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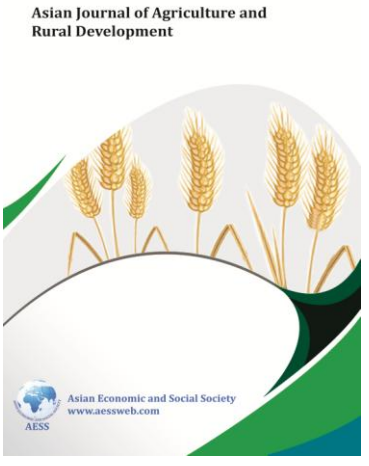
Publisher: Asian Economic and Social Society
ISSN (P): 2304-1455, ISSN (E): 2224-4433
Volume 2 No. 4 December 2012.



Utilizing Community through Developing the Center of Community's Learning Activity (CCLA) in the Rural Area

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Citation: A. Rusdiana (2012) "Utilizing Community through Developing the Center of Community's Learning Activity (CCLA) in the Rural Area", Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 641 – 645.

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Abstract

Utilizing community is an effort to raise their value and status, whose condition nowadays still cannot afford to avoid the trap of poorness and backwardness especially in rural area. In other words, utilizing community is to make them capable and independent, creating more effective and efficient change. The center of community's learning activity (CCLA) as one of non-formal education institutions grown and established by community's initiative will develop when both the executor of the program and the stakeholders have similar perception in increasing the quality of community's life in the condition of marginalization. Therefore, this paper offers ideas of developing CCLA toward independent CCLA, so that CCLA will be more powerful, and finally bring the change for better community.

Keywords: Potency, Developing, Utilizing, Centre of Excellence

Introduction

Utilizing community is a very commonly discussed for the development and change of the nation from now on, especially the Indonesian community's skill viewed not good enough obstructs the development of its economy especially in rural area. The concept of utilizing community includes the definition of community development and community based development.

The meaning of the utilizing community is firstly needed to be understood .Utilizing in community context means the compounded individual capability in a society and build the utilization of that related community. A community which most of them posses healthy physic and mental, well educated and powerful innovative, absolutely they have high utilization while the development of society is something to be managed for the competence of the community itself.

Utilizing community is an effort to raise the value and status of community themselves, whose conditions nowadays is still not able to escape from the trap of poorness and backwardness, on the other words utilizing community is to make them capable and independent, until there appears the more effective and efficient change.

Even though the utilizing community is not merely an economy concept, from our point of view, implicitly, utilizing means to build the economic democracy where the activities of economy take place from the community by the community and for the community. This concept related to the mastery of technology, modal proprietary, and access to the market and into the sources of information, and management competency. In order to the economic democracy to run, so the accommodated inspirations of the community must be translated to become the real formulas. To formulate those realities, the state owns the bureaucracy. This bureaucracy has to run effectively, it means that it is able to perform and describe the formulas of public policies well to reach the desired goals.

The concept of utilizing community and centre of excellent

The concept of utilizing community: combining the growth and even distribution

From the point of view of management, Cook and Maculay (Arif, 2003), defines utilizing as an instrument that used to improve the performance of organization through the spreading of policy and responsibility making in that the involvement of the members in policy and responsibility making. Based on those two definitions above, Arif (2003) concludes that utilizing is an effort to make little people capable and develop so they can possess better competence in a role of social system through giving an authority to the community to take a part in decision making.

Utilizing community is a concept of economy building which encloses the value of social. This concept builds new paradigm in the development, it is *"community-centered, participatory, empowering, and sustainable"* (Chambers, 1995).

This concept is wider than just to influence *(basic needs) merely or furthermore to provide a mechanism to prevent* the process of poorness *(safety net)*, which it's thought is developed lately as an efforts to find out an alternative to the growths in the past.

In order to increase the utilizing community it can be seen from three sides: First, creating an atmosphere and climate which enable the potency of community to be developed (*enabling*). The starting point is an introduction that everyone and every people have an improvable potency, it means that no one is powerless. Utilizing is an effort to build the power itself by supporting, motivating, and rousing the awareness of possessed potency and do best to develop it.

Second, empowering the potency or power which is possessed by the community (empowering). It needs positive actions to conduct, besides to create the atmosphere and climate. This empowering also includes real actions, and deal with the supply of various inputs, and opening access into various opportunities that enable people to be more powerful.

Third, utilizing also means protecting, in a process of utilizing, the weak to be weaker is must be prevented because of the powerless to meet the powerful.

