

Public Green Open Space (RTH) Management in Kambangan Village Lebaksiu District, Tegal Regency

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the function of the construction of Green Open Space in Kambangan Village, Lebaksiu District, Tegal Regency. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and literature and documentation studies using Eckersley's *Good Environmental Governance* theory.

The results showed that 1). The existence of Green Open Space (RTH) in Kambangan village is able to create a green and clean environment and can also create a large economic impact where the creation of new MSMEs for the Kambangan village community itself, besides that it is also a sports center for the Kambangan village community and its surroundings without setting aside environmental issues. 2). Public and third-party awareness (traders/markets) to actively participate in the Green Open Space program is still low. There is a refusal from some traders to move their stalls to the new location around the RTH because there is no guarantee of crowds from the Village Government.

Keywords: Green Open Space; Village Government

A. Background

Based on Law No. 6/2014 art. 22 on Villages, villages are given the authority to organize and manage according to village needs and priorities, which means that the Village Fund will be used to fund all village needs according to priorities. One of the village programs that is commonly carried out by villages in Indonesia is to build Green Open Spaces (RTH) as a center of activity for the village community both as a means of sports, traveling, and family gathering and as a means of the economy in the village. According to Setianto, there are several types of sports in aspects of life, where

sports are an important component. Sports (recreational *sports*, more precisely in the realm of the *sport development index*) are also an inseparable part of development in improving the quality of human resources (Human Resources), especially in improving physical and spiritual health. (Suci, 2022).

The green open space built by the village is also the policy agenda of the Regional Head in environmental politics in a Regency/City, which focuses on natural resource management where the government designs a policy that can

overcome environmental problems and provide alternatives used in natural resource management. Kraft has outlined six stages of environmental policy consisting of *agenda setting, policy formulation, policy legitimation, policy implementation, policy and program evaluation and finally, policy change*. These six stages must be carried out transparently and democratically to the public so that policy disruption and manipulation can occur. (siahaan, 2020). According to Punomohadi, Green Open Space is a patch of space that has no boundaries, a patch of space that has a size, shape, and geography and contains woody and annual plants, trees which are the main characteristics and other plants, to complement, as well as some goods that complement and support the intended RTH function. Green open space is an area of growing plants or greenery that aims to protect the city, protect certain habitats, secure infrastructure, public spaces, and so on. Public space is a place for people to do activities and create democracy. Through public space, it is hoped that good relationships and interactions will be formed between the community and the government. (Pramita, 2019).

Green open space has two functions, namely intrinsic and extrinsic (Dirjentaru, 2008), the intrinsic function has a hierarchy of cultural and social, while the extrinsic function is economic, aesthetic and ecological. Therefore, the basic function of green open space is very important for sustainable development which has many environmental problems in order to have a balance between economy and ecology. (Imansari, 2015) Based on Law No. 26 of 2007 on Spatial

Planning, to balance the inflation of built-up land that is increasing, the development of green spaces requires structuring design.

Kambangan village, Lebaksiu district, is one example of a village in Tegal regency that has developed green open spaces. With an area of 289 square kilometers and a population of 11,227, the village is densely populated. Kambangan village is an agricultural village because the majority of the population are farmers with 202 square kilometers of agricultural land. Law No. 26 of 2007 related to Spatial Planning article 29 (2) states that a minimum of 30% of the city area is used for RTH so that supervision is needed from the government on RTH development in an area. Eckersley discusses a lot about environmental political policy through control. In this regard, a development that has social, economic and political value will emphasize the planning of environmental conditions that are anthropocentrism and ecocentrism that cause symptoms of contestation, negotiation, conflict, and consensus that can affect political actors, society, and the private sector.¹ Based on the approach concerned, the actors who play a role in organizing public space will carry their own interests so that they affect the practice of spatial politics, especially on policies based on the environment. Based on the view and approach of *green politics*, there is participation between the government and *stakeholders* to achieve regional growth and development that

¹ Siti Aminah, 'Konflik dan Kontestasi Penataan Ruang Kota Surabaya', *MASYARAKAT: Jurnal Sosiologi*, 20.1 (2016), 59-79
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leads to the balance of humans and the environment.

