



Village Community Economic Empowerment in Pidie Regency: Challenges and Opportunities in Utilizing Information Technology and Enhancing Participation

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ARTICLE INFORMATION	A B S T R A C T
<p>Received: October 23, 2023 Revised: December 14, 2023 Available online: April 28, 2024</p>	<p>Economic empowerment of rural communities is a global issue which has once again become an important program implemented in Indonesia, especially in the village fund program. There are many obstacles faced by villages, including villages in Pidie Regency, Aceh Province, in its implementation. This research explores the factors that influence the supporting and inhibiting factors for the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency. This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach, which aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, completely and explicitly, using a natural approach in a natural context. The research results show that the supporting factors for information access are the use of information and communication technology and freedom of information. On the other hand, the inhibiting factor is that information from the community and the information media available in the village still need to be increased. Supporting factors for participation are the opportunities to participate provided by the government. Meanwhile, the inhibiting factors are the low ability and desire or willingness to participate in society as well as the need for more awareness from village communities regarding village community economic empowerment activities. The limitation of this research is that it only uses two factors to look at the factors that influence the economic development of village communities, so it is hoped that there will be other research that uses several other influencing factors. The village government in Pidie Regency is expected to pay attention to these influencing factors in carrying out economic empowerment of village communities.</p>
KEYWORDS	
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INTRODUCTION

Although economic empowerment of village communities has been emphasized and supported by significant policies and budgets, as regulated in Law no. 6 of 2014, About Deca, There are many complex factors responsible for this failure, one of which is the large number of disabled people in the village (Agustiningrum et al., 2020; Fisabililah et al., 2020; B. D. Pamungkas et al., 2021). This has an impact on human development, which is an issue that people throughout the world will always discuss. Human development is a concept that has developed rapidly and focuses on people and development (Siregar, 2023).

Human Development is a new paradigm in the development model that focuses on improving the quality of life and human welfare, not just economic growth alone (Chiappero-Martinetti et al., 2015). This concept was specifically developed and advocated by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (Schröder et al., 2020). The critical point related to human development is the expansion of choices for society. This paradigm emphasizes that the success of a country's development cannot only be measured by economic growth but must also consider improving the quality of life and overall human welfare (Saguin, 2018).

Community empowerment is an idea used to achieve sustainable development goals. Theoretically, the word "power," which means "power" or "empowerment," is the origin of the term "empowerment" (Hardianto & Martono, 2023; A. H. Pamungkas, 2019; Yorisca, 2020). Therefore, the central concept of empowerment is linked to the idea of power, which is often associated with the ability to get others to do what the authority wants regardless of their interests (Muhtar, 2023). The primary approach to the concept of empowerment is that society or

communities must be built themselves, not through various development projects (Hennink et al., 2012).

Empowerment is part of the development process. It aims to explore the community's potential and then develop or process this potential to improve the community's welfare community's welfare (Astuti, 2022; Yun-jung, 2015). Empowerment does not always refer to output in improving the community's economy but also to changes in people's attitudes, mindsets, and mentality toward a better direction (Alfian et al., 2021; Herwina & Mustakim, 2019). In village policy in Indonesia, village community empowerment is an effort to increase community independence and welfare by increasing knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviour, abilities, and awareness, as well as utilizing resources through establishing policies, programs, activities, and assistance that are appropriate to the problems and priority needs of village communities (Hendharli, 2018).

To see the development of indicators for community economic empowerment in Indonesia, the following Figure 1 summarizes them:

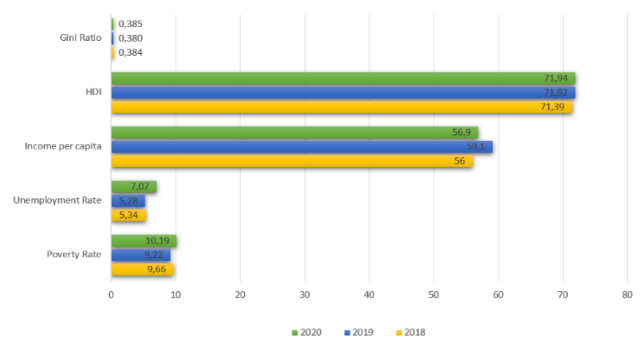


Figure 1. Development of Community Empowerment Indicators in Indonesia 2018-2020

Source: BPS, 2023

Figure 1 shows that poverty levels in Indonesia fluctuated from 2018 to 2020. They decreased to 9.22 per cent in 2019 but increased again in 2020 to 10.19 per cent. The open unemployment rate indicator also increased in 2020 to 7.07 per cent, whereas in 2019, it was only 5.28 per cent. The HDI value increased by 0.02 digits to 71.94 in 2020 from 71.92 in 2019.

Next, the state of per capita income, poverty level and unemployment rate in Pidie Regency it is presented in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Pidie Regency Poverty Indicators in 2015-2020

No	Year	Per Capita Income (million rupiah)	Poverty Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
1	2015	18.5	21,18	10,25
2	2016	19.7	21,25	9,24
3	2017	21.2	21,43	7,64
4	2018	22.5	20,47	7,23
5	2019	23.8	19,46	6,89
6	2020	24.7	19,23	6,45

Source: BPS, 2023

It can be explained that implementing economic empowerment activities for village communities from village funds, as shown in Table 1 above, has not provided maximum results. Per capita income is still low and far from the national average, and the poverty rate is also still high compared to the national level. Likewise, the unemployment rate is still above 6 per cent, slightly lower than the national average.

Pidie Regency was chosen as a research location because the economic empowerment of village communities in the Village Fund (DD) program could have been more optimal (see Figure 2). The results of the exploration of village community economic empowerment activities carried out from the Village Fund Program were used to finance programs and activities in the field of village community empowerment, which aimed to increase the capacity and ability of village communities. However, the desired objectives needed to be fixed. These activities have yet to utilize the potential and resources of the community itself to enable the village and its people to live independently.

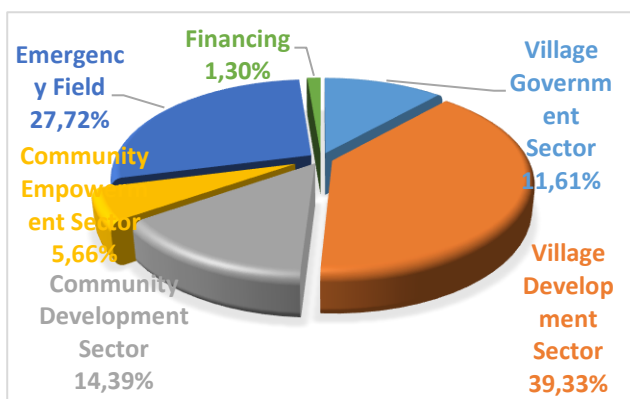


Figure 2. Realization of Village Funds FY 2021 Pidie Regency
Source: processed by researchers, 2024

Figure 2 shows that the realization of the community economic empowerment program from village funds is very low, namely only 5.66 in 2021, so the program does not increase the power of the disabled community in Pidie Regency.

This research concentrates on the part of the study that examines the factors that influence the process of economic empowerment of village communities, which aims to encourage economic improvement in disabled communities. Specifically, this research aims to analyze the factors that influence the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency. Meanwhile, the question in this research is: what factors influence the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency?

Based on the results of research carried out by Yentifa & Sudiman (2022), stated that there was an influence of community contribution/participation and openness/transparency on community empowerment in Nagari Dilam village, Bukit Sundi District, Solok Regency. Then the same goes for the research results from Putri et al., (2021) This stated that transparency and community participation positively and significantly affected community empowerment in Songan B Village, Kintamani District, Bangli Regency.

To examine the problems in this research and answer the research arguments using the concepts presented by Putri & Putra (2021), Because it is a significant concept in development studies and the understanding of poverty, which combines empirical research with theoretical analysis to provide a deeper understanding of poverty and community empowerment efforts, Narayan stated that successful efforts to empower poor people, increasing their freedom to choose and act in different contexts, are often divided into four factors, namely: access to information, inclusion and participation, accountability and local organizational capacity.

METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods. According to Creswell (2017), Qualitative research is defined as a tradition in the social sciences that focuses primarily on humans in their environments and throughout the world. Therefore, qualitative research aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as behaviour, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc., as a whole and explicitly, using a natural approach in a natural context. Then descriptive research also aims to explain what is currently happening. This includes recording, analyzing, and interpreting current conditions (Poulus & Rusdin, 2018).

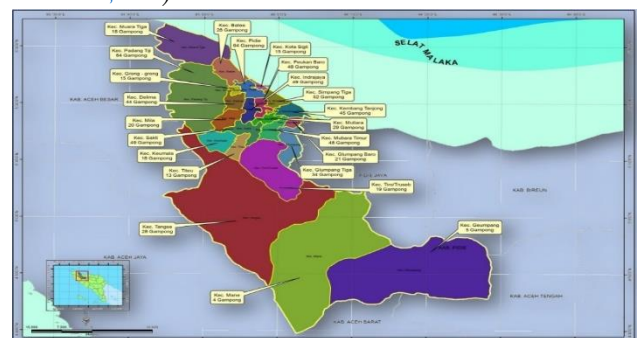


Figure 3. Map of Pidie Regency
Source: pidiekab.go.id, 2023

As shown in Figure 3, the research locations are three villages in Pidie Regency, Aceh Province: Paloh Naleung Village, Titeu District, Mee Tanoh Village, Peukan Baro District, and Seuk Ceukok Village, Simpang Tiga District.

The primary data collection method was direct interviews with key informants, namely village officials and village

communities in Pidie Regency. The selection of key informants was because they were parties who knew or had experience relevant to this research topic, consisting of the Keuchik as an individual who had influence or leadership in the village pertinent to this research, village officials as assistant leaders, Tuha Peut Gampong as the village consultative body and disabled communities who are directly involved in economic empowerment activities. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation. Then, conduct interviews with informants and compare the interview data with observations in the field, using supporting documents and data originating from field notes, photos, personal documents, notes or memos, and other official documents; additional secondary data is collected. Then, an interactive analysis model is used to analyze data both in the field and after returning from the field (Miles, 2014).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Access to Information

Researchers conducted research on the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency. The interview results with research informants make it possible to determine the factors influencing this process and whether they support or hinder it. In particular, the factors that affect the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency will provide an overview of the success or failure of implementing the village community economic empowerment process.

In his book entitled *Empowerment: The Politics of Alternative Development*, Friedmann (1992), states that community empowerment must start with the empowerment of every household, including political, psychological, and socioeconomic empowerment. Socioeconomic empowerment concentrates on providing each household with access to various aspects of the production process, such as information, knowledge, and skills, as well as access to various educational resources.

The following factors that influence both supporting and inhibiting the economic empowerment process of rural communities are collected from various sources and perspectives of experts who talk about the existing economic empowerment process of disabled communities. Thus, these two factors can be identified to determine the success of the financial empowerment process of village communities. These two factors are access to information and participation. The aim of the information access factor put forward by researchers is to find out how much village communities in Pidie Regency have access to information about the economic empowerment of village communities.

Information has power. Information that is supported by verified facts and credible sources has the power to provide an accurate understanding of a subject or topic. For responsive and accountable governance, information must circulate from government to society and society to government (Narayan-Parker, 2002). The government is responsible for providing information about public resource management activities to the public and parties needing it. In addition, the government is responsible for providing information related to the economy and other information that will be used by interested parties in the decision-making process. The public also has the right to obtain and provide information that helps improve the welfare of their lives.

One element that plays a significant role in the access to information factor is information and communication

technology. Impeded diffusion of technology and lower levels of education and skills in rural areas hurt the adoption and use of information and communication technologies (Salemink & Strijker, 2018). To observe the role of information and communication technology in empowering the village community's economy, one must see whether the village community has used information and communication technology to support economic activities. Based on an interview with the Keuchik of Paloh Naleung Village, Pidie Regency, an overview of the use of information and communication technology in the process of community economic empowerment in the village is as follows:

"Our village doesn't have a special internet network, so we only use WhatsApp messages created by the BUM Desa group, but it's not very useful either, the messages conveyed in the group are mostly unimportant messages. In our village, the use of WhatsApp has no effect on economic growth" (interview, 22 July 2023).

