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## Meaningful Participation in Managing the Interests of Village Communities

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### ABSTRACT

Meaningful participation in the management of the interests of the people of Pudung Village, Girisubo District, Gunungkidul Regency, is something that is needed. This is mainly for the continuation of village development, village development, village community development, and improving the welfare of village communities. This phenomenon is interesting to research, using qualitative research methods, accompanied by a rationalistic approach. The number of informants was 12 people, who were selected purposively. The data consisted of: (1) Primary data, obtained from the results of interviews with informants; (2) Secondary data, in the form of population data of Pudung Village. Meanwhile, data analysis was carried out using Qualitative Analysis Techniques. The results of the study show that meaningful participation is highly recommended, because the management of interests will not have a positive impact on the community, if the participation carried out is meaningless and does not give meaning to improve the quality of life of the community. Therefore, meaningful participation is a must, especially when the true meaning of the quality of participation carried out is successfully understood. In addition to having a unique meaning, meaningful participation also has: goals, conditions, characteristics, and in-depth aspects.



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### INTRODUCTION

Nugroho (2023) explained that the form of community welfare consists of: First, being able to meet the needs of themselves and their families, which is characterized by adequate income; Second, being able to be calm and not stressed in facing the dynamics of life; Third, they can interact with each other harmoniously; Fourth, being able and getting the opportunity to express their attitudes, behavior patterns, and knowledge in the form of traditions, customs, and art.

Meanwhile, Social Development (2011) explained that the core values inherent in the social welfare service approach include: (1) Recognition and respect for the potential of society to develop and change; (2) Recognition of the right of all people to participate in development and make their own decisions, as well as to be responsible for their own lives; (3) Commitment to facilitate social processes so as to build effective and healthy relationships in organizational and community clusters; (4) There is a shared responsibility in the implementation of social welfare services in an integrated manner.

As is known, to realize the welfare of the community, the Government and the people of Pucung Village make a macro plan, called a master plan. Nugroho (2023b) stated that the Pucung Village Masterplan was prepared in a participatory manner armed with awareness, as follows: First, the potential of Pucung Village consists of physical and non-physical potential, both of which can be utilized and developed for the realization of community welfare; Second, the process of making the Pucung Village Masterplan includes: (1) facilitation of maps and data from lecturers of the National Land College; (2) providing input from the head of the village and local community leaders about the development plan of their respective villages; (3) data collection and input, as well as analysis and preparation of the Pucung Village Masterplan by the Head of Pucung Village and the Secretary of Pucung Village, supervised by lecturers of the National Land College; Third, the conception of development in the Pucung Village Masterplan, includes: (1) socio-ecological approach, (2) participatory approach, and (3) input-output approach; Fourth, development zoning in the Pucung Village Masterplan, includes: (1) the development of the Northern region, (2) the development of the central region, and (3) the development of the Southern region; Fifth, the division of activities in the Pucung Village Masterplan, includes: (1) agriculture, (2) livestock, (3) tourism, and (4) economy.

With regard to masterplans, Harrison (2022) states that masterplans relate to international experiences in different countries, known as master planning, which apply an inductive approach. This approach involves exploring different understandings of master planning, both historically and geographically. However, it is necessary to know that there is a shift in the meaning of the master plan from time to time, so the search for a single definition of the master plan is problematic. But in general, masterplan is interpreted as master planning that is oriented towards prescription and spatial completeness in it, for the provision of space in the long term.

Based on the Pucung Village Masterplan, it is known that the economy in this village will develop rapidly if managed as best as possible by people who have the spirit and spirit of leadership. The staff of the Pucung Village Government Office are of the view that leadership skills can be built in the following ways: First, practice to be more disciplined, so that they can be consistent and able to complete various tasks and responsibilities; Second, practice to be an inspiration to others, because leaders are role models for all team members, so their behavior will be of concern to everyone; Third, continue to learn, by studying the conditions and things that happen in the work, so that you will gain a lot of experience; Fourth, practice to empower all team members, by dividing tasks fairly or proportionally; Fifth, practice knowing yourself, so that you are able to utilize your potential, to achieve your goals; Sixth, practice to dare to admit mistakes, so that they can improve themselves, so that mistakes made do not drag on and do not become an obstacle to success in the future (Nugroho, 2023).

The spirit of leadership causes optimism, which is manifested in the attitudes, actions, and behaviors of the community and the Pucung Village Government, as follows: First, the seriousness of the community and the Pucung Village Government, when collaborating with the National Land College (STPN) to carry out participatory research and community empowerment activities; Second, the seriousness of the community and the Pucung Village Government, when working hard to develop agriculture, livestock, small businesses, and tourism; Third, the seriousness of the community and the Pucung Village Government, when repairing and arranging physical, intellectual, human resources, financial, and technological facilities; Fourth, the seriousness of the community and the Pucung Village Government, when improving the welfare of the community independently and peacefully by utilizing the iconic potential of Pucung Village, namely: Bengawan Solo Purba; Fifth, the seriousness of the community and the Pucung Village Government, when carrying out land use and utilization activities (Nugroho, 2023).

