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## THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF KERUBUNG JAYA VILLAGE, BATANG CENAKU DISTRICT, INDRAGIRI HULU REGENCY

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### Abstract

*Youth play a crucial role as agents of change, development, and renewal, driving the nation's progress through their spirit, creativity, and innovation. The youth represent the succeeding generation that upholds noble values, serves as a bulwark of national unity, and acts as a cornerstone for the nation's progress and development. Youth also play a role in advancing the village by.*

*Roles played by youth in village development include acting as agents of innovation and social transformation; leveraging digital technology and global information to introduce improvements in village governance and local problem-solving; and serving as potential village entrepreneurs who develop local assets and establish Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes) to boost community income. Furthermore, through organizations such as, Karang Taruna, (youth associations), young people play a role in preserving local wisdom and customs while strengthening the spirit of gotong royong (mutual cooperation). fostering economic self-reliance (entrepreneurship), drawing upon local culture, and actively participating in organizations. The tangible contributions of young people accelerate digitalization and the empowerment of the village community. Young people spearhead environmental initiatives—such as waste management—and engage in social and educational activities within the community. They participate in village development planning to ensure it is visionary and relevant to the times. Active youth involvement is crucial for ensuring that village development follows a clear direction and is oriented toward progress.*

*The objective of this study is to examine and analyze the role of youth in the development of Kerubung Jaya Village, Indragiri Hulu Regency, using a qualitative research method. The study population consists of youths in Kerubung Jaya Village aged 17 to 30, supplemented by key and supporting informants, while the sample comprises 100 youth respondents from the village.*

**Keywords:** *The Role of Youth, Village Development, Kerubung Jaya, Batang Cenaku*

## INTRODUCTION

According to Article 1 of Law No. 6 of 2014, a village is defined as a legal community unit possessing defined territorial boundaries and the authority to regulate and manage governmental affairs and local community interests based on community initiative, original rights, and/or traditional rights that are recognized and respected within the governmental system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. From a cultural perspective, the formation of a village occurs through a mandatory process—essentially by decree. The village represents an indigenous structure of the Indonesian nation itself; consequently, it

possesses rights based on its origins and holds a special status. Villages possess historical markers and embody aspirations shaped through a bottom-up process—driven by the will of residents or a founding figure—allowing them to explore the specific needs and unique characteristics of their local area, whether regarding the population or geographical features. Furthermore, the village government serves as the frontline institution for delivering services to the community.

The village serves as a strong foundation for the development of stable and dynamic political, economic, and socio-cultural systems. To enhance development in each respective area, the village government can reach the specific target groups intended to benefit from village development.. uthority regarding village development is set forth in Law No. 6 of 2014, Chapter IV, Article 18. Rural development is pursued by enhancing community empowerment and self-reliance to achieve well-being across all aspects of community life. These aspects encompass the economic, socio-cultural, political, and environmental spheres. Community empowerment and self-reliance are evidenced by the availability and adequacy of social and economic infrastructure in rural areas, as well as by increased productive economic activity among the population and the enhanced role of local social and economic institutions in providing capital to support the expansion of community economic activities and the strengthening of these institutions.

The government has four priority programs for village development: the Rural Area Leading Commodity Program (Prukades), Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes), the construction of small reservoirs (embung), and the development of sports facilities. Meanwhile, it is crucial for the government to accelerate village development through programs aimed at boosting productivity and improving the quality of life for rural residents. From an economic perspective, villages play a vital role, serving as a key indicator of the economic strength or weakness of a region—or even an entire country. From a political perspective, villages serve as indicators of the public vote and the fundamental aspirations of the people—factors that cannot be ignored. The implementation of development programs relies heavily on the awareness and active participation of the entire village community, as the people are a key factor in the success or failure of village development; this is particularly true regarding the youth, who make up approximately one-third of the working-age population. Therefore, the presence of youth is expected to drive progress not only in the economic sector but also in other areas such as social affairs and culture; indeed, this represents significant potential for young people—provided it is harnessed optimally—within the context of rural development. Young people occupy a central position in the dynamics of village development. This central role stems from the fact that they are viewed as bearers of potential, possessing broader access to knowledge and information, as well as greater physical strength compared to other members of the community. Therefore, the role of youth in the implementation of village development programs is of great importance, as they are considered key actors in driving social and economic change in rural areas.

