

## Determination of Poverty and Environmental Conflict in Rural in the Order of Regional Autonomy

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**Abstract.** Regional Autonomy which began in 2001 needs to be anticipated early so that in the future implementation there will not be much environmental conflict. Development errors that have been carried out in three decades since the 70s are expected to not be repeated with the development model implemented through regional autonomy. The development trilogy oriented to economic growth has raised many problems in the economic downturn. The economic downturn has finally brought the population to poverty and various environmental conflicts. The use of the environment without regard to the capacity of its carrying capacity becomes a heavy pressure on the environment so that there is a lot of environmental damage and conflict today. The regional autonomy policy should be directed not only to pursue the development target by boosting regional original income (PAD) and maximizing the full potential of the environment in the region. Optimizing the use of the Environment needs to be done carefully so that in the future it will avoid the emergence of environmental conflicts, therefore all residents are expected to be able to actively participate since the planning, implementation and evaluation process. Thus, if a policy error occurs, problem solving can be immediately pursued from the start. Population participation can be done if the fulfilments of needs can be fulfilled, therefore regional autonomy that needs to be considered is poverty alleviation. Rural areas are a bag of poverty because of the limited resources available so that to avoid pressures on the environment so that many create environmental conflicts in the era of regional autonomy need to pay attention to how to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

**Keywords:** poverty; rural areas; regional autonomy Environment

### 1 Introduction

The birth of the Regional Autonomy Law (Law Nomor.32 of 2014 as amended Law Nomor 23 of 2015) is expected to accommodate the ongoing regional autonomy as a reference for regional development in Indonesia and is expected to be able to utilize all the potential available in each region. Coinciding with the incessant implementation of regional autonomy, it turned out that the economic downturn was being experienced by Indonesia since the economic crisis of 1997 to 2001. The economic recovery had not yet materialized so that economic growth could return to the time of the crisis. Therefore, the obstacle in the implementation of regional autonomy is not only how to optimally utilize and develop regional potential, but also must deal with the constraints of poverty which have plagued the

population which initially had an adequate standard of living but the economic crisis has impoverished the majority of Indonesia's population. The territory of Indonesia with an area of 1,919,443 square kilometres consisting of 13,667 islands during PJP I to enter the second phase of PJP II has succeeded in increasing the welfare of the population with per capita income of US \$ 920 in 1995 living 11 percent in 1996 and 60 percent in 1970 poor the success of the Government in carrying out development so as to increase the income of the population reflected and the ability to reduce the number of poor people for two decades to decline sharply in 1970 the poor population amounted to 70 million or 60 percent and 117 million to 20 million or 11 percent reached 80 percent (President's report to UNDP was released by Kompas September 10, 1997 and BPS, 2000).

The third millennium is characterized by the intensity of the acceleration of global development which rapidly penetrates all layers and has penetrated time and space. All information that occurs on the face of the earth can be accessed quickly across the entire universe of the world as if it feels cramped if all human efforts to achieve their welfare are also expected to be accompanied by wisdom and tolerance for the environment. Conflict of interest in the development process still has to be faced in placing the environment as a source of exploration as well as a place for human beings to take shelter so that policies on the environment are neglected so that there are many environmental conflicts. The survival of all the ecosystems in advance is interrelated both directly and indirectly on a micro scale to the global scale. "God only created the earth once" and this earth is entrusted by posterity not only the inheritance so that humans as commanders and *kalifatullah* are responsible for this earth.

Damage to the earth has occurred a lot, the impact of which is not only detrimental to the survival of humans, but all creatures on the face of the earth will be threatened. Human greed under the guise of development whose basic framework is to improve human well-being often backfires which ultimately harms humans themselves. Drainage of natural resources without regard to carrying capacity will threaten the existence of these resources so that *renewable* (update) resources can turn into *unrenewable* (non-update) due to *mismanagement* of resources.

The attention of development must be immediately changed and the paradigm that is in favour of humans as part of *the ecosystem to approaches* that pay attention to ecosystems namely the ecological approach. Through this approach, the human element as part of the environment has been included in it while the approach that puts humanity forward will be more concerned with human orientation as a central point and goal in environmental management, which in turn often ignores the elements of the environment as a whole. The limitation of the carrying capacity of the environment is a heavy pressure so that to reach the level of human welfare, it will require very *expensive costs*. The development argues that advancing the lives of the lower layers of the population actually sacrifices the lower layers, leaving a very deep wound in the *marginal population group*. The era of development that pursues economic growth both in developed countries, especially developing countries, turns out to create inequality in various corners of the earth, especially between developed and developing countries that are increasingly distant, between rural and urban populations whose income is increasingly unbalanced.

Rural people whose condition is concerned with various limitations means that intensively utilizing existing resources means that it is relevant to pressure on the environment as a trigger for the emergence of environmental conflicts in rural areas. Pressure on the environment has led to damage to coral reefs, erosion, floods, deforestation and even the destruction of endangered species that can never be seen again by future generations while these

environmental resources have an important meaning for the balance of the continuity of natural existence.