B. Theoretical Framework

Good environmental governance is a concept that is still related to *good governance*. In good governance itself, there are 3 main pillars, namely government, private and community. In the development of the country today, especially the government is required to be able to run the wheels of government well and be able to create good conditions with the private (market) and private communities such as transparency, accountability and others. *Good Environmental Governance* is a government organization that can manage environmental levels properly. The government is required to be able to expand the scope of policies related to the environment. (Kharisma, 2014)

In carrying out *Good Environmental Governance*, it is necessary to think about several important aspects including planning, capital owned, economics, profit and implementation. Good Environmental Governance does not only consist of government organizations that can manage the environment properly but are also able to apply the principles of sustainable development in the regional development process. Responsibilities related to environmental issues need to be considered in government because in *Good Environmental Governance* the relationship between government, private sector and society is very important. The government will deal with parties related to environmental issues to provide direction so that they are not only looking

for profit but also for the social and environmental impacts caused. In conclusion, *Good Environmental Governance* seeks a government organization that can properly manage the environment and is also able to apply the principles of sustainable development.

C. Type of Research

In this research, the method applied was a qualitative method with a case study approach to RTH development in Kambangan Village, Tegal Regency in Eckersley's perspective. In this case study, a scientific arrangement that was carried out in detail, continuously, and focused on an event, program, activity, either based on institutions, groups, individuals, or organizations was useful for obtaining comprehensive information about the event. Generally, events that occur are problems that actually occur, while those that are ongoing are not something that is missed. (Rahardjo, 2017)

An event, then, can take the form of something that happens that is complex or a simple event. The event is considered unique. In this case, unique was an event that occurred at a certain location. According to Louis Smith's view, unique means a limited case or bounded system. In this case, limited does not mean that it has to be complicated, but there must be its own uniqueness. A case study is a process of examining a particular problem which then the findings can be used as a lesson. (Tobing, 2016)

D. Analysis and Discussion

Kambangan Village has an area of 289 square kilometers, 20 hectares of

agricultural land, and a population of 9,000, with the majority of the population working as farmers and traders, and 100 people working as civil servants. The road in Kambangan village is one of the alternative routes - in addition to the narrow and highly congested Lebakgowah village road - that connects Slawi city as the capital of Tegal Regency with Bumiayu city in southern Brebes Regency. The *political will* of a village head in programming green politics supported by *stakeholders* in the form of Green Open Space (RTH) is very beneficial for all communities. As stated by Mrs. Elvi Nur Mahida the Secretary of Kambangan Village, the initial purpose of the establishment of Green Open Space (RTH) in Kambangan Village was to create cheap entertainment (crowd/people's market) for the Kambangan community, which so far only exists in Slawi Square and Gor Trisanja in Slawi City, which is 4km away from Kambangan Village. In addition to cheap entertainment, the existence of RTH is expected to be able to move the Kambangan village market to the outer village land adjacent to the football field which has been in the middle of the village located on the shoulder of the main village road which is the cause of road congestion, especially in the morning, RTH is also expected to be able to be used as a community activity center which includes sports activities, a place for citizen creativity, culinary tourism, to a place of friendship between groups of citizens ranging from bicycle/onthel groups, martial arts groups to morning running sports groups, so that community sports activities which are usually carried out at Gor Trisanja of Slawi City which is approximately 3km away can be done in

the village itself, and can even invite people around Kambangan village to do activities in the RTH. So that *the* goal is *to* build a good economy for residents.

As stated by Mrs. Nada a culinary trader in the RTH area, mentioned that the presence of RTH, besides being able to improve the economy of local residents, can also enliven the suburban area of the village which was once only crowded when there were soccer activities in the afternoon. Based on Elvi's mother's statement that in RTH Kambangan there are 21 traders/sellers of children's toy services consisting of 19 traders from Kambangan village and 2 (two) from the neighboring village of Slarang Kidul.

Still, according to Mrs. Elvi, this RTH was built with the Kambangan Village Fund (DD) in 2019 amounting to 150 million Rupiah, this fund was used to improve the Kambangan village field so that it was comfortable to use for all community activities. For the improvement of RTH, of course, a larger budget is needed, so that the village government also budgets gradually in the 2020 APBDes and subsequent years to improve the RTH facilities and infrastructure. As for the arrival of the *COVID-19* outbreak, the RTH revitalization budget in the 2020 APBDes was diverted to handle the *COVID-19* outbreak according to the recommendations of the Central Government and had implications for the elimination of community activities around RTH for health reasons, namely to prevent the spread of the *Covid-19* virus.

In 2021, the community began to be bored with the restrictions on community

activities carried out by the Government for a full year, namely in 2020, the community began to enliven RTH again as a function of gathering and exercising with family while still using strict health protocols so that RTH was crowded again even though it was not as busy as before *covid-19*. This is as expressed by Mr. Agus a resident who enjoys RTH facilities, that the community began to enliven RTH because of the community's saturation with restrictions on community activities, where many people flocked to enjoy village culinary tours and exercise close to the distance so as not to violate government regulations for traveling outside the city. Besides the local community, there are also many people from neighboring villages who take advantage of the RTH as a place to exercise, especially cyclists/joggers who enjoy WFH / *work from home* by visiting RTH Kambangan as an alternative to relieving boredom.