Based on the research problem regarding the role of youth in the development of Kerubung Jaya Village and the research gap discussed in the background, the following research questions have been formulated : What is the role of youth in the development of Kerubung Jaya Village, Indragiri Hulu Regency, Meanwhile, the objective of this study is to examine and analyze the role of youth in the development of Kerubung Jaya Village, Indragiri Hulu Regency. The youth play a crucial role in the development of Kerubung Jaya Village; consequently, there is a need to enhance the quality of the village's young people. The findings of this study can serve as valuable information for the progress of Kerubung Jaya Village in Indragiri Hulu Regency. Based on this premise, the topic warrants investigation.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Authority regarding village development is set forth in Law No. 6 of 2014, Chapter IV, Article 18. According to the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), rural development efforts focus on enhancing community empowerment and self-reliance to achieve well-being across all aspects of community life. These aspects encompass the economic, socio-cultural, political, and environmental spheres. Villages can serve as a strong foundation for the development of stable and dynamic political, economic, and socio-cultural systems.

Community empowerment and self-reliance are reflected in the availability of social and economic facilities and infrastructure in rural areas, the growth of productive economic activities among the community, and the role of local social and economic institutions in providing capital to support the enhancement of both community economic activities and these very institutions (Yustika, 2015). According to Didik Sukrino (cited in Ulfa et al., 2017), the authority to carry out rural area development is directed toward enhancing welfare, thereby further strengthening community resilience. Improvements in well-being are achieved by empowering every component of society to enhance local potential in each village (Mufiddin, 2017).

Young people are figures who influence a nation's transformation. The role of youth in a nation's transformation holds a central position (Bintari et al., 2016). Examining the role of youth in continuing the sambatan tradition (mutual assistance among neighbors, such as in house construction) and how this tradition shapes the spirit of mutual cooperation. Young people are said to have a greater capacity to access knowledge and information compared to other segments of society, as this potential is reflected in several characteristics, namely:

- 1) Purity of Idealism,
- 2) courage and openness in absorbing new values and ideas
- 3) Spirit of Devotion
- 4) Spontaneity,
- 5) Innovative and Creative,
- 6) The desire to quickly realize new ideas,
- 7) The desire to display an independent attitude and personality, as well as
- 8) The continued scarcity of experiences that can lend relevance to opinions, attitudes and actions in relation to social conditions

Therefore, Young people are expected to make a positive contribution to developing the potential that exists within a community. Young people need to be given the widest possible opportunities to participate in rural community development.. One way to provide opportunities to young people is by developing their capabilities. This implies that the role of the younger generation in development is crucial—and not merely because they constitute the largest segment of society. However, there is something even more important: without the potential and creativity of the young generation, development efforts could lose their direction. Furthermore, village development cannot be undertaken by a single group or party alone; rather, all elements of the community must work in synergy and align their visions and missions. Consequently, the various elements of the village community share collective duties and responsibilities (Putra, 2017).

Kemandirian masyarakat dalam Agusta, dkk. (2014) dipandang sebagai suatu kondisi yang terbentuk melalui perilaku kolektif masyarakat melakukan perubahan sosial. Perilaku kolektif masyarakat dalam melakukan perubahan sosial dapat dimunculkan melalui pendekatan yang dibangun dalam pembangunan masyarakat selain menggunakan pendekatan dasar manusia, yaitu dengan tetap mengikutsertakan pendekatan kebutuhan dasar. Pendekatan atas kebutuhan dasar sangat sangat diperlukan untuk membawa masyarakat desa pada posisi

awal untuk siap melaksanakan suatu pembangunan.

The implementation of village development proceeds in stages and democratically, involving various forms of organizational, institutional, and livelihood-related specialization. The stages of village development implementation will succeed when they are able to mobilize community participation. The higher the level of community participation in a development program, the greater the resulting social and economic impact; community participation is an integral part of development models capable of improving the well-being of rural communities. The government's role is crucial, in accordance with its functions including acting as an entrepreneur. Acting as an entrepreneur, the government is responsible for managing economic resources and potential economic assets in a manner that generates profit and delivers benefits to the community. Secondly, as Coordinator, The government can establish policies or strategies for the implementation of development and engage all components of society to become actors in development. Third, as a Facilitator, he government can accelerate development by improving the attitudinal environment—specifically regarding the improvement of licensing procedures and public services.

## RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the author employs a qualitative research method. Qualitative research methods yield descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from informants and observed behaviors during the researcher's interviews and observations. The qualitative research method was selected because it was deemed appropriate for clearly and comprehensively analyzing and describing—as well as obtaining in-depth data on—the role of youth in the implementation of development programs in Kerubung Jaya Village, Batang Cenaku District, Indragiri Hulu Regency. The population for this study consists of youths in Kerubung Jaya Village aged 17 to 30, supplemented by key and supporting informants; the sample comprises 100 respondents from Kerubung Jaya aged 17 to over 41. The data collection techniques employed in the study include interviews, questionnaires, and observation.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The research findings regarding the role of youth in the development of Kerubung Jaya Village, Batang Cenaku District, Indragiri Hulu Regency—viewed through the indicator of youth perceptions of village development—demonstrate a significant, tangible contribution to village development, falling within the "very frequent" category (mean = 5.25, SD = 0.052). For all items regarding the role of youth in development, the minimum values ranged from 2.55 to 5.25, with standard deviations between 0.025 and 0.052. This indicates that the role of youth is capable of contributing to development. Regarding the responsibility of Sejati village youth, the perception indicates a very high frequency of taking responsibility (mean = 4.35, SD = 0.67). For all items in the work responsibilities of the youth, it is known that the minimum value is more than the minimum between 4.23 to 4.45 with a standard deviation between 0.55 to 0.66. So it is known that the youth are able to maintain the village property entrusted to them and report the results of their work to their superiors according to the actual situation. Regarding the perceptions of Kerubung Jaya village youths concerning personality aspects, the youths demonstrated a personality profile characterized by a high frequency of the associated traits (mean = 4.25, SD = 0.60). For all items related to work personality, the youths recorded mean scores ranging from 4.40 to 4.56, with standard deviations between 0.25 and 0.62. Thus, it is evident that the young people possess the ability to carry out tasks sincerely. The lowest-rated aspect, however, is self-control across various situations and

conditions—though even this still falls within the "frequent" or "very good" range. The perception of Kerubung Jaya village youth regarding the aspect of genuine cooperation falls into the "very frequent cooperation" category (Mean = 4.56, SD = 0.59). For all items regarding youth cooperation, the mean scores ranged from 4.47 to 4.53, with standard deviations between 0.69 and 0.89. Thus, it is evident that the youths possess the ability to handle the opinions of their peers. And the lowest is less willing to accept valid decisions even though they disagree even though they are frequent or very good. Therefore, this should be taken into consideration by the leadership when making decisions that are fair or widely accepted by the majority of the Village Apparatus; the perception regarding the role of the administration in village development falls into the "very frequent" category (Mean = 4.235, SD = 0.53). For all items within the government role, the mean values ranged from 4.23 to 4.35, with standard deviations between 0.427 and 0.578. Thus, the role of youth in village development is evident. Based on the preceding discussion regarding the roles of youth and the government, several areas require improvement: a reluctance to accept legitimate decisions when in disagreement; a lack of ability to make decisions accurately and swiftly; an inability to correctly determine work priorities; a lack of a nurturing or supportive attitude; and insufficient assistance or support from the government.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings regarding the role of youth in the development of Kerubung Jaya Village, Indragiri Hulu Regency, it can be concluded that the youth's role in village development falls into the "good" category. This indicates that the role of youth is crucial to village development. Youth are the source of energy and the driving force behind the development of village civilization. Their role is crucial in invigorating village life. The prevailing paradigm—which views rural communities as backward and assumes that success requires migrating to big cities—must be abandoned immediately. Therefore, developing the village is a non-negotiable imperative that must be realized immediately. All village stakeholders and the community must work together to realize village development that is prudent and wise. The youth represent the village's true potential as a driving force for development; they embody the civilization of a nation. To build a civilization, it is time for the youth to serve as the driving force of change, paving the way for a civil society—an endeavor supported by data analysis using statistical techniques. All variables determining the effectiveness of the youth's role in village development fall into the "good" and "very good" categories, making them suitable as instruments for assessing the role of youth in service delivery. Furthermore, Service and research activities need to be carried out, and it is recommended that data collection be further enhanced—for instance, by conducting interviews. Future Research Plan.

## LIMITATION & FURTHER RESEARCH

**Research Limitations:** The author acknowledges that this study is not without shortcomings and has several limitations, including: **Sample Scope:** This study was conducted in only one village with a sample of 100 youths. Therefore, the findings cannot be generalized to all villages or the Batang District, which may possess different characteristics. **Method of collecting data :** Data in this study were collected through self-report questionnaires distributed online.

**Variable Focus :** This study focuses in depth on the role of youth in village development, specifically addressing aspects such as the community's economic conditions, infrastructure, limited access, and the community's knowledge and education levels.

Based on these limitations, it is hoped that future research can:

1. Expanding the Scope : Using a larger and representative sample.
2. Metode Kombinasi (Mixed Methods) : Employing a mixed-methods approach (quantitative and qualitative), supplemented by in-depth interviews, to determine the extent of youth participation in village development.
3. Adding a New Variable : Incorporating moderator or mediator variables—such as the "role of the leader or village head" acting as a motivator—to foster the youth enthusiasm essential for their success in village development..

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