

Institutional and Cultural Approaches for Strengthening Human Right Cities and SDG's at the Village Level

By

1. Hieronymus Soerjatisnanta

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of law, University of Lampung, Indonesia
s.nymus@yahoo.co.id

2. Rudi Natamihardja

Lecturer, Faculty of law, University of Lampung, Indonesia
rudi.natamiharja@fh.unila.ac.id

Abstract

Two global policies and guidelines on Human Rights Cities, i.e. Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, and Swedish Platform for policy and operational development of human rights at the local and regional level have provided basic principles to protect, respect, and fulfil human rights of inhabitants of cities and municipalities. However, not many researchers discuss those policies and guidelines at the village level. Thus, this study aims to explore on how villages have strong resources to support human rights principles and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 through institutional and cultural approaches.

This empirical study was conducted in the context of Indonesia and found that global policies and guidelines on Human Rights Cities fit in to the Indonesian situation and context where villages, under Law Number 5 Year 2014 concerning Village in Indonesia, have strong resources in terms of financial budget allocation and social capital. By having these two types of resources: finance and social capital, villages in Indonesia have more flexibility and independency in setting up programs to support the achievement of sustainable development, and at the same time village governments could show their commitment to human rights.

This study, therefore, discusses conceptually how the institutional approach helps to strengthening the village development planning system through village financial budget and increase the capacity of village officials. In addition, a cultural approach could also work to glue villagers to participate in all aspects related to citizen rights. Through mutual cooperation or in the Indonesian called the culture of "*Gotong Royong*", a participatory mechanism also emerges in the process of planning and implementing of SDGs related agenda such as on SDGs number 6 "clean water and sanitation". Thus, this research concludes that two approaches: institutional and cultural, are promising in anchoring human rights in order to achieve SDGs 2030 at the village level.

Keywords: Village government, social capital, Acceleration, SDGs agenda, human rights city.

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1. Preface

Historically the village is the embryonic formation of political society and government in Indonesia, which is recognized by the constitution. The village is a social institution that has a very important position in the lives of the people who have been there before Indonesia's independence. The village is an autonomous institution with traditions, customs and norms of their own deep-rooted, and relatively independent. In the system of government, the village is the smallest administrative unit that performs the functions of the public service. However, the dynamics of the existence of village governance have ups and downs, especially with respect to state policies that put an object thus distorting the fabric of village life.

The existence of Law No. 6 of 2014 about Desa (village Act) is to restore the village's existence as an independent subject through recognition¹ principle and the principle of subsidiarity². Based on the principle of the affairs of the local scale decided locally by village authorities, and local issues also resolved locally. Subsidiarity contains the spirit of respect, trust and challenged the villagers to move. Thus, the village has a strong institutional and regulatory capacity to build at the village level in accordance with the authority. This paradigm shift was followed by the allocation of village funds as stipulated in Government Regulation No. 43 of 2014 concerning Village Funds.

The amendment puts the village in order to realize human rights agenda and SDG's agenda committed by the Indonesian human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is the legal basis; a strong institutional and financial resources required. The prerequisites are related to the burden of obligation village government authorities, to implement a human rights-based approach, through providing public services appropriate authority of the village.³

2. Village Institution : a social modal of Human Rights Cities

The village is set in the law on rural institution consisting of village government and village consultative body as well as the village community

¹ Article 3 (a) of village law no.6 of 2014, the principle of recognition, namely recognition of the right of origin

² Article 3 (b) of village law no.6 of 2014, the principle of subsidiarity, namely the determination of local scale authority and decision making locally for the benefit of the village community

³ Pradjasto at all, Panduan Kabupaten/Kota Ramah HAM (*guidance of Human rights city*), August INFID. 2016, p.10

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institutions. The village government has the authority based on the right of the origin⁴ and authority of the scale of the village.⁵ From these authorities, there are criteria namely among others that village authorities prioritizes activities services and public empowerment related to villagers needs. Implementation of institutional authority is organized through the village and especially by the village government.

The village government is composed of the urban village head who is elected through direct elections and village officials are appointed by the head of the village. The village consultative agency is a village-level consultative agency that participates in discussing and agreeing on various policies in the administration of the village government. While the Institute for rural community is a model of interaction of individuals in a village community group with the purpose and function of each.

These intended social institutions include neighborhood (*rukun tetangga*), hamlet (*rukun warga*), fostering the welfare of family (*pembinaan kesejahteraan keluarga*), youth organizations (*karang taruna*) and community development institutions (*lembaga pemberdayaan masyarakat*). In the context of the implementation of the village government, village community institutions are responsible to helping and be partner in empowering the village community. The village community institution has a functions as a village community participation in development, governance, community and empowerment that leads to the realization of democratization and transparency at the community level in rural development activities.

