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Improving The Quality of Life of Urban Communities

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to evaluate the Malang City government's urban farming program and its impact on improving the quality of life for urban residents in terms of food security. The study adopts qualitative research methods and descriptive analysis. The findings indicate that the urban farming program, planned collaboratively by the PKK and Malang City Food and Agriculture Security Service, has been successfully implemented in Dinoyo Village and Penanggungan Village. These initiatives have had a significant positive impact on the communities, enabling them to meet their food needs independently using the available land. However, the implementation of urban farming in Malang City faces certain obstacles, including the absence of clear policy guidelines, limited community understanding, and inadequate supervision and evaluation process after program implementation and support.

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

In the fourth paragraph of the preamble of the 1945 Constitution, it is stated that the creation of an Indonesian state government aims to protect the entire Indonesian nation and promote the general welfare by educating the nation's citizens. It is believed that the development of Indonesia can be measured by the level of welfare of its people. However, the welfare of urban residents in the agricultural sector has been a source of numerous problems (Wassie, 2020). The rapid increase in population and the development of infrastructure in urban areas have caused frequent land conversions, resulting in a decrease in the availability of food and a decline in the quality of life for urban dwellers (Guneralp *et al*, 2020). Ensuring food security and nutrition is crucial for a country to uphold its existence and sovereignty and improve the well-being of its population. The implementation of policies is an essential stage in the public policy process, as it is through implementation that clear goals for the community's welfare can be achieved (Pachapur *et al*, 2020).

The urban farming program is an initiative undertaken by the Government of Indonesia to promote agricultural programs in urban areas, utilizing vacant yards. This program aims to enhance skills, expertise, and innovation in agricultural management in

order to produce essential materials for economic needs and ensure food security for the community. The motivation behind implementing the urban farming program is the various challenges that pose a threat to the well-being of the community. This concept strives to contribute to food security and independence, while also potentially boosting people's income. Currently, the agricultural land is diminishing due to land alteration caused by the development of industries, hotels, residential areas, and shophouses in densely populated urban areas (Liu *et al*, 2022).

The agricultural sector, typically associated with rural areas characterized by vast expanses of vacant lands, is not exempt from urban environments where it can also thrive. The growth of agriculture in urban areas is exemplified by the implementation of urban farming initiatives. Originating in the United States as a response to the dire situation and economic hardships faced by many nations during times of war, particularly the exorbitant prices of vegetables, urban farming has emerged as a viable solution (Belinda, 2017). In 2017, according to data from the Food and Agriculture Security Office of Malang City, the land area was recorded to be 1,104 hectares. However, in 2018, there was a decrease in agricultural land in Malang with the size reducing to 1,065 hectares. This trend continued in 2019, with the land area further shrinking to 1,014 hectares. It can be inferred from this data that the reduction in agricultural land in Malang is directly related to the increasing movement of the population towards urban areas. The diminishing area of active agricultural land can be attributed to the conversion of agricultural land to industrial purposes, the establishment of residential settlements, construction of roads, and other factors. The emergence of the industrial sector as a preferred choice of employment has resulted in farmers leaving their occupations and opting to work in the industrial sector. If this situation persists in the long term, the food security of the urban communities in Indonesia will be adversely affected due to the limited availability of agricultural land. Therefore, it is crucial for the Malang city government to address and tackle this issue promptly.

The Urban Farming Program in Malang City is an initiative implemented by the city government through relevant agencies, particularly the Food and Agriculture Security Service. The Department of Food Security and Agriculture plays a crucial role in providing guidance and technical support for government operations in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, and food security. This department supports agricultural, livestock, and food security programs at both central and regional levels, aiming to promote the growth of urban farming as a solution to pressing issues faced by urban communities in terms of environment, economy, and food security, particularly at the household and small-scale levels. According to the Head of the Section for Consumption Diversity and Food Safety, there are currently five sub-districts in Malang City implementing the Urban Farming Program, namely Lowokwaru District, Sukun District, Klojen District, and Kedungkandang District.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Iskandar (2012) and also Nutbeam and Muscat (2021), policy refers to a series of planned programs, activities, decisions, and actions undertaken by various parties to address a specific problem. The formulation of policies is crucial for organizations to achieve their objectives. These policies can be initiated by an individual or a group and consist of a set of programs and actions with a specific purpose.

Stakeholders then follow and implement these policies in order to address a particular issue (Haerul, Akib, & Hamdan, 2016).

Implementation is considered a critical and decisive stage in the policy process (Birklan, 2001). This perspective is supported by Edwards III (1984:1), who states that the decisions made by policymakers cannot be successfully implemented without effective implementation. Policy implementation refers to the activities that occur after a policy has been officially introduced, and it involves managing inputs to achieve outputs or outcomes for the community. Grindle (1980:7) defines implementation as a general administrative process that can be studied at the program level. The implementation process begins once goals and objectives have been established, activity programs have been organized, and funds have been allocated to achieve targets. As stated by Van Meter and van Horn, as cited by Parsons (1995:461), and Wibawa et al. (1994:15), policy implementation involves actions carried out by both government and private organizations, either individually or collectively, with the aim of achieving goals.

