

The Role of Women's Farmer Groups as An Alternative Solution to Food Insecurity during The Covid -19 Pandemic

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Abstract

Research on the Az Zahra Women's Farmer Group in the Buaran South Tangerang area which was carried out from March 2021 to August 2021 with the title The Role of Women's Farmer Groups as Alternative Solutions to Food Insecurity during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Buaran, Serpong, South Tangerang. The data taken are primary and secondary data, primary data is taken from observations and interviews with officials, supervisors and members of the women's farmer group. The results of environmental observations and interviews conducted can be seen that the group has succeeded in achieving group managerial effectiveness. The results of the observations are seen from the data at the time of the initial formation (in 2018) and the data at the time the research was conducted (in 2021). The initial data for the formation of the Women Farmers Group are: The area of cultivated land is 300m², with 29 members, 2 types of plants that can be harvested, the value of the harvest is Rp. 1,740,000. a year. While the results of operations in 2021, the number of plants will be 25 types of plants, the area of land being cultivated will be 10,000 m² and the welfare level of members will be Rp. 12,500,000 a year. In terms of organizational management, this group has proven that it has carried out managerial effectiveness in order to achieve the group's goals as indicated by the increasing area of land planted, growing crop yields and increasing welfare of members although they do not have the land. This group that has performed its management functions well, such as planning, organizing, directing and controlling. The role of the Women Farmers group in preventing food insecurity is very effective, because the harvest obtained can prevent food insecurity in the family as well as the surrounding community by providing food in the form of vegetables and health plants, as well as by making donations to local residents in need.

Keywords: Women's Farmer Group; Pandemic Covid-19; Managerial Effectiveness; Food Insecurity

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a number of negative impacts. One of them is in the economic field. In terms of community income. Due to restrictions on activities for all humans

in order to prevent contracting the Covid-19 disease. The reduction in income was due to the fact that many employees were laid off or laid off. The Indonesian government, in order to

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accelerate the handling of the Covid virus, issued a large-scale restriction government regulation (President of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020). As a result of these restrictions, there are obstacles to transactions in economic activities, considering that many transactions are carried out face-to-face. Interaction restrictions are also carried out in one area, causing the supply of food such as vegetables to be hampered. Though food made from vegetables is necessary for the resilience of human health.

The Indonesian economy in 2020 experienced a growth contraction of 2.07 percent (c-to-c) compared to 2019 in a number of business fields. (BPS, 2021) based on BPS calculations above, the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the Indonesian economy experiencing a growth contraction during 2020. However, there are still business fields that have positive growth, one of which is Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, which is 1.75 percent. This means that the agricultural sector is a reliable business field as a driver of economic growth in times of crisis (Sri, 2021). Due to the limitations of social distancing and economic analysis that explains that the agricultural sector can be the best business field during the Covid-19 Pandemic, this pandemic crisis is the right time to learn to be independent in an effort to meet the food needs of individuals or communities in the smallest community. Indonesia is like the area of the pillars of the citizens (RW).

Previous research that has been done on the Role of Women Farmers Groups in the Millennial Era explains the

benefits of group farming activities, which are learning from skills (Margayaningsih, 2020), while research on the role of women farmer groups in community economic empowerment examines the function of women's groups Farmers can empower the community's economy (Pribadi et al., 2021) while Research for Food Houses examines the strategies undertaken to make women farmer groups a regional food barn (Askina, et al., 2017)

The Azzahra women's group which is the subject of this research located in Buaran, Serpong, South Tangerang is one of the implementers of the Government Program. The Women Farmers Group, which was formed in 2018, has succeeded in getting the benefits of crops from plants, being able to meet the needs of healthy food for the family, and getting the rest of the business results from selling crops, as well as having a good group social life. This KWT was chosen because it is a model KWT for cultivators who have high motivation and enthusiasm to improve the quality of life by cultivating an idle land area of +/- 10,000 m² belonging to a developer company in the area.

Based on the results of the work that has been obtained by the Women Farmers Group, this research is focused on knowing the factors of managerial effectiveness that have been carried out by the Azzahra Women Farmers Group in terms of motivation, leadership, and implementation of management theory, namely Planning, Organizing, Directing and Controlling. These factors can answer the question whether the group farming program can be a mainstay of

the business field in times of crisis? And can farming in groups be an alternative solution to prevent food insecurity during the Covid-19 Pandemic?