Based on this optimism, the Business Model Canvas Training for Tourism Activists in Pucung Village, Girisubo District, Gunungkidul Regency, was held on July 25, 2023 in Wotawati Hamlet, Pucung Village, in collaboration between the Pucung Village Government and STPN (National Land College). The Pucung Village Government and tourism activists in this village are very enthusiastic about this activity, because it has the opportunity to strengthen the commitment of the trainees for the success of realizing Pucung Village as a tourist village. The implementation of the training began with an opening by the moderator, then continued with remarks by the Head of Pucung Village and a presentation by the speakers. Furthermore, the training activity was filled with an open discussion between the resource persons and participants, then ended with the closing of the event by the moderator. This training is beneficial for tourism activists in Pucung Village, especially in terms of: First, strengthening awareness about inputs, consisting of: (1) key partnership, (2) cost structure, and (3) value proposition; Second, strengthening awareness of the process, which consists of: (1) channel distribution, (2) key activities, and (3) key resources; Third, strengthening awareness of output, which consists of: (1) customer segment, (2) customer relationship, and (3) revenue stream (Nugroho, 2024).

The Business Model Canvas in Pucung Village is implemented through strengthening the business ethos for micro businesses, which has elements: First, the willingness of business owners to set a clear vision and mission. Second, the willingness of business owners to build a positive business culture. Third, the willingness of business owners to build a commitment to quality, by paying attention to products, services, and customer experience. When the strengthening of the business ethos has been carried out, it will have an impact in the form of: First, increasing productivity, by optimizing the operating process and producing high-quality products or services. Second, increasing competitiveness, in order to be able to compete in a competitive market, by attracting more customers, maintaining market share, and facing existing challenges. Third, increasing credibility, by implementing good business ethics standards, so as to gain the trust of customers, business partners, and other related parties. Fourth, the ability to survive in the face of external challenges, such as market changes or unstable economic conditions (Nugroho, 2024).

The strengthening of the business ethos of the people of Pucung Village is based on the spirit that blossoms when the agrarian awareness movement takes place. The participation of the community in this movement can unite them, to protect agrarianism, land, and natural resources, as well as be willing to develop environmentally friendly agricultural practices, and fight for agrarian justice. Thus, the agrarian awareness movement can be a means to strengthen local communities, build economic sustainability, and preserve the environment for future generations. This movement is also able to strengthen local communities, including understanding agrarian rights and the importance of sustainable land use. To be precise, local communities can unite to protect the natural resources around them, and through collaboration and active participation in this movement, communities can also strengthen solidarity and support each other in efforts to defend land and resources, which are important assets for their survival (Nugroho, 2024).

The solidarity and mutual support practiced by the people of Pucung Village in an effort to defend their land and resources is relevant to the needs of the village community. As is known, the interests of the village community in Pucung Village are managed jointly by the community and the Pucung Village Government. Therefore, it is very necessary to have meaningful participation so that the things done by the community and the Pucung Village Government are useful and relevant to the interests of the village community. Meaningless participation for the village community will be very burdensome for the village community, and make the village community no longer willing to participate in the next development program. Thus, meaningful participation in the management of the interests of the village community is something necessary, for: (1) the continuation of village development, (2) village development, (3) the development of village communities, and (4) the improvement of the welfare of village communities.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Format**

This research has the main format in the form of a participatory paradigm, as a form of appreciation for the community. Researchers and subjects are in an equal position or subject-subject relationship, especially in terms of data collection and decision-making. Action and reflection are important stages of this research. The parties studied participated in the emancipation frame, so that the data was in accordance with the actual conditions. Research that uses a participatory paradigm has the tagline "research with people", and is classified as a Qualitative Research Method (Nugroho, 2020).

Qualitative research is a category of research, which focuses its attention or study on the uniqueness of existing phenomena, using scientific logic (Nugroho, 2020). Meanwhile, a rationalistic approach is used in this study, because it is a research approach built on rational philosophy, which states that science comes from intellectual understanding that is able to be constructed through the ability to argue logically (Nugroho, 2020). Qualitative research with a rationalistic approach in this study provides an opportunity for researchers to obtain qualitative data from informants (Nugroho, 2020).

### **Research Location**

This research is located in Pucung Village, Girisubo District, Gunungkidul Regency. Pucung Village was chosen as the location of the research, because the community and the Pucung Village Government have the tagline "Independent, Peaceful, and Prosperous". This tagline shows the great enthusiasm of the community to participate in various activities to manage community interests, including realizing community welfare.