Therefore, protecting and maintaining to the weak is a very basic importance in the concept of utilizing community. Protecting means not to isolate or cover up from interaction, because that only will understate the little and impoverish the weak. Protecting must be seen from the effort to prevent the unbalanced competition and exploitation of the powerful to the powerless

Methodology in Utilizing Community toward A Change

The comprehension in utilizing community needs subjective posture within it's research, this subjectivity starts from the basic posture that every research of a social problem is always conducted to improve current social situation, to align current partiality and not merely to draw and to explain current fact (Buchori, 1993).

Utilizing community can be seen from point of view of Deficit Based and Strength Based. *Deficit-based* approach centered on various problems and the way to solve them. Its success depends on the explicit identification and diagnose to the problem. Completing the proper problem solving and applying that problem solving. In the implementation, this approach can result something good, but it is possible to appear a situation of blaming each other on the problem occurred.

On the other hand, *Strength Based* approach with a n *Appreciative Inquiry* method centered on potencies and competences which are owned individually or by organization to make better life. Appreciative Inquiry is a method that transforms the system capacity of people for positive change by focusing on positive experience and hopeful future (Cooperrider and Srivastva, 1987).

The method of utilizing community also can be built based on many aspects, such as: (1) the competence of local community; (2) the use of facilitative and participator technique; (3) utilizing village community on its process.

Mechanism of utilizing community

As described above, utilizing community must involve whole potencies contained in the community. Some aspects of them can be set forth as follow : (a) the role of the government is very importance. It means that the bureaucracy of the government has to accommodate to the mission and perspective; (b) social organizations outside the community itself. Here who has a great role and function is a local community organization to help the role of the government; (c) social organization that grows from the society or commonly called as *local community organization*. This organization is semi or coalition, such as LKMD, PKK, or *Karang Taruna*, or which grow from the community itself, such as *arisan* group, group of artists, and so on; (c) Cooperative enterprise is an umbrella for economy of the people which particularly stated in the constitution it is the most suitable organization to develop the economy of Indonesia

The centre of People learning activity as *Centre of Excellence*

National education as mandated on the laws number 20 year of 2003, known in three lines, they are informal education, formal education, and non-formal education, where among those lines complete each other in developing human resource.

Non-formal education as contained in section 26 verse 4, it is described that the unit of non-formal education consists of course institution, training institution, and learning group, the centre of people learning activities, *majelis taklim* and a sort of this unit.

Non-formal education unit that develops rapidly nowadays is the centre of people learning activities, which on the first time of its establishing it was established in the level of sub district then spread to the village or district.

At the beginning, CCLA is a place of learning for people around CCLA. CCLA is established by people, from people, and for people. The main activity of CCLA is teaching and learning of the community through various program services of outside classrooms education. The establishing of CCLA is inspired by the idea of community learning centers which are located in various developing countries since sixties, and there was a policy of *broad based learning*. UNESCO (1993), defines CCLA as an organized learning spot where people are able to learn.

As an institution which is established by, from and for people. CCLA has potency as an independent institution. Although on the earlier, many CCLA depended on help and *block grant* finance from the government, in long term, hopefully most of CCLA will be independent later, and in this case, the primer role of the government becomes decreased and tends more on the role of facilitating will run along with the independence of CCLA. CCLA will exist sturdily on the support of the community.

The Potency of CCLA

Some of CCLA potencies can be improved: First, along with the position as an educational institution with community based education which in the actualization it is characterized by: (1) support from the community in various forms; (2) the involvement of the community in decision making; (3) partnership, where the community have an equal relationship with program executer; (4) proprietary, where the community involved in controlling all decisions related to outside classrooms educational, second, seen from the program service that can be implemented. Second; CCLA has a potency to conduct the whole programs of non-formal and informal education, which includes: the study of life skill, early age children education, youth education, woman study, alphabetic study, competency education, and job training, equivalent education, and others which are directed to improve the competence of the students; Third, in implementing community learning activity, CCLA may apply group learning principle, where the community learn how to conduct learning activity together with other community in a group learning, and also the potency of learning with integrative approach, where a process of learning not only emphasize on the certain learning aspect from various aspects of human life but a process which combine various aspect of community life

in a learning program of outside classrooms education, forth, other possessed potency; Forth; CCLA as an institution of community learning is a competence in collaborative and synergic cooperation with various institutions existed among the community, both those who perform learning activity or other activity that aimed in line with CCLA, it is rousing the community from various antiquated, Fifth, in a process of learning CCLA placed the objective of community learning as a subject learning who must be actively doing learning activity for himself and the community, CCLA positions community learning as an individual who has a potency to meet his own needs, community and the institution of CCLA itself, and sixth, CCLA as an institution in the community and established with the purpose to force the community to learn, so the presence of CCLA is potential to utilize the community entirely, it means to help marginal group to be able to have a balance competence with other groups whose economic life is more proper, by providing achievable educational service so that their status and level both socially or economically can be raised.

