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Effectiveness of the Social Assistance Program for The Repair of Uninhabitable Houses (Rutilahu) In the Housing and Settlement Service of Garut Regency

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Abstract: The Uninhabitable House Improvement Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU) is a government initiative to improve the homes of low-income communities so that they meet health, safety, and comfort standards. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the RUTILAHU Social Assistance Program at the Garut District Housing and Settlement Office and identify obstacles in its implementation. The research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. The effectiveness analysis refers to Budiani's theory with indicators of target accuracy, socialization, goal achievement, and program monitoring. The results show that the program has been on target for low-income communities, but socialization has not been optimal because it depends on village officials. The achievement of objectives was quite good with improvements in housing conditions, although it still depended on community self-reliance. Program monitoring was effective through reports and field monitoring. The main inhibiting factors were the limitations of community self-reliance and dependence on village officials in disseminating information. This study recommends improving socialization strategies and adjusting assistance according to the conditions of the recipients' homes.

Keyword: Effectiveness, RUTILAHU, Livable Housing, Socialization, Community Self-Reliance.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a social problem that frequently arises in society. To this day, poverty remains a major obstacle to achieving a prosperous society, especially in developing countries, including Indonesia. As is known, the main impact of poverty is the inability to meet basic human needs. One of these basic needs, in addition to food and clothing, is shelter, which is a place for every individual to live. The most commonly needed shelter is a house. A house

serves as a shelter for its occupants from heat and rain. Furthermore, a house serves as a place of residence and shelter, so it should provide a sense of security and comfort when inhabited. A habitable house is one that is clean and meets the criteria for a healthy home. Fulfilling the need for housing is a basic need of society, and a decent house is expected to improve people's welfare (Nastiti, 2014).

Fulfilling the need for decent housing is not solely an individual responsibility, but also an obligation of the government as the manager of national development. Law Number 13 of 2011 concerning the Handling of the Poor explains that the poor are guaranteed by the state and the state is responsible for maintaining the poor in meeting basic needs. The government has an important role in ensuring that every citizen can obtain decent housing and a healthy residential environment. This refers to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Article 28H as amended, which explains that housing is one of the basic rights of the Indonesian people, therefore, every citizen has the right to have a good and healthy place to live and a living environment. Therefore, the government strives through various development programs to have an impact on the community in terms of providing decent housing. However, in practice, realizing decent housing is not an easy matter. The inability of people to meet the need for decent housing is directly correlated with their income level and their understanding of the function of the house itself. As stated in the Minister of Social Affairs Regulation Number 20 of 2017 concerning Social Rehabilitation of Uninhabitable Houses and Environmental Infrastructure, Article 1 Paragraph (1) explains that Uninhabitable Houses, also known as RUTILAHU, are residences in conditions that do not meet the requirements in terms of health, security and social conditions.

Problems related to uninhabitable housing are also found in Garut Regency, a regency in West Java Province that has a fairly high population density and a relatively significant poverty rate. As a region with a majority of the population involved in the informal sector and agriculture, a large number of families in Garut Regency have below-average incomes, thus facing obstacles in building or renovating houses that meet eligibility standards. Based on the Government Agency Performance Report (LKIP) of the Garut Regency Housing and Settlement Office for 2024, there are 28,643 uninhabitable houses spread across almost all 42 sub-districts in Garut Regency. These houses generally show uninhabitable conditions, such as fragile building structures, roofs still made of palm fiber or damaged tiles, moldy walls, floors that are still made of dirt, walls that are still made of cubicles or damaged walls, inadequate ventilation, and sanitation facilities that do not meet health standards. In addition, many houses still lack Bathing, Washing, and Toilet (MCK) facilities. This condition directly impacts the decline in the quality of life of residents, especially in terms of health, comfort and security.