Based on the informant's statement, it can be interpreted that the information and communication technology active in the village is still simple, namely via WhatsApp messages. So, this technology has not had a significant influence on the economic empowerment of rural communities, especially on the economic growth of disabled communities. Furthermore, access to information is also observed in freedom of information. To see freedom of information in the process of economic empowerment of village communities, this is done by analyzing questions regarding the two-way flow of information from the government to the community and from the community to the government that has occurred so far in the village, and the information obtained by the disabled community. To get an explanation regarding freedom of information, the following are the results of interviews with the people of Mee Tanoh Village, Pidie Regency:

"Some people give suggestions to the village government, but whether they are implemented or not, we cannot judge. If there is reciprocity from the government to the people, it is there, but from the people to the government, it is lacking, perhaps because they are reluctant or because it doesn't feel right, so it is very lacking. The meeting has come, but there is no such thing in terms of giving ideas or opinions, so it's like not coming to the meeting either, being more silent. Maybe don't let it become a personal sentiment. If you are offended, it won't feel good anymore. What stands out is the information about village funds and the issue of village security. If we encourage society to reduce unemployment, we will receive an invitation and encouragement from our leaders. The only certain thing is that the question from the community will be whether there will be jobs for us to work. It's there, but it depends on how you receive it. Sometimes it's good to accept it, sometimes it's not, it's like being offended" (interview, 18 July 2023).

The informant above explains the freedom of information in the village. What happens is that there needs to be more ideas or information from the community and the village government. Then, the information received by the community is still limited to general information about village funds, not specific information regarding the economic empowerment of village communities. Figure 4. below illustrates the delivery of village fund information to village communities by the village government in Seuk Ceukok Village, Pidie Regency, through billboards, as shown in the following picture:



Figure 4. Village Fund Information Media in Seuk Ceukok Village

Source: researcher data, 2023

Then, the following symptom studied in the access to information factor is information media. To find out what information media are currently available in villages in Pidie Regency, based on an analysis of people who cannot obtain information, disseminate information in other ways and what other media are needed to communicate information in the village. The following is an explanation from the informant, namely the Head of Government Affairs of Seuk Ceukok Village, Pidie Regency, regarding this matter, namely as follows:

“One of the media for getting information from the public is through microphones, WhatsApp messages, banners, billboards placed in several places in the village, social media, online media, and newspapers subscribed to by coffee shops. Apart from written words, information is disseminated verbally, namely through meetings. We need other media to disseminate information, such as the village website, because so far this (web) has been high-speed because fewer people read newspapers” (interview, 6 July 2023).

According to Pidie Regent Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning Priority Use of Gampong Funds in Pidie Regency 2021, the use of village funds must be published by the village government to village communities in public spaces that can be accessed by village communities and carried out in a participatory and self-managed manner. Publication of Village Fund Use Priorities can be done through: (1) billboards; (2) village information board; (3) electronic media; (4) print media; (5) social media; (6) village website; (7) leaflets; (8) loudspeakers in public spaces, and; (9) other media according to conditions in the village. To see the use of information media in accessing information in the research location villages in Pidie Regency, see table 2 below:

Table 2. Information Media in Villages on Pidie Regency

No	Media	Paloh Naleung	Mee Tanoh	Seuk Ceukok
1	Billboard	✓	✓	✓
2	Electronic Media	✓	✓	✓
3	Print media			
4	Social Media	✓	✓	✓
5	Website desa		✓	
6	Leaflet			
7	Loudspeaker	✓	✓	✓
8	Oral	✓	✓	✓

Source: processed by researchers, 2023

Table 2 shows that the Paloh Naleung and Seuk Ceukok villages do not use the village website because they did not create this media. Only Mee Tanoh village has it. As times change, print

media has become a medium abandoned by village communities. This happens in all research locus villages, as well as leaflets. Due to the community's lack of interest in reading, the village government does not provide leaflets as a medium for disseminating information.

