

**The Role of Youth Through Maritime Sector Empowerment as An Effort in  
Controlling Urbanization Rate and Its Implication Towards Regional Economic  
Resilience  
(Study at Tepus Subdistrict, Gunungkidul Regency, Yogyakarta Special  
Region)**

Ari Sulistyono  
National Resilience, University of Gadjah Mada  
Email:ari\_cgg@yahoo

**ABSTRACT**

Urbanization is one of the demographic issues that must be overcome. High urbanization rate, especially for youth, would cause various problems since youths play an important role in their society. On the other hand, people sometimes ignore their local potency which can give solution to the problem. This study is aimed to determine the role of youth through maritime sector empowerment as an effort in controlling urbanization rate and its implications towards regional economic resilience in Tepus subdistrict of Gunungkidul. There are two main issues on this study. They are the role of youth through empowerment in maritime sectors and the implications towards regional economic resilience.

This research is descriptive qualitative research where data were managed by reduction, classification, presentation and verification processes. The data are classified into primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through observations, interviews with several informants and supported by simple questionnaire. Whereas, secondary data were collected by library research and documentation.

The results of this research showed that; (1) youth plays an important role in controlling urbanization rate by working in maritime sectors. It can be seen from the number of youths who work in maritime sectors and their perceptions about the job compared to urbanization and (2) youth empowerment in maritime sectors gives positive impact in strengthening regional economic resilience in Tepus Subdistrict. The empowerment of youth is able to give income and reduce the unemployment. It would support the economic growth and youth productivity. However, there are some obstacles in the empowering process. They are nature factor, youth resource quality factor, and infrastructure factor.

*Keywords: youth, empowerment, regional economic resilience*

## CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Problem

Urbanization is one of the problems of demography since it gives bad impacts such as poverty, jobs unavailability, unprepared infrastructure, housing and public services. The urbanization problems also occurs in Tepus Subdistrict, Gunungkidul Regency. Geographically, this area is a limestone area so that rain water goes directly into the ground. The geographical factor also gives bad impact to the agricultural sector. The sector then can not be developed so it is difficult to get jobs and the condition leads the people to migrate to city. Most of people who migrate to city (urbanization) are classified as youth with age around 16-30 years old (based Law No.40 of 1999). The high rate of urbanization, especially youth urbanization, of course, will cause various problems since youth plays an important role in society development. The high rates of urbanization will be the barrier for the development since it is not supported by qualified human resources (youths).

On the other hand, Tepus Subdistrict actually has a huge potential in maritime sector since the area directly faces the Indonesian Ocean. Fisheries and tourism are two main sources that can be fully utilized especially for giving job opportunity. The consideration is that two-thirds area of the country is covered by water. The existence of the job opportunity can help us to reduce the youth urbanization rate in Tepus Subdistrict. This study is aimed to determine the role of youth empowerment in maritime sector as an effort to control urbanization rate and its implication towards regional economic resilience. Tepus Subdistrict is chosen because this region is one of the most largest districts in Gunungkidul regency. Tepus has a huge potential in marine sector but ironically the poverty rate in the district is quite high, the rate of urbanization is also high, and the annual income of its people is the lowest one in Gunungkidul Regency.

## **1.2. Formulation of The Problem**

Based on the background above, the problem formulation on this research are:

1. What is the role of youth empowerment in maritime sector as an effort in controlling youth urbanization rate in Tepus Subdistrict, Gunungkidul Regency?
2. How is the implication of the youth empowerment in maritime sector towards regional economic resilience in Tepus Subdistrict, Gunungkidul Regency?

## **CHAPTER II. LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL REVIEW**

### **2.1. Literature Review**

This research is a descriptive qualitative research focused on the role of youth empowerment in maritime sector in the southern part of Gunungkidul Regency. Several previous studies related to this research are; (1) James Erik Siagian (2007) in his research entitled "The Impact of Community Empowerment Through Community Development Program Against Poverty Alleviation in Deli Serdang" states that employment variable has 24 times possibility of success in alleviating poverty and providing economical access variabel has 14 times possibility of success in alleviating poverty. (2) Tri Joko S and Haryono (1999) in his research stated that the positive impact of urbanization is improving the welfare of the community- the origin, as well as their education level and the negative impact is that urbanization causes social problem and lack of local human resources. (3) RS Banu Widiyanto (2012) which conducting his research to community empowerment in the south Gunungkidul stated that the agricultural sector still become the basic profession or the pillar of life for most people there, marine resource utilization is still low, and the community empowerment in marine products is still limited to people who live near the sea. Based on the results of the previous studies, it supports the idea that community empowerment is one of the effort to improve people's welfare especially in the economic aspect and the idea that maritime sector has a huge potential to be developed especially in Gunungkidul Regency.

