

LOCAL COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL INNOVATION IN OVERCOMING HUNGER ELDERLY: A CASE STUDY IN KAPANEWON PALIYAN, GUNUNGKIDUL

Ameylia Puspita Rosa Dyah Ayu Arintyas

Master of Leadership and Policy Innovation, Gadjah Mada University

**Corresponding author. Email: ameyLIA.prdAA@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT

Hunger is still a problem for some people. The cause is not only derived from economic conditions but also family structure, social environment, and age. One group that is vulnerable to hunger is the elderly. Elderly people are vulnerable because of a decrease in physical condition so they are unable to meet their own needs, live alone because their families have separated, and do not have an economic safety net or an old-age pension fund. In rural areas in particular, several forms of local social protection have developed to deal with hunger, which is an adaptation to the COVID-19 era. Therefore, this concern was raised as the topic of this research. To obtain more specific data, a case study will be carried out regarding local community-based innovations in overcoming hunger in the elderly. The study will be carried out on a micro basis in Kapanewon Paliyan, Gunungkidul, and Yogyakarta. This study used qualitative methods by collecting data using semi-structured interviews and observation. The results of the research will describe the process of local community-based innovation action and its impact on reducing hunger in the elderly.

Keywords: *Hunger, Innovation, Local, Elderly*

INTRODUCTION

In carrying out life, there is a need for system sustainability through efforts to maintain several entities within the process and time. Globally, inter-community associations through the association of nations have formulated a vision in realizing these needs, namely creating a healthy, safe, peaceful, and developing society and nation, having opportunities to increase capacity through the economy, and maintaining and restoring the biosphere. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global agenda formally reducing this vision to 17 goals. These goals were then adopted and implemented by 193 countries, one of which is Indonesia, through discourse and development policies with institutional work, regulation, financing, and the promotion of sustainable design (Odoom et al., 2023).

Partnerships become a strategy for encouraging the universality of this goal. Through partnerships, each program that is then initiated to achieve this goal can represent the role of stakeholders in the public sector, government, private sector, academia, civil society organizations, and the media. Partnership as an interaction in the social system is believed to be able to direct development that is more open, evolutionary, and inclusive so that anyone can be involved in the work of this effort (Kumi, 2019).

Socioeconomic priorities must be applied to explore needs and possible innovations that can be realized to achieve these goals. Through theoretical development and a humanist approach, the gap between needs and the program or agenda that has been announced can be bridged to obtain the most appropriate

solution. One of the goals in the SDGs, which later became a concern in writing this paper, is related to the second goal, namely "no hunger". Zero hunger is a complex goal because it requires interdisciplinary work on food, environment, health, innovation, and social and political policies (Poto, 2020).

As a general element in overcoming hunger, food has broader social facts than just an object for consumption to fulfill needs. Food also has a causal relationship in the community, such as justice, expression, and conflict. Therefore, the representation of food can then explain other elements of the goals of the SDGs apart from no hunger, namely, responsible consumption and production (SDG number 12) and a healthy and prosperous life (SDG number 3). Each region has its autonomy in managing food. There are also significant differences in access to food in villages and cities, although the relationship that may be formed in food production and distribution is circularity. For example, in villages, many people still experience difficulties in meeting basic needs, so sometimes there is hunger even though they grow rice, which is a basic need for Indonesian society in general. The rice they plant must be sold first to collectors and as an effort to standardize agricultural products. After going through various middleman chains, selling at low prices, they buy it back at high prices on the pretext that the rice is legal for sale (Bindi & Belliggiano, 2023).

The chaos of this system requires a community network that can become a messenger of change and a trigger that the relationship between food and citizens has obligations and rights that need to be fulfilled. Not just adding to the production side, but there needs to be an awareness to regulate the community's habitat or way of life. Collective narratives and innovations enable programs or goals to achieve zero hunger to reach large-scale benefits (Renting, Schermer, & Rossi, 2012). Ensuring there is no hunger has a close relationship with efforts to improve living systems

Through the urgency in fulfilling these food needs, the Indonesian government, one of the countries that actively cooperate internationally, is concerned about efforts to realize "no hunger". The Global Hunger Index states that currently, Indonesia has a hunger rate of 17 million people, or 6.1% of the entire population experiencing hunger. This level places Indonesia at level 18 globally and the 3rd highest in Southeast Asia. Food insecurity has also reached 23.5 million people based on data compiled by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) (Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022). The Indonesian government has carried out the production and distribution process of staple foods. However, more than these efforts are needed because even though food availability is key, people's lifestyles also determine how they can take advantage of access to food and provide subsidies to vulnerable groups accessing food, including the advanced group. Age (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022).

