

Evaluation of the Self-Help Housing Assistance Program (BRS) in Enhancing Rural Area Planning in Subulussalam Utara Village, Simpang Kiri District, Subulussalam City, Aceh Province

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the implementation of the Self-Help Housing Assistance Program (BRS) in Subulussalam Utara Village, Simpang Kiri District, Subulussalam City, Aceh Province, focusing on factors that support and hinder its success. The research aims to understand how the BRS program contributes to rural area planning and its impact on the local community, particularly low-income families needing adequate housing. Utilizing qualitative methods, the study collects data through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation. The findings highlight the importance of effective

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communication and collaboration among stakeholders while identifying challenges such as limited human resources and target accuracy. Recommendations are made to enhance coordination, improve human resource capacity, and ensure the program's benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

Keywords: *BRS; Aceh; Rural Area; Economic; Management.*

1. Introduction

Poverty is often accompanied by other social issues, such as homelessness, unemployment, low education levels, and poor health. Poverty disrupts the well-being of individuals and communities, leading to unmet basic human needs: psychological, physical, spiritual, and social. The lack of stable income, limited job opportunities, inadequate skills, and insufficient education contribute to people's inability to secure basic needs, such as housing.

Adequate housing is essential for improving living standards and health outcomes. Thus, it is crucial for the government to ensure the availability of suitable housing, especially for economically disadvantaged groups. The government has introduced various programs to address this issue, including the Self-Help Housing Assistance Program (BRS). This program not only focuses on the physical aspects of housing but also aims to empower low-income groups by raising awareness of the importance of adequate housing and fostering social solidarity and community cooperation (Halimah et al., 2019).

In Aceh Province, the number of poor people increased from 81,491 in 2020 to 83,424 in 2021, an increase of 1,933 individuals. Despite a slight decrease in the poverty rate from 15.33% in September 2020 to 15.32% in March 2021, the overall trend highlights the ongoing challenge of poverty (BPS, 2022). The Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR) continues to reduce the number of unfit houses in Indonesia through the BRS program, known as "bedah rumah," including in Aceh Province. Since 2018, 434 housing units have been renovated or newly built in various districts of Subulussalam City.

Regional and rural planning involves developing a specific area by utilizing available resources comprehensively and prioritizing essential aspects (Riyadi, 2003). Effective planning is crucial for increasing per capita income, reducing income inequality, and enhancing employment opportunities.

1.1 Components of Regional Planning

According to Archibugi (2008), regional planning can be divided into four components:

- Physical Planning: Managing the physical form of the city and infrastructure networks connecting activity centers.
- Macro-Economic Planning: Involving economic development, income distribution, labor productivity, trade, consumption, and investment.
- Social Planning: Formulating social development programs, demographic policies, and addressing social needs.
- Development Planning: Comprehensive planning to achieve regional development goals.
- Self-Help Housing Assistance Program (BRS)

The BRS program provides stimulus assistance for constructing or improving housing quality for low-income families to achieve habitable housing standards (Hara, 2019). The program emphasizes community self-help and empowerment, requiring active participation and resource contribution from the community (Charles O. Jones, 1996; Easton in Papilaya, 2020). Previous research indicates the positive impact of the BRS program on beneficiaries, though implementation challenges remain. For example, Halimah et al. (2019) and Zulkarnain (2017) highlight issues such as limited budget, communication barriers, and inconsistent implementation.

Understanding these factors is crucial for developing strategies that balance housing needs with sustainable land use and socio-economic development. The primary research question guiding this study is: What are the factors influencing the implementation of the BRS program in Subulussalam Utara Village? Additionally, the study aims to assess the

socio-economic impacts of housing development on the local community. By addressing these questions, the research seeks to provide insights that can inform better land management and housing development policies.

This study employs a comprehensive approach, utilizing both primary and secondary data to analyze the determinants of housing development growth and its socio-economic impacts. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of housing development in Subulussalam Utara Village and offer recommendations for sustainable growth and development.

2. Method

This qualitative study was conducted in Simpang Kiri District, Subulussalam City, Aceh Province, focusing on Subulussalam Utara Village. The qualitative approach aims to uncover detailed information and emphasize process and meaning (Bogdan & Taylor, in Moleong, 2017). The research design involved collecting data through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Self-Help Housing Assistance Program (BRS) implementation.

2.1 Data Collection Techniques

1. **In-depth Interviews:** Structured interviews were conducted with key informants to gather detailed information about their experiences and perspectives on the BRS program and its impacts. The interview guide was used to ensure consistency in the questions asked. For confidentiality, the respondents' identities are kept anonymous.
2. **Observation:** The researcher systematically recorded observations related to the implementation of the BRS program, including interactions among stakeholders, community participation, and the physical condition of the housing units.
3. **Documentation:** Relevant documents, such as policy regulations, program guidelines, and reports on housing conditions, were collected to support the research.

2.2 Data Analysis

The data analysis followed the model proposed by Miles and Huberman (2014), which includes data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

1. **Data Reduction:** This process involves summarizing and focusing on essential information, identifying key themes and patterns, and discarding irrelevant data.
2. **Data Display:** The data was organized and presented in a manner that facilitated understanding and interpretation. This included narrative descriptions, charts, and diagrams.
3. **Conclusion Drawing and Verification:** Conclusions were drawn based on the analyzed data and were continuously verified and refined to ensure accuracy and reliability. The conclusions aimed to answer the research questions and provide actionable insights.