### **2.2. Theoretical Review**

#### **2.2.1 Role Theory**

Role is a set of behavior expected by others from one based on his/her position in a system (Kozier in Suyatno, 2001). Role is influenced by social circumstances both inside and outside and it is stable. On this study, the role which is being investigated is the youth's role in maritime sector empowerment in Gunungkidul Regency as an effort in controlling urbanization rate and its implication towards regional economic resilience.

### 2.2.2 Youth

In demographic perspective, based on Law No.40/2009, youth are Indonesian citizens who are in the important period of growth and development with the age between 16 (sixteen) to 30 (thirty) years old. According to sociology perspective, youth are society member in the productive age who are actively taking roles in advancing their lives and their society. While in the political perspective, youth is an individual or community of citizens who are constantly forging themselves and actualizing all of their potential to be the future leaders (Kemenpora, 2009).

Youth has an important role in nation building and development. At once, they become the subject and the object of development. In the Law No. 17/2007 about National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2005-2025 explained that youth development is directed to improve the quality of human resources, develop national character (nation building) and force youth to involve various fields of development. The government policy in development sector then realized in 2 priorities of national youth development; strengthening the nation and character building and increasing the capacity and competitiveness of youth (Kemenpora, 2009)

### 2.2.3 Empowerment

Empowerment is a process towards culture, or a process for obtaining power/ strength/ability, and or a process of giving power from those who have power to those who are powerless (Sulistiyani, 2004). Based on Youth Law No.40 of 2009, youth empowerment is defined as the activity evoked potential and active participation of youth. The term of empowerment on this study refers to the empowering of youth in marine sector where youth are empowered to have role in exploiting the maritime sector in all aspects such as fisheries, tourism, business, production or other services. Empowerment of youth itself has become a foundation of regional economic resilience. It means that if the youth has economic ability, so they can contribute to the regional economic resilience.

#### 2.2.4 Urbanization

Basically the term “urbanization” refers to the process of becoming urban but here urbanization simply understood as the movement of people from rural to urban or from village to city. The migration process is due to a strong influence on the doers. These influences can be in the form of encouragement, force, coercion (push factors) and pull factors. Some push factors of urbanization are the decreasing farming areas, uncomfortable original culture, lacking of job opportunity, lacking of facilities and infrastructures in the village, and the dreams to be rich.

The pull factor of urbanization basically is the economic factor but, nevertheless, there are also other factors that support it. Some of them are modern life at city, complete and better infrastructure in city, and better facilities and quality of education (Nurjanah, 2010). Poverty and unemployment are the root of problems associated with urbanization. The high level of poverty and unemployment in one area will be the trigger for the working age population (labor or manpower) in the area to try hard finding job. One of the effort is by doing urbanization or moving from rural to urban areas since city has more job opportunities than in the village.

#### 2.2.5 Regional Economic Resilience

Regional economic resilience is a part of national resilience. Regional economic resilience is defined as the dynamic conditions of economic life in a region containing the ductility and toughness for having capability to develop national power in facing and overcoming all challenges, threats, obstacles and distractions that may arise from outside or inside, directly or indirectly break the economic viability of Indonesia based on *Pancasila* and the 1945 Constitution (Lemhanas, 1995). Unemployment and poverty are the threats of regional economic resilience. One of the solutions that is usually done in addressing them is by doing urbanization. The urbanization doers are mostly those who are in their productive age and youth are included on this classification. The departure of young people from their village can be a threat to the regional resilience.

## **CHAPTER III. RESEARCH METHODS**

### **3.1. Types, Location, Population and Sample**

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. It describes the facts and phenomena on the role of youth in maritime sector empowerment as an effort to control urbanization rate in Gunungkidul and its implications towards regional economic resilience. On this study, the data were obtained based on the real data or what just happened in the field research. The research was conducted in Tepus Subdistrict, Gunungkidul Regency. Tepus is one of the six (6) subdistricts in Gunungkidul which has huge potential of marine but its people are poor.