### **Research Operationalization**

#### **a. Appointment of Informant**

The determination of the research subject is carried out by paying attention to the issue or phenomenon being researched (Nugroho, 2020:57). The subjects of this research consist of: (1) the Head of Pucung Village, (2) the Secretary of Pucung Village, (3) the Head of the Hamlet in Pucung Village, (4) the Pucung Village Apparatus, (5) Pucung Village community leaders, and (6) Pucung Village residents. In this study, informants are determined by paying attention to the meaning, and informants consist of research subjects who have the opportunity to provide information (Nugroho, 2020). Therefore, the informants in this study are individuals who are able and willing to provide information related to meaningful participation in the management of the interests of the village community. The number of informants in this study is situational and conditional, because the number of informants is not binding, as this number is determined by the necessary information considerations. If there is no more information needed, then the extraction of information from the next informant can be stopped (Nugroho, 2020). This study finally obtained information from 12 informants, who were selected purposively, so that researchers could obtain cumulatively accurate information from the right people (Nugroho, 2020).

b. Research Results Data

Based on the source, the data obtained in this study consists of primary data and secondary data (Nugroho, 2020). Primary data was obtained from the results of interviews with informants, the substance of which was listed in the interview guide, while secondary data was obtained from public documents, which came from the Girisubo District Government (in the form of population statistical data) and from the Pucung Village Government (in the form of village monographs).

c. Data Collection Techniques and Instruments

Primary data collection from informants is carried out by utilizing interview techniques, as well as using interview guide instruments and recording tools (Nugroho, 2020). Meanwhile, secondary data collection from the Girisubo District Government and the Pucung Village Government was carried out using documentation techniques, and using instruments in the form of recording devices.

d. Data Analysis Techniques

The data of this study is analyzed using Qualitative Analysis Techniques, which are often referred to by some methodologists as "Thematic Analysis", which are as follows: (1) Initial analysis of all data, by carefully collecting data, sourced from informants and supported by secondary data, whose material is relevant to the research question; (2) Data reduction and abstraction, by removing some data that although relevant but not necessary in compiling abstractions; (3) The preparation of the smallest units of information, by arranging data abstractions in the smallest units of information that contain meaning, and can stand alone. These units of information must have meanings related to the research question, the existence of which does not depend on the existence of other meanings. Precisely, when this meaning is expressed singularly, then this meaning can be understood; (4) Grouping of the smallest units of information, by grouping the smallest units of information that have been successfully obtained from the research into categories, which are arranged based on the substance related to the research question; (5) Preparation of propositional statements, by compiling logical statements, obtained from each category. This propositional statement is an answer to the research question, which is also an explanation of the phenomenon being studied (Nugroho, 2020).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### The Definition of Meaningful Participation

In general, meaningful participation is understood as a concept that is very relevant in social and cultural contexts. This concept involves individuals and groups in activities, which have a positive impact, both for oneself and for the community as a whole. Meaningful participation refers to the active involvement of individuals in various activities, which make a positive contribution to a common goal. It involves more than just being present somewhere, or physically engaging in an activity.

One of the activities that is relevant to the interests of the village community is tracing village history. Mu (2022:1-2) stated that the tracing of village history is related to rural cultural heritage, which contributes to all aesthetic enjoyment and quality of life. Cultural heritage is one of the elements that make up identity, and at the same time as an element that forms a sense of belonging. Cultural heritage is known as the result of the interaction between humans and nature in a certain space and time, which is an integral part of the cultural landscape of a particular region. Development policy is also concerned with the preservation of rural cultural heritage, when it is seen as an important part of the development strategy. A historic village is a village that reflects its historical conditions of culture and social development, as well as important things related to its

traditional culture, customs, and architectural arts. With this kind of background, historic villages are highly valued, because they have aesthetic value, functional value, and environmental value.

Mu's statement was relevant to the "Historical Tracing of Pucung Village" activity, which was carried out at the Pucung Village Hall, on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, and was attended by the Gunung Kidul Regency Cultural Office. The residents of Pucung Village who were involved in this activity made a positive contribution in the form of information about the history of Pucung Village, to achieve common goals, namely: (1) the publication of a book on the history of Pucung Village; (2) the disclosure of information about the origin of the ancestors of Pudung Village; and (3) the disclosure of information about the name of Pucung Village, namely Poetjoeng, which is already on the Yogyakarta Residency Map. This fact shows the participation of the community who, in addition to attending, are also actively involved in a certain activity.

Thus, the activity "Tracing the History of Pudung Village" shows the meaning of meaningful participation in the community's version, namely: First, meaningful participation involves understanding, care, and actions that have a real impact. Meaningful participation has a strong meaning in strengthening social relationships, increasing involvement in decision-making, and shaping individual and group identities. By actively engaging in meaningful activities, a person can feel connected to others, feel valued, and feel more purposeful.

In the context of the "Historical Exploration of Pucung Village" activity, the community understands, cares, and is ready to act in this activity. The community understands the meaning of tracing the history of Pucung Village, and this activity strengthens social relationships, increases involvement in decision-making, and forms individual and group identities, as part of the Pucung Village community. By being actively involved in this meaningful activity, the community feels connected to others, feels valued, and feels that they have a greater goal, namely the clarity of the identity of the people of Pudung Village.

Second, meaningful participation also involves elements of awareness, freedom, responsibility, and effectiveness. When a person consciously chooses to engage in an activity, feels free to participate without coercion, takes responsibility for his actions, and sees the positive results of his contribution, it can be said that the participation has a deep meaning. Therefore, meaningful participation is not only important for individual development, but also for the well-being of society as a whole. By engaging in meaningful activities, individuals can feel more connected to their community, increase their sense of belonging, and make meaningful contributions to positive change.