The Garut Regency Government is trying to implement the Uninhabitable House Repair Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU), which is regulated in the West Java Governor Regulation Number 46 of 2015 concerning the guidelines for the Uninhabitable House Repair Program. The Uninhabitable House Repair Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU) is aimed at Low-Income Communities (MBR) who own houses that do not meet the criteria for housing eligibility. The purpose of this program is to improve the standard of living of the community and support them in obtaining adequate housing. and the person concerned has the right to actively participate in carrying out activities independently, as well as preserving the results of the activities independently (Wati, 2023). The amount of assistance provided is IDR 15,000,000 per house unit, with funds sourced from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD). Regarding the RUTILAHU Social Assistance Program in Garut Regency during the 2019–2024 period, the number of houses successfully repaired shows a downward trend. In 2024, 880 houses were recorded as having been rehabilitated, this figure is lower compared to previous years. This decrease was influenced by budget efficiency efforts after the COVID-19 pandemic, the diversion of funds to handle disaster victims, and the limited capacity of community self-help.

The focus of this research is directed to find out how the Social Assistance Program for the Repair of Uninhabitable Houses (RUTILAHU) is able to improve the quality of housing for low-income communities in Garut Regency and identify factors that hinder its successful implementation. Effectiveness is the conformity between results and established objectives. If an individual carries out an activity with a specific desired purpose, then the individual's work is said to be effective if it produces consequences or has the intended purpose (Subagyo, 2000). A program is said to be effective if its implementation is in accordance with the desired objectives. Effectiveness can be measured by comparing the established plan with the actual results achieved. There are four indicators that influence the effectiveness of a program, namely program targets, program socialization, program objectives, and program monitoring (Budiani, 2007). Based on the problems in the background description above, the author is interested in conducting research with the title "Effectiveness of the Social Assistance Program for the Repair of Uninhabitable Houses (RUTILAHU) at the Garut Regency Housing and Settlement Service".

METHOD

Research methods are scientific processes for obtaining relevant data in a research process. Therefore, research methods serve as principles aimed at obtaining valid and scientifically verifiable research results based on established research guidelines. The type of research used by the researcher is a qualitative approach and employs descriptive methods. Data and information sources can be obtained through surveys, interviews, and relevant documents to facilitate the smooth and effective implementation of the research. According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is research used to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the qualities or characteristics of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or depicted using quantitative approaches.

This qualitative research process involves significant efforts such as asking questions of informants, collecting specific data, analyzing the data inductively from specific to general themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data obtained to inform the research. Therefore, it can be said that qualitative research, in its implementation, focuses on interviews and field observations conducted by the researcher within the scope of the research. Furthermore, all information and data obtained will be presented in descriptive form in the research report.

Correct data collection techniques will produce highly reliable data, and vice versa. Therefore, this stage must be carried out carefully and in accordance with the procedures and characteristics of qualitative research. The research used in this study utilizes observation, interviews, and documents.

The data analysis process in qualitative research is carried out before entering the field, during the fieldwork, and after. In qualitative research, data analysis is more focused during the fieldwork process, including data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study discuss the effectiveness of the Uninhabitable Home Repair Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU) in Garut Regency. In its implementation, the Garut Regency Housing and Settlement Agency has established a number of requirements that must be met by the community to be registered as potential recipients of assistance. The selection of community members as recipients is based on meeting predetermined criteria. The criteria for RUTILAHU Social Assistance recipients are as follows:

1. Indonesian citizens
2. Married

3. Possess an ID card (KTP) and Family Card (Kartu Keluarga) and reside in Bandung Regency
4. Owners of uninhabitable homes are classified as Low-Income Communities (MBR)
5. Prospective beneficiaries have never received home repair assistance from other programs, whether funded by the National Budget (APBN), Provincial Budget (APBD), Regency/City Budget (APBD), or the private sector
6. Willing to contribute financially and labor during the rehabilitation and reporting process
7. Willing to maintain the rehabilitation results, provided they do not sell them, as evidenced by a written statement

