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trn:oid::1:3375018058

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InstitutionLPMofBojongMentengIndonesiaExistenceandChallenges.pdf

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Community Empowerment Institution (LPM) of Bojong Menteng Indonesia: Existence and Challenges

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DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2025.9020235>

Received: 11 February 2025; Accepted: 14 February 2025; Published: 14 March 2025

ABSTRACT

The Community Empowerment Institution (Lembaga Pemberdayaan Masyarakat, LPM) in Bojong Menteng Village, Indonesia, plays a vital role in uplifting the local community and enhancing well-being through various social and economic initiatives. This community service project aims to bolster LPM's ability to tackle challenges such as limited resources and low public engagement. Adopting a participatory approach, this outreach program brings together various stakeholders, including local residents, youth, and community leaders, to develop collaborative solutions that meet the community's needs. The strategies used include focus group discussions, skills training, and promoting LPM programs to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. The outcomes of this outreach initiative include heightened public awareness of LPM's role, increased community involvement in LPM activities, and strengthened capacity for LPM to carry out sustainable programs. Recommendations from this initiative emphasize the need to enhance collaboration between LPM and local government, as well as the importance of ongoing training for LPM members to navigate increasingly complex challenges. This initiative seeks to strengthen LPM's role in tackling community empowerment challenges, aiming to enhance the effectiveness of LPM programs and foster greater community involvement. The participatory approach focuses on engaging various local stakeholders through discussions, training, and outreach activities. By encouraging active community participation, LPM can gather more diverse input and support. The outreach program has successfully raised public awareness about LPM's role, increased citizen participation in LPM activities, and improved LPM's ability to implement sustainable programs. It is advisable for LPM to enhance its collaboration with local government and regularly hold training sessions for its members to effectively address the changing challenges of community empowerment.

Keywords: Community Empowerment Institution, Bojong Menteng Urban Village, participatory, community empowerment, challenges

INTRODUCTION

The Community Empowerment Institution (LPM) plays a vital role in society by facilitating and promoting community involvement in local development, with a focus on economic empowerment, education, and enhancing the quality of life. Acting as a link between the government and the community, LPM helps to capture local aspirations and make the most of available resources for the benefit of society. This function is particularly important for boosting community engagement in development efforts (Shelton, Adsul, Baumann & Ramanadhan, 2021). LPM Kelurahan Bojong Menteng is an interesting subject for research due to its active role in empowerment initiatives within a rapidly developing area. LPM Bojong Menteng runs various programs designed to improve the economic and social conditions of the community, including entrepreneurship training, community service projects, and public health education. The choice to study this organization stems from its crucial contribution to enhancing well-being in urban settings that are grappling with the challenges of urbanization (Mouratidis, 2021).

This community service aims to shed light on how effective LPM's programs are in tackling local issues and to offer suggestions for strengthening LPM's capabilities in a sustainable manner (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024). This community service initiative is essential, as LPM often encounters obstacles like limited funding and inconsistent citizen involvement. Support for LPM is anticipated to enhance its ability to manage programs effectively and boost community participation in various initiatives. This need aligns with the community-driven development model, which prioritizes building local capacities for sustainable growth (Wong, 2023; Bhatt, Qureshi, Shukla & Pillai, 2023; Couto & Baptista, 2025).

PURPOSES

The community service activities conducted by the Master of Law Program Team at Universitas Kristen Indonesia Jakarta in Bojong Menteng Urban Village focus on understanding the role and presence of the Lembaga Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (LPM) in supporting local community empowerment. The LPM serves as a vital link between the community and the government, enhancing social and economic capabilities through tailored programs that address local needs (Singgalen, Sijabat, Widyastuti & Harnadi, 2022; Malta, 2023; Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024).

This community service initiative aims to achieve several goals, including evaluating the institutional capacity of the LPM, mapping its specific roles in development, identifying challenges it faces, and offering recommendations for its future functions. The primary goal of this initiative is to recognize the presence of the LPM in Bojong Menteng Urban Village. This involves assessing how familiar local residents are with the LPM and understanding its impact on community development. The LPM plays a crucial role within the village government framework, tasked with helping the community navigate, plan, and execute development programs (Sastika & Mayasiana, 2024). Additionally, gaining insight into the LPM's presence will aid in evaluating public perceptions of the institution and how well it is accepted and regarded as a trustworthy entity within the community. This evaluation will focus on the Institutional Capacity and Function of the LPM in Community Empowerment.

