

The Role of Karang Taruna in Increasing Civic Engagement through Mutual Cooperation Activities

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Abstract

This article was written to find out the role of cadets in increasing citizen involvement through mutual aid activities. This study was conducted using a qualitative descriptive method with data collection techniques through literature studies and interviews. The results of the study show that the role of cadet corals as a driving organization in mutual aid activities is indeed very important. Karang taruna as an important element in society that is believed to have high ideas, creativity and innovation which is expected to be able to create changes from what is done and one of the community organizations that can welcome the realization of social development, welfare and harmony in society. Karang taruna through a joint program, namely mutual cooperation, is able to encourage every element of the community to take their respective roles in the success of the program that has been planned so that it will have a big impact on the development of social life in a village. Through mutual cooperation, cadets can embrace the surrounding community to play a maximum role in development efforts and improve community welfare. Community participation in mutual cooperation will foster a sense of family, togetherness and good cooperation so as to increase community involvement in social activities carried out.

Keywords : karang taruna, civic engagement, mutual cooperation

Introduction

The involvement of citizens in community life is a form of community participation in common life to support common goals and always interact with the community and have a sense of responsibility in the sustainability of daily life (H. S. W. A, 2018). Involvement is when a person actively participates in activities in the community according to skills, knowledge, which are in accordance with values and expectations to improve the quality of life of the community for the better (Gusmadi, 2018). Citizen involvement as a form of community participation to be active and take part in activities that exist in the community environment. Thus, the involvement of citizens is a form of responsibility in developing the goals of social values and mutual aid. ((Wadu et al., 2020) As social beings, of course, we need others in social life. Interact, cooperate, mutual aid that will create a sense of solidarity to form social

harmony. Gotong royong is a social activity that has become a characteristic of the Indonesian nation since the time of the ancestors until now which is deeply rooted in people's lives. Conceptually, mutual aid can be interpreted as a model of cooperation that is agreed upon and carried out together. This concept of mutual cooperation can also be interpreted in the context of community empowerment (Pranadji, 2009: 62). (Kristiana, 2019)

The implementation of mutual cooperation in Indonesia is currently experiencing setbacks following the direction of the nation's development dynamically. The emergence of the era of globalization can affect many aspects of people's lives, one of which is culture. People who cannot be wise in facing the currents of globalization will experience changes following western cultures that enter along with the times (S Wahyuni1, Junaidi2, 2019). Thus, people's awareness

of mutual aid is fading. So there is a need for efforts so that the spirit of gotong royong continues to grow in this country, one of which is by participating in the Karang Taruna youth organization in their respective villages.

Karang Taruna according to PERMENSOS No.83 / HUK / 2005 is a social organization that is a forum for the development of the younger generation that grows and develops on the basis of awareness and social responsibility from, by, and for the community, especially the younger generation in the village / kelurahan area or indigenous communities as equals and is engaged in social welfare efforts and fields oriented towards improving social welfare. (Pratama, 2019) In community life, cadets are one of the community organizations that can welcome the realization of social development, welfare and harmony in the community through various programs that are carried out jointly or mutually by involving all elements in the community. The existence of a joint program encourages each element of the community to take their respective roles in the success of the program that has been planned so that it will have a major impact on the development of social life in a village (Nahak, n.d.) . Through mutual cooperation, cadets can embrace the surrounding community to be able to play a maximum role in development efforts and improve community welfare.

Coral cadets have an important role in increasing citizen involvement in community social activities. Programs include mutual cooperation at celebrations, community service work, fundraising, social service, socialization, environmental care actions, and so on which of course aims to create harmony,

welfare, unity and the spirit of nationalism and foster a social attitude as a good citizen. (Wadu et al., 2020)

Literature Review

Karang Taruna

Karang Taruna as one of the important elements in society that is believed to have high ideas, creativity and innovation that is expected to be able to create changes from what is done. Karang Taruna is a forum for guidance and development of the potential of the younger generation who are active in development activities and the field of social welfare where Karang Taruna is a forum for the creativity of the younger generation which has a very important role for the development of activities / programs carried out. (((Nur Bintari & Darmawan, 2016) Cadet corals that are believed to be creative and active have an important role as moral forces and agents of change in various aspects of national development and social welfare.

Civic Engagement

Jacoby & Associates argues that *civic engagement encompasses actions wherein individuals participate in activities of personal and public concern that are both individually life enriching* and socially beneficial to the community meaning citizen involvement includes actions in which individuals participate in private and public caring activities that individually enrich each other and benefit each other socially to society (Adler & Goggin, n.d.) . Citizen involvement has been defined as the process of believing that a person can and should make a difference in improving his community (Ostrander, 2004). To improve society, one needs the knowledge, skills, and

values needed to make a difference. The possession and demonstration of such knowledge, skills and values is expressed through attitudes and behaviors. (Wadu et al., 2020) Citizen engagement emphasizes participation in voluntary service to local communities, either by individuals acting independently or as participants in a group. Citizen involvement can be defined as the way in which individuals, through collective action, influence greater civil society.