The population of this research is youth who work in marine sector. They are divided into 2 groups; fishermen group and tourism-worker group (Pokdarwis) and urbanization actors in Tepus Subdistrict. There are 74 people as the research sample. They are 30 people from Fishermen group, 30 people from Tourism-worker group, and 14 people from Urbanization-actor group in Purwodadi village. In addition, other data were also obtained from informants or key persons. They are the Head of Tepus Subdistrict, the Chief of Purwodadi Public Welfare, the Chairman of Fishermen group, and the Chairman of Tourism-worker group and the 5 Head of Sub-villages from 3 coastal villages in Tepus; Tepus, Sidoharjo and Purwodadi.

### **3.3. Data Collection and Data Analysis Technique**

Data were collected by observation, interviews, questionnaires and literature study on urbanization and youth empowerment in maritime sector. The researcher has observed the youth in the fishermen group and tourist-worker groups. The interviews were conducted with several informants; the Chairman Fishermen Group, the Chairman of Tourism-worker Group, the Head of Public Welfare Affair of Purwodadi and the Head of Tepus Subdistrict. Document and literature review were conducted to collect data based on literature, documents or books related to the topic.

Descriptive qualitative data analysis technique was used in this study. The technique was done by describing the role of youth through marine sector in controlling urbanization. The steps on analyzing the data are; (1) Data Reduction which includes summarizing, selecting basic information, focusing on the important information, and discarding unnecessary information, (2) Data Presentation which includes presentating data in short description, chart, the relationships between categories and etc., and (3) Data Verification whict has function to confirm the early and final conclusions.



## CHAPTER IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Description of Tepus Subdistrict

Tepus subdistrict is located in the south-eastern part of Gunungkidul Regency, Yogyakarta Special Region. It is about 17 kms from Wonosari City and 57 kms from Yogyakarta, the capital city of the province. The area of this district covers 104.91 km<sup>2</sup> or 7.06% of the total area of Gunungkidul. Tepus subdistrict consists of 5 villages, 83 sub-villages and 366 Neighborhood. Based on the geographical facts, this district is classified as karst zone where the water is permeable and absorbed directly down the soil or do not settle on the surface, it resulted that this area has always suffered of drought every year. In addition, based on the geographical location and slope of the land, all of Tepus Subdistrict area categorized as slope with steep and ramp level. The facts about the area, mentioned above, has given impact on the agricultural sector where the sector is unable to give a good crop to the farmer, the occupation which mostly done by Tepus' people.

On the other hand, there are 3 coastal villages in this district. Coastal village is a village which directly face the sea so that it has beaches on its area. The coastal villages in Tepus are Sidoharjo, Tepus and Purwodadi. The total area of the coastal villages reached 6659.25 ha or 63.47 % of the total area of Tepus. The villages have great potential of marine resources especially in fisheries, other marine products and also natural resources as tourist destination. Data 2012 states that in this district there are 13 tourism objects which consists of 6 famous beaches, 5 caves and 1 historical tourism object (Tepus Subdistrict in Figures 2013: 68).

The population of Tepus Subdistrict in 2012 is 38.488 inhabitants. They are 18.755 men and 19.733 women. The population density in the district is very rare or underpopulated compare to its area. It is only 305 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, very small compared to the average population density of Gunungkidul with 458 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. Based on welfare aspect, more than half of the population is categorized as poor. The number of poor families in Tepus reaches 7.016 Head

Family. In percentages, it is around 61.4% of the total number of families in the subdistrict (Tepus Subdistrict in Figures 2013).

Based on the natural resources, Tepus Subdistrict does not have good natural resources for the development of agricultural sector. However, this district has big potential on their natural resources in maritime sector, especially in tourism sector where it provides good prospect in economy for the residents. Referring to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of visitors or tourists who visit to Tepus in 2011 were 102.429 visitors. The number increased more than 150% in 2012 (256.580 visitors). It seemed that the number of tourists have increased every year. The more tourists visiting Tepus Subdistrict, the more income gotten by the local government.

There are 3 toll or retribution booths where visitors should pay tax for government to enter the tourist objects in Tepus. They are Pulegundes, Siung and Tepus booths. Based on BPS data, in 2011 the booths could give Rp. 291,2 million and it had increased 4 times (450%) in 2012 to Rp. 1.606,3 million. In addition, it can be concluded that if the number of tax or retribution increased so the other sectors such as restaurants, hotels, souvenir shops, and parking rents also increased. The district also has a high potency in terms of fisheries and marine products, for example, the production of fish in Tepus is the biggest in Gunungkidul i.e. 2,765 kg in 2011. The other marine products in Tepus is also the highest one, for example the seaweed production in 2012 reached 227.665 kg. It is 30% of the total production of seaweed in Gunungkidul.