The second objective is to evaluate the capacity and function of LPM as the main driver of community empowerment. For community empowerment to be effective, local institutions like LPM must take an active role, coordinating efforts across different sectors and acting as a bridge between the community and local government. This capacity involves elements such as human resources, organizational structure, and support from local authorities. Research indicates that the capacity and performance of LPM significantly influence the success of community empowerment initiatives (Heaton *et al.*, 2024). Thus, it is essential to assess whether LPM in Bojong Menteng has the necessary capacity to carry out its responsibilities and if its organizational structure is well-suited to promote sustainable empowerment. The next goal is to pinpoint the specific roles that LPM plays in the community development process in Bojong Menteng. These roles include various functions, such as offering education and training, facilitating access to economic resources, and bolstering the social infrastructure that the community needs (Malta, 2023; Kullu, 2023).

In terms of economic development, for example, LPM helps establish community business groups, which allows them to become more self-sufficient and competitive. On the social front, LPM can assist in resolving internal conflicts within the community and support initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life. By clarifying these roles, LPM is expected to showcase its concrete contributions to different facets of community development.

This community service initiative also highlights the challenges and obstacles that the LPM faces in fulfilling its functions. Various issues may stem from budget constraints, insufficient government support, and low levels of community engagement. Previous studies have indicated that financial limitations and a lack of backing from local authorities often pose significant hurdles for LPM in executing empowerment programs (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024). Furthermore, the general public's lack of awareness about the importance of LPM's role presents another challenge that must be tackled. By recognizing these challenges, we can develop

more effective strategies to strengthen the role and function of LPM within the community. Providing Recommendations for the Development of LPM Functions.

The ultimate goal is to offer recommendations for the future enhancement of LPM's functions and roles. These suggestions are vital as a basis for improvement, allowing LPM to carry out its responsibilities more efficiently. The development of LPM functions may involve capacity-building training for LPM members, upgrades to communication systems with the community, and better coordination with local governments (Yudarwati & Gregory, 2022). These recommendations stem from an assessment of LPM's existence and role, an evaluation of institutional capacity, a mapping of specific roles, and the challenges faced. Through these recommendations, it is anticipated that LPM Bojong Menteng can evolve into a more empowered and effective institution in serving and uplifting its community.

METHODOLOGY

In the community service implementation at LPM Kelurahan Bojong Menteng, a participatory approach is adopted, focusing on engaging the community actively in each session (Windon & Adhikari, 2024). This strategy is designed to make sure that the information shared is easily understood and can be utilized in everyday life. One of the techniques employed in this approach is lectures, where speakers present material directly to the participants. Lectures are preferred because they effectively and clearly convey information, particularly for subjects that necessitate a solid foundational understanding (Extra Marks, 2025).



FIGURE I Presentation Of Material.

In addition to lectures, the Q&A session plays a crucial role in this service. It allows participants to engage in interactive discussions and ask questions about topics that remain unclear or are relevant to their personal experiences. This session not only deepens participants' understanding but also adds local perspectives that may not have been covered in the lecture. Dunphy (2007) notes that the Q&A method is highly effective in closing the knowledge gap between the presenter and the audience, making the content more relevant and applicable. This participatory approach also incorporates case studies that address issues faced by the local community. By showcasing real-life examples, participants can see firsthand how the theories discussed in the lecture can be applied in everyday situations (Mebert *et al.*, 2020). These case studies not only aid comprehension but also inspire participants to think critically and collaboratively solve problems.



FIGURE II Discussion On Strengthening Lpm Participants

To enhance participant engagement, the group work method is implemented. Participants are organized into several groups to discuss the topics presented, fostering a collaborative learning environment. Zhang & Chi (2025) notes that this approach effectively strengthens social interaction and critical thinking skills, allowing participants to share their ideas and experiences while grasping the material. Finally, an evaluation is carried out to determine how the lecture and Q&A methods impact participants' understanding and application. This evaluation includes interviews to collect feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the methods used, along with suggestions for improvement in future activities (Lansing et al., 2023). The findings from this evaluation will inform the development of more effective community service methods that meet the community's needs.

THE ROLE OF LPM IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Empowerment Agency (LPM) plays a vital role in boosting the local economy by offering various skill training programs and supporting the development of micro-businesses. In Bojong Menteng Village, LPM conducts skill training sessions aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the workforce and fostering micro-business growth. These training programs encompass a range of areas, including cooking, sewing, and handicrafts that hold economic potential. As a result, community members are not only able to create products that can be sold in the market but also improve their family income (Miyazoe, 2022). Furthermore, LPM assists in providing access to capital for micro-entrepreneurs through partnerships with micro-finance institutions and grant funding from local governments (Parihar, Parihar & Parihar, 2024). These initiatives have effectively reduced the community's reliance on the limited availability of formal employment opportunities (Gupta, 2023). Through this targeted economic empowerment program, LPM has successfully fostered a more inclusive economic environment for the local community (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024).

