Original Research Article

Analysis of Community Participation Level in Aquaculture in Situraja District, Sumedang Regency.

ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the level of community participation in aquaculture in the Situraja District, Sumedang Regency. The method use in this study ~~is~~ was a descriptive with a quantitative approach. The data for this study consists of two types: primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through written questions using a questionnaire distributed to 50 respondents. The research findings regarding the level of community participation in aquaculture in the Situraja District, Sumedang Regency, indicate an average community participation index of 0.55, which ~~is~~ was still considered low. The community participation ~~is~~ was at the Informing stage, where information is conveyed to the community. At this level, participation is considered ~~T~~tokenism. In this stage, the community is merely included for formalities, allowing them to hear and have the right to voice their opinions, but they are not yet actively involved in decision-making.

Keywords: Community participation; aquaculture; ~~sumedang~~ Sumedang regency; ~~situraja~~ Situraja district.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the countries capable of developing the future of the fisheries sector, both in capture fisheries and aquaculture (Reference). The aquaculture sector can be a major driver of economic growth in the fisheries sector, considering Indonesia's strategic and advantageous geographical location, which supports the potential of its fishery resources (Reference).

The economic structure of Sumedang Regency, as one of the regencies consistently contributing to West Java's growth, relies heavily on the Agricultural, Forestry, and Fisheries Sector, accounting for 21.2% (Reference). Aquaculture in Sumedang Regency has been experiencing annual growth, with an average increase of about 2.5-6%, covering aquaculture in calm water ponds (KAT), swift water ponds (KAD), and rice field ponds (MPD) (Reference).

For the development and management of aquaculture production, the participation and support of the community are crucial. Community participation refers to the involvement of the community in decision-making processes and the implementation of programs, wherein the community also benefits from the policies and programs enacted (Reference).

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2. MATERIAL AND METHODS ~~/ EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS / METHODOLOGY~~

This research was carried out in Situraja District, Sumedang Regency~~. This research was conducted in~~from March–June 2023. ~~covering~~Covered preparatory activities, ~~F~~field research, data retrieval, data processing and report preparation.

The method used in this study ~~is~~ was the quantitative descriptive method. The data for this study consists of two types: primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through written questions using a questionnaire distributed to 50 respondents.

2.1 Data Analysis

Analysis data used in this study is participation index

~~2.1.1 Participation Index~~

According to Gumilar (2012), the Community Participation Index is an aggregate measure used to assess community participation on a particular issue, ranging from 0 to 1. The level of community participation in environmental management is measured using the Participation Index (IP), which is an aggregate measure designed to assess a specific variable, in this case, community participation. The Community Participation Index can be calculated with a maximum value of 1 and a minimum value of 0, which is as follows:

$$\text{In} = \frac{TS}{x}$$

Where:
In = Index
TS = Total Score
ST = Highest Score
∑R = Total Respondents
x = ST x ∑R

After conducting the calculations, to determine the level of community participation based on ladder of participation Arnstein's (1954), the intervals are established within the range of 0 to 1, as follows:

Table 1. Interval of Arnstein's (1954) Participation ladder.

Interval of values	Upper limit	Stage	Level
1	1	*Citizen control*	
0,876–0,99	0,99	*Delegated power*	*Citizen Power*
0,76–0,875	0,875	*Partnership*	
0,626–0,75	0,75	*Placation*	
0,56–0,625	0,625	*Consultation*	*Tokenism*
0,376–0,55	0,55	*Informing*	
0,26–0,375	0,375	*Therapy*	*Non*

0 – 0,25	0,25	*Manipulation*	*Participation*

***Source:** Arnstein's (1954)*

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The level of community participation in the management of fisheries resources is divided into three stages: the planning stage, the management stage, and the monitoring stage. Based on the analysis results of each stage that have been previously explained, the next step is to create a summary of the level of participation of fishermen communities, as described in the table below.

Table 2. The level of community participation in aquaculture.

No	Answer Options	Total Score	Percentage Score	Participation Index
1	The planning stage	704	20.5%	
2	The management stage	2079	60.4%	0.55
3	The monitoring stage	657	19.1%	
	Total	3440	100%	

The level of community participation in the planning stage resulted in a total score of 704 with a percentage of 20.5%. During the implementation stage, the highest total score was achieved, amounting to 2079 with a percentage of 60.4%. In the evaluation stage, the total score obtained was 657 with a percentage of 19.1%. The resulting participation index is 0.55, which falls into the low category. Community participation is measured using the "ladder of participation" (Arnstein, 1969), which falls under the level of "Informing" or the mere provision of information, with an index range from 0.376 to 0.55.

Furthermore, in terms of the degree of participation, the level of "Informing" falls under "Tokenism." At this level, the community is merely a formality that allows them to hear and have the right to vote, but they are not involved in decision-making. Tokenism also represents a development planning system that emphasizes government participation, but despite involving the community in the planning process, they lack freedom and are limited in expressing their ideas and needs. According to Arnstein (1969), if participation is limited to this level, there is little chance of bringing about meaningful change in society.

According to Gumilar (2012), ideally, a community is considered to have full participation when it reaches stage 8, which is community control. In the seventh and eighth stages, the community has a majority voice in decision-making and may even have full authority in managing a specific policy.

With the current level of participation being at the "Informing" stage, it poses challenges in the management of aquaculture. The community still lacks the ability to influence policies made, and they heavily depend on assistance from others. Consequently, if this assistance were to cease, their activities would be hindered and neglected.

4. CONCLUSION

The average community participation index in aquaculture is 0.55, which means the degree of community participation is still considered low as it is less than 1. Community participation is at the "Informing" stage, or the mere provision of information. This level falls under "Tokenism." At this stage, the community is merely a formality that allows them to hear and have the right to vote, but they are not involved in decision-making. The community still lacks the ability to influence the policies made. They heavily rely on funding from external parties, so if the funding stops, their activities are hindered and neglected.

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