The approach to the environment pays attention to ecosystems (*the atmosphere, the micro and macro lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and anthrop sphere*) in a regional context that is interrelated, interdependent and interdependent so that there is no neglect of existing ecosystems. The development of a global era characterized by *people empowerment*, increased cooperation between developed and developing countries and environmentally friendly is an idea that the earth is interacting in the future. Problem solving as an input for policy makers and development planning is essentially aimed at the welfare of humankind to be free from poverty, especially in rural areas.

## **2 Research Method**

Environmental conflicts that begin in poverty in mainly rural areas occur because the improvement in the standard of living of farmers is still a dream. Based on these observations, it encourages the author to explore the relevant laws and regulations, as the primary data legislation relating to the environment, the countryside, regional autonomy and other data sources from legal materials, especially research that raises regional autonomy and the environment and rural areas, and is supported by other secondary data, which in legal research is categorized as deductive normative research.

## **3 Discussion**

### **3.1 Identical Poverty with Rural Areas**

The source of income of rural residents in Indonesia to date is largely still supported by agricultural activities. Improving the standard of living of farmers is still a dream because so far farmers have only been the object of policy which argues for the development of technology in the agricultural sector (e.g. the green revolution which has the effect of marginalizing farmers), so that each policy has not been able to improve the fate and life of farmers. For example, modern agricultural systems that have been developed in Indonesia since the 70s forced farmers to adopt farming methods that are loaded with technological content and capital intensive such as fertilizers, pesticides. requires high costs while the exchange rate of agricultural production is getting lower. The deterioration of farmers was triggered by the collaboration of national economic inequality which favoured the owners of capital and was capitalist oriented, the rapid growth of the non-agricultural economic sector, while the agricultural sector has decreased ability to support the fulfilments of the needs of life and the increasing number of smallholders (Uphadi, 1998 ) The free market era requires farmers to compete with the proliferation of imported agricultural production, so farmers must suppress the price of local agricultural production to a lower point. The increase in basic grain prices is followed by the removal of fertilizer subsidies as a strategic component of agricultural activities (Indra Ismawan, 2000).

Smallholders with less than 0.5 ha of arable land per household currently reach 10, 94 million and not even a decade later their partially cultivated land becomes less than 0.25 ha per household (BPS, 1995, 2000). Pressure on farmers is still compounded by the scarcity of agricultural land due to being displaced for various non-agricultural activities so that the

ownership and control of agricultural land per farmer's household becomes increasingly narrow and makes farmers worse off into powerlessness and twists farmers into the confines of poverty.

The agricultural sector is recognized as a sector that still plays an important role as a supplier of raw materials and food for the population of this country so that policies relating to the agricultural sector must consistently be considered. The government continues to launch the agricultural sector in the structure of the national economy (Hatta Sunanto, 1998). Economic growth in Java which was relatively rapid led Java to become the centre of growth that the clan was sticking to while its (*hinterland*) faced economic marginalization. The impact is the difficulty of finding an adequate source of income to meet the living needs of the population because the concentration of the population in Java means that the competition to earn income is getting tighter. This situation, if left prolonged, will have an impact on impoverishment in Java because of the explosion of population while impoverishment outside Java cannot be prevented because of the limited ability of the population to manage available natural resources. Various efforts have been made to reduce the number of poor people in Indonesia, among others through population distribution, the distribution of development centres to stimulate various activities of life so as not to be concentrated in Java.

Low population income with income inequality reflects absolute poverty and relative poverty is a phenomenon that illustrates the failure of development policies that are in essence as a whole carried out in order to increase the income of the population accompanied by income equity (Priyono Tjipto Heriyanto, 1997: 71). Low population income accompanied by a gap that has a widespread impact will eventually disrupt the wheel of development, which triggers criminal acts committed by some residents to fulfil their daily needs. Poverty which is characterized by low income so that the difficulty in meeting basic needs of life with social, cultural, economic and structural dimensions that have an impact on widespread public unrest is difficult to avoid will become a stumbling block to the smooth development of sustainable development (Bernas, 10 Dec 1997). Poverty alleviation by empowering the poor in rural areas is a development agenda that must be observed. Given the condition of the territory of Indonesia which is distributed as an archipelagic country it has a vulnerability to the emergence of problems in various environmental conflicts.

### **3.2 Implementation of Regional Autonomy**

Regional autonomy began in January 2001 but what needs to be done is to prepare the population to be able to participate in realizing the implementation of regional autonomy while the majority of the population still has to improve their standard of living due to poverty. The strategy taken to increase the income of the population continues to be sought so that all layers of the population have the opportunity to enjoy the results of development. The seriousness of the government to free the population from powerlessness is through the *Impress Desa Tertinggal* (IDT) as a step to eradicate poverty in Disadvantaged Villages and through Takers (*Tabungan Keluarga Sejahtera*) and Kukesra (*Kredit Usaha Sejahtera*) to free poverty outside Disadvantaged Villages. The hope of immediately creating a more prosperous population has been proven by the ability to reduce the number of poor people from time to time.