In the process of economic empowerment of disabled communities, access to information is critical. Narayan-Parker, (2002), said that to find out whether the economic empowerment of the disabled community was successful, the first factor looked at in this research was how well the village community got access to information about community economic empowerment, which was provided by the government, both the village government and the government above. Although access to information is essential for the economic empowerment of rural communities, it can also be an obstacle in the process of community economic empowerment. So, researchers found in this study that access to information can support or inhibit the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency.

Information is most important in key areas, including state and private sector performance, financial services and markets, and rules and rights related to essential services. Information and communication technology often play a vital role in expanding access to information for people with disabilities (Narayan-Parker, 2002). The results of previous research related to access to information by Leitner et al., (2023), states that the meaning of poverty and poverty according to the views of poor people is: people who feel they are losing quickly in the scramble to get information about their livelihood; people who think they do not have entrepreneurial information and knowledge; people who think they don't need to put much effort into looking for information about livelihoods; people who feel they don't know there are books and sources of information about better entrepreneurial techniques and people who think they don't have much time to read books and other reading materials with entrepreneurial content.

Based on experts' opinions and previous research results, information and communication technology is very important to achieve successful economic empowerment of disabled communities. However, findings in the field only use simple technology. So far, the primary information and communication technology used in the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency is only WhatsApp messages, individually and in groups. The facts about WhatsApp messages are that the village government can quickly disseminate information to the community through WhatsApp status updates for Keuchik or other village officials.

So far, disabled people have believed in freedom of information. Villagers believe in freedom of information, both from government and private sources. The government and society transmit information to each other. However, so far, the disabled community has provided little information to the village government. This may be because of their reluctance or the bad feelings that have come over them. Even though disabled people come to village meetings or deliberations, they do not provide ideas, suggestions or opinions, so many choose to remain silent. This may be due to personal feelings between a community or society and the government.

WhatsApp messages are an information medium that people use to get information. All village communities are members of the WhatsApp group. Apart from that, each village has a government, youth and other groups. Because rural communities today are more likely to access information via WhatsApp rather

than newspapers or online media, so information must be disseminated to these groups; otherwise, people will not get information quickly. Village officials usually use WhatsApp status updates to disseminate information more quickly.

Furthermore, banners, newspapers, and billboards were placed in various places in the village, and meetings or conferences were held. Also, information can be spread through other social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and so on. Apart from that, there is a village website, but only a few villages still use it, especially those pilots at the district level, because of the costs involved if the loudspeaker or toa is used only to convey general announcements, such as announcements of deaths, condolences, cooperation activities, and so on.

Participation

The participation factor is the second indicator used in research to analyze supporting and inhibiting factors in the economic empowerment process of village communities in Pidie Regency. According to Narayan-Parker (2002), researchers want to see the opportunities, abilities and desires of disabled people to participate in the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency. Participation is when a person or group is involved in an activity because of social interaction (Permana et al., 2022). In the process of economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency, one factor that is of concern and determines whether the policy program will run well is the participation of various parties related to the existing problem.

According to Lahiri-Dutt (2004), The growth and progress of community participation in development are determined by three main factors: the opportunities given to the community to participate, the community's desire to participate, and the community's ability to participate. To examine this participation factor in more depth, we will examine various phenomena related to community participation in the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency by looking at symptoms such as opportunity to participate, ability to participate, and willingness to participate.

The opportunities given to people with disabilities can be considered a driving factor in the growth of people's desire to participate. This phenomenon will be analyzed by exploring community opportunities to organize, community opportunities to obtain information about development, and community opportunities to participate in development provided by the government. To find out opportunities for the community to participate in development offered by the government, researchers asked the Head of Government Affairs of Seuk Ceukok Village, Pidie Regency, who gave the following statement:

"It is clear that the community has an opportunity to participate in development. There is direct community involvement in development, such as cooperation, even though they are paid only modestly. There is an opportunity to obtain development information every year. Organizations in the community are formed, but they are not active, such as youth leaders, youth organizations, tuha lapan, PKK and others" (interview, 27 July 2023).