#### **4.2 Youth Urbanization and The Profil of Youth Who Work in Maritime Sector**

The government of Tepus Subdistrict does not have detailed report about number of youth and youth urban. Therefore, the researcher gave questionnaires to Head of Sub-villages in Tepus by using *purposive technique sampling* where he took 5 samples randomly from 3 coastal villages. The conclusions then were drawn based on their answers. They are; (1) the number of youth in Tepus is about 5.312 youths with an average of 64 youth per village, (2) the youth urbanization rate in Tepus is 43,56% or 43 from 100 people, and (3) Yogyakarta and Jakarta are the main destination for youth urbanization youth. The jobs of

them are categorized as lower-middle type of work such as shop assistant, counter assistant, sales, and so on. Based on the results of the questionnaire to the urbanization actors, the main reason for doing urbanization is the lack of employment in the village.

The profile of youth who work in marine sector includes the number of youth, age, sex, education, jobs, and the duration or how long they have worked in marine sector. The data here were concluded from the 30 respondents from fishery group and 30 respondents tourism-worker group, 30 respondents.

1. Number of youths who worked in marine sector is about 70 youths. This data is not valid since most of youth do not come to the sea everyday.
2. The average age of youth who work in the maritime sector is 28.1 years.
- 3 Most of boys work in maritime sector as fishermen (fishing group respondents) while the girls work there in tourism sector.
4. Education Level, according to youth education level, the youths who work in sea as fishermen group are mostly in the level of basic (elementary school) and those who work in the tourism-worker group are mostly in the level intermediate (junior high school).
5. The job type of the youths are divided into 2 (two); as fishermen and as tourism workers.
6. On average, the youth have been working in marine sector for more than 2 years.

There are 3 (three) obstacles faced in empowering youths in maritime sector; geography and natural environment, human resources and infrastructure issues.

1. Geographical and natural environment. The natural environment of beaches in Tepus less supports the development of maritime sector due to its dangerous cliffs, sharp rocks, big waves and sometimes extreme weather. The condition leads youths to think twice to work as fisherman.
2. Human Resources. The low quality of the youth resources in Tepus becomes one of the obstacles. Their lack of skills and knowledge as well as the information about how to work in marine sector make them feel reluctant to be active in this sector. Meanwhile, for youth who are already working in the

maritime sector, the lack of skills and knowledge lead them to be passive and do not have initiation to be more creative and create innovations on their jobs.

3. Facilities and Infrastructures. This obstacle occurs because of expensive price of the equipments used by the fishermen. They can not make the equipments such iron, special shoes, boat, strings, and nets by themselves. The lack of facilities and infrastructure in the beaches also gives impact on the numbers of tourists that they visit the beaches during holidays or weekend only.

#### **4.3 The Role of Youth in Maritime Sector Empowerment as An Effort in Controlling Urbanization Rate**

Role is a set of behavior expected by others to suit one's position in the system. Youth empowerment in maritime sector is really help and support to control urbanization rate especially youth urban. It is based on (1) the number and reason of those who do urbanization where their main reason is the lack of job opportunity in rural (village), (2) the number and the reason of youth who work in marine sector, (3) the average income of youth urban and youth who work in maritime sector is not much different, (4) the interview of village and subdistrict government which stating that youth empowerment in maritime sector plays an important role in controlling urbanization, (5) the interview of The Chairman of Fishermen Group and The Chairman of Tourism Workers Group that they support youth empowerment to work in marine sector, and (6) the questionnaire of The Head of Sub-village.

Fishermen who live in Tepus is divided into two (2) categories; sea fishermen and inland fisherman. Sea fishermen are those who work or do their activities by going out to sea by boat or ship. Inland fishermen are those who look for sea food or resources but do not go out to sea by boat. The number of inland fishermen is much more than those sea fishermen due to their variety activities where the inland fishermen's activities are fishing, netting, seaweed seeking, *nyuluh* (fishing at night) and so on. In general, most fishermen in Tepus Subdistrict is traditional fishermen where they do the fishing activities still with old ways not the modern one.

An interesting fact found on the field is that while they are called as fishermen but the job is not their main and single job or main source for their financial income because usually most of them also do farming activities such as going to the fields, growing rice and other crops and keeping livestocks such as goats and cows.