Besides being able to improve the community's economy with culinary tourism, RTH has not been able to move the village market which is in the middle of the village along the main village road which causes road congestion in the morning, this is expressed by Mr. Alamsyah whose house is around the market, he said that congestion due to the spillover market in his village has no solution. Judging from the theory of *Good environmental governance*, there are 3 main pillars, namely the government, the private sector and the community in managing good governance, especially in the environmental field. Where the Kambangan Village Government is

required to be able to run the wheels of government well and be able to create good conditions with the private sector and the community such as transparency, accountability and others. The government is required to be able to expand the scope of policies related to the environment.

In carrying out *Good Environmental Governance*, it is necessary to think about several important aspects including planning, capital owned, economics, profit and implementation. *Good Environmental Governance* does not only consist of government organizations that can manage the environment properly but are also able to apply the principles of sustainable development in the regional development process. Responsibilities related to environmental issues need to be considered in government because in *Good Environmental Governance* the relationship between government, private sector and society is very important. The government will deal with parties related to environmental issues to provide direction so that they are not only looking for profit but also for the social and environmental impacts caused. In conclusion, *Good Environmental Governance* seeks a government organization that can manage the environment properly and is also able to apply the principles of sustainable development.

Dynamics of Interests

The formulation of regulations in the development of public spaces in Kambangan Village is certainly inseparable from the political practices carried out by the village government.

Whether these political practices are in line with the provisions that govern them or in line with the leadership style of the relevant village government. The spatial planning of Kambangan village was carried out at the 2018 village meeting involving all elements, namely the Village Head and his staff, the Head of RT / RW BPD, Religious Leaders and Community Leaders / People's Leaders, it was agreed to build the Kambangan village green space with the use of the 2019 Village Fund in the amount of Rp.150,000,000, - in order to create the economy of local residents and utilize the village field which has only been used for football sports activities in the afternoon. In connection with this, the researcher wants to explain that the development of RTH in Kambangan village is very necessary considering the negative and positive impacts of the influence of RTH. In Eckersley's perspective, the researcher wants to find out how the development of RTH in Kambangan by looking at the rules of RTH.

The Kambangan Village Government continues to organize traders located in the middle of the village along the main Kambangan - Balapulung road. In this problem, the government must pay attention to residents' complaints about the congestion caused by the spill market so that they do not trade on the Kambangan - Balapulung roads that interfere with road users. From this phenomenon, it can be seen that political practices in developing RTH in Kambangan still have problems from private actors. In the development of RTH in Kambangan, the Village Government moves by involving the community and the private sector in

creating green open spaces. This is in line with the theory of *Good environmental governance* where the Kambangan Village Government does not move alone in realizing RTH Kambangan, but also involves the community as the subject of development and the private sector as economic actors. The community is always invited to deliberate in the process of forming RTH, starting from meetings in RTH planning at the village level, absorbing aspirations from various village communities to the level of execution and evaluation. In the planning of the village government together with the Kambangan village community, in addition to building RTH for the common good, it is also planned to relocate the "spilt"/crowded market which is located next to the main road Kambangan - Balapulung, this is done to reorganize the existence of the market which has long been standing next to the main road.

On the way, it was agreed between the village government and the community that the RTH would be built right at the corner of the Kambangan village field which was still quiet from the activities of the residents so that it could create a crowded center on the outskirts of the village. While the plantation land to the west and north of the RTH can be built a new market for structuring the market that is already undirected (chaotic) which is located in the middle of the village beside the main road. So that it is expected to concentrate the economic activities of the community centered on the edge of the village, not disturbing the activities of public transportation. The development of this RTH is in accordance with the theory of *Good Environmental Governance*

where the involvement of the community and the private sector is included so as to produce a joint decision initiated by the Kambangan village government. With this RTH, it is expected to be able to:

1. Improving the welfare of Kambangan residents through the economy MSMEs around the RTH;
2. Increase the value of investment in a region;
3. Relocate the crowded spillover market in the center of the village
4. Spur rapid economic growth by making villages Kambangan as the economic center for the surrounding villages.