Based on the statement from the informant above, the village government provides opportunities for disabled people to participate in development, but what is biased is the community's participation, one of which is that participation in

cooperation must be paid, even if it is paid modestly. Meanwhile, the opportunity for village communities to organize can be explained by forming several organizations in the village. However, in the field, it was found that organizations that were formed needed to be more active, such as the Tuha Lapan organization, Youth Leaders, Karang Taruna, PKK and others. After looking at opportunities for community participation, the next thing to be analyzed is the ability of village communities to participate in the process of economic empowerment of village communities. The ability to participate is seen from finding and understanding opportunities to build or improve the quality of life, then the ability to carry out development based on the level of education and skills possessed by people with disabilities and the ability to participate. Ability to optimally resolve problems faced by people with disabilities. Interviews were conducted with the Mee Tanoh Village BUM Management to get a more detailed picture, as presented below.

"the ability to find and understand opportunities to build or improve the quality of life is lacking, because it seems like we give knowledge but people take it for granted, things go wrong and then it also collides that if we give knowledge people are selective, oh that's not my part it's said as if no need. If the work comes from village funds, it may not look at the level of education, we can build a village, anyone can do it, whether they have dropped out of school or have a degree, it doesn't matter. There are items of their own if there are problems in the village. The level of education and skills the community possesses still needs to be improved, so training is needed. Meanwhile, the ability to solve the problems faced is still lacking, not optimal" (interview, 18 July 2023)

Informants said that the ability to improve the quality of life of village communities still needs to be improved. The community needs to be more open to the knowledge and skills provided by the village government and other parties. Then, the level of education and skills possessed by village communities is still low, which impacts the economic empowerment of village communities, so it is necessary to increase training by exploring the desires of these communities more deeply. To see the participation of the disabled community in Mee Tanoh Village in fermented animal feed training.



Figure. Fermented Animal Feed Training Activities for the Disabled Community in Mee Tanoh Village

Source: researcher data, 2023

In participation, what is crucial is the willingness of the disabled community to participate. The opportunities given to people with disabilities are one of the factors that encourage the growth of people's desire to participate, and willingness significantly influences their abilities. The willingness of disabled people to participate is an essential factor so that community economic empowerment can run optimally (see Table 2). The desire to participate is characterized by an attitude of wanting to

improve the quality of life and not being quickly satisfied, an attitude of togetherness to solve problems and achieve goals, and abandoning values that hinder development. To explain the willingness to participate from the village community, interviews were conducted with Tuha Peut Gampong Members of Mee Tanoh Village, Pidie Regency and provided the following information:

"Everyone has the attitude of wanting to improve their lives, whether it happens sooner or later is another matter. As people say, don't always be like this, of course we want to change, we want to move forward, but we haven't found the path yet. Even though people are rich, for example today they get 100 thousand, they want to get 1 million. It means he wants to improve, sometimes there are those who say that this is enough. Even though there is an attitude of togetherness, it does not cover everything, it is not comprehensive. In the past, people were still strong, their social attitudes were very different from now, for example now there is a mutual cooperation system in villages, if they don't get paid, they don't want to come, so the attitude of helping each other is really lacking. The attitude of abandoning values that hinder development, such as the invitation to work even if it is daily, is to help fulfill life's needs, and also so that you don't be lazy" (interview, 18 July 2023).

Table 2. Community Willingness to Participate

No	Desire	Paloh Naleung	Mee Tanoh	Seuk Ceukok
1	the desire to improve the quality of life and not be quickly satisfied	good	Good	not enough
2	an attitude of togetherness to be able to solve problems and achieve goals	good	not enough	not enough
3	attitude to abandon values that hinder development	not enough	not enough	not enough

Source: processed by researchers, 2023

The desire to improve the quality of life and not be quickly satisfied Table 2 describes the willingness of the disabled community in the three research locus villages to participate in economic empowerment activities. The desire to improve the quality of life and not be complacent in Seuk Ceukok village is still less evident because there are fewer economic improvement activities in this village than in Paloh Naleung and Mee Tanoh villages. The attitude of togetherness to solve problems and achieve goals is only in Paloh Naleung village, which has good value because the attitude of togetherness in this village is better, which can be seen from the cooperation activities still frequently carried out.