Village Law puts the village as a subject of development. With the spirit that put the village to build the village as a subject that capable to planning, executing and overseeing the development. The concept of building a village associated with self-reliance, local knowledge, social capital, democracy, participation, authority, allocation of funds, local movements, empowerment, etc. This concept puts the village's institutional scheme to sets the Regulation in accordance with the authority of a village, instituting village planning, allocation of funds and local control. The goal is to make the village as a base livelihood and life in a sustainable society and as a front end that is close to the community, as well as an independent village. The role of the village government is the spearhead implementation of public services for the villagers.

⁴ According to article 2 Regulation of Minister of Home Affairs No.1 of 2015

⁵ According to article 5 Regulation of Minister of Home Affairs No.1 of 2015

In implementing the construction of the village, the preferred values are togetherness, brotherhood (*gotong royong*), and mutual cooperation in order to achieve peace and social justice.⁶ In implementing the construction of the village, the preferred values are togetherness, familiarity, and mutual cooperation in order to achieve peace and social justice. The principle of mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*) is the identity of the village community, which is implemented through the activity of the village community as expressed by Koentjaraningrat.⁷ Mutual cooperation as a form of cooperation between individuals and between groups establishing mutual trust status norm for doing cooperation in handling issues of common interests. These forms of cooperation of mutual cooperation is one form of social solidarity with social interaction that takes place because of cultural bonds. Mutual cooperation (*Gotong Royong*) is the social capital⁸ that occurred and bound by a sense of trust, mutual understanding, and shared value of the group members to do efficient and effective activities.

Culturally, the value of togetherness, familiarity, puts human dignity and mutual cooper placing human dignity as an ethical basis in relations between individuals and groups. These values are still exist until now that can be observed in the community, Religion, life cycle (such as birth, death, marriage), and even rural governance development and implementation. The action is an ethical basis in the relationship between individuals and groups. For example, when the village repairing the road, then the villagers spontaneously participate to work and providing for consumption. Even people who have a fairly good economic capabilities, will provide enough material needs that are quite expensive.

Based on the description above, the village government and community institutions have the potential, ability and obligation (duty bearers) to carry a duty related to the implementation of human rights. These duties regarding to the service function and empowerment of village communities are implemented within the

⁶ Article 81 Indonesia Village Law No. 6 of 2014

⁷Koentjaraningrat, *Kebudayaan, Mentalitasdan Pembangunan (Culture, Mentality and Developement)*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia. 1974. The concept of Gotong Royong (mutual cooperation) has cultural values related to human relations: (1) humans cannot live alone but are bound to their communities and natural environment; (2) thus, a person's life depends on others; (3) always building a good relationship with others is a must; and (4) what is done to fellow communities should be based on a spirit of equality or equality

⁸Cohen, S., &Prusak L. (2001). In *Good Company: How Social Capital Makes Organization Work*. London: Harvard Business Pres

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framework of respect, to protect, and to fulfill.⁹ As the smallest government unit that interacts intensively with villager, the public service duty addressed to fulfill the rights of the villagers. Thus, the village can become a strong base implementation of the concept of human rights.

3. Village Funds and SDG Agenda Acceleration

According Sutoro Eko, the Village Law changed the paradigm of government in the village of the state-centric view into society centric.¹⁰ The old paradigm is state centric autocratic, top-down, centralized, hierarchical, and sectoral and so on. While the new paradigm seems to contain the spirit of recognition and subsidiarity that are society centric: democratic, bottom-up, autonomy, independence, locality, participatory, emancipatory and so on. The village Law puts the spirit of villagers build within the framework of national development.

Changes in the political paradigm of the village, followed by the state budget allocation policy for the village whose number is very significant. Over the last 5 years the total budget of the village fund was Rp 257 trillion¹¹ and has never decreased in every year. The details are as follows: in 2015 : Rp 20,67 trillions; in 2016 : Rp 46,98 trillions; in 2017 ; Rp 60 trillions; in 2018, Rp 60 trillions; and in 2019: Rp 70 trillions.

This large allocation is a resource to improving the welfare of the community through village development. In Article 78 of Law the village sets that the objectives of rural development are (a) improve the quality of human life: (b) improve the well-being; and (c) reduction of poverty. The three goals of development are realized through the stages of development from planning, implementation and control that performed by the village government in a participatory process. The paradigm change of governance of the village and a large enough budget allocation, put the village to very strategic position to accelerate rural welfare.

⁹ See INFID's Guide to Human-Friendly Districts, INFID August 2016, respecting means that regional officials must not violate human rights by their actions. Protect requires steps to ensure that third parties do not violate the rights and freedoms of individuals; Meeting means the Regional Government must take positive action, to facilitate the enjoyment of rights and freedoms.

