SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN LAKE POLICY PROCESS: THE CASE OF RAWA PENING LAKE PROGRAM IN INDONESIA

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1. INTRODUCTION

In many developing countries, lake resources as the common pool are facing the exclusion and substractability problems. Anthropogenic disturbances aggravated by the lack of law enforcement have caused severe deterioration of lake ecosystems. Indonesia is globally recognized as largest archipelagic country and consists of approximately 840 major lakes and 735 small lakes scatter in each main island. However, many lakes are facing depletion due to unbalanced multi-sectoral utilization. Lake basin management policy under decentralized political regime has been proposed to solve severe lake deterioration problems. The policy, GERMADAN (The Indonesian movement for lakes ecosystem conservation and rehabilitation) was launched in 2009 and first applied in Rawa Pening Lake. Public participation came to be emphasized as an essential element of policy processes. Many social-science studies dealing with lake management have been conducted in other countries, while few studies have been made in Indonesia. This research aims to investigate the following research question: "what are socio-economic factors lying behind local people's participation in lake basin management programs".

2. METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted in Rawa Pening Lake in Central Java, Indonesia. In-depth interview and questionnaire survey were conducted to collect socio-economic information of 220 people in the selected nine villages nearby Rawa Pening lakeshore. A quantitative descriptive approach was used to measure the significance level of socio-economic factors of public participation. Using econometrics tools, the research analyzed cross section data within a logit regression model and statistical analysis. The dichotomous outcome was represented through the binary choice model.

3. RESULT OF ANALYSIS

The statistical analysis reveals that the likelihood of participation is greater to those who expect to gain economic and social benefits by participating in projects and those who have better access to information and projects. The result reports that two of the three economic variables–land ownership and the area of owned land– are highly statistically significant and associated with the likelihood of participation. This research finds a negative correlation between the area of owned land and participation. Three of the social variables–organization membership, occupation, and family size–are statistically significant. Occupation shows a negative relationship with the likelihood of participation. CPR benefits variable reports a statistically significant positive attitude towards participation. All three of the access variables–information distribution, incentive provision, and policy effectivity– are statistically significant and positively correlated to the participation. These findings are mostly consistent with previous literature which suggest socio-economics factors affected people motivation to participate in programs.

4. CONCLUSION

This study supports the promotion of sustainable lake basin management programs and suggests the involvement of informal institutional arrangement in the policy process. This policy implication might help to increase the likelihood of participation in lake management program through promoting awareness, increasing coordination, assessing incentive, and creating a mechanism that positively supports social and economic aspects.