

Conference

Empowerment Program for a Poor Elderly Group in Boyolali, Indonesia

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Abstract. This study aimed to strengthen the participation of a poor elderly group in a community-based empowerment program at the PKH Elderly Garden located in Andong District, Boyolali Regency, Indonesia. Old age is the final stage of the human development cycle and is a natural and unavoidable process. Psychological, physical, social, and economic changes are experienced by the elderly. So far, there have not been many similar studies focusing on strengthening the participation of the elderly in the context of social change in development. Qualitative methods were used with a case study approach. The results demonstrated that social engagement was the most important social capital for optimizing roles, building trust, respecting differences, providing tolerance, and increasing self-confidence in empowering the elderly group. Participation of the elderly in the program could have a positive impact on their psychological, physical and socio-economic characteristics, through good communication, socialization, mobilization, and personal contribution. In addition, social assistants had an important role as enablers, facilitators, dynamists, mediators, and motivators.

Keywords: elderly group, social engagement, community empowerment

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1. Introduction

The main principle in carrying out development is through community participation as an irreplaceable subject (1). This is a step to provide space for the community to be able to contribute to determining their destiny. Hence by involving community participation by paying attention to social values, situations, and local environmental conditions, various program designs designed can answer the needs, are right on target, and can be directly used by the community itself (2). A kind of community participation is to pay attention to the elderly group. According to Law Number 13 of 1998 concerning the Welfare of the Elderly, the Elderly is someone who has reached the age of 60 (sixty) years and over. Based on the proportion of the elderly population in Indonesia based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) as of December 2020, it was 26.82 million or 9.92% of the total population in Indonesia. With a composition of 52.95% of

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the elderly living in urban areas and 47.05% of the elderly living in rural areas. Currently, Indonesia's population structure is in the "aging population" marked by the percentage of the population that is expected to continue to increase, in 2020 there was an increase of more than 10% (3). "Aging population" is one of the main issues in public policy related to the development of supportive programs for the elderly (4). According to Hurlock, the elderly is someone who is in a period of physical, psychological, and social setbacks wherein these conditions will cause various psychosocial problems and changes in self-concept (5), as the final stage of development in the flow of human life as a natural process that cannot be avoided by every individual (6). They are part of society that must be protected. The needs and preferences of the elderly have a different life than when they were adults, including aspects of economic, social, and health support, so the participation of the elderly is needed to design the programs they need(7,8).

Through regulations in the form of Law Number 13 of 1998 concerning Elderly Welfare, the Indonesian government has specifically sought to guarantee the rights of the elderly to improve social welfare which includes religious and mental-spiritual services, health services, employment opportunities services, education, and training services, ease of use of facilities, public facilities and infrastructure, convenience in legal services and assistance, social protection, and social assistance (3). One form of social protection provided to the elderly is through social assistance from the Family Hope Program or Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH). PKH is a program of providing conditional social assistance to poor families or Keluarga Miskin (KM) who are designated as beneficiary families (KPM) of PKH. This program is internationally known as Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT). As a conditional social assistance program, PKH opens access for poor families, especially pregnant women and children to take advantage of various health facilities and educational service facilities. PKH also targets people with disabilities and the elderly to maintain their level of social welfare following the mandate of the constitution and the Nawacita of the President of the Republic of Indonesia (9).

In addition to receiving benefits in the form of cash assistance, PKH elderly group has a companion whose role is to improve the social and economic functioning of the elderly. With PKH assistance, the elderly can build a Joint Business Group (KUBE) to be more productive. At the age that is not included in the productive age of work, they are given facilities to develop themselves both socially and economically. Participation is seriously needed to achieve better quality. The elderly participation through empowerment techniques makes them more powerful, connecting, helping, and supporting among others. Through empowerment, they can improve their self-concept, realize their values, and can further increase their potential so they can enjoy a better quality of life.

According to Gibson, empowerment is a concept that describes social processes. The form of acceptance, interest, promotion, development, and improvement of one's ability to answer questions that they have and solve problems they have (10).

The issue of the elderly is an engrossing issue. The elderly group is one of the groups who have privileges in society, both because of their physical and psychological conditions that are starting to decline. The increase in the number of elderly is followed by a decrease in the death rate or the longer human life. Therefore, it is necessary to have health insurance and adequate health facilities for them. It is necessary to have a supportive and friendly environment for them so that they can move well (7). On the one hand, the increase in the elderly population in Indonesia will have a social and economic impact on individuals, families, and the social environment (3). One of the challenges faced is financial stability where not all elderly have old-age insurance or prepare financially for life when they become elderly. Hence the mentoring program from the government is one form of solution to the problems experienced by the elderly.

The notion of "participation" is an idea that arises from local communities who are empowered to participate in decision-making in their area related to how the fate of their environment will be in the future (11–13) interact with each other for sustainable development (14). However, the community participation approach as a bottom-up process seems to be only successful in certain cases (15). The development paradigm shift has placed humans and society apart from being central but also as subjects of development (2). This means that the presence of human resources will make a major contribution to the sustainability of the program (16). The previous research that has been explored uses the concept of community group participation such as in advocating policy issues (17), rural primary health care system programs (18), malaria control (19,20), disaster preparedness (21), sustainable tourism development (22), youth civic engagement (23), vegetable traceability systems (24). Based on this, participation is a key to the success of the program, where voices belonging to minorities or lower classes can be accommodated to participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs. In other words, community participation with a bottom-up model in certain cases can be successful and follow program objectives. Therefore, for the success of the empowerment program, it is necessary to strengthen group participation. Especially for the elderly group as part of a community group that has its character.