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid is working together, helping that arises from the social feeling of needing each other. According to Koentjaraningrat, gotong-royong is divided into two, namely mutual aid service work because it is not an individual interest (per-orangan), but is a common interest, such as: clean the village, repair of village roads, and repair of waterways and mutual cooperation work in neighborliness, kinship, economy (per-tanian). (Derung et al., n.d.) Mutual aid activities have many values contained in them, and the value of togetherness is the dominant value. The values in mutual cooperation certainly lead to the togetherness of the community in carrying out their roles and duties, mutual cooperation which is part of the life guidelines certainly gives a good meaning in every activity, the community can feel a strong togetherness with the existence of mutual cooperation. (Primary, 2019)

Method

The method used in writing this article is descriptive qualitative. The method used in this study is a qualitative method. Qualitative research methods are methods used to examine objects with natural conditions with the researcher as the key instrument and emphasize meaning more than generalization

(Sugiyono, 2017). Data collection was carried out through literature studies and interviews. A literature study is the collection of data carried out by authors to find information relevant to the topic or issue that will or is being studied. The information can be obtained from written sources both printed and other electronic (Purwono, 2012). While interviews are conversations and questions and answers that are directed towards achieving certain goals. This interview aims to acquire knowledge about the subjective meanings that the individual understands with regard to the topic under study ((Bagus et al., 2016). The data processing technique used in compiling this article is to relate the data findings to the phenomena that occur so as to produce a new conclusion as a result of the study conducted by the author.

Result

Karang Taruna is a forum for developing the character of the nation, which if developed creatively will be the beginning of strength for the nation. The aspect of citizen involvement in cadet reefs is community empowerment, especially the involvement of the younger generation in the community which aims to improve the quality of life of the community in various forms of activities in the community as happened in Kalijirak Hamlet, Tasikmadu. Based on data obtained from interviews with the Head of Karang Taruna and the Head of Kalijirak Hamlet, Tasikmadu efforts to participate in cadet coral members in every activity carried out by the village community aim to increase the role of the community in these activities. So here the involvement is necessary.

Kalijirak Hamlet cadets have a good work program in the implementation of the wheels of their organization. Each cadet sub-reef has a different program so that there are very varied activities in Kalijirak Village. Like not wanting to lose one another in doing activities. Each cadet sub-reef always tries to be better and looks for things that are different from other cadet sub-corals. So here they are very competitive and progressive in carrying out activities and compiling programs either weekly, monthly, or yearly. The program is certainly a program that involves the community so that in its course it still involves every element of society.

The Head of Karang Taruna Dusun Kalijirak said that the existence of a joint program can encourage the community to take their respective roles in the success of the program that has been planned so that it will have a big impact on the development of social life in a village, one of the joint activities is mutual cooperation. Through mutual cooperation, cadets can embrace the surrounding community to be able to play a maximum role in development efforts and improve community welfare.

But on the one hand, the Head of Kalijirak Hamlet said that in fact, the implementation of some programs often runs not optimally. Community participation is still lacking in the activities carried out. With various factors, among others, the cadet sub-reef itself is less able to manage its internal resources, or the program is less attractive and inappropriate if it involves the general public. Here the role of karangtaruna is emphasized. Coral cadets are able to design programs and activities well, so they must be able and tried to do well.

Cadets as agents of change must be able to change people's mindsets towards more modern thinking with the times.

The Head of Karang Taruna Dusun Kalijirak said that the cadet reef still tries to make the community aware of the importance of unity and unity, the importance of working together in daily life and the importance of participating in activities in the community. Cadets need to involve the general public in the preparation of activities, for example asking for advice to be better and more appropriate than the community expects. So that the community participates and is enthusiastically involved in these activities. The right activities involve the community, namely mutual cooperation that is able to create togetherness, a sense of harmony, family, cooperation, and others. Through mutual cooperation, cadets are able to show their role in trying to increase community involvement in community social activities.

Discussion

Forms of Cadet Reef Involvement

The involvement of citizens in social life becomes the hope of realizing the ideals of society. The involvement of citizens in cadets is a variety of forms of participatory attitudes of youth within the community. This participatory form is in various fields such as the social, sports, religious, and political fields. (((Adler & Goggin, n.d.) Mutual aid in society is physically practiced by youth as a good and responsible next generation in society. So physical mutual aid in society is more of a participatory attitude of youth and cadets. The non-physical aspect of citizen involvement in mutual aid activities in cadets is community empowerment as in the field of human resources. Human resource development is fundamental to ensure the progress of a

society, especially for the younger generation. Non-physical development of cadet corals is more about the formation of knowledge, attitudes, mentality, and also the skills of cadet corals in practice to be directly involved in society as an aspect of non-physical development to prepare responsible generations in the future.