Green Open Space is a public space that has various perspectives. Starting from economic, social, political to environmental perspectives. From the economic view, it is very clear that RTH has a positive impact. That is to bring up new MSMEs in Kambangan village to compete in the economic activities of the community, which also allows competition between similar MSMEs in the RTH, besides that it also allows unscrupulous authorities from the village to utilize the land around the RTH to collect personal interests. In the social view, RTH will bring up social activities where there is communication between residents in doing activities and interacting in the RTH. This proves the existence of equality in the view of the community who both enjoy the presence of RTH, and can also be used as a venue for delivering programs and accountability for the implementation of programs that have been running and evaluating the village government with its citizens. In the political view, the

development of this RTH exists because of the political process, where in the development process the village government also involves the community and the private sector from planning to the product in the form of joint decisions in village meetings attended by various groups of people, in which of course there are various aspirations from various groups of people, and there is a tug of interest between community groups as well as between the community and the private sector which is bridged by the village. Environmental views, where there is public awareness of the surrounding environment that supports the RTH. Where the community is also given an understanding of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the village environment so that it remains beautiful and green and maintaining the RTH itself so that it continues to exist and function properly, so that it can be a comfortable place for Kambangan community members.

In its journey, the construction of this green space did not encounter many significant obstacles, only time, due to a limited budget. Based on the narrative of the village secretary, the green space was built with the 2019 Village Fund of Rp. 150,000,000, - and will be budgeted further in the following year, but because in 2020 Indonesia is experiencing a *covid-19* pandemic, in accordance with Indonesian Presidential Regulation No. 82 of 2020 concerning the *Covid-19* Handling Committee to suppress the spread of *Covid-19*, part of the budget both in the regions and at the center is converted for *covid-19* handling activities including the

2020 Village Fund budget which should be used to complete this green space. So that the development of RTH Kambangan is still not optimal, besides still being focused on the construction of RTH parks as the core of the realization of RTH, the existence of MSMEs that are still not provided with a proper place by the Village Government which is increasingly growing and increasing the quantity of traders, this is due to a very limited budget. MSMEs still occupy the right and left shoulders of the road along the RTH and the Kambangan village soccer field. Besides causing environmental aesthetics that are less pleasing to the eyes of the community, it also allows garbage to be scattered along the road in RTH, this creates a new polemic for the existence of RTH which in fact functions to keep the environment healthy and clean.

As for the existence of the Kambangan village market, which is located in the middle of the village on the shoulder of the Kambangan-Balapulang main road, which is actually the second goal of the RTH development, namely the transfer of the market to the RTH area, the traders / private parties are still reluctant to move their stalls to the RTH area because there is no guarantee from the Village Government of market crowds. So that this raises further polemics from the refusal of traders as private parties to move their stalls to locations around RTH, not to mention the preparation of market stalls built by the village. On the other hand, the Kambangan community as market consumers agreed with the transfer of the Kambangan Market to the RTH location located at the end of the village which is still quiet from the crowd.

The Kambangan Village Government has *held* village meetings with the community and all relevant *stakeholders*, but the traders/private sector are still waiting for a guarantee from the Village Government for market crowds, because the traders do not want to be disadvantaged by moving the market to a new RTH location. The Village Government actually has a very good program to reorganize the beauty of the village by building RTH as a center of the crowd, sports, and economy, and moving the Kambangan Market located in the middle of the village to the end of the village side by side with RTH, but this program must be announced to all relevant parties so that the community knows and hears about this program and can run well. When the market relocation is successfully carried out, those who will benefit are the community, the traders and the Village Government, this program will increase the welfare of Kambangan residents through the MSME economy around the RTH; congestion next to the main road of Kambangan village will be unraveled, spurring rapid economic growth because the market in the new location is located at the T-junction at the end of the village which connects the surrounding villages, namely Jatimulya and Slarang Kidul, also adds investment value to an area, where the surrounding land will attract investors to invest their capital around RTH Kambangan. With the various supporting reasons above, the existence of RTH and the new market, the Village Government hopes that public awareness and third parties, especially traders, will be inspired to support the Village Government program.

E. Conclusion

1. The existence of Green Open Space (RTH) in Kambangan village supports the Central Government program in addition to creating a green and clean environment, it can also create a large economic impact where the creation of new MSMEs for the Kambangan village community itself, as well as a sports center for the Kambangan village community and its surroundings without ignoring environmental issues.
2. Public and third-party (traders/market) awareness to actively participate in the Green Open Space program is still low. There is a refusal from some traders to move their stalls in the new location around the RTH because there is no guarantee of crowds from the Village Government.

F. Suggestion

1. There is a need for additional green open space/village parks in other locations because if we relate it to Permen PU No. 5/2008, this is very far from what is expected because the ratio of green open space is 30 percent of the total area.
2. The maintenance aspect has received less attention, as there is still a lot of garbage around the Green Open Space in Kambangan village.
3. Intensive communication is needed between the Village Government and the traders in order to produce a meeting point for the problem of moving the Kambangan market to a new location around the Green Open Space.

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