In the context of the "Historical Exploration of Pudung Village" activity, the community has awareness, freedom, responsibility, and effectiveness, when involved in these activities. When the community consciously chooses to be involved in historical exploration activities of Pudung Village. At that time, the community felt free to participate without coercion, take responsibility for their actions, and could see the positive results of their contributions, so it can be said that the participation had a deep meaning for the community. This situation is seen as important for the development of community members (individuals), and for the interests of the village community, namely the clarity of the identity of the people of Pudung Village. In addition, by engaging in meaningful activities, the community members feel more connected to their community, thereby increasing their sense of belonging, and making a meaningful contribution to positive change, which in this case the progress of Pudung Village.

Third, meaningful participation is understood as a concept that emphasizes the importance of the active involvement of individuals in various aspects of life. In this context, meaningful participation is not only limited to a form of participation or physical presence, but also involves real contributions, thoughts, and actions that have a positive impact on society as a whole.

In the context of the "Pucung Village History Tracing" activity, the community has the opportunity to actively involve individuals in various aspects of life. Community involvement in this activity is not only limited to a form of participation or physical presence, but also involves real contributions, thoughts, and actions of the community that have a positive impact on the community as a whole, especially the clarity of the identity of the people of Pudung Village.

### **The Aim of Meaningful Participation**

Meaningful participation has the aim, among others, to increase transparency and accountability, by opening up space, for transparency in the decision-making process, and to reduce the potential for corruption in decision-making. One of the activities that is relevant to transparency efforts in the decision-making process is: preparation for data collection and allocation of BLT DD funds.

Pratiwi (2022:84) stated that in relation to the provision of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT-DD) program, the Village Government is given the authority to organize the implementation of BLT-DD

distribution, starting from the collection of data on prospective BLT-DD recipients, the verification process, validation and finalization of funds, and the distribution of assistance. The implementation of the BLT-DD program is carried out through several stages, starting from the process of preparation, implementation or distribution, as well as accountability and reporting of the realization of BLT-DD activities.

Pratiwi's explanation is relevant to the activities carried out in Pucung Village, which was carried out on July 9, 2020, in the form of preparations for data collection and allocation of funds for the realization of the "Second Period of Direct Cash Assistance for Village Funds". This activity involved the Head of Pucung Village, the Secretary of Pucung Village, staff of the Pucung Village Office, as well as the community and leaders of Pucung Village. This is done so that the implementation of assistance can run smoothly, have a positive impact, and be felt fair by the community. Direct Cash Assistance for Village Funds is given six times which are divided into two periods, as follows: (1) The First Period, assistance is given three times, each time with a value of Rp. 600,000,-; (2) In the Second Period, assistance is given three times, each time with a value of Rp. 300,000,-.

The beneficiary families in the first period are determined based on the data available in that period, while the beneficiary families in the second period are determined based on the existing data in the second period. As is known, the data in the second period is different from the data in the first period. This is because the data in the first period has been changed, by crossing out some names that have been seen as economically capable, which are then replaced by the names of new people, who are still seen as economically disabled. Although it is nominally known that the value of assistance in the second period is smaller than the value of assistance in the first period, it does not reduce the gratitude and gratitude of the recipients to the village government. For the aid recipients, the village government's willingness to provide assistance is a form of the village government's love for the community.

Thus, the preparation of data collection and allocation of funds for the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance shows the objectives of meaningful participation in the community, as follows: First, the empowerment of individuals and communities, so that individuals and communities can feel in control of their decisions, which affect their lives. This can increase a sense of responsibility, confidence, and independence.

In the context of data collection preparation activities and fund allocation for the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, meaningful participation aims to empower members of the Pucung Village community (individuals) and the community of Pucung Village as a whole (community), so that individuals and communities have control over decisions, in the form of the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, which can affect their lives. This can increase the sense of responsibility, confidence, and independence of the people of Pucung Village.

Second, improving the quality of decisions, because it involves stakeholders or stakeholders in the decision-making process. Although the decision was ultimately taken by a leader, he has considered the views of all stakeholders. Thus, it is hoped that the resulting decisions will be more diverse, holistic, and represent the needs and aspirations of the entire community.

In the context of data collection preparation activities and fund allocation for the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, meaningful participation aims to improve the quality of decisions, because it involves stakeholders or stakeholders in the decision-making process. As is known, this activity involved the Head of Pucung Village, the Secretary of Pucung Village, several staff of the Pucung Village Office and several community members and community leaders of Pucung Village. Although the decision was finally taken by the Head of Pucung Village, he has considered the views of all stakeholders. Thus, it is hoped that the resulting decisions can represent various interests, be holistic, and at the same time represent the needs and aspirations of all the people of Pucung Village.

Third, encouraging innovation and creativity in decision-making. This condition is realized by providing opportunities for the presence of new ideas, creative solutions, and innovative approaches submitted by stakeholders. The quality of decisions like this is very useful in solving various problems faced by society.