2.3 Respondents

The selected informants included:

- A head of the Public Works and Housing Office
- A head of the Housing and Settlement Division
- A head of the Planning and Reporting Sub-division
- A head of the Finance Sub-division
- A head of the General and Staffing Sub-division
- A head of the Subulussalam Utara Village
- Four beneficiaries of the BRS program

Table 1. List of Informants

No	Name	Position	Number of Informants
1	Head of the Public Works and Housing Office	Public Works and Housing Office	1
2	Head of the Housing and Settlement Division	Housing and Settlement Division	1
3	Head of Planning and Reporting Sub-division	Planning and Reporting Sub-division	1
4	Head of Finance Sub-division	Finance Sub-division	1
5	Head of General and Staffing Sub-division	General and Staffing Sub-division	1
6	Head of Subulussalam Utara Village	Subulussalam Utara Village	1
7	Beneficiaries of the BRS program	BRS Program Beneficiaries	4
Total Informants			10

2.4 Data Analysis

The data analysis followed the model proposed by Miles and Huberman (2014), which includes data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

- **Data Reduction:** This process involves summarizing and focusing on essential information, identifying key themes and patterns, and discarding irrelevant data.
- **Data Display:** The data was organized and presented in a manner that facilitated understanding and interpretation. This included narrative descriptions, charts, and diagrams.
- **Conclusion Drawing and Verification:** Conclusions were drawn based on the analyzed data and were continuously verified and refined to ensure accuracy and reliability. The conclusions aimed to answer the research questions and provide actionable insights.

2.4.1 Model Miles and Huberman (2014)

- **Data Reduction:** Summarize, focus on essentials, identify themes and patterns, discard irrelevant data.
- **Data Display:** Organize and present data for understanding and interpretation (narrative, charts, diagrams).
- **Conclusion Drawing:** Draw and verify conclusions based on analyzed data, refine for accuracy.

By following this methodology, the study aims to provide a thorough analysis of the BRS program's implementation and its impact on rural area planning and community development in Subulussalam Utara Village

3. Result and Discussion Results and Discussion

3.1 Organizational Aspects

The Self-Help Housing Assistance Program (BRS) is implemented through a multi-organizational structure, involving coordination from local to national levels. The Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing oversees the program, with local facilitators supporting community members in implementing housing improvements. Each organization within the program has distinct roles and responsibilities, as outlined in the Technical Guidelines for the Implementation of Special Allocation Funds in the Housing and Settlement Sector.

Despite the structured organizational framework, the study identified several challenges at the local level. One significant issue was the heavy reliance on community facilitators to assist beneficiaries in meeting the program's requirements. Interviews with local leaders revealed that

while facilitators played a crucial role, there were gaps in their support, leading to delays and inefficiencies.

3.2 Supporting Factors

1. **Effective Communication:** Clear communication among program implementers and stakeholders is crucial for successful implementation. Effective communication ensures that all parties understand their roles and the program's objectives, facilitating better coordination and cooperation. The study found that regular meetings and updates helped maintain a flow of information, contributing to the program's partial success.
2. **Collaboration:** Honest and cooperative attitudes among implementers enhance the program's success. When stakeholders agree on the program's procedures and objectives, implementation becomes smoother and more effective. The study highlighted that strong collaboration between government officials, local leaders, and community members was essential in overcoming some of the logistical challenges faced during implementation.

3.3 Inhibiting Factors

1. **Human Resources:** Limited human resources, both in terms of quantity and expertise, pose significant challenges to program implementation. The lack of competent personnel can lead to delays and inefficiencies. The study revealed that the number of facilitators was insufficient to cover all the beneficiaries effectively, resulting in some households receiving less support than needed.
2. **Target Accuracy:** Ensuring that the program reaches the intended beneficiaries is critical. Verifying the eligibility of low-income families to receive housing assistance is necessary to achieve the program's goals. The study found discrepancies in the beneficiary selection process, with some eligible families being overlooked due to inadequate verification procedures.

3.4 Socio-Economic Impacts

The BRS program has made notable contributions to improving housing conditions for low-income families in Subulussalam Utara Village. The study identified several socio-economic impacts:

1. **Improved Living Conditions:** Beneficiaries reported significant improvements in their living conditions, with renovated or newly built houses providing a safer and healthier environment.
2. **Increased Community Engagement:** The program fostered a sense of community and cooperation among residents, encouraging them to work together towards common goals.
3. **Economic Empowerment:** By providing better housing, the program indirectly supported economic empowerment, as beneficiaries were able to focus more on income-generating activities without the burden of inadequate living conditions.

However, challenges remain. The study found that while the BRS program has positively impacted housing conditions, issues related to human resources and communication need to be addressed to enhance its effectiveness.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

The BRS program in Subulussalam Utara Village has made significant progress in improving housing conditions for low-income families, contributing to better rural planning. However, challenges related to human resources and communication need to be addressed to ensure more effective implementation.

4.2 Recommendations

1. **Enhance Coordination and Cooperation:** Strengthening collaboration between the Public Works and Housing Office, local government, community leaders, and beneficiaries is essential. Persuasive approaches and continuous guidance from the Public Works and Housing Office can foster better participation and cooperation.
2. **Improve Human Resource Capacity:** Investing in training and increasing the number of competent personnel involved in the program can help address implementation challenges.
3. **Ensure Target Accuracy:** Implement rigorous verification processes to ensure that assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries, focusing on low-income families in need of housing improvements.

By addressing these recommendations, the BRS program can achieve its goals more effectively, enhancing housing conditions and contributing to sustainable rural development in Subulussalam Utara Village.

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