
**EFFECTIVENESS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FUNCTIONS IN THE
FIELD OF SECURITY AND ORDER IN LUBUK SITARAK VILLAGE
INDRAGIRI HULU REGENCY**

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the factors causing the non-implementation of night patrols and how the community perceives the importance of the existence of a patrol post at every intersection in Lubuk Sitarak village, Indragiri Hulu regency. This study used a qualitative descriptive method with data collection techniques through in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation. The theory used is the theory of effectiveness with five sub-indicators: productivity, efficiency, satisfaction, integrity, and adaptation. The results of this study indicate that the implementation of the neighbourhood association's (RT) function in maintaining village security and order is not yet fully effective. The community feels that the village security situation is relatively secure, but they hope that the night patrol programme can be activated soon. This study also identified several inhibiting factors, namely low community participation in night patrols, inadequate security facilities, and minimal awareness among some residents of the importance of the patrol post.

Keywords: Effectiveness, Neighbourhood Association (RT), Security and Order Community

INTRODUCTION

A village is a legal community unit with household administration based on ancestral rights and customs recognised by the central government and located within a district. According to Sutardjo Kartohadikusumo, a village is a legal entity where a group of people live and govern themselves. Simply put, a village is a residential area with relatively simple characteristics of life, strong social ties, and main activities in agriculture or plantations.

Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, Article 1, states that the Village Government is the administrator of government affairs and the interests of the local community within the system of government of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The Village Government consists of the Village Head, assisted by village officials as the implementing body of the Village Government. Additionally, there is the Village Consultative Body, which is an institution that carries out governmental functions, whose members are representatives of the village population based on democratically determined geographical representation. The regulations governing RT (Neighbourhood Units) and RW (Community Units) are further explained in Permendagri No. 18 of 2018 concerning Village Community Institutions and Village Customary Institutions.

Lubuk Sitarak Village, one of the villages in the Indragiri Hulu Regency, Rakit Kulim District, has considerable potential for development in terms of both natural and social resources. However, the success of development depends heavily on the extent to which village community institutions are able to actively carry out their roles.

Indragiri Hulu Regency is a regency located in Riau Province, Indonesia. The regency covers an area of 8,198.71 km² and has a population of 482,445 as of mid-2024. Rakit Kulim Subdistrict has 81 hamlets, 97 neighbourhood associations (RW) and 203 community associations (RT). Lubuk Sitarak Village, Rakit Kulim Subdistrict has 15 RT and 4 RW.

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Community institutions are an important part of village democracy. On paper, laws and government regulations grant considerable power to what are known as community institutions, and this seems to provide space for civil society in villages to participate in governance and development. Law No. 6 of 2014 stipulates that village community institutions carry out a village community empowerment agenda aimed at enabling villages to take joint action as a unified village administration, a unified village community

institution and customary institution, and a unified economic and environmental entity.

The Neighbourhood Association (RT) is the smallest unit in the community government structure, consisting of several heads of families in a small neighbourhood. The Neighbourhood Association is a community institution established by the Village/Sub-District Government as part of the Village/Sub-District administrative area to maintain and preserve the values of life based on assisting in improving the smooth running of government tasks, development, maintaining peace and order in the village community, and enhancing the role of the community in living harmoniously in the RT neighbourhood. The Neighbourhood Association (RT) is led by an RT Chairperson elected by local residents. The main duties of the Neighbourhood Association (RT) include population data collection, resolution of social issues, implementation of community activities, and assisting the government in disseminating information and implementing government programmes.

The central government has issued regulations governing community institutions at the village level through the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation . No. 18 of 2018 concerning Village Community Institutions and Village Customary Institutions. This regulation serves as the legal framework for the formation, duties, functions, and institutional mechanisms of organisations such as the Neighbourhood Association (Rukun Tetangga) and Community Association (Rukun Warga) as part of the Village Community Institution (LKD).