In addition to focusing on the economy, the LPM of Bojong Menteng places a strong emphasis on social empowerment programs aimed at enhancing community cohesion. One notable initiative is the gotong royong program, which is regularly conducted to ensure the cleanliness and orderliness of the environment. This program not only helps improve cleanliness but also fosters a sense of togetherness among residents. LPM also organizes a variety of joint activities, including regular study sessions, savings groups, and cultural arts events, which engage all community members, regardless of age or background. These initiatives have been effective in building solidarity among residents, promoting cooperation, and minimizing the potential for social conflict (Srinivasan, 2024). Additionally, LPM actively addresses pressing social issues, such as caring for abandoned children and providing support to residents impacted by disasters (Juhl, 2023).

LPM is actively working to enhance community education in Bojong Menteng through various programs. One notable initiative is offering free tutoring for children from low-income families, which aims to bridge the educational gap in these communities and elevate the overall quality of education (Russell, 2024). Additionally, LPM plans to implement other educational programs, such as providing scholarships and school supplies to high-achieving students who come from underprivileged backgrounds. These initiatives are part of LPM's commitment to fostering inclusive and quality education in Bojong Menteng.

Challenges Faced by LPM Bojong Menteng

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The Community Empowerment Institution (LPM) of Bojong Menteng plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for the community through various social and economic development initiatives. However, there are several internal challenges that affect the effectiveness of LPM's performance, including limited resources, insufficient community involvement, and difficulties in organizational management. A significant challenge faced by LPM Bojong Menteng is the scarcity of resources, particularly in finances, infrastructure, and personnel (Irfan, 2024). The lack of funding often limits LPM's capacity to plan and execute development programs effectively.

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For instance, economic empowerment initiatives require substantial investment to achieve the desired outcomes (McKinsey Global Institute, 2024). Furthermore, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies (2020), cites a shortage of staff and equipment has led to delays in some programs, hindering their planned execution. This situation further diminishes the organization's effectiveness in reaching its objectives, as the resources available are inadequate to fully support its activities.

The lack of community participation is a significant barrier. Engaging the community is essential to ensure that LPM programs genuinely reflect local needs (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024). However, at LPM Bojong Menteng, community involvement in various activities is notably low, likely due to ineffective outreach and communication between LPM and the residents (Irfan, 2024). Many residents feel disconnected from the programs initiated by LPM, which can hinder the success of these initiatives (Irfan, 2024). Without active participation, empowerment programs struggle to operate effectively, often leading to initiatives that lack meaningful outcomes (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024).

Another major challenge lies in organizational management. Effective management is crucial for organizations like LPM, yet Bojong Menteng encounters several issues in this regard. The ambiguous organizational structure and poor internal communication negatively impact the organization's performance (Visser, 2000). Weak leadership and limited managerial skills have resulted in internal conflicts, ultimately affecting the sustainability of the programs (Akinyele & Chen, 2024). Additionally, difficulties in managing human resources and conflicts of interest among members further diminish the organization's effectiveness (Rismayadi, 2024). To address these challenges, concrete actions are necessary, such as enhancing human resource capacity, refining the organizational structure, and improving communication with the community. Furthermore, increasing funding and providing training for LPM members can significantly boost the quality and effectiveness of the implemented programs (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024). Without these enhancements, LPM Bojong Menteng is likely to continue struggling to meet its objectives as a community empowerment institution.

External challenges like limited funding, lack of government support, and regulatory hurdles pose significant obstacles that must be tackled to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of LPM Bojong Menteng's community empowerment programs. Increased government backing, along with regulatory adjustments that allow for more flexibility and autonomy for LPM, could help maximize its role in local development (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024). The Community Empowerment Institution (LPM) is crucial for fostering community development at the local level. However, LPM frequently encounters a range of complex issues, including budget limitations, low levels of community engagement, and conflicts of interest among various

stakeholders. To address these challenges, it is essential to implement effective strategies that involve thorough planning, collaboration across sectors, and innovations driven by technology.

LPM has the potential to enhance operational efficiency while also expanding its outreach within the community. To achieve the best outcomes, these strategies must be applied in a holistic and integrated manner. The challenges that LPM encounters are varied, but through participatory planning, capacity building, cross-sector collaboration, transparency, and the use of technology, LPM is poised to keep fostering inclusive and sustainable community development.