Health workers do not directly know about hunger in the elderly. Older people usually experience hunger when illness occurs and require medical action. The elderly who experience hunger tend to suffer from reduced immunity and decreased physiological function of the brain and muscles. If they experience injuries, it takes a long time to heal. The risks that occur in the elderly then make the elderly one of the targets in handling hunger in Indonesia (Darubekti, 2022). So far, the elderly are still placed as the umpteenth target and are sidelined because they are considered to have no more significant impact on national development efforts. However, the happiness

index and life expectancy are then used as indicators of success in measuring how much the government realizes the welfare of its citizens (Kidd et al., 2021).

Elderly welfare in accessing food needs requires collaborative work between sectors. Presidential Regulation Number 88 of 2021, concerning the National Strategy for Aging, mandates Article 5 to strengthen institutional roles and involve the community by creating elderly-friendly society in participation in the protection of the elderly. Another regulation that is currently also being formed is to update the 2019 Elderly Welfare System Law. The draft law will contain points regarding innovations launched or continued by the government in shaping elderly welfare, namely programs from the ministry social: Social Rehabilitation Assistance (ATENSI), Family Hope Program (PKH), Basic Food Program, and Food (Commission VIII of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022). In addition to these programs, other programs that later emerged at the regional level were also carried out to increase the welfare of the elderly. The Special Region of Yogyakarta, for example, currently has a lifelong social assistance program for poor elderly originating from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) funds (Ria, 2023). This is done to accelerate the welfare of the elderly in Yogyakarta, which in 2020 had a higher regional elderly poverty rate than the national elderly poverty rate. This poverty is centralized in the countryside, making it a criticism of how welfare distribution is delivered (Rahayu, 2022).

Older people who cannot meet their own needs need support from other parties, most of whom still depend on their families. Families in Indonesia, especially Yogyakarta, still adhere to the teachings of respect and reciprocity towards parents. However, this then creates repression and pressure for the family to experience a "triangle condition" and then blames the elderly as a burden on the family so that it is not uncommon for the elderly to experience neglect and violence.

Based on the conditions and the program's existence, this sparked researchers to examine further the conditions of hunger that occur in poor older people, especially those in the rural areas of the Special Region of Yogyakarta. The gap between policy and the level of elderly who experience poverty and hunger becomes a standing position for researchers to choose the criteria for the research area so that it can represent the needs of physically, economically, and regionally vulnerable elderly. As part of a developing country and the existence of Javanese values related to collaboration, the community is very supportive of accelerating fulfillment without hunger. This research will focus on innovations or extensions of government programs such as PKH, food, and basic food programs in preventing and overcoming hunger for the elderly in the region.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative research model. Qualitative research explores and describes an issue related to individuals or groups in narrative form. In this study, it is not just the displayed results but the process that causes the issue. Certain procedures, such as data collection, data organization, data display, and then analysis, are used in this study (Creswell, 2014).

This research study will be conducted in Kapanewon Paliyan, Gunungkidul Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta Province, as one of the rural areas that implement the PKH and food programs as well as high social awareness of the community

(community) in preventing and overcoming hunger in the elderly. The research will be carried out by interviewing relevant stakeholders, which is a form of Key Informant Interview (KII), namely the Mugido Expert Community Group, a major community group formed to strive to meet the food needs of the elderly. Interviews will be conducted with semi-informal in-depth interviews through snowball questions. Furthermore, this study describes and analyses the program and innovation efforts and the resulting impact. Through this research, it is hoped that it will be able to provide education and updates on the welfare conditions of the elderly, especially regarding food and as a reference for future researchers and the government in viewing hunger that occurs in the elderly.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Program Description

Formally, Indonesia has various programs to improve the welfare of the elderly, especially regarding access to and fulfillment of food. This policy has been established nationally through ministries/agencies and at the regional level through regional regulations, governors, and regents/mayors. Existing programs such as PKH, basic food programs, and food. Although some of these programs use Proxy Means Testing (PMT), which focuses on certain criteria for the elderly, especially at the economic level, it is hoped that by determining these criteria, the state welfare budget will be more efficient, and fair to the elderly in need.