Urban farming refers to the practice of humans growing food, raw materials for industries, and energy sources through the use of biological resources and environmental management. According to Haletky (2006), urban agriculture is a crucial component of creating a sustainable community food system, and its appropriate design can help address the problem of food insecurity. In other words, integrated urban agriculture can serve as an important alternative in achieving sustainable urban development.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research utilizes a qualitative research approach and employs the literature review method as a research strategy. The literature review entails studying and critiquing previous research related to the topic and research problem, thereby facilitating the identification and development of ideas (Brouard, 2020). The study relies on secondary data from published books and journal articles, both national and international. These sources were obtained through platforms such as Google Scholar, Sinta, and Research Gate, using relevant keywords that align with the research problem.

The author conducted research in the location of Malang City. The Food and Agriculture Security Service of Malang City is located on Jalan Jenderal Ahmad Yani Utara Number 202, Polowijen, Belimbing, KotaMalang, East Java. The research sites are located in Lowokwaru District, Dinoyo Village and Klojen District, Penanggungan Village. The author uses Primary data and Secondary data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of the Urban Farming Program in Malang City

Program implementation is the implementation of the program and the use of strategies carried out by the government with very important stages in this case the community who carry out the process after the program has been formulated. With this, it will be seen that the program formulated whether it produces outputs such as goals, goals that will be desired beforehand. Because the program that has been formulated must be supported by the implementation of the program. The implementation of the urban farming program formulated by the Food and Agriculture Security Service, City PKK together with third party characters of each related person is the key that can influence the success of the program implementation. The community and people involved in the urban farming program in Malang City, namely the Food Security and Agriculture Office, the City PKK

as the main actors in implementing the program, other related agencies and cooperating with Bank Indonesia as actors from the private sector. All actors involved have known and understood the purpose and objectives of the urban farming program in Malang City because the main actors have provided explanations about it in accordance with the program proposal formulated.

Implementation of Urban farming Program in Improving the Quality of Life of Urban Communities in Malang City.

To regulate the implementation of the Urban Farming program, there are several variables that affect the performance of the implementation, namely:

Policy size and purpose.

The implementation of policy implementation is measured by achieving whether or not a predetermined goal is achieved or even does not match the size and objectives of the program being carried out. Implementation of urban agriculture programs the size of the policy that is used as a reference in its implementation, seen from several implementation models, includes the following: Law number 18 of 2012 concerning food, Government Regulation Number 17 of 2015 concerning Food Security and Nutrition which explains food security for households which is reflected in the availability of sufficient food, both in quantity and condition, safe, equitable and affordable and Malang Mayor Regulation number 68 of 2019 concerning the position of the composition and function of the Malang City Food and Agriculture Security Service. Associated with the urban farming program in Malang City in its aim of improving the quality of life of urban communities in the field of food security, the government collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Security Service, Family Welfare Empowerment (PKK) of Malang with Bank Indonesia Office number 41 5.4/14/35.73.111/2019 on March 11, 2019 concerning cooperation in economic development and social activities in Malang City

Policy sources.

Efforts made by related parties in the development of human resources, funds and time in the implementation of the urban farming program by placing extension workers (PPL) as group companions from the Malang City Resilience and Agriculture Service located in each village selected through the Decree of the Head of the Malang City Food and Agriculture Security Service with domicile, regional potential and age. The resources of the urban farming program funds in Malang City come from three channels, namely from APBD funds, non-governmental organizations, regional warat and DPR in the form of assistance for program facilities and infrastructure from related parties. The extension party from the Food Security Service together with the Kelurahan who supervise the implementation of the urban farming program. Time resources in the implementation of this program, the extension workers work every day with a predetermined time with the community. Every Saturday-Sunday to do mutual cooperation, make a schedule of activities to carry out care and watering of plants at urban farming locations.

Communication between relevant organizations and implementation activities and attitudes of the implementers.

With the communication between the extension workers, the Food Security Service, the City PKK to the community, they can understand the meaning, purpose, objectives, and direction of the program implementation, so that the community will be able to prepare and implement correctly according to the desired goals. The attitude of the implementers of activities is very important in order to achieve the desired goals and the success of urban farming. This attitude can be seen from the implementers socializing the urban farming program to the community about the purpose, objectives, implementation of the urban farming program. How serious is the attitude of the implementing party in providing a positive response to the implementation of the program. This can be proven by the community being able to develop the harvest of making herbal products from the cultivation of urban farming plants, there are many benefits for public health. Through this program, urban communities, some of which are ignorant of the environment, can establish social interaction and cooperation in society through mutual cooperation and educate the community by producing food from the cultivation of crops on lands that are considered unusable into productive land. However, in the process of implementing urban farming in Malang City, especially those in Dinoyo Village and Penanggungan Village, there are inhibiting factors that are often obstacles in the implementation and activities of urban farming programs including there is no measure of the urban farming program policy located in Malang City, lack of community understanding in the implementation of the program because urban communities are still too ignorant of the environment, lack of supervision and evaluation by the parties concerned after socialization and provision of assistance are provided. So that the interest and willingness of the community in participating in the urban farming program does not run effectively even until it stops halfway.

CONCLUSION

Through this program, urban communities, some of which are ignorant of the environment, can establish social interaction and cooperation in society through mutual cooperation and community empowerment by producing food from the cultivation of crops on lands that are considered unusable to become productive land. However, in the process of implementing urban farming in Malang City, especially those in Dinoyo Village and Penanggungan Village, there are inhibiting factors that are often obstacles in the implementation and activities of urban farming programs including no measure of urban farming program policies in Malang City, lack of public understanding in program implementation because urban communities are still too ignorant of the environment, lack of supervision and evaluation by the parties concerned after socialization and provision of assistance are provided. So that the interest and willingness of the community in participating in the urban farming program does not run effectively even until it stops halfway.

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