Another expected benefit is the existence of learning and additional insights for other KWTs in order to optimize the potential of agriculture and human resources in their respective regions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The group of farmers is a government program on the coaching of farmers and economic institutions which is something that must be grown and developed on Indonesian agriculture. The group of farmers (KWT) was formed in a tiered at every level of the region and the lowest level was in the residents' pillars (RW).

Every human being who does work generally have a motive or has a reason to do his job well. The most basic motivation you want to be fulfilled is the fulfillment of his physical needs. (Maslow, 2017) According to Maslow theory that human basic needs will be fulfilled according to their relative hierarches. Where fundamental needs will take precedence while other hierarchies will be met if the previous need has been satisfied even though it does not always have to be sequential. These five levels are used as key understanding in understanding humans. So that a leader / manager in a group can encourage the achievement of a common goal if you understand what is the main motivation of its members. (Haryanto and Dewi, 2020) and group members who have high motivation are important points of effective leader (I, Nile; J, 2014). Effectiveness comes from

effective basic words. Effective Words have a successful meaning (for actions, businesses) so, effectiveness is the activity or use of the use of the existence of conformity in an activity of people who carry out the tasks with the intended target.

Effectiveness is the results achieved by workers compared to the amount of other production with a certain period of time. (Handoko, 2012). While effectiveness is a measure that states how far the target (quantity, quality and time) has been achieved (Hidayat, 1986) the greater the percentage achieved, the higher the effectiveness. Managerial effectiveness is the ability of managers or leaders in an organization to carry out tasks in accordance with their functions in an attempt to achieve the goals that have been agreed upon in the organization they lead. (Robbins, 1998).

Managerial effectiveness, according to (J. Mullins, 2005) stated four special things and one is general, as in question, namely: (1) The Manager Work, (2) The Manager of Himself/Herself, (3) The Manager of Relationships with Other People, (4) The US Manager Part of the Organization, and (5) Creterion of General Effectiveness Allocation of Resources, Achieving Purpose, Goal Attainment, planning, organizing, coordinating, controlling. Understanding of the concept of J. Mullins is the performance manager as a leader, manager character, manager relations with other members, managers as part of the organization and criteria of general effectiveness of resource allocation, the objectives achieved, the targets you want, planning, Organizing, coordination and

supervision of the library study conducted is to conduct an initial study of what is the problem and the phenomenon that occurs due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the community, especially those related to the smallest group, namely the family.

The solution that must be done by each family is to increase health immunity, namely by taking into account the intake of food and nutrition contained in it. Where there is life, that's where there is a disease, humans understand that drugs for diseases that he suffered in plants. In each ethnicity, developing science-based plant-based treatment plants that make local wisdom (local wisdom). In the last decade the relationship between food and health produces a view that good food will produce good health, and bad food will produce poor health (Tyassuma, 2019).

RESEARCH METHODS

Research method type of approach in this study using a perspective or constructivism or social approach Constructivism which is a Qualitative method. Social Constructivism is the way participants view how the world works as they interpret. (W. Creswell, 2013).

To find out the opinions of participants. Questions submitted with the phenomenological research method were based on physiology and psychology researchers describe the life carried out by participants. The research method used by data collection methods through observation, namely researchers are interested in understanding the case deeper so that data extracting is needed to understand more detailed cases.

Researchers use this type of approach because the group of Azzahra farmers has succeeded in carrying out activities / programs that are useful with all the limitations they have. So, it can be used as a reference for other groups of farmers. The role of researchers to observe the environment, record data available and interpret it. Characters in study studies in scientific situations, namely researchers do not try to manipulate research settings, but conduct a study of a phenomenon in a situation where the phenomenon is a group of people. Studies in natural situations oriented to discovery (discovery oriented) without waiting for what will be found and without having alleged early before the study was conducted.

Researchers conduct environmental observation. With the aim of being able to understand the context of being studied that can complete less data when conducting interview interviews or interviews that are interacted because there are exchanges or sharing related to roles, responsibilities, feelings, trust, motives and information, aiming for researchers to gain knowledge about the meaning subjective understood individuals with regard to the topic studied, so researchers can explore a phenomenon (Banister, et al. In Poerwandari, 1998).