#### **4.4 Factors Affecting the Role of Youth Empowerment in Marine Sector**

Based on the results of questionnaires and interviews as well as the results of field observations, there are several factors affecting the youth empowerment in marine sector. They are job opportunity and income, family, education, and government factors. Youths are interested in working as fishermen and tourism worker because they find out that the job may help them in their financial problem by giving income. Their family also supports them to stay in the village and the youths also said that psychological feeling with their family also becomes a reason for them to stay and work in marine sectors. Education is also one of the factors where lacking of education's level lead them to be not confident to work in city. They think that working in city needs high education as the requirement. Government also plays an important role to the empowerment by providing facilities and holding workshops or short training to them.

#### **4.5 The Implication of Youth Empowerment in Maritime Sector towards Regional Economic Resilience**

As it has discussed above that more than half the population of Tepus Subdistrict is categorized poor, the Gross Domestic Product per capita and the rate of economic growth of this area are also very low, it indicates that Tepus does not have a strong regional economic resilience. However, based on the observation, interview, questionnaires and literature review, this subdistrict actually has a huge potency of marine resources. It can help the people to improve their life as well as increasing their income.

The empowerment of youth in the maritime sector have been proven that it can strengthen the economic resilience of Tepus subdistrict. As the example,

according to data in 2012, the income of Tepus residents in average is IDR 347.408 per month, then the income of youth who work in both the maritime sector as fisherman and tourism worker is higher than that, IDR 481.700 for fisherman and IDR 480.000 for tourism worker. Moreover, beside having income from their job, they also still have time to do farming and keeping the livestocks.

## CHAPTER V. CONCLUSION

In accordance to the results of observation and data analysis, it can be summed up that:

1. The role of youth through youth empowerment in maritime sector as an effort in controlling urbanization rate is very big and important. The high rate of urbanization in Tepus can be suppressed or controlled by empowering the youth in maritime sector. The involvement of youth to work in the marine sector can be done by the availability of job opportunity.
2. The youth empowerment in maritime sector supports the regional economic resilience in Tepus. It is strengthening the regional economic resilience by giving job opportunity so the youth can work there as fishermen or tourism workers.

The advice or recommendation is then given to the stakeholders involved in this study including government, youth or communitis, and other researchers.

1. Geographical and natural environment factors should not only be seen as an obstacle but also should be seen as potency. All stakeholders should take part in managing and utilizing the potential resources, for example, by preparing good plans for developing and promotiing the tourism objects.
2. The lack of human resource quality can be overcome through education, especially by outreach programs, training, or special scholarships. Nevertheless, the processes should not forget the mental education where strengthening moral values is also important for people in Tepus to anticipate the negative impacts of modernizations

## REFERENCES

- Anonymous. "Urbanisasi Berdampak Positif dan Negatif," *Jurnal Gemari*, Edisi 79/Tahun VIII/Agustus 2007, hal.36.
- Badan Pusat Statistik, 2012, *Gunungkidul Dalam Angka 2012*, Gunungkidul: BPS
- Badan Pusat Statistik, 2013, *Gunungkidul Dalam Angka 2013*, Gunungkidul: BPS
- Haryono, Tri Joko S., "Dampak Urbanisasi terhadap Masyarakat di Daerah Asal", *Jurnal Masyarakat, Kebudayaan dan Politik*, Th XII, No 4. Oktober 1999, 67-78.
- Lemhanas, 1995, *Kondisi Ketahanan Nasional yang Diperkirakan sebagai Prakkondisi dalam Rangka Mengamankan dan Menyukkseskan Tahap Tinggal Landas*, Jakarta: PT. Aries Lima.
- Siagian, James Erik, 2005, "Analisis Dampak Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Melalui Program Pengembangan Kecamatan Terhadap Pengentasan Kemiskinan di Kabupaten Deli Serdang," *Tesis*: Universitas Sumatera Utara.
- Suyatno, 2011, "Optimalisasi Peran Kodim dalam Pembinaan Pemuda Parta dalam Rangka Penyiapan Sumber Daya Pertahanan Negara: Studi Kasus di Kodim 0503/713 Wilayah Jakarta Barat." *Tesis*: Universitas Gadjah Mada
- Widiyanto, Banu R.S., 2013, "Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Dalam Pemanfaatan Sumber Daya Laut Sebagai Upaya Mendukung Ketahanan ekonomi Keluarga (studi Di Kecamatan Tanjungsari Kabupaten Gunungkidul)", *Tesis*: Universitas Gadjah Mada.
- Undang-Undang Nomor 17 Tahun 2007 tentang RencanaPembangunan Jangka Panjang Nasional 2005 – 2025