The Impact and Achievements of Community Service

LPM plays a crucial role as the government's partner in harnessing local potential, fostering community engagement, and launching empowerment initiatives. By adopting a collaborative approach, LPM effectively connects community needs with government policies, contributing to the development of a more self-sufficient and empowered society. The case study of LPM Kelurahan Bojong Menteng illustrates how LPM has emerged as a key ally of the government in advancing local development efforts, enhancing community capabilities, and reinforcing social infrastructure. Community Capacity and Knowledge Enhancement LPM facilitates community service through various training and outreach programs, including entrepreneurship, financial management, and health education (Siyanti, Amal & Lestari, 2021).

These initiatives aim to provide community members with practical skills that can be utilized in their everyday lives. For instance, the entrepreneurship training program offered by LPM Bojong Menteng focuses on enhancing residents' creative economic abilities, allowing them to establish independent business ventures. Consequently, many residents have successfully launched sustainable small businesses, leading to an improved standard of living for their families.

Community service activities with LPM also focus on developing social infrastructure that supports the well-being of the community (Nurkomala, Diswandi & Fadliyanti, 2023). Through mutual cooperation and synergy with the village administration, LPM is able to encourage the community to collectively build public facilities such as playgrounds, posyandu (integrated health services post), or community halls. In Bojong Menteng Village, LPM plays an active role in developing a safe and clean environment, such as a cleanliness program that educates the community about waste management and the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness.

Public Service Improvement

LPM acts as a vital link for the community to access essential public services like education and healthcare. In Bojong Menteng Village, LPM partners with the local government to provide free health check-ups and educational consultations for those in need. This initiative not only offers basic services that might have been hard to come by but also educates residents on the significance of health and education as key components for a brighter future (Zajacova & Lawrence, 2018). LPM is instrumental in fostering long-term economic empowerment within the community, especially through entrepreneurship training. The skills gained enable residents to establish their own businesses, which can boost family incomes and lessen reliance on outside support.

In Bojong Menteng Village, the economic empowerment initiatives led by LPM have produced notable outcomes, with many residents successfully launching independent ventures, such as composting household waste. LPM's ongoing commitment also plays a significant role in enhancing the community's overall quality of life. Those who engage in LPM programs often develop a more positive outlook on the importance of health, education, and environmental stewardship. This growing awareness fosters a healthier and more proactive lifestyle, ultimately decreasing their dependence on government assistance and increasing their ability to contribute to local development.

Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of LPM Bojong Menteng

In the long run, LPM has enhanced its role as a valuable and independent institution. With backing from the sub-district government, LPM Bojong Menteng has effectively become an organization that responds well to the community's needs. This strengthening of the institution has equipped LPM to tackle future social challenges and fulfill its role as a dependable advocate for the community's interests. The services provided by LPM have significantly contributed to sustainable social development. By promoting a sense of ownership and collective responsibility within the community, LPM helps foster a stable and thriving environment. Its programs, which emphasize environmental management, health, and legal awareness, encourage a proactive community that is invested in the sustainability of their surroundings (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024).

Success Story of LPM Bojong Menteng LPM Bojong Menteng exemplifies how collaboration between LPM, the community, and the sub-district government can propel regional development. Through initiatives like entrepreneurship training, environmental cleanliness campaigns, and legal education, LPM has successfully improved the community's skills and awareness regarding their role in development. For example, the entrepreneurship training in the creative economy sector has raised the living standards of numerous families, while the cleanliness campaign has decreased waste and enhanced residents' quality of life. Sub-district officials involved in various LPM activities now recognize that LPM is not just a supervisory entity but also a vital partner in advancing government initiatives. They acknowledge that the success of local development relies heavily on a robust partnership with LPM, which is crucial in mobilizing the community.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Community Empowerment Institution (LPM) of Bojong Menteng Village plays a vital role in enhancing the welfare and independence of the local community. By focusing on empowerment initiatives, LPM aims to address the needs and aspirations of its residents. However, LPM Bojong Menteng encounters several challenges, including limited funding that restricts the execution of its programs and insufficient coordination with the village administration. Furthermore, the village government's low level of attention towards LPM's role hampers the synergy needed for effective planning and implementation of empowerment activities. These obstacles impede LPM's ability to fully develop the potential and capacity of the community in Bojong Menteng Village.

Looking ahead, the development of LPM can be directed towards both internal and external improvements. Internally, enhancing organizational capacity through training in management, finance, and communication skills for members, along with adopting digital technology for better administrative efficiency, is essential. Externally, strong support from the government is necessary, including funding, training, and fostering collaboration among LPMs. Additionally, increasing public awareness of LPM's role and benefits through socialization and empowerment activities that engage residents will bolster support and participation in LPM programs, ultimately promoting the sustainability and effectiveness of community service initiatives.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors express gratitude for the funding provided by the Research and Community Empowerment Institute (LPPM) of Universitas Kristen Indonesia for the implementation of this community service.

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