

Developing a Design for Handling Problems for Community-Based Vulnerable Groups in Cipeuteuy Village, Kabandungan District, Sukabumi Regency

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Abstract

The study on Designs for handling the problem of Community-Based Vulnerable Groups is a study with the aim of developing previous designs which were only limited to handling children's problems. The initial design for handling community-based children's problems involved a community work team consisting of 10 community leaders from Cipeteuy Village Sukabumi Regency. The development of social problems and the need for handling them means that services provided are not only sufficient for children, but also for other vulnerable groups. This research is aimed at developing a design for handling problems of community-based vulnerable groups. In its implementation, this research used a qualitative approach with the Participatory Action Research method. This Method provides space for the community, facilitated by researchers, to develop ideas for handling the problems of vulnerable groups according to the strengths they have. The data collection techniques used were indepth interviewews, participant observation, documentation studies, and focus group discussions. The research results show community involvement in developing design for handling the problems of vulnerable groups by utilizing the strengths they have, as well as developing networks outside the community to make it easier to handle the problems of vulnareble groups consisting of neglected children, people with disabilities, neglected elderly, and other poor families who do not receive access to various service sources. The recommendation of this research is a design for community-based handling of vulnerable groups.

Keywords: Design Development, Vulnerable Groups, Society.

A. INTRODUCTION

This research addresses the issue of vulnerable groups, who often face difficulties in accessing various resources and services to resolve their problems. Vulnerable groups are people who receive special treatment and protection due to their specific circumstances (Irda, 2019). These groups include the elderly, children, the poor, pregnant women, and people with disabilities. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2022, vulnerability is prevalent in Indonesia, including Sukabumi Regency, where 186,280 people still live below the poverty line. This figure may increase as social problems faced by vulnerable groups become more complex. Therefore, addressing vulnerable groups should not be underestimated and is not solely the responsibility of the government but also the entire community, including local organizations, to help resolve it.

One area in Sukabumi Regency where some of the population faces vulnerability is Cipeuteuy Village, Kabandungan Sub-District. This village has a task

force for addressing child-related issues (the Child Care Community), formed by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, and UNICEF in response to cases of sexual abuse, involving the community as part of child protection efforts. As issues and needs in Cipeuteuy Village have evolved, the task force has expanded its services beyond children to other vulnerable groups. With the broadening scope of this task force, it is necessary to develop a design that not only focuses on addressing children's issues but also extends to other vulnerable groups. This design is developed by involving various disciplines. As Sachari and Sunarya (2001) stated, design is not a standalone science but interdisciplinary, incorporating elements of art, science, technology, and sociology. The design also involves community participation. In this context, "community" refers to a group of people who are interconnected and share common interests (Nurmansyah, Rodliyah, & Hapsari, 2019).

Many factors contribute to vulnerability, one of which is economic factors that lead to poverty and unemployment. Cultural factors, such as divorce and early marriage, also contribute to vulnerability. Other factors include biological issues like malnutrition, infectious diseases, inadequate healthcare facilities, and low education levels. Additionally, psychological factors can contribute to vulnerability, often due to life's burdens that lead to emotional outbursts in conflicts (Soetomo, 2010).

This research uses a community-based social work approach, conducted through the following stages: social initiation, social organization, assessment, intervention planning, intervention implementation, evaluation, termination, and social referrals (Netting, Kettner, 2004).

Similar research related to vulnerable groups was conducted in Ongulero Village, Marawola Barat Sub-District, Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi, which found that most vulnerable groups are still unreachable by empowerment activities conducted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and thus, they have not been able to fulfill the humanitarian needs of vulnerable groups due to the lack of involvement in the empowerment activities (Kiling-Bunga & Kiling, 2019).

Efforts to assist vulnerable groups have also been made in the form of the development of Kelurahan (urban villages) through the Solo Madani Learning Community (KOMBES). Consistently, KOMBES has responded to the issues of vulnerable groups in Mojosongo and Pajang urban villages, although not yet formally (Ravi, Ramdhon, 2022).

