

EFFECTIVENESS OF ASSISTED COMMUNITY SELF-HELP (*GOTONG-ROYONG*) IN HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE POOR: A STUDY IN PURBALINGGA REGENCY, CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA

Abstract

The inadequate housing rehabilitation program is a government program that aims' to reduce the number of inadequate houses, and alleviate poverty, as most inadequate houses are occupied by the poor. Most of the low-income households in Purbalingga regency live in inadequate housing, which characterized by the use of low-quality materials and inadequate sanitation facilities. However, the amount of subsidies provided by the government does not cover all the costs of housing repairs. There has been debate surrounding the effectiveness of this program regarding the objectives of this program in terms of meeting objectives.

The study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of assisted community self-help "*gotong-royong*" within inadequate housing rehabilitation program in Purbalingga regency. It also evaluates the achieved goals of the program in terms of improving the housing quality and the changes in the households' financial condition after living in the rehabilitated house. In collecting data, this study uses face to face survey using a questionnaire, as well as semi-structured interviews and observation.

The study suggests that *gotong-royong* still exists and is practiced by the society, particularly in the phase of rehabilitating inadequate housing. However, due to the lack of skill in building house, the beneficiaries employ professional builder to rehabilitate their house. The results of this program are varied in terms of the physical improvement in the three main housing parts. Moreover, living in rehabilitated housing has little or no effect on income increment and household expenditure reduction, even some of the beneficiaries made a debt to cover the housing rehabilitation cost. It was contrary to the local government's expectation that subsidizing housing improvements would assist families in decreasing their housing expenditure, thereby enabling them to have more money available to spend on other needs.

Keywords: *Housing Policy, Adequate Housing, Assisted community self-help, Housing Improvement.*