program encompasses various elements. Firstly, it involves the identification of needs, which entails recognizing the disparities between the current state and the desired condition. Secondly, setting objectives establishes the targets to be achieved within the KWT program. Lastly, financial resources are considered as a vital aspect of planning, ensuring the availability of funds to support the implementation of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program.

According to research findings, the planning of women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group program in Patangkai Village has been executed effectively. The planning activities align with the established planning cycle set by the Patangkai Village government. These planning initiatives involve active participation from various stakeholders, including the village government, the Women Farmers Group management, and the Department of Agriculture in Bone Regency.

Observations indicate that the planning process for women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group program has been optimal, adhering to established procedures and aligning with the program's objectives. The comprehensive planning, covering aspects from formation to the management structure of KWT, funding, land allocation, and provision of equipment, ensures the adequacy of resources for women's empowerment through the KWT program.

**b. Implementation**

In the process of implementation, a series of steps are undertaken, starting with the initial phase, which involves preparations before the actual activities commence. Implementation encompasses the technical aspects of the activities, while the final stage involves the concluding elements, including the outcomes of the activities and reporting. Implementation is crucial in any empowerment process, as it ensures that the execution of women's empowerment activities through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program in Patangkai Village is directed, planned, and follows the predetermined objectives.

The careful execution of a program considers the timing, duration, location, and the composition of participants, and it is recommended to be well-prepared and organized. Based on the research findings, the implementation of the Women Farmers Group's activities, utilizing vacant land and houseyards, has yielded positive results since its establishment in 2020. The
implementation of the Women Farmers Group program has progressed well and is in line with the intended goals of the program and the village government.

The execution of women's empowerment, as embodied in the Women Farmers Group, has been carried out optimally. The female members, who serve as the organizers of the KWT in Patangkai Village, have experienced empowerment. Women's empowerment is a significant step taken to explore and develop women's potential, making them more qualified. The implementation of KWT activities involves empowering women by providing beneficial field activities, knowledge enhancement, and skill development initiatives.

Based on the observations, the researcher concludes that the implementation of women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program initially went well. This is evident from the enthusiasm and strong cooperation among the KWT management, resulting in smooth implementation of activities. Although considered an initial program, the support from the village government and the sense of responsibility held by the KWT management in the development process have yielded positive outcomes, and the execution of activities has proceeded smoothly.

c. Evaluation

Evaluation is the identification of the success and failure of a plan, activity, or objective. It involves the collection and analysis of data or information to determine the level of goal achievement or added value from the activity. Evaluation is conducted to assess whether the implementation of activities aligns with the pre-established plans. The results of the evaluation serve as a basis for improvement. Women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program in Patangkai Village, Bone Regency, also requires evaluation.

Based on the research findings from the informants, the evaluation of women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group program has been considered successful. Despite the program having been in progress for approximately three years, it has produced significant impacts. The empowerment activities through KWT aim to empower women to develop their potential, broaden their knowledge, and equip female farmers with a sense of responsibility.

However, the observational results suggest that the evaluation of women's empowerment through the women's farmer group is not effective. Although the initial stages of the program were promising, with KWT members working hard and collaborating in the development of KWT, the empowerment in the recent months has not been optimal. This is attributed to a lack of motivation, support from the village government in the empowerment process, reduced interest among KWT members in development, and weakened communication among the management, leading to diminished participation.

DISCUSSION

a. Planning

Planning is a systematic and integral part of organizational processes that plays a pivotal role in empowering communities and groups. According to Drucker's Management by Objectives theory, effective planning involves defining specific objectives, determining the resources required, and outlining the actions necessary to achieve those objectives. In the case of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Bone Regency, planning becomes a critical factor in orchestrating a series of actions aimed at achieving the group's goals. This resonates with Mintzberg's theory, which emphasizes the importance of careful consideration and coordination of activities during the planning phase for successful execution (Dewi, 2020).

The planning process within the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program involves several key elements. Firstly, there is the identification of needs, drawing on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, which emphasizes recognizing disparities between the current state and desired conditions. Secondly, setting objectives becomes crucial, aligning with the SMART criteria – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. This ensures that the targets set for the KWT program are clear and attainable. Lastly, financial resources, a fundamental aspect of planning, align with the Resource Dependency Theory, ensuring that funds are available to support the program's implementation.
Research findings indicate that the planning of women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group program in Patangkai Village has been effectively executed. This success can be attributed to the active participation of various stakeholders, following the principles of Stakeholder Theory. The involvement of the village government, the Women Farmers Group management, and the Department of Agriculture in Bone Regency ensures a collaborative approach to planning, considering diverse perspectives and resources (Ainiyah & Budiono, 2022).

Observations further support the effectiveness of the planning process in women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group program. The adherence to established procedures and alignment with program objectives reflects the principles of Good Governance theory, promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in the planning activities. The comprehensive planning, covering various aspects from the formation to the management structure of KWT, funding, land allocation, and provision of equipment, adheres to the principles of Total Quality Management, ensuring the adequacy of resources for women's empowerment through the KWT program.

b. Implementation

In the realm of implementation, a meticulous and phased approach is crucial to the success of any program. The process begins with the initial phase, involving preparations before the actual activities commence, transitions into the technical execution of activities, and concludes with the assessment of outcomes and reporting. Implementation is a pivotal aspect of the empowerment process, ensuring that the execution of women's empowerment activities through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program in Patangkai Village is well-directed, planned, and aligns with predetermined objectives (Latipah, 2020).