In the context of data collection preparation activities and fund allocation for the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, meaningful participation aims to encourage innovation and creativity in decision-making for the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance. This condition is realized through providing opportunities for the presence of new ideas, creative solutions, and innovative approaches delivered by the Secretary of Pucung Village, several staff of the Pucung Village Office and several community members and community leaders of Pucung Village. By being able to obtain decisions whose quality is relevant to efforts to solve various problems faced by the people of Pucung Village.

Fourth, strengthening the legitimacy and compliance of the community to the decisions taken, because it has involved the community in the decision-making process. Therefore, the resulting decisions tend to be more acceptable and easier to be carried out by the community properly. This tendency arises, because the community feels that they have a share and feel that they are taking decisions on the problems discussed.

In the context of data collection preparation activities and fund allocation for the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, meaningful participation aims to strengthen the legitimacy and compliance of the community with the decisions taken, which are related to the realization of the Second Period of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance. This is because the decision taken has involved stakeholders, namely the Head of Pucung Village, the Secretary of Pucung Village, staff of the Pucung Village Office, as well as the community and leaders of Pucung Village. Thus, the resulting decisions are easier to accept and implement, because all stakeholders feel that they have and participate in making decisions.

### **Requirements for Meaningful Participation**

Meaningful Participation has conditions, including the ability to contribute, which at the same time will increase the sense of belonging and sustainability of participation. One of the activities that shows this ability is coordination between the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District regarding the handling of Covid-19 cases in Pucung Village.

Jarzabkowski (2012:921) states that there are two main insights regarding coordination practices, namely: First, the coordination mechanism does not appear as a ready-to-use procedure, but is formed as time goes by during the coordination process. Second, there are five overlapping cycles that actors carry out to create better coordination mechanisms, such as: (a) conducting coordination disturbances, (2) being oriented towards absenteeism in coordination, (3) creating coordination elements, (4) forming coordination patterns, and (5) forming patterns of coordination consolidation.

Jarzabkowski's expression is relevant to the activities carried out in Pucung Village, on June 2, 2020, namely coordination between the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District regarding the handling of Covid-19 cases in Pucung Village. At the time of coordination, the Public Health Center has proven its readiness in carrying out rapid tests for community members who are indicated to be infected with Covid-19. Although when a rapid test was carried out, it turned out that the results were declared non-reactive. Uniquely, on June 2, 2020, it was reported that the chain of Covid-19 spread from patients, with the code GSB-1, had been broken. In that year, Pucung Village was declared to be in a safe position, because no one was exposed to Covid-19. The Pucung Village Government appreciates the alertness and mutual cooperation of the people of Pucung Village, in paying attention to families affected by Covid-19. With harmony and togetherness between the village government and the village community, they can focus on efforts to act normally, without excessive panic and causing community unrest.

Thus, the coordination activities between the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District reveal the requirements for meaningful participation in the community, namely: First, openness and accessibility, by striving for all parties to have the same opportunity to be involved without discrimination or unnecessary obstacles.

In the context of coordination activities between the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District, it is known that the activity has shown the fulfillment of the conditions for meaningful participation, namely openness and accessibility, which is marked by the openness of the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District in terms of data related to the handling of Covid-19 cases in Pucung Village.

Second, there is clear and complete information about issues involving participants. The clarity and completeness of data and information provides the basis for the attitude and action of stakeholders, especially when making decisions. Thus, it can be said that the decision taken has been based on a good understanding of the stakeholders.

In the context of coordination activities between the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District, it is known that both parties have equipped themselves with accurate and factual data and information. This provision provides a basis for both of them, to behave and act appropriately and carefully regarding the handling of Covid-19 cases in Pucung Village. In other words, the decision that states that Pucung Village is in a safe position, because no one has been exposed to Covid-19, is a decision that is in accordance with the real conditions.

Third, there is the involvement of stakeholders from the initial stage to the final stage. Full involvement (beginning to end) is very necessary, so that the efforts that are being fought can be carried out in an integrated,

complete, and have a great impact on the wider community. Without full involvement, the opposite will happen, in the form of obstacles to the efforts being fought, so that the work is not integrated, incomplete, and has no impact on the wider community.

In the context of coordination activities between the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District, it is known that both parties have been involved since the beginning, and continue to be seen until the final stage. Both of them have also worked to handle Covid-19 cases in Pucung Village in an integrated and complete manner, so as to have an impact in the form of reality about the position of Pucung Village which is declared safe from Covid-19, because no one has been exposed to Covid-19.

### **Meaningful Participation Features**

Meaningful participation has characteristics, including transparency and accountability, so that the participation process can be known to all parties and carried out responsibly. One of the activities in Pucung Village that showed these characteristics was the Special Village Meeting, on May 14, 2020, to discuss Direct Cash Assistance using Village Funds.

Katiman (2021:239) explained that village deliberations are related to the tendency of village heads to prioritize harmony in making or decision-making. Therefore, there is a need to encourage people to be actively involved in decision-making, by disseminating adequate information through formal and informal social events. This condition is also followed by village activists, who encourage community participation in decision-making, so that the content of decisions is not dominated by village elites. Thus, the substance of the decision can be balanced between the interests of the village community and the interests of the village elite.