Problem and challenge met in developing CCLA

In developing potency of CCLA as an organized place where community learning are able to learn all at once as a place of learning established by, from, and for the community in order to increase knowledge, competence, skill, and attitude, and to improve all potencies of the community learning and its society, have difference and development.

Different development of CCLA caused by the different in the components, first, there is a different in it's proprietary (there are personal/ private CCLA, foundation, Islamic boarding school, local social organization, country, etc.), second, different human resource of the organizer, third, different of financial, even though recently most of CCLA gain the fund from the government, forth, different in supplying tools and infrastructure of education of each CCLA and forth, different in numbers and kind of educational program service performed by CCLA.

Based on its management characterization, CCLA is classified into three shapes, they are: institution based CCLA, it is CCLA whose initiative of the establishing and management performed by governmental institution or non-governmental institution. It's main feature is all of tools and infrastructure includes the funds are provided by the government. Comprehensive based CCLA, it is the CCLA whose the initiative of its establishing comes from institution however the management is done together with surrounding community, and community based CCLA is whose initiative, management, and implementation are form and by the community, other element are as partners and facilitators.

The difference of management or even other factors caused problems and challenges that met by each CCLA are also different. According to the result of the research conducted by Nurdjazifah ER, and friends in (2005), there are internal problem met by CCLA, seen from level of standard minimal quality achievement needed are: (1) lack of CCLA ability to improve the programs of outside classrooms education that suit to local need, almost most of CCLA perform learning programs offered by the government; (2) some provided manuals of implementation and organization of the outside classrooms education are often implemented as what must be done properly, resulted the problem appears on its implementation; (3) level of standard minimal quality achievement of CCLA haven't been reached properly both on the implementation of education and learning program, information service, spreading net of cooperation, or on the training of education officers.

In the context of outside classrooms education, the term of utilizing community is firstly stated by Kindervatter (1979) in her dissertation titled: *Nonformal Education as Empowering Process*. According to Kindervatter (Zainuddin Arif, 2003), utilizing is an effort to make community obtain understanding and competence to control social powers, economy, politic, to raise their position among the society.

Group of community or individual whose position are raised is characterized by, (1) high access and opportunity, (2) high collective

bargain power, (3) capability of choosing many options, (4) the status of self image and positive thinking to his own identity, (5) critical ability and ability of using experience to appraise the potency that can gain the advantage, (6) legitimating in term of society needs considered as something logic and fair, (7) capable to decide work standard independently which is done together with other, and (8) having creative perception, it is more positive view to the relationship between himself and his environment.

Developing CCLA toward Community Development and Utilizing

To create the perspective of CCLA development as *Centre of Excellence*, in developing and utilizing community, will be more meaningful as an effort to improve the performance of CCLA to reach the goal effectively and efficiently by utilizing Outside Classrooms Education (OCE) program which is organized by CCLA, utilizing community learning and rousing the potency of target group or the community learning to have an ability to control the power of the environment. There for CCLA is to be able to develop those things above, (Zainuddin Arif, 2003), suggests to have some moves to do to develop community learning, whose function is to utilize the community, consists of: (1) make small group as the planner; (2) make learning group; (3) selecting and training tutor; (4) activating learning group; (5) organizing facilitator/tutor meeting; (6) supporting and helping the activity of learning group; (7) creating relationship among the group (8) performing evaluation.

Conclusion

Utilizing community is something to be esteemed to increase social stability and mobility of the community and the growth of the economy if a nation, region and district especially in rural area. The growth and utilizing of the community depends very much on the competence of the community itself and must be supported by sufficiency tools and infrastructure.

Many potencies of CCLA will become true or on the contrary keeps becomes a potency, is depended on the organization and developing performed by CCLA organizer or depends on the educators and staff officers within, and the care from various elements includes the government. Besides, to create CCLA as *Centre of Excellence* above it needs the strategy of organizing and developing CCLA to develop the potency.

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