The effective implementation of a program necessitates careful consideration of various factors, including timing, duration, location, and participant composition. This requires thorough preparation and organization. Research findings underscore that the implementation of Women Farmers Group activities, utilizing vacant land and houseyards, has yielded positive results since its inception in 2020. The program's implementation aligns well with the intended goals set by both the program and the village government.

The execution of women's empowerment, exemplified by the Women Farmers Group, has been optimal, leading to the empowerment of female organizers in Patangkai Village. Women's empowerment is a transformative step aimed at unlocking and developing the potential of women, enhancing their qualifications. The implementation of KWT activities involves empowering women through beneficial field activities, knowledge enhancement, and skill development initiatives, in line with the principles of Participatory Development Theory (Ratnasari et al., 2021).

Observations affirm that the implementation of women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program initially progressed positively. The enthusiasm and strong cooperation among the KWT management are evident, resulting in the smooth execution of activities. Despite being an initial program, the support from the village government and the sense of responsibility demonstrated by the KWT management have generated positive outcomes, ensuring the activities proceed seamlessly. This aligns with the principles of Implementation Theory, emphasizing the importance of effective execution to achieve desired outcomes in a program (Nurlatifah et al., 2020).

c. Evaluation

The concept of evaluation is paramount in assessing the effectiveness and impact of a planned initiative, providing a structured approach to identifying success and areas needing improvement. The process involves the systematic collection and analysis of data to gauge the extent of goal achievement or added value from the implemented activities. In the context of women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) program in Patangkai
Village, Bone Regency, evaluation becomes essential to understanding the program's outcomes (Widhiastuti et al., 2022).

The research findings from informants suggest that the evaluation of women's empowerment through the KWT program has been successful. Over the three-year duration of the program, it has achieved significant impacts by empowering women, fostering the development of their potential, enhancing their knowledge, and instilling a sense of responsibility among female farmers. The positive outcomes align with the objectives of the empowerment program, reflecting the relevance of the evaluation theory in assessing and recognizing success.

However, the observational results reveal a contrasting picture, indicating that the evaluation process of women's empowerment through the Women Farmers Group is not entirely effective. Despite the initial promising stages of the program, where KWT members demonstrated dedication and collaboration in development, recent months have seen suboptimal empowerment. This discrepancy is attributed to various factors, including a lack of motivation, insufficient support from the village government in the empowerment process, diminishing interest among KWT members in development activities, and weakened communication within the management, resulting in reduced participation (Faqih, 2020).

The theory of evaluation is particularly relevant in understanding this dichotomy. While the informants highlight success, the observational data shed light on challenges that may not have been adequately captured in the evaluation process. This emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive evaluation approach that considers both quantitative and qualitative aspects, ensuring a nuanced understanding of the program's impact and areas for improvement. Addressing these challenges and refining the evaluation process will contribute to sustaining and enhancing the effectiveness of women's empowerment initiatives through the Women Farmers Group program (Chotim, 2020).

CONCLUSION

In this research, the development of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Patangkai Village, Bone Regency, unfolds as a journey depicting both successes and challenges in women's empowerment. Through meticulous planning, the program has been effectively executed. Planning not only involved the identification of needs and goal-setting but also ensured the availability of financial resources to support the program's implementation. In this context, the theory of planning proves its relevance in the women's empowerment framework.

During the implementation phase, the research indicates that the execution of the KWT program has proceeded smoothly. Technical steps and other aspects of the program's implementation were carried out diligently and purposefully. Furthermore, the outcomes of the program implementation have yielded positive impacts, especially in empowering women in the village. Observations show that the program's implementation adhered to the principles of implementation theory, emphasizing the importance of planned and directed execution to achieve predetermined goals.

In the realm of women's empowerment, it is evident that the implementation of the KWT program has positively impacted its members. Women, as the primary organizers of the KWT in Patangkai Village, have experienced empowerment. The execution of women's empowerment activities through KWT involves beneficial field activities, knowledge enhancement, and skill development initiatives. The theories of women's empowerment and participatory approaches contribute to explaining how this program provides opportunities for women to explore and develop their potential.

However, evaluation emerges as a critical point that requires further attention. Despite the program's perceived success, recent observations suggest that program evaluation has been less effective. Factors such as a lack of motivation, insufficient support from the village government, and a decline in the interest of KWT managers are key concerns that need to be
addressed. In this context, evaluation theories offer valuable insights into understanding how a program should be effectively evaluated to support continuous improvement.

Overall, the development of KWT in Patangkai Village stands as a successful example of women's empowerment. However, challenges in program evaluation need to be overcome to ensure that the program continues to deliver positive impacts and serves as inspiration for the development of similar programs elsewhere.

REFERENCES