Katiman's explanation was relevant to the activities carried out in Pucung Village, on May 14, 2020, namely the Special Village Deliberation, to discuss Direct Cash Assistance using Village Funds. The deliberation is carried out as an effort to: First, prevent members of the community who are classified as disadvantaged or underprivileged, who do not receive assistance. Second, to prevent members of the community from receiving double assistance in one family. Therefore, this Special Village Deliberation also involves various related parties, so that the data obtained is accurate and can be accounted for.

Thus, the Special Village Deliberation activity reveals the characteristics of meaningful participation in the community, namely: First, the existence of empowerment, by empowering the community, to play an active role in the decision-making process. This condition can be interpreted as an effort to give the community the ability to influence the results of activities, which in this case is in the form of decisions.

In the context of the Special Village Deliberation in Pucung Village, it is known that the Pucung Village Government, especially the Head of Pucung Village and the Secretary of Pucung Village, have carried out empowerment. They empower the community by encouraging the community to play an active role in decision-making. This is intended so that the community is able to influence the results of the activity, which in this case is in the form of a decision of the Special Village Deliberation, which discusses direct cash assistance based on village funds.

Second, there is continuous involvement, when the community is not only involved in one time or one specific activity, but is involved in follow-up activities which are the next activities that have been carried out. This continuous involvement is important, because it can ensure the conformity of the attitudes and actions carried out by the participants (the community) with the objectives of the activity.

In the context of the Special Village Conference in Pucung Village (May 14, 2020), it is known that the participants continue to be involved in the next few activities. The participants were involved in several follow-up activities related to direct cash assistance using village funds, for example activities carried out in Pucung Village, on July 9, 2020. This follow-up activity is in the form of preparation for data collection and fund allocation, for the realization of direct cash assistance using village funds in the second period.

Third, there is justice and equality applied among the participants, regardless of their social and economic backgrounds and status. Justice and equality are important, to create a democratic atmosphere in decision-making. Thus, the decision taken is the most beneficial decision, for the community and the village government.

In the context of the Special Village Deliberation activities in Pucung Village, it is known that there is justice and equality, which are applied among the participants, regardless of their background and social and economic status. Therefore, the decisions taken in the Special Village Deliberation activities are objective, because subjectivity is successfully eliminated through the equality of the position of the participants.

### **The Aspect Meaningful Participation**



Meaningful participation has four main aspects, namely: input, process, output, and outcome, which are interpreted as follows: (1) input is input for the implementation of meaningful participation; (2) the process is a strategy carried out to realize meaningful participation; (3) output is the result of the implementation of meaningful participation; and (4) the outcome is the impact of the implementation of meaningful participation.

One of the activities in Pucung Village that showed the aspect of meaningful participation, namely the Delivery of Additional Food Assistance, on April 9, 2020. The assistance provided was in the form of milk, protein-containing food, and cash to pregnant women and those who were breastfeeding their babies. The provision of assistance is carried out by the Pucung Village Government, to ensure that the nutritional needs of mothers and babies can be met. For the Pucung Village Government, the condition of healthy mothers and babies is a valuable asset for this village. The assistance funds are sourced from the Pucung Village budget, which is managed as well as possible for the welfare of the community.

Dalmiya (2022:44) explained that malnutrition among mothers, especially pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, tends to be related to underweight and micronutrient deficiencies. Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers are in a condition that is vulnerable to malnutrition. Even though this condition will have a bad impact on the mother concerned and her children. There are several factors that have an impact on the occurrence of restrictions on food that can be accessed by pregnant women and lactating mothers. Some of these factors include: (1) disruption to livelihoods, (2) disruption to food and crop supplies, and (3) disease outbreaks. In addition, physical and mental stress can also suppress the appetite of pregnant and breastfeeding women, causing nutritional loss in pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Dalmiya's explanation is relevant to the activities carried out in Pucung Village, on April 9, 2020, namely the Delivery of Supplementary Food Assistance to pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. This activity has a positive impact on the health of pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and their children; It also succeeded in showing the existence of four main aspects of meaningful participation, namely: First, the input aspect, which includes efforts to provide opportunities for individuals or groups to express their opinions, ideas, and needs. The importance of input lies in the fact that each individual and group has different experiences, knowledge, and perspectives, so that by listening to input from various parties, the final result can be more diverse, comprehensive, and representative.

In the context of the Delivery of Supplementary Food Assistance to pregnant women and lactating mothers, it is known that there are input aspects, which include efforts to provide opportunities for the people of Pucung Village, to provide input related to these activities. The Pucung Village Government views input from the community as something important, because this activity is intended for the benefit of the people of Pucung Village, especially pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and their children.

Second, the process aspect, which plays a crucial role in meaningful participation. Process refers to the way decisions are made and the way input from various parties is considered in the decision-making process. A transparent, open, and fair process is key to making participation truly meaningful.

In the context of the Delivery of Supplementary Food Assistance to pregnant women and lactating mothers, it is known that there are aspects of the process, which are an important part of meaningful participation. The decision-making process related to these activities is carried out by considering the input aspect of the people of Pucung Village. The process is carried out in a transparent, open, and fair manner, so as to prevent views that are irrelevant to this activity.