Efforts to improve the quality of participation of Karang Taruna members must be balanced by the Karang Taruna institution itself in motivating its members to develop their roles and functions optimally in order to achieve the goals of community welfare. The participation of members of the Cadet Reef concerns the involvement of a person or group so that it will cause great responsibility and contribution to the programs implemented in the community. Mental, mind and moral involvement by Karang Taruna members is a form of active participation of Karang Taruna in completing Karang Taruna work programs that are beneficial to the community, as well as problems that exist in the Karang Taruna institution. By providing ideas or ideas to the community to play a role in every existing development, and can utilize the natural resources in the village area to improve welfare. Karang Taruna is also responsible for the programs that have been implemented so that the program can continue to run according to the needs of the community. ((H. S. W. A, 2018)

The Role of Taruna Corals in Mutual Cooperation Activities

In accordance with its position as an agent of change, cadets are expected to always contribute and play a role in society. Role is a consequence or result of a person's position or status. Roles include

obligations and rights related to position (Nasution, 2004:73). If a person or an organization can exercise their rights and obligations properly, it means that they can carry out according to their role. The role of coral cadets in mutual aid activities, namely karagtaruna as a youth organization, has an important role in the community in welcoming the realization of social development, welfare and harmony in the community through various programs carried out jointly or mutually by involving all elements in the community. Through mutual cooperation, cadets can embrace the surrounding community to be able to play a maximum role in development efforts and improve community welfare. Public awareness of mutual cooperation makes people live in harmony and harmony. As an organization engaged in the social field, Karang Taruna is not an object of development but must be able to become a subject of development. Youth as one of the elements of a society, every activity is expected to be able to create progress. As agents of change in society, cadets must play an active role in social life in the community, one of the mutual aid programs to improve the social character of citizens. (Ngubalan et al., 2000)

According to Bungin (2006: 7) stated the activities of mutual aid in rural areas as follows:

1. Mutual aid when there is death, then help when someone is sick or accident, help in the form of energy and objects.
2. Mutual aid in terms of work around the household, for example, repairing house facilities, digging wells and so on.
3. Mutual cooperation in terms of parties, for example at weddings / thanksgivings to help prepare for the event

4. Mutual cooperation in working on the public interest in the village community, such as devotional work to repair roads, build bridges, and so on.

Obstacles to the Implementation of Mutual Cooperation and Efforts to Preserve Mutual Cooperation for the Community

The emergence of the digital era is caused by the industrial revolution 4.0 towards 5.0, having a major impact on various aspects of people's lives. Starting from economic, legal, political, social, cultural, and even the personality of citizens. Indonesian citizens began to experience what is called westernization, modernization and began to adjust to significant world developments that caused society to become increasingly individualist and minimize social interaction with things around them as if they had forgotten that as social beings certainly need others. Thus, people's awareness of mutual aid is fading. Obstacles to Mutual Cooperation in the All-Digital Age include:

1. The values and characteristics of mutual aid that have existed and been developed for a long time have not been thoroughly explained to the community.
2. Many people think that nowadays it is irrelevant to use the principle of mutual aid. So that all parties of society think that this is something that is right and not wrong.
3. The social sense that was once embedded in Indonesian society has now begun to fade. Whether it's in urban areas or even in rural areas.
4. Lack of role on the part of the government in efforts to improve and raise the long-faded social spirit. (Primary, 2019)

Mutual cooperation has a very important value for social life in Indonesia, especially rural communities. Village communities usually have a strong interaction relationship with each other. Don't let the changing times towards digitization make that important value fade. So mutual aid needs to be preserved as a cultural heritage of the nation. Efforts to preserve mutual cooperation can be done by:

Increase public awareness to have a social caring attitude.

Maintaining the spirit of mutual aid behavior in the community.

Build good interaction between layers or members of society. 5. We need the role of the government to always voice the importance of mutual aid.

The government can provide examples / programs for the community to continue to carry out the habit of mutual cooperation actively.

The government needs to give rewards to certain parties who are always willing to preserve the culture of mutual cooperation to provide motivation.

Conclusion

The involvement of citizens in community life is a form of community participation in common life to support common goals and always interact with the community and have a sense of responsibility in the sustainability of daily life. Gotong royong is a social activity that has become a characteristic of the Indonesian nation since the time of the ancestors until now which is deeply rooted in people's lives. Gotong royong has a very important value for social life in Indonesia. So we as good, intelligent and conscious citizens need to maintain and preserve the culture of mutual aid (M. A A et al., 2019). In this case, cadets have a very important

role in mutual aid activities. Karang taruna as an important element in society that is believed to have high ideas, creativity and innovation which is expected to be able to create changes from what is done and one of the community organizations that can welcome the realization of social development, welfare and harmony in society. Strengthening the character of the nation, especially the character of social citizenship through Civic Education and positive programs implemented by cadets such as mutual cooperation to increase community involvement and build good relationships in an effort to create change and community welfare. (((Juliardi, n.d.)

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