RESEARCH RESULT

Members of this women's farmer group are women who are in the area of RW 05, Kampung Jati Buaran Serpong. The initial inspiration for the formation of this women's farmer group was to seek productive activities and seek health

solutions for the diseases they had been suffering from. The women agreed to cultivate unused land in their area by farming food crops and plants with medicinal properties. The food plants selected are food crops that are easy to care for and have a fast-growing period (25 days).

The benefits received by the women in addition to getting food crops can also reduce the budget because they can buy vegetables at low prices at harvest. As resource persons in this study were the Chair of the Women Farmers Group, 1 person, Treasurer and 2 members, and 1 person for the Trustees of the Women Farmers Group.

The results of the interview are notes on the questions asked and the stages of the work process carried out by the KWT. The work carried out by the women is by cutting wild plants which is done by 27 women with manual farming tools. This work is carried out for approximately 4 weeks, and then loosening the soil for 3 weeks. After that, planting is done. The plants chosen are plants that are easy to care for, fast in results and useful for food. The harvests obtained are sold to members at a price lower than the market price in the sense that members receive market subsidies. The cash from the sale is used as capital to buy other plant seeds. So that the plants become more varied. Yields are increasing and capital is growing.

Based on the records and documentation available at KWT Azzahra, the work that has been done can be seen from 4 things:

1. Land area

The area of land cultivated in 2018 is 300 m², while in 2021 it will increase to 10,000 m².

2. Types of plants

In 2018, there were 2 types of plants planted and successfully harvested, namely spinach and kale. Meanwhile, in 2021, the variety of plants will reach more than 25 types of plants.

3. Benefits of obtaining harvests, or the level of welfare of members

In 2018, 27 members benefited from a harvest subsidy of Rp. 1000 per person. In 2021, 22 members will receive the following benefits: spending subsidies, the opportunity to donate and fatigue wages with a total value of Rp. 12,500,000.

4. Number of Members

In 2018 the members who helped clear the land were 29 people and in 2021 there were 22 members, and only 14 people were active. Membership reductions are due to various reasons. More because they have other jobs that cannot be left behind.

5. Repayment of working capital loan in the amount of Rp. 12,000,000 within 2 years

6. Sales sharing system

The harvest is divided into 3 parts, 50% for capital (nursery and loan repayment), 30% for fatigue wages (which are distributed twice a year at the time of Eid and the end of the year) and 20% for donations to orphans. The sale proceeds can generate a minimum of Rp. 800,000 per harvest (per month).

CONCLUSION

From the results of the study, it can be concluded as follows:

The role of the Women Farmers Group Program is important because it can prosper and make members and local residents happy, this is evidenced by the following data.

No	Item	2018	2021
1	land area	300 m2	10.000 m2
2	Total members	29 members	22 members
3	types of plants	2 types	25 types
4	welfare	- Shopping subsidies	- Shopping subsidies - Tired wages - Donate
	Total Welfare	Rp. 1.740.000	Rp 12.500.000
5	Capital Loans	(Rp 12.000.000)	- Rp. 0

Tabel 2
Comparison of Operating Result

Then, Az Zahra Women Farmers Group has carried out managerial effectiveness in terms of Leadership, i.e., the chairperson gives examples of the implementation of work, provides direction to achieve group goals, determines the distribution of business results, and accommodates and facilitates the needs of its members. Motivation is by encouraging members todo their job well. People skills - an increase in skills in doing agricultural work. Administrative skills for the azzahra farmer women's group have been given counseling in the field of administration such as the use of attendance and financial records. Agriculture is a job that requires strong

physical endurance, the effectiveness of which is easily seen from the results of the business obtained. From table 2 above, it can be seen the development of the business carried out during the 3 years since the Women Farmers Group was formed.

Given the important role of the women's farmer group program, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is hoped that an appeal or direction from the Central Government and Regional Government can encourage the community to maximize farming work on their own land or arable land in order to prevent food insecurity.

The Azzahra Women Farmer Group needs assistance in improving the quality of agricultural products and packaging at the time of sale, so that the results can be maximized, given the limited time before returning the land to its owner

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