Third, the output aspect, which refers to the concrete contribution resulting from the participation of individuals and groups in an activity or process. The output of meaningful participation can be in the form of various things, from creative ideas and innovative solutions to concrete actions that bring about positive change. Outputs can also be in the form of collaboration between individuals and between groups that produce activities that are beneficial to the community.

In the context of the Delivery of Supplementary Food Assistance to pregnant women and lactating mothers, it is known that there is an aspect of output, which refers to the contribution of the people of Pucung Village. The output of meaningful participation is in the form of better activities, when compared to activities in the previous year. Including the cooperation of the Pucung Village Government with community elements, which are related to community health and nutrition.

Fourth, the outcome aspect, which focuses on the impact or long-term outcomes of community participation. The outcomes of meaningful participation also highlight the long-term effects of contributions, such as structural and cultural changes that enable the creation of an inclusive and democratic environment. Long-term effects are seen as important, as they are related to the sustainability of communities and village governments.

In the context of the Delivery of Supplementary Food Assistance to pregnant women and lactating mothers, it is known that there is an outcome aspect, which focuses on the long-term effects of this activity on the people of Pucung Village. This long-term effect builds optimism for the realization of a healthy generation of the people of Pucung Village in the future. This healthy generation will in time manage Pudung Village, including building an inclusive and democratic village environment.

### **Interests of Village Communities**

Meaningful participation implemented in Pucung Village is relevant to the interests of the people of Pucung Village, namely the realization of community welfare, which consists of:

#### **A. Economic Well-Being**

Economic welfare in Pucung Village is the impact of various activities, one of which is in the form of the "Tracing the History of Pucung Village", which was carried out at the Pucung Village Hall, on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, and attended by the Gunung Kidul Regency Cultural Office. This activity is in accordance with several indicators of economic welfare, such as: First, increasing income, because through this activity the identity of Pudung Village is opened, which leads it to become a cultural pioneer village. This identity is one of the capital for the development of tourist villages, which then triggers the opening of opportunities and jobs for the community. Opportunities and employment in the tourism sector eventually increase people's income.

As is known, increasing income is one of the main factors that can have a positive impact on people's economic welfare. When an individual's or household income increases, this can lead to increased purchasing power, access to better health and education services, and the ability to meet basic daily needs. Increased incomes can also drive overall economic growth, as people have more money to invest, which in turn can create new jobs and support infrastructure development.

Second, equal distribution of income, due to the unique identity of Pucung Village and then presenting a tourism village program that involves the entire community. Thus, the income of the community from the tourism sector in this village is well distributed throughout the region. Income equity is an aspect that should not be ignored in an effort to improve the economic welfare of the community. Income equity also refers to the equitable distribution of income among all members of society. When income is evenly distributed, economic disparities can be reduced, and all walks of life have equal opportunities to access resources and opportunities.

Third, the reduction of unemployment, due to the presence of a tourism village program based on the unique identity of Pucung Village based on its history. Tourism Villages provide an increase in income, income equity, and finally have an impact on reducing unemployment in this village. Uniquely, when the number of unemployed decreases, it shows that there are greater job opportunities for the population, and in turn can increase people's income. In addition, reducing unemployment can also reduce economic inequality between people, and create more equal opportunities for everyone to improve their quality of life.

Fourth, the progressive wage system, due to the development of the tourism village program in Pucung Village. When tourist villages develop well, the need for tourists for goods and services also increases. This situation encourages small entrepreneurs to give their employees decent wages. A fair and progressive wage system requires employers to give workers a proper reward according to their contributions and hard work, in order to meet the needs of their lives and their families.

#### **B. Social Welfare**

Social welfare in Pucung Village is the impact of various activities, one of which is in the form of activities carried out on July 9, 2020. The activities are in the form of preparing data collection and allocating funds for the realization of the "Second Period of Direct Cash Assistance for Village Funds". The Head of Pucung Village, the Secretary of Pucung Village, the staff of the Pucung Village Office, as well as the community and leaders of Pucung Village were involved in this activity. The involvement of many parties or multi-parties is intended so that the implementation of assistance can run smoothly, have a positive impact, and be felt fair by the community.

This activity is in accordance with several social welfare indicators, such as: First, there is social interaction, especially between the Head of Pucung Village, the Secretary of Pucung Village, the staff of the Pucung Village Office, as well as the community and leaders of Pucung Village. Social interactions that are carried out: (a) include all forms of communication and relationships between individuals in a society; (b) demonstrate diversity, inclusion, and cooperation among community members; and (c) create an environment that supports personal development, collective growth, and mutual understanding between individuals.

Second, there is social closeness, especially between the Pucung Village Government and the people of Pucung Village. The social cohesion that is built: (a) refers to the way in which individuals in society are

connected to each other, and a sense of belonging to their community; and (b) form a solid social network, increase the sense of community, and strengthen the collective identity of a community.