PKH is delivered to the elderly through direct cash assistance, worth 2.4 million annually. PKH is a form of economic assistance to the elderly so that they elderly can meet their basic needs. This cash assistance requires the beneficiary group to be registered in a health facility. The broad objective is to reduce social risks so that old age poverty decreases. Through PKH, the elderly are more closely monitored for basic social services for their health, nutrition, food, and getting social assistance because they use community-based as a forum for socializing so that the elderly do not feel alienated or abandoned (Directorate General of Social Protection and Security, Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2019).

Another assistance given to the elderly is basic food assistance. This staple food assistance emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, which restricted mobilization, especially for certain vulnerable groups. The elderly, in this case, is not only economically vulnerable because many family members who have been laid off also experience health vulnerabilities, which limits them from being able to carry out economic activities as usual. This staple food program is intended for poor households with a total revenue of two hundred thousand rupiahs, which can only be used to purchase food. The elderly who receive this program are poor elderly who are recorded in the Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS) and PKH. This program is also a form of adoption of the rice program system for underprivileged families. However, the difference is that basic food assistance as non-cash food assistance does not adopt a subsidy system for purchasing food needs (National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction and The SMERU Research Institute, 2020).

At the end of 2022, there will be a food program for the elderly. This food program is an innovation program in response to food challenges for the elderly because

most older people cannot longer process and cook their food. The target of this program is single poor elderly. These seniors are given two portions of ready-to-eat food daily worth twenty-one thousand rupiahs. The general public is involved in organizing this program. This is done so that people are increasingly aware that the government does not only carry out the obligation to provide for the food needs of the elderly but that there is a need for solidarity from the surrounding community (Directorate General of Social Rehabilitation, Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022).

At the regional level, DI Yogyakarta Province will also assist the elderly. This regional assistance is a form of social assistance for the elderly, managed by the DI Yogyakarta Privilege Fund. This is a form of regional responsibility for the high rate of elderly poverty in DI Yogyakarta. Based on Mayor Regulation Number 33 of 2021 it is stated that the elderly assistance program has been running in the City of Yogyakarta by assisting worth one hundred and eighty thousand rupiahs every month for one year to the elderly who are card holders for the Prosperous City of Yogyakarta.

Visions and programs to improve the welfare of the elderly have been regulated on the legal basis of the National Social Security System Law, the Social Welfare Law, the Elderly Social Welfare Law, Government Regulation Number 43 of 2004 concerning the Implementation of Efforts to Improve Elderly Welfare, Presidential Decree Number 52 of 2004 concerning the Establishment of the National Elderly Commission, and Minister of Social Affairs Regulation Number 19 of 2012 concerning Guidelines for Elderly Services. These regulations are intended to help protect the elderly so they can continue to fulfill

their social functions and needs. Even though it seems a simple goal, until now, the regulations that have been formed have not been able to solve the welfare problems of the elderly, especially regarding meeting basic food needs (Djamhari, Ramdhaningrum, Layinginah, Chrisnahutama, & Prasetya, 2020).

B. Community Innovation

The existence of programs and the many policies that have covered the efforts to protect the elderly have not improved the welfare of the elderly. The DI Yogyakarta Province, which even has policies at the regional level with different management and program budget sources from the central program, is still struggling to improve the welfare of the elderly, especially those in rural areas. This condition is quite sad when compared with the efforts that have been made. Even so, it cannot be denied that the challenges for DI Yogyakarta are very complex, starting from distribution in urban-rural areas, breaking the chain of poverty and inequality due to low regional minimum wages, and a shift in meaning. Towards the elderly in the family, the responsibility for protecting the elderly has not yet reached its optimal point.

As an area that still upholds cooperation, the people of Yogyakarta are not necessarily silent about hunger in the elderly. Especially in rural areas, the community's concern for neighbors later becomes a source of how these older people in DI Yogyakarta can meet their daily needs. Although this innovation cannot be claimed to be sustainable, as long as the value of cooperation and respect for the elderly is maintained, every community will ensure that the elderly, especially the elderly who do not live together with their families, can meet their basic food needs.

