Implementing Community Empowerment for Female-Headed Households: Evidence from PEKKA-INKLUSI
2023-2024 Project
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Abstract

This research focuses on the implementation of community empowerment for female-headed households as the target group of the PEKKA-INKLUSI Project in 2023-2024. It looks at how the empowerment was implemented, why some dimensions are given greater emphasis than others in the reports, and what challenges appeared during the process. The study uses four dimensions of empowerment by Dushkova and Ivlieva: (1) capacity building; (2) self-reliance, control, ownership, responsibility, and independence; (3) participation, engagement, and collective action; and (4) integration of local knowledge and values. The method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive approach and document analysis. The data are limited to eight Partner Progress Report from Yayasan Pekka, published between 2023 and 2024.

The result of this study indicate that the capacity building dimension is reflected in the way programmes were designed to strengthen organisations, build the capacity of cadres and members, and improve KLIK Pekka services. The second dimension, self-reliance appears through the development of business groups, supply chains, and the use of internal resources. However, the evidence in this dimension is still not strong enough to explain control, ownership, responsibility, and independence. Participation and collective action are seen through the involvement of Pekka members in village forums and collaboration with the government. Meanwhile, the use of local potential and the adjustment of services to the local cultural context reflect the dimension of local knowledge and values. This study also found several challenges in the project implementation, such as the uneven capacity of members and economic responsibilities that limited the participation of Pekka members in empowerment programmes. Overall, the PEKKA-INKLUSI Project has shown the four dimensions of empowerment, although the Partner Progress Reports used as the data sources are still mostly focused on quantitative achievements. As a result, the deeper picture of how the programmes were implemented has not been fully presented.

Keywords: community empowerment; female-headed households; PEKKA-INKLUSI Project; Yayasan Pekka; document analysis.