Third, there is social solidarity, between all elements of society, and between all these elements and the Pucung Village Government. Constructed social solidarity: (a) refers to the existence of support and empathy provided between individuals in society, especially in difficult times or in crisis situations; and (b) it is characterized by a willingness to help, support, and share burdens, thereby creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Fourth, the existence of social harmony, as a continuation of social interaction, social cohesion, and social solidarity. The social harmony that is realized is marked by the realization of peace, harmony, and harmony between diverse members of society. This situation is in accordance with the tagline of Pucung Village, which is an independent, peaceful, and prosperous Pucung Village. The independence of Pucung Village is shown by the optimization of all physical and non-physical potential, to create peace through improving welfare.

#### C. Cultural Welfare

Cultural welfare in Pucung Village is the impact of various activities, one of which is in the form of activities held on June 2, 2020. The activity was in the form of coordination between the Pucung Village Government and the Public Health Center in Girisubo District, to discuss the handling of Covid-19 cases in Pucung Village. The Public Health Center proved its readiness in carrying out rapid tests to community members who are indicated to be infected with Covid-19. Although it was later found out that after a rapid test was carried out, the results were declared non-reactive.

Luck occurred on June 2, 2020, when it was reported that the chain of Covid-19 spread from patients, with the code GSB-1, had been broken. In that year, it was announced that Pucung Village was in a safe position, because the villagers were not exposed to Covid-19. Based on these conditions, the Pucung Village Government expressed its appreciation for the alertness and mutual cooperation of the people of Pucung Village, especially when paying attention to families affected by Covid-19. The harmony and togetherness built by the community and the Pucung Village Government made them focused, normal, not panicked, and not worried when fighting Covid-19.

This activity is in accordance with several indicators of cultural welfare, such as: First, the expression of life values, namely working and fighting for human safety and health (society). This is relevant to the ability of the community to express and practice the values it adheres to. The heritage of cultural values, beliefs, customs, and norms is what forms the collective identity of the people of Pucung Village. The ability to maintain and pass on these values to future generations demonstrates the stability and sustainability of the community's culture, and at the same time reflects a strong pride and identity.

Second, there is participation in valuable activities, which is marked by the involvement of all components of the community in Pucung Village in an effort to overcome Covid-19. This is participation in activities based on life values, which is also one of the cultural elements of society. Steadfastness to life values is actively demonstrated through activities that are referenced from common values.

Third, there are efforts to build skills related to life values, such as protecting human or community safety. This effort is relevant when the community and the Pucung Village Government handle Covid-19. This skill is the foundation in maintaining culture so that it remains relevant to life, so that it is feasible to continuously accompany members of society to face the dynamics of the times.

Fourth, there is the protection of the value of life, which also means protecting life itself. It is in the form of a policy of the Pucung Village Government, which supports the safety of the community when dealing with Covid-19. With this protection, people can feel safe and awake, while pursuing life.

#### D. Psychological Well-Being

Psychological well-being in Pucung Village is the impact of various activities, one of which is in the form of activities carried out on May 14, 2020. The activities carried out were in the form of Special Village Deliberations, to discuss Direct Cash Assistance using Village Funds. This activity is in accordance with several indicators of psychological well-being, such as:

First, there is peace of life, because in an emergency there is assistance that can be obtained from the Pucung Village Government. Peace of life refers to a condition, when an individual feels peaceful, and calm. People feel calm in their daily lives, because there are several factors that can support the peace of their lives, including the community environment that supports each other and helps each other.

Second, there is life satisfaction, because living in an area where the village government cares very much about its people. Life satisfaction also refers to the individual's ability to pay attention such as work,

relationships, health, and the achievement of life goals. In addition, people's life satisfaction provides a comprehensive picture of expectations with the reality obtained.

Third, do not stress, because there is a Pudung Village Government, which is always ready to help its community. Stress is a physiological and psychological response to the pressures and demands that occur in daily life. As is known, stress can have a negative impact on a person's mental and physical health. Individuals who experience chronic stress tend to be prone to sleep disorders, depression, fatigue, and other health problems. In addition, stress that is not handled properly can also affect a person's productivity and quality of life.

Fourth, do not worry, because there is a Pucung Village Government that is very concerned about the condition of its community. As is well known, anxiety is an excessive feeling of worry about a certain situation or problem. This condition can interfere with individuals in enjoying life as a whole. Even stress can cause serious disorders, such as: panic, phobias, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

## CONCLUSION

Meaningful participation in the management of the interests of the village community in Pucung Village has the background of this village's tagline, namely "Independent, Peaceful, and Prosperous". Independence is built through the participation of the entire community in various activities in a voluntary, peaceful, and happy manner. All of this is intended to realize common hope in the form of a prosperous Pucung Village. Therefore, participation carried out by the community and facilitated by the village government must be in the form of meaningful participation. The implementation of meaningful participation is not easy, especially when it is associated with the management of the interests of the village community, namely the realization of community welfare, which consists of: economic welfare, social welfare, cultural welfare, and psychological welfare. Although it is not easy, meaningful participation is highly recommended, because the management of interests will not have a positive impact on the community, if the participation carried out is meaningless and does not have meaning for improving the quality of life of the community. Therefore, meaningful participation is a must, especially when the true meaning of the quality of participation carried out is successfully understood. In addition to having a unique meaning, meaningful participation also has: goals, conditions, characteristics, and in-depth aspects.

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