Experts state that as a current phenomenon, many development programs must provide opportunities for the community to participate. However, the opportunities provided to mobilize community participation will not be of much significance if the community cannot participate and the willingness to participate, which is mainly determined by the mental attitude that the community has to build or improve their lives (Lahiri-Dutt, 2004). The results of his research state that community participation in managing village funds has a positive and significant influence on community empowerment. This shows that if community participation in managing village funds

is higher, community empowerment will increase, conversely, if community participation in managing village funds is lower, community empowerment will decrease (Putri et al., 2021). Based on the views of experts and the results of previous research discussed previously, the correlation of this research is that people with disabilities have an attitude of wanting to improve their quality of life and are not quickly satisfied. Still, this attitude must be followed up by the village government by always providing encouragement and motivation so that this attitude does not disappear from village communities. However, the attitude of togetherness to be able to solve problems and achieve goals has begun to diminish at the village community level, this can be seen from the social attitudes and attitudes of mutual help which are starting to fade, as well as the cooperation system that must be paid for. People with disabilities also have an attitude of abandoning values that hinder development. However, some people still do not have this attitude, resulting in a lack of success in development in the village.

Participation is important for the success of rural community economic empowerment, but it can be an inhibiting factor if community participation is not implemented in the economic empowerment of village communities. Therefore, in this research, the participation factor was chosen as a supporting and inhibiting factor in implementing the process of economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency.

Based on findings from interviews with informants and in-depth observations from researchers, the village government at the research location provides opportunities for disabled people to participate in development, the local community also confirms this. The village government offers many opportunities for the community to participate. Likewise, the aspirations of the village community are a necessity, so that the programs implemented by the village government are the aspirations of the village community itself. Opportunities provided by the village government for the community to participate, such as in village meetings or deliberations. Furthermore, direct community involvement in development is demonstrated by cooperation, even though the value of collaboration has shifted.

The ability to participate is characterized by having the ability to find and understand opportunities to build or improve the quality of life. Findings in the field, the ability to find and understand opportunities to develop or enhance the quality of life is still lacking and not optimal, village communities still have a less caring attitude towards the knowledge and skills transferred by the village government to increase the knowledge and abilities of village communities. This results in low human resources in the village, ultimately resulting in the economic empowerment of village communities not running optimally.

The willingness to participate is characterized by wanting to improve the quality of life and not being quickly satisfied. Although people are eager to improve their quality of life, this depends on the amount of capital they have and the land they own. To improve their quality of life, people with disabilities want increased income. The village government also often emphasizes to the community not to be complacent and not to stop because they make a certain amount of profit. Work harder if possible. Apart from that, fellow citizens also reminded each other about the importance of hard work and not being complacent.

The participation of the disabled community in the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency has not been optimal due to several things, which are also known as

obstacles. One obstacle faced in this participation is the lack of willingness of the disabled community to participate in the economic empowerment of the village. Even though there are a number of villages that have adequate human resources, if there is no willingness to participate, then the economic empowerment of village communities will be hampered.

CONCLUSION

By considering the analysis of the results and discussion of the data found, the factors of access to information and participation of community-based people can be supporting factors and inhibiting factors in the process of village economic empowerment in Pidie Regency. The supporting factor for access to information is the use of information and communication technology, although in a simple form, making it easier to disseminate information. Freedom of information is created so village communities can freely get information about development. Meanwhile, the inhibiting factor is the unavailability of more specific and modern information and communication technology for the continued economic empowerment of village communities; information from the disabled community to the village government is very lacking, and the information media available in the village is still lacking. The supporting factor for participation is the opportunity to participate that the village government provides to the community, while the inhibiting factor is that the ability of the disabled community to carry out economic empowerment activities is still lacking; the desire to participate from the community is shallow; and the lack of awareness of village communities regarding economic empowerment activities for village communities in Pidie Regency.

The limitation of this research is that it only uses two factors to look at factors that influence the economic empowerment of village communities in Pidie Regency, so it cannot look at other factors. It is hoped that there will be other research that uses several other influencing factors from the researchers and other researchers.

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