Increasing the income of the population will only have a positive impact on the continuity of development "if accompanied by equal distribution of income, the government therefore consistently seeks to reduce income inequality among the layers of the population. Income equalization is carried out horizontally which is imposed between regions so that the

difference in space is not an obstacle but can be used as the basic capital of development. Vertically, income distribution must be realized at every level of the population in all sectors of life so that inequality between layers can be suppressed. Considering inequality can also trigger jealousy which results in divisions that can weaken national forces to be able to jointly face the era of globalization.

Improvement of infrastructure in all regions, especially in areas that have not been optimally prioritized in development so as to become a driver for regional development as a centre of growth. Indonesia has varied resources in the form of natural resources ranging from gas, solid and liquid and human resources. In terms of quality and quantity the population is unequally distributed so that *Jam bal*, which covers only 7 percent of the total inhabited area, reaches 61 percent of the total population (BPS, 2000). Diversity is the basic capital of development so that it can be used as a supporting factor as well as an obstacle in development so that planning must be considered carefully so that the implementation of development does not cause much environmental conflict. Management of the area that has not been optimal is a development priority so that it becomes a driver for regional development as a centre of growth. Indonesia has varied resources in the form of natural resources ranging from gas, solid and liquid and human resources in terms of quality and quantity of population distributed unequally so that *Jam bal* which covers only 7 percent of the total area of the country must be 61 percent and population (BPS, 2000). This diversity is the basic capital of development so that it can be used as a supporting factor as well as an obstacle. Since the population is an important component in the process of regional autonomy, the step that must be considered is to prepare the population both as objects and subjects so that they can actively participate in the implementation of regional autonomy. Planning must be considered carefully so that the implementation of development does not cause much environmental conflict.

### **3.3 Conflict Environment in Rural Areas in the Era of Regional Autonomy**

Environment is a major component in supporting human life has been neglected so that various damage appears on the face of the earth due to human error in managing the environment. The environment consists of a biotic, biotic and cultural environments (Hedley, 1978). Since the growing awareness of the people, the more apprehensive conditions in the future eventually led to an agreement to immediately fix the environment carefully in order to support the future human survival of the 1972 Stockholm Summit and the Earth Summit in Toronto in 1978.

The world population that is increasingly increasing in quantity and quality requires a variety of increasingly complex needs and is obtained by utilizing the environment. Increasing population results in deteriorating environmental quality and increased pollution (Suparmoko, 1989: 301). Rural populations who live from processing land, especially since the modernization of the modern agricultural model, especially in rural Java, with the content of agricultural technology has a high intensity in contributing to environmental damage (Gertz, 1986). To suppress the occurrence of environmental conflicts, it is necessary to coordinate the use and management of the environment so that sustain ably and side by side support the welfare of all environmental components on this earth.

It should be considered the priority criteria such as water, food, energy, roads and so on; urgency such as destruction of plants due to plant diseases, soil erosion; fulfilments of the needs of nations and countries for example exports (oil and gas and non-oil and gas); results achieved and effectiveness of results, for example goods that can be utilized for returns; natural resource development must be sustainable; the possibility of operational

implementation must exist; low cost; time factor, both implementation and compliance with other plans; the impact on other activities, for example on institutions and the need for specialist training and impacts on other countries (Sukanto Reksohadiprojo, 2000: 608)

It was alleged that environmental conflicts often occur due to human errors in environmental management. The development model implemented by promoting economic growth has had an impact on environmental destruction because the economy is a commander and orientation that is used as a parameter of success in development. The era of regional autonomy which came into force since 2001 is expected to be implemented from the planning and implementation so that it is concerned to avoid the occurrence of environmental conflicts due to mistakes in determining policies. Regional autonomy is expected to be used as a guide in implementing development wisely by optimally utilizing all existing potential in each region by paying attention to rules that can avoid environmental conflicts. These steps include:

- a. Look at the potential of the region through inventory, identification and mapping,
- b. Orientation of regional autonomy in policies that favour environmental balance as potential supporters and constraints, carry out SWOT analysis by looking at strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities that can be developed by the region.

#### 4 Conclusion

Preparing residents to be able to actively participate in the implementation of regional autonomy is a step that needs attention. Considering the population is an important component that becomes the object and subject in implementing regional autonomy. With active participation the population is expected to be able to avoid the occurrence of environmental conflicts because all the needs of the population can be accommodated while the population is committed to joining the Handarbeni. With this concept the population will actively play a role in maintaining and managing the environment wisely using all the potential of the environment as an important part of its survival.

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