In the provisions and regulations mentioned above, the habitable housing program must meet the established requirements so that a program can run effectively and efficiently (Rizka, 2010). Because each rule is interrelated with each other, these rules must be obeyed by every citizen who wants to receive this assistance program. The analysis in the research results was carried out based on four indicators of program effectiveness according to Budiani's theory as explained in Pertiwi and Nurcahyanto (2017: 3), This theory states that the effectiveness of a program can be measured through four main aspects, namely target accuracy, program socialization, program objectives, and program monitoring. This discussion aims to assess how the RUTILAHU Social Assistance Program has been implemented in accordance with the established provisions and contributed to improving the quality of housing for Low-Income Communities (MBR) in Garut Regency.

Accuracy of program targets, accuracy of targets is defined as the extent to which program participants meet predetermined target criteria. Targets are a key aspect that plays an important role in program implementation (Ratnasari, 2017). In the implementation of the Uninhabitable House Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU) in Garut Regency, the Head of the Housing Section at the Garut Regency Housing and Settlement Agency stated that the program had been implemented appropriately in accordance with the established targets. This is demonstrated by the determination of aid recipients from Low-Income Communities (MBR) who occupy uninhabitable houses. The process of determining aid recipients is carried out through village officials, such as the sub-district and RT/RW, who submit prospective recipients to the Garut Regency Housing and Settlement Agency. Village officials are considered to have a better understanding of the conditions of the local community, so they can identify individuals who truly need assistance. The implementation mechanism involves the preparation of proposals and proposals by the village government for prospective recipients. After the proposals are received, the Garut Regency Housing and Settlement Agency assigns staff to verify the villages that have submitted the proposals. Verification is conducted through data review and direct surveys of recipient homes, with the aim of assessing whether the homes meet the predetermined criteria for receiving the RUTILAHU Social Assistance Program. Once verification is complete and the results are consistent, the funds are distributed to eligible residents. Therefore, the targeting dimension can be assessed as having been achieved. This is reflected in the program's alignment with the target low-income community group, as well as the verification procedures through surveys and selection based on predetermined criteria. Thus, this program contributes to helping low-income communities improve the quality of their housing, allowing them to occupy more decent, clean, healthy, and comfortable homes.

In the program socialization dimension, this aspect relates to the organizer's ability to conduct outreach so that information about program implementation can be conveyed to the public in general and target participants in particular. Outreach plays a crucial role because without adequate information delivery, program objectives are difficult to achieve. Outreach activities aim not only to convey information but also to build support from various community groups (Priyatna, 2022). In Garut Regency, the Housing and Settlement Agency conducts outreach through village or sub-district governments, and information is then disseminated by

the village or sub-district government to the community through the RT/RW. The information is then disseminated by the village or sub-district government to the community through the RT/RW. On a specific schedule and time, outreach involves the West Java Provincial Housing and Settlement Agency, village officials, and other relevant institutions. This activity is attended by residents who have been designated as aid recipients and is generally held at the sub-district office to provide an explanation of the program's implementation mechanisms. However, because the implementation of routine socialization is delegated to the village government, the effectiveness of information delivery is highly dependent on the level of activeness of village officials in communicating technical matters to the community. If village officials are less active in coordinating or delivering information, the program schedule and stages may be late in reaching the community. This condition has the potential to cause administrative processes that should have been carried out in the initial wave to be shifted to the next wave.

The dimension of program objectives is the extent to which the results of program implementation match the previously established program objectives. The Uninhabitable Home Repair Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU) is designed to improve the quality of life of the community by providing housing that meets eligibility standards, especially for Low-Income Communities (MBR) by providing stimulus funds. (Amelia, 2020). However, the effectiveness of achieving program objectives is greatly influenced by the level of community participation and self-reliance, considering that the government assistance provided is limited. This assistance does not fully meet the needs of low-income communities to obtain habitable housing, because optimizing results depends heavily on community contributions, both in the form of labor and additional costs. As a stimulus program, the local government provides funds of IDR 15,000,000 per beneficiary, which is not intended to cover all repair costs, but rather to encourage active community involvement through mutual cooperation and resource utilization. Especially for houses with severe damage, the results of the study indicate that the main objective of the program to improve the quality of housing for low-income communities has been achieved. The beneficiary community felt significant changes, such as repairs to previously damaged roofs, walls, and floors. In fact, according to the Head of Housing, in several cases, this assistance has succeeded in creating more permanent and habitable housing conditions thanks to the support of local community self-help and participation.