Lubuk Sitarak Village, as one of the villages with a government structure down to the neighbourhood association (RT) level, also faces the same challenges. The phenomena occurring in Lubuk Sitarak Village are in line with the main duties of the neighbourhood association. Some of the phenomena that occur are the lack of security patrols, one of the tangible forms of community participation in maintaining environmental security being the implementation of night patrols. There are still no patrol posts at every intersection, even though it is very important for every hamlet in the village to maintain security and order in the community.

This phenomenon is interesting to study further, considering that the existence of neighbourhood watch posts not only functions as a place to keep watch, but also as a symbol of togetherness, community participation, and social resilience in a neighbourhood. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the extent to which neighbourhood associations are able to carry out their function of organising and maintaining neighbourhood watch activities as part of a community-based security system in each hamlet. In light of the above

issues, the author intends to conduct research entitled "The Effectiveness of Neighbourhood Associations in Maintaining Security and Order in Lubuk Sitarak Village, Indagiri Hulu Regency".

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive research type. This method was used so that the author could better explain and describe the community institutions involved in development in the village of Lubuk Sitarak. This research method was used to describe and depict a phenomenon, behaviour, or situation in depth and detail, focusing on the quality, characteristics, and interactions between the elements being studied. The results are meaningful sentences, not numbers or statistics, which explain a certain understanding of the phenomenon. This approach is used to understand and describe in depth the effectiveness of village community institutions in their role in the implementation of village development.

This study discusses the effectiveness of village community institutions in implementing village development in Lubuk Sitarak Village, Rakit Kulim Subdistrict, Indragiri Hulu Regency. Informants in this study were selected using purposive sampling, based on certain considerations, namely those who were considered knowledgeable and directly involved in village development, namely the Head of the Neighbourhood Association, the Head of Lubuk Sitarak Village, and the community.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study uses the theory of effectiveness with five indicators to assess the extent to which neighbourhood associations (RT) carry out their functions in the areas of security and order. Based on the existing research variable indicators, the results are as follows:

Productivity

In the context of the implementation of neighbourhood association (RT) functions in the village of Lubuk Sitarak, productivity can be defined as the level of ability of RT administrators in carrying out their roles and responsibilities to create a safe and orderly environment. This productivity is evident in the extent to which security and order activities are running well, community participation is increasing, and security disturbances in the community are decreasing.

RT productivity is also influenced by several factors, such as coordination with the village government, community participation, supporting facilities, and the leadership of the RT head. The higher the

productivity of the RT's functions, the more effective the efforts to maintain security and order at the village level.

From the results of interviews regarding the efficiency sub-indicator, the author found that the people of Lubuk Sitarak village are basically willing and enthusiastic to participate in maintaining environmental security. Some residents are willing to devote their time and energy to support the implementation of rinda, either directly or indirectly by providing support such as food and drink.

The potential for community participation in maintaining security in villages is actually quite high, but it is still hampered by technical factors and social awareness. With support from the village government, night patrols can be reactivated effectively, so that the RT's function in the field of security and order can be optimally implemented. The absence of specific policies from both the RT and the village government also hinders the implementation of night patrols. Without clear rules or policies, patrol activities lack a strong basis for implementation and are difficult to carry out on a sustainable basis.

Satisfaction

Satisfaction is a feeling of pleasure, relief, or fulfilment of one's expectations regarding the results of an activity, service, or performance received. In the context of the lowest level of government, such as the neighbourhood association (RT), community satisfaction can be interpreted as the level of acceptance and satisfaction of residents with the performance of the RT in carrying out its functions and responsibilities, particularly in maintaining security and order in the neighbourhood.

Public satisfaction is one indicator of the success of government functions at the local level. When the community is satisfied with the performance of the RT, it shows that the services and programmes implemented are in line with the needs and expectations of the residents. Conversely, if the community feels that there are shortcomings in the implementation of tasks, coordination, or the effectiveness of the programmes carried out. In this study, community satisfaction is measured through an assessment of the effectiveness of the RT's functions in the areas of security and order, such as the RT's ability to encourage community participation, maintain coordination with the village authorities, and create a sense of security and order in the neighbourhood.

