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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Analyzing Impact of Grass Root ODA Program on Community Capacity Development towards Sustainability**

Capacity development has become a serious concern among donor agencies. It has been considered as the missing link in development, as one of important objective of aid and pre-condition to achieve sustainable development. It has the old and purest objectives of aid; to help developing countries make and carry out their own choices.

The concept of “capacity” has been a goal of international donor communities since 1960s. Renewed interest grew out of the experiences with structural adjustment programs in 1980s when it became clear that many developing countries did not have the management skills and organization resources required to implement complex adjustment programs. What make it worse is that the performance post program was also declining. In many evaluation report this capacity problem were identified as a major constrain to aid effectiveness.

Problems do not stop soon after the donor agencies embraced the concept of capacity development. Donor agencies tend to underestimate recipient countries by assuming that the capacity does not exist so it needs to be built from the scratch. Capacity is transferred directly from donor countries without considering local knowledge and existing capacity. This understanding is proven to be ineffective when it carried out in the development program.

From years of experiences, donor agencies have learnt that development driven or based on communities is the best way to carried out the concept. Focusing on the community wants and needs, making them subjects rather than object where they were figuring out how to use their own resources to achieve their own goal, are proven to be more effective approach rather than putting whole project package that planned by experts without local people consideration.

This research tried to analyze the impact of grass root ODA program in community capacity development towards sustainability. According to theory, such bottom up program should give positive impact in developing community capacity because they focus on developing what community already has to sustain the program result.

The research was accomplished using a qualitative case study approach. The selected case study is one of project under ODA program from Japan to Indonesia called Community Empowerment Program. The selected project under this program is “Community Empowerment Program based on Local Resources and Tacit Knowledge by Co-creating Technical Support”.

The principal data was collected through focus interview using Laverack (1999) nine domains community capacity matrix. The matrix is used as guideline to assess the change in community capacity before and after the project implementation. Additional methods of data collection were also used during data collection. These additional methods are in-depth individual interviews, observations, and document reviews.

The result showed that for both communities, the capacity was increased in some domains. Problem assessment capacities, link with others, and program management are those community capacity domains that increased during the CEP implementation for both communities. For Banyuripan community, aside from those domains, the improvement in community capacity domains were also noticed for organizational structure and resource mobilization domains. The same notion is also applied for Bogem community. Aside from the three domains, the improvement also noticed for others domain. Those domains are community participation and critical thinking domains.

Although the impact of the project to community capacity can be recognized through the change in the assessment, it is not wise to say that CEP project is the only factor that contributed to the community capacity development. From the study, it is safe to say that aside from the external factor (CEP project), the community capacity development also affected by internal factor of the communities. The internal factors that can be identified are the community organizing and the role of local agent.

Keywords: Official Development Assistance, Community Development, Community Capacity, Sustainability