One of the things that need to be considered in carrying out empowerment programs is project workers who act as internal stakeholders in community development (25). Everything can move if someone moves it. The empowerment program is not a spontaneous process, it is planned, a systemic process, and can be formed with

various learning processes that are imbued with the spirit of social relations (social engagement). According to Bassuk, Glass & Berkman (1991), social engagement is a form of maintaining social relations in the form of individual social interactions through facilitated social activities (26). The results of the research showed that what is done in a company, that social engagement as a strength possessed by individuals who act as an internal stakeholders in the company can create social capital, provide social resources, loyalty, and trust that will have implications for future development (27), using a social engagement approach to overcome various mental health problems in the community (28), the negative stigma for PLWHA that develops in the community can be controlled through a social engagement approach by increasing HIV care and prevention (29), early depression associated with peptic ulcer disease in the elderly can be reduced by increasing social engagement in social activities (30), social engagement contributes to cognitive changes in disease-prone groups in the elderly who suffer from Alzheimer's (31), the social engagement approach can describe the problem of limited energy access in Spain by providing a basic understanding, socialization aimed at leading to institutional responses and policy making, as well as a deeper understanding related to the confrontation of unequal access issues. to energy resources (32), social engagement approaches can be found through participation in income-generating activities, community activities, and care work (33). Based on this, the social engagement approach can be a solution for solving problems that arise and develop in society. So that it can be said, this social engagement approach can be the forerunner to the formation of social networks, trust, and perceptions of social support which will become the basis for strengthening the participation of the elderly group in empowerment programs. Therefore, the social engagement approach is the right approach to be applied to strengthen the participation of the elderly in empowerment programs.

The research on elderly issues related to efforts to strengthen elderly participation through a social engagement approach in the context of social change in development has not been widely found. The problems that are often faced by the elderly today are not only caused by physical, psychological, social, and economic changes, but also because of how they gain access to social and economic facilities as well as in filling their spare time. In this research, the author will focus on identifying how to strengthen elderly participation by paying attention to social engagement factors as the key to success in empowerment programs through PKH assistance. The purpose of this study is to explore the extent to which strategies for strengthening the participation of the elderly have

been carried out in dealing with various problems of the elderly through a community-based empowerment program at the "PKH Elderly Garden (Program Keluarga Harapan)" in one of the villages in Indonesia.

2. Methods

This paper uses a qualitative research method with a case study approach. This research is located in "PKH Elderly Garden" Gondang Rawe Village, Andong District, Boyolali Regency, Indonesia. It was performed out during the Covid-19 pandemic and there was a policy for the Enforcement of Community Activity Restrictions or Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat (PPKM). Case studies are naturalistic or natural. Case study research is a research design that is comprehensive, intense, detailed, and in-depth and is more directed as an effort to examine contemporary problems or phenomena (34). Data collection was obtained from primary and secondary data sources. Primary data was done by conducting interviews and observations. Researchers were trying to explore how the involvement of social assistants can be a facilitator for the elderly group who actively participates in the empowerment program for the elderly who receive benefits or social assistance from PKH, and several representatives of the Beneficiaries. In addition, researchers are trying to explore the supporting role of local stakeholders with this program. While secondary data was obtained through reviewing audio-visual documentation, social media, documents, news sites, and related articles using the keywords "elderly empowerment", "participation", "social engagement", etc. Further, the data was analyzed using the theory of community development, community participation, and social engagement. Case studies require bounds to dig deeper into research. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the events that are the center of attention and describe as it is how the participation of the elderly in participating in empowerment activities at the "PKH Elderly Gardens" is.

This study uses an interactive data analysis technique from Miles & Huberman, where researchers can describe valid and reliable meanings from the data described. Stages of data analysis through data condensation data, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification (35). First, data condensation. The data was obtained by researchers in the field through interviews, observation, and documentation will be reduced by sorting, categorizing, and making abstractions from field notes, interviews, and documentation. Second, The data display, data presentation was done after the data has been reduced. The data from observations, interviews, and documentation were made into a record and then organized. Further, the data were coded according to the guidelines that

have been made previously. The notes were analyzed and presented in text form. Third, conclusion drawing/verification. Based on the data that has been reduced and presented, the researcher concludes an answer to the problem formulation that has been revealed from the start.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. PKH Elderly Garden as Empowerment Program

The Family Hope Program (PKH) is a conditional social assistance program. This program aims to improve the Beneficiary Group standard of living through access to education, health, and social welfare services; reduce the burden of expenditure and increase the income of poor and vulnerable families; create changes in the behavior and independence of Beneficiaries in accessing health and education services as well as social welfare; reducing poverty and inequality, and introduce the benefits of formal financial products and services to the Beneficiaries. PKH Beneficiaries can be divided into three components, the first is the health component, which consists of pregnant/postpartum/breastfeeding mothers and early childhood aged 0-6 years who were