Based on the interview results regarding the satisfaction sub-indicator, the level of public satisfaction with the implementation of RT functions in the areas of security and order is fairly good, although not yet fully optimal. In

general, the community feels safe and comfortable with the current security conditions in the neighbourhood, as crimes such as theft and other disturbances are rare. However, in terms of expectations and participation, the community shows a positive attitude and strong support for the role of the RT. They hope that the RT can become the main driving force in maintaining security, accelerating the implementation of planned security programmes, and strengthening cooperation with village officials and the police to ensure greater security.

Integrity

Integrity is a moral and ethical attitude reflected in honesty, responsibility, and consistency between a person's words and actions in carrying out their duties. In the context of performing RT functions, integrity means the ability and capacity of RT administrators to carry out their roles and responsibilities honestly, fairly, transparently, and prioritising the interests of the community over personal interests.

Integrity also includes a strong moral commitment and personality in maintaining public trust, upholding the values of honesty, and carrying out duties with full responsibility. An RT head with integrity will set an example for residents, maintain the confidentiality of community reports, follow up on every complaint fairly, and remain consistent in maintaining security and order in the neighbourhood without discrimination. Thus, in this study, integrity is one of the important factors in measuring the effectiveness of the RT's functions in the village of Lubuk Sitarak.

This difficulty arises because some members of the community, especially those who are relatively well-off, perceive neighbourhood watch activities as merely protecting other people's homes or interests, rather than as a shared responsibility for maintaining security in the neighbourhood. This view leads to low participation and a reluctance to be directly involved in night patrols.

Based on the interview results regarding the integrity sub-indicator, it can be concluded that the integrity of the RT administrators in carrying out their security and order functions is relatively good, although there are still several areas that need improvement to achieve more optimal results. In general, the Lubuk Sitarak village RT has demonstrated a sense of responsibility, honesty, and concern for environmental security. This can be seen from the RT's efforts to remain a place where the community can submit complaints and security reports, and to follow up on them in coordination with the village head or relevant officials. The integrity of the RT in Lubuk Sitarak

village has been realised in the form of responsibility, honesty, and concern for community security, but its effectiveness will increase if it is accompanied by consistency in the implementation of security programmes, improved exemplary behaviour and communication between the RT and the community, and strengthened cooperation between the RT, village officials and the community.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research conducted by the author on the Effectiveness of Neighbourhood Associations in Maintaining Security and Order in Lubuk Sitarak Village, Indragiri Hulu Regency, it can be concluded that: 1) The neighbourhood watch (RT) function in maintaining security and order has not been effective. This can be seen in the lack of regular night patrols, low community participation, and the absence of specific policies from the village government regulating the implementation of night patrols. Although the community and village government understand the importance of environmental security, its implementation has not been optimal; 2) The main obstacles to implementing night patrols stem from productivity and efficiency issues. Community participation is low because most people work until late at night and there is a lack of awareness about getting involved. The community's perception of the patrol posts at every village intersection is very positive. The community considers patrol posts important for improving neighbourhood surveillance and as a form of preparedness against potential criminal disturbances. However, this perception has not been accompanied by concrete actions in the construction or use of patrol posts, so it has no direct impact on the effectiveness of village security. The absence of patrol posts, lack of security facilities, difficulty in coordinating schedules between residents, and the absence of official regulations from the village are obstacles to the implementation of night patrols. In general, the role of RTs has been quite good in terms of coordination and efforts to build public awareness, but it has not been optimal in terms of productivity and efficiency in implementing security programmes. RTs conduct socialisation and encourage the community to maintain security, but the lack of facilities, participation, and regulatory support for RT functions has prevented them from functioning effectively.

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