The program monitoring dimension is an activity carried out during the program implementation as a form of attention to program participants to achieve the desired goals. Monitoring is carried out from the time of application of participants to receive assistance until the implementation of the Uninhabitable Home Improvement Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU). Monitoring is also carried out to determine how much impact it has had on the community. Monitoring is carried out by the agency and the village or sub-district, supervision is carried out through accountability reports (SPJ) from aid recipients, they are required to report the use of funds, accompanied by proof of purchase of materials and documentation of implementation. There are photos of the condition of the house before, when 50% of implementation, and when 100% complete, and there are also receipts for the purchase of materials for building the house. In addition to written reports, direct monitoring and evaluation (monev) are also carried out in the field to ensure the progress of house construction, staff from the housing department who specifically oversee the RUTILAHU Social Assistance Program will be divided into several villages, together with accompanying village officials, and if the community experiences obstacles, they immediately report to the local village officials to be forwarded to the housing and settlement office. However, after a program is completed, shortcomings are always perceived as hindering its progress, necessitating evaluation to ensure its continued success. Community self-reliance is minimal, and village officials must be more effective in disseminating information and assisting the community.

Obstacles to the Effectiveness of the Uninhabitable Home Repair Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU)

The implementation of the Uninhabitable House Repair Social Assistance Program (RUTILAHU) in Garut Regency faces various obstacles that could reduce the program's effectiveness and sustainability. The main obstacle stems from the lack of community self-reliance, where government assistance of Rp15,000,000 per housing unit is insufficient to cover the full cost of repairs, especially for houses with severe damage. This requires additional self-reliance from beneficiaries, both in the form of financial support and labor. However, economic constraints prevent most of them from meeting this shortfall, resulting in delayed repairs and results that do not fully meet the criteria for decent housing. Furthermore, low community self-reliance also has implications for weak post-program maintenance efforts, as economic constraints force beneficiaries to prioritize daily needs over maintaining repaired homes. The program's effectiveness is also hampered by the dependence on village officials as liaisons between the Housing and Settlement Agency and the community, which often results in suboptimal information dissemination because it is highly dependent on the level of activity, involvement, and response of these officials. On the other hand, government policies related to budget efficiency after the COVID-19 pandemic and the allocation of some funds to handle natural disasters, considering that Garut Regency is vulnerable to floods, earthquakes, and landslides, have often resulted in housing assistance funds being diverted first to repairing the homes of disaster victims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of a study on the Effectiveness of the Social Assistance Program for the Repair of Uninhabitable Houses (RUTILAHU) at the Garut Regency Housing and Settlement Agency, it can be concluded that this program has been quite effective in achieving its primary objective, namely improving the quality of housing and the well-being of low-income communities in Garut Regency. This effectiveness is evident in the accuracy of targeting aid recipients who meet the criteria for Low-Income Communities (MBR), the implementation of tiered outreach through village and sub-district governments, and the achievement of the program's goal of improving housing conditions to make them more livable, healthy, and comfortable. However, the effectiveness of the program's implementation remains hampered by limited stimulus funds, low levels of community self-reliance, and a suboptimal dependence on village officials for information dissemination.

This research contributes to the development of public policy and social welfare science, particularly in understanding the effectiveness of community-based social assistance programs. The results emphasize the importance of integrating policy planning, community engagement, and ongoing monitoring mechanisms as a scientific basis for improving the effectiveness of future housing and social development programs.

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