One of the actors who is then engaged in social efforts, one of which is the effort to

facilitate the basic needs of the elderly, is Community Groups (Pokmas). In the Paliyan sub-district, as the Pokmas study area, there is the Mugido Expert chaired by Tuyyakata. This Pokmas was formed by the sub-district head of Paliyan to facilitate the food program for the elderly. However, after the program was no longer running, the Pokmas also did not necessarily release their responsibilities in the effort to provide food for the elderly. Tukayata, also a social educator, then grasped a potential for collaboration by involving the community in the practical and private spheres regarding facility support and funding. "Government programs require complex readiness starting from institutions, funding, to resources. It's a pity for the elderly if the program changes frequently and is not sustainable, because the elderly have already pinned their hopes on it. Even though formally this program no longer exists, we are still looking for a solution" (Tuyyakata, 2023)

To continue this program, there is currently a collaboration to form a Community-Based Social Welfare Forum program. As the name implies, this program is a form of the grassroots movement that bridges the gap for the community, especially the poor elderly who have not been registered with the DTKS, so they do not receive PKH or basic food assistance. As a grassroots movement, this movement gains great legitimacy from the community because it requires agreement between elements of society, including determining priorities. These social extension workers serve as intermediary actors who channel any assistance received directly through the Community-Based Social Welfare Forum.

In a more micro movement, "Blessing Friday" is a program that has been fairly sustainable in meeting the food needs of the elderly. Even though the target of this program is relatively small, this movement is carried out in almost every village so that both the giver and the recipient have closeness they can build trust in it. This blessed Friday is also supported by religious values, which become donors' spirits to enhance human values further.

Community initiatives have a small impact physically. However, through the collective work of each community, these initiatives increased habituation in society to be sensitive to social and humanitarian issues such as the community. This local grassroots movement also bridges the gap in the distribution of existing welfare and minimizes the emergence of conflicts due to inequality of recipients of welfare assistance.

C. Challenges and Impact Analysis

The synchronization of the existence of work programs in overcoming hunger in the elderly and the factual conditions of the elderly then need to be studied further so that improvements can be made and increase the effectiveness of efforts to prevent hunger for the elderly. Some of the problems found based on research that has been done are related to program sustainability, distribution of wealth, and existing stigmatization.

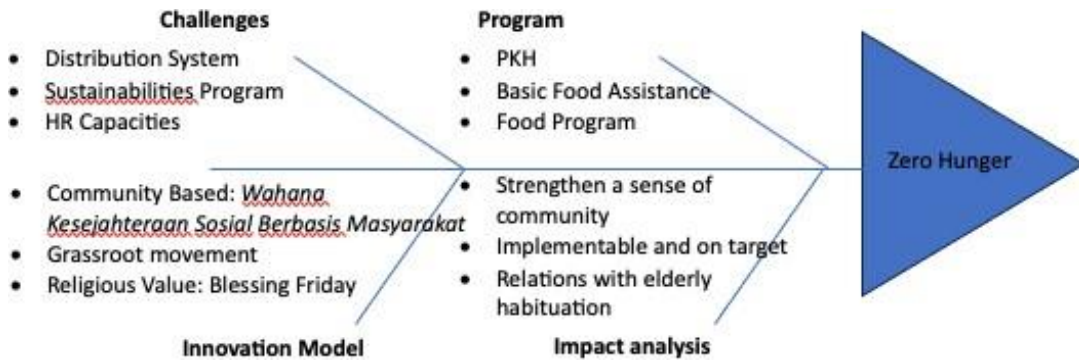


Figure 1. Fishbone Diagram of Challenges and Impact Analysis of Zero Hunger Vision Source: Researcher Processed

Through existing innovations as a breakthrough to create programs to meet the basic need of the elderly, this will build community bonds, especially in creating an elderly-friendly society. Grassroots programs are easier to implement because they do not need to undergo specific bureaucratic procedures. With good management, even though the scale of this innovation is small, it can bridge the gap between the elderly, especially those who have not received assistance from the government, thereby creating stable access to food for the elderly and increasing positive relations between the community, especially the productive age group and the elderly.

CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, the elderly are among the most vulnerable groups in experiencing hunger. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have raised a vision without hunger globally. Without hunger, it has a relational relationship that influences and is influenced by economic, social, health and geographical factors. The program for overcoming elderly hunger in the Paliyan sub-district, Gunungkidul district, is based on programs from the national government and local governments related to direct cash and non-cash assistance. However, gaps in distribution still need to be found, such as uneven distribution, continuity of program duration, and serving human resources. Therefore, specific community-based innovations and religious values are formed based on community initiation. Through these innovations, the goal of not going hungry can be more implementable, right on target, build positive relationships with the elderly, and especially strengthen the sense of responsibility in the community itself.

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