The Tanggap Peduli Umat Lampung (TPUL) initiative also worked on improving the welfare of vulnerable groups. Through TPUL, vulnerable groups benefited, such as reduced consumption expenditures, fulfilled educational needs, improved housing conditions, and easier access to healthcare for vulnerable groups (Khasanah, 2023).

Based on previous studies, no design has been found that fully involves the community in addressing vulnerable groups. The principle of "from the community, by the community, and for the community" becomes the core principle of the

community-based design for handling vulnerable groups. Based on this principle, it is hoped that the community will not rely heavily on external assistance.

B. METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach using the Participatory Action Research (PAR) method. PAR is a research model that seeks to connect the research process with the process of social change. Data collection techniques used in this study include interviews, participatory observation, document study, and focus group discussions (FGD). The primary data sources in this research consist of 10 individuals from the Child Protection Task Force, village government officials, vulnerable groups, and the general community. Other data sources include secondary data in the form of documents related to vulnerable groups. Data analysis in this study was carried out through data reduction, data presentation, and data verification stages.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Initial Design for Handling Vulnerable Groups

The handling of vulnerable groups in Sukabumi began with the activities of the Task Force named the Child Care Community (Kompak), which was established following a criminal case of child molestation. The government, through the Directorate of Child Social Rehabilitation at the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, in collaboration with UNICEF, responded to this in accordance with the mandate of Law No. 35 of 2014, which is an amendment to Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. The law states that the state, government, community, family, and parents are obliged and responsible for the implementation of child protection.

The programs or activities that have been carried out intersect with efforts to address other vulnerable group issues, not just child-related problems but also other vulnerable groups in Cipeuteuy Village, Sukabumi. Some of these vulnerable groups include people with disabilities, women at social and economic risk, neglected elderly, the poor, and pregnant women. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a design for addressing issues that does not only focus on children but also on other vulnerable groups that require attention.

Initially, the design was structured as follows:

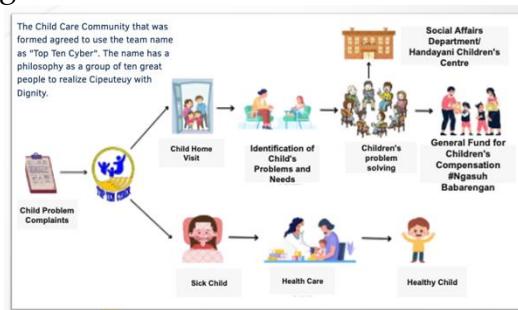


Figure 1. Initial Design for Problem Handling

The design only addresses the handling of child-related issues, which includes health services and social services.

2. Need for Design Development

The research findings indicate a need to develop the design for handling social issues in Cipeuteuy Village, Sukabumi. This need is based on the large number of vulnerable residents who also require assistance. These vulnerable groups include people with disabilities, women at social and economic risk, neglected elderly, the poor, and pregnant women.

Based on this, the Task Force, which initially only handled child-related issues, expanded its function to address problems faced by other vulnerable groups. Another factor considered in this design development is that the social services currently provided by the government, particularly the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, have evolved into multi-service programs. Therefore, the initial design, which previously focused only on child services, needs to be expanded to meet the broader needs of social services. The development requirements include several supports and challenges, such as:

- a. Support
 - 1). Concern for others
 - 2). Desire for self-actualization by maximizing personal potential, self-development, creativity, self-expression, and doing what best suits oneself
 - 3). Implementation of community development programs as an effort to strengthen the role of the community in providing protection
- b. Challenges
 - 1). Members of the Community Task Force are involved in many other activities, so they each have their own busy schedules
 - 2). The village's large and hilly area makes the distance between hamlets far and difficult to reach

3. Design Development Plan

Based on the need for design development, which initially focused only on child-related issues, the Community Task Force expanded its function to focus on issues faced by vulnerable groups. This group includes not only children but also people with disabilities, women at social and economic risk, poor families, as well as pregnant women and neglected elderly.