¹⁰SutoroEko, *et. al.* 2014, *Desa membangun Indonesia (Village build Indonesia)*, Forum Pengembangan PembaharuanDesa (FPPD), Yogyakarta. p.36

¹¹ Data from the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, www.kemenkeu.go.id/apbn2019

The strategic position and acceleration effort can be placed in the framework of sustainable development (SDGs), which has become a global issue. As the sides that play an active role in the targeting of Sustainable Development Goals / SDGs, the Indonesian government has a strong commitment to achieving 17 criteria and targets to be achieved through the medium-term national development priorities. RPJMN 2015-2019 are prepared in 2014, many of the targets SDGs that are included in the national development priorities. A total of 169 targets in the SDGs, approximately 57 percent (96 targets SDGs) in accordance with national development priorities.¹²

Government's commitment to the determination and achievement of SDGs is seen through the Presidential Decree No. 59 of 2017 about the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals / SDGs (TPB). In such, the TPB goal is to keep the increase in economic welfare society on an ongoing basis, ensuring the sustainability of social life, maintain environmental quality and inclusive development and implementation of governance that can keep improving the quality of life from one generation to the next.

The significance of these regulations is the certainty of achieving the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Certainty achievement carried through to strengthen communication, socialization, and advocacy as well as strengthen cooperation with stakeholders. Thus, there will be an alignment of the development process at all levels, central government, provincial government and district/city and village. In the context of village governance, the question that arises is whether the objectives and 17 agenda of the SDGs can be aligned with the priority allocation of village funds.

Basically the use of village funds for rural development is realized through five priority, there are (a) Fulfillment of Basic Needs; (b) Development of Village Facilities; (c) Rural Infrastructure Development; (d) Local Economic Development; and Utilization of Natural Resources (SDA) and Sustainable Environment. In this regard, the ministry village for each year is always appropriate legislation contains the priority use of village funds. The village ministerial regulations managing the use of priority Village Fund from 2015 until the 2018 which is intended for infrastructure

¹²Data from the Central Statistics Agency, Initial Portrait of Sustainable Development Goals in Indonesia, 2016.

development. However, setting priorities for the use of funds for the 2019 village is the village of Regulation No. 16 in 2018 on the village of priority use of funds in 2019, showing a very fundamental change. This regulation is more detailed and provides direction to the field and the type of village development activities. Although it does not mention the SDGs targets and agenda, however, the field and the type of activities that becomes the priority use of funds has compliance village with 17 agenda SDGs. Compliance are presented in the following table:

Table: Compliance Agenda SDGs with Usage Priority Village Fund

Goal	Agenda SDGs	Village fund priority 2019 Village Minister Regulation No. 16 of 2018
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the economic income for poor families • Poverty alleviation
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of rural food safety • Attempts agriculture for food safety. • Construction of reservoirs / irrigation
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the needs of public health • Prevention and management of stunting • Improved nutrition
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Education and culture Early childhood education programs
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Support for integrated service post to assist pregnant women and nursing mothers' health control. Health in general Education in standard of 12 years
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Clean waters supply and sanitation
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	The construction and development of basic infrastructure for the development of energy
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Development of superior village products Establishment and development of products.
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Procurement, construction, development and maintenance of village infrastructure and in accordance with the villages' authorities
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	Increase sustainable employment Non-agricultural economic business
11	Make cities and human	Environment and settlements

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	settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Transportation
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Agricultural business for food safety. Productive-scale of agricultural business including aspects of production, distribution and marketing
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the outcome from natural disasters and social disasters • Environmental preservation
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of social conflict • Information and communication
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	

From the table above there are three agendas that are not filled. This can be explained that the village government has no authority in the field.

In relation to accelerating the achievement of the target of SDGs, rural communities have a variety of strong social bonds and social solidarity, as an important support of government activities and community development. In addition, the village has a democratic tradition in which openness, deliberation and participation are pillars in decision making. The description is closely related to the important principles in the implementation of SDGs. The principle of universality in the SDGs could be a foundation to encourage adoption of SDGs at the level of village government.

The principle of integration which means that the SDGs implemented in an integrated and interrelated in all social dimensions, economic and environmental. This principle is closely related to rural development planning implemented under the plan

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that outlined in the budget document revenue and expenditure of the village and village government action plan. The development document is the foundation of accountability that must be met in the arrangement of village funds. While the principle of "No One Left Behind" is a principle that is suitable with the cultural values that life in rural communities.

Village funds are the potency that can be mobilized to accelerate the achievement of SDG's agenda. Through strong institutional and ability to regulate village, the funds can be allocated to meet the target of SDGs. However, the fundamental problematics faced by the village government is the lack of skills and knowledge of leaders and village officials to the development planning process.

4. Conclusion

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that under the Village Law, village institutions become stronger and more independent and supported by the allocation of village funds. Institutional and village funds can be social capital to realize the basic rights of the villagers through service is the duty of the village government. As a union territory under the district, the village can become a strong base implementation of the concept of Human Right Cities and achieving SDGs. The value of togetherness, brotherhood, and mutual cooperation of rural communities have conformity with the principles of human rights and the principles of SDGs. Likewise, the regulations for the priority use of village funds also have compatibility with 17 agenda of the SDG's

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