Chapter 24
Participatory Poverty Assessment Effort in Food Security and Extension Policy:
Evidence From Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The impact study assessment aims to evaluate policies and monitor the achievement of targets and the results of a development program such as DMP. The output obtained is information that is an evaluation of how the policy was planned, initiated, and implemented. Participatory monitoring and evaluation analyze the outcome and impact of the DMP Program. PPA seeks to answer the question of whether or not the policy or program is working properly. A participatory approach may improve the outcomes in the form of a new policy model for the future. The output of the PPA process from this study is the agricultural policy formulated in terms of practical ways of approaching poverty problems from a local perspective. The success of alternative policy options applied by local government such as physical, human resources, and institution development at the grassroots level should be adopted at the national level. It should represent the best example of a case of successful program implementation at the grass-roots level which can then be used in formulating national policies and strategies.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty reduction is key to the success of a country's development. Encouraging economic development is an effective policy for poverty reduction. One of the policy measures to effectively address the issue of poverty is the adoption of participatory approaches in the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of poverty reduction policies. A participatory approach is used to address weaknesses which could not be effectively addressed previously. Variations regarding the evaluation of poverty reduction policies are dominated by top-down approaches. A less top-down approach to evaluating policies will accommodate the needs and aspirations of the poor.

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) was introduced by the World Bank to assess the poverty in a region from top-level down to village level. People facing poverty were identified and so were the causes of poverty, and recommendations for poverty reduction effort at household level were proposed. The variation or diversity of indicators that exists in the country and villages are taken to be representative of poverty at household level. However, this implies a methodology that is diverse and is capable and flexible enough to respond to the needs of the subject of policies (Asian Development Bank [ADB,] 2001).

PPA is a method of analysis of data aggregation. It seeks to recognize deficiency scope within the public, cultural, financial, and political atmosphere in a particular region. It focuses on the local peoples' perceptions. Different research methods can be contextualized to different degrees. These categorizations with participatory methods aim to standardize the data collection and analysis with the sample in a large household study. The course of classification approaches offers the advantage of inferring qualitative information from quantitative evaluations, which characterizes the comparison of survey and participatory data. Nevertheless, it does not include the perspective of acquiring quantitative data from the PPA.

BACKGROUND

PPA initiates a participatory method that thrives in the viewpoint of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). They become key to mechanisms for advance policy agency by embodiment of the community's participation. PRA has been seen as a family of approaches and methods to enable local people to share and analyze their knowledge of life and conditions, and to plan and to act (Chambers, 1994). It emerged in the early 1990s building on insights and methodological innovations from various study methods. Agro-ecosystem analysis provided the series of diagramming, mapping, scoring, and grading methods of the different natural processes; insight provided by the work of practical and development anthropologists and those of field research in farming systems emphasized villagers' capability in conducting their own personal analysis; and most notably there was the development of Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) (Ruggeri Laderchi, 2001).

Conservative poverty estimates, together with equally conservative financial and qualification estimates, have been criticized for leading to external enforcement, and for not taking into account the views of poor people themselves. The participatory approach's purpose is to change this and to enable the people themselves to take part in decisions about what it entails to be poor and the level of poverty (Chambers, 1994, 1997). The implementation of PPA, evolved from PRA, is described as "a rising family unit of approaches and methods to enable local people to distribute, develop and analyze their understanding of living and circumstances, to plan and to effort" (Chambers, 1994). Originally, it was intended for small projects, then the World Bank, to complement to its poverty assessments, scaled up PPA. By 1998, the

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