Below is a figure illustrating the design development plan:

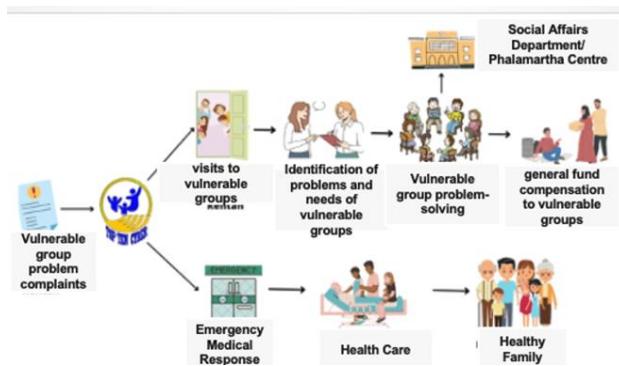


Figure 2. Design Development for Handling Vulnerable Groups

Together with the Community Task Force, an action plan was developed to be implemented in the short and mid-term. In these short- and mid-term program plans, several programs, along with their targets and timelines, were agreed upon. Four programs are planned to be implemented immediately: 1) Understanding Social Welfare Service Recipients (PPKS), 2) Socialization of PPKS, 3) Identification of PPKS, and, 4) Connecting PPKS with resource systems.

Below is the program plan developed with the Community Task Force for the year 2023.

No	Program	Target Group	Timeline
1	Study the criteria for social welfare service recipients	Community Task Force	July
2	Socialization on social welfare service recipients	Community	August
3	Identification of social welfare service recipients	Social Welfare Service Recipients	July
4	Connect social welfare service recipients with resource systems	Formal and Informal Resource Systems	June and onward

4. Program Implementation

The program implementation carried out by the Community Task Force includes:

- Study the criteria for social welfare service recipients

This involves understanding various regulations that explain the vulnerable groups who require social welfare services.

- Socialization on social welfare service recipients

This socialization is aimed at the entire community to help residents understand who are considered vulnerable groups and who are identified as social welfare service recipients.

- Identification of social welfare service recipients

The Community Task Force will then identify vulnerable groups in each neighborhood (RT and RW), assisted by local government officials. This data

will serve as the basis for the Community Task Force in connecting them to various service resources according to the needs of vulnerable groups.

d. Connecting social welfare service recipients with resource systems

Based on the identification of vulnerable groups, the Community Task Force will then prioritize which issues will be addressed first by linking them to various service resources.

Design is formed from various contexts, including definitions, objectives, functions, and other extrinsic factors such as social acceptance. According to J.B. Reswick, design is a creative activity that involves the creation of something new and useful that did not exist before. Based on this perspective, this research aims to design something new and useful that can be implemented in the community. The main goal of the design development conducted in this study is to create satisfactory solutions to a problem or need. Thus, the issues faced by the community can be addressed fairly and equitably. Previously, the social services provided by the Community Task Force only focused on child-related issues; however, in practice, the Task Force also provided social services to other social welfare recipients.

The design development process is closely related to the field of social work. According to Netting (2004), the stages of community-based social work practice are carried out through the following phases: Social Initiation, Social Organization, Social Assessment, Intervention Planning, Intervention Implementation, Evaluation, Termination, and Social Referral. The role of social workers in community development, as described by Jim Ife, includes facilitative, educational, representational, and technical planning roles. In this study, the role of the social worker was primarily facilitative. Social workers motivate or encourage individuals, groups, and communities to utilize their potential and resources to enhance productivity and efficiently manage their efforts.

D. CONCLUSION

The research on the design development for handling issues faced by vulnerable groups in a community setting was conducted in Cipeuteuy Village, Kabandungan District, Sukabumi Regency. This research was carried out based on the need to expand the handling of vulnerable groups, which had been initiated since 2020. The handling of issues faced by vulnerable groups was prompted by incidents of sexual abuse against underage boys (sodomy) in Sukabumi Regency. Based on the research findings, the establishment of the Community Task Force has provided good social services related to child protection, and even to other social welfare recipients such as individuals with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups in Cipeuteuy Village. The development of social problem handling in Cipeuteuy Village supports the ease of the Community Task Force in addressing issues faced by other vulnerable groups. The development of services carried out by the community is also in line with the policies of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which emphasize multi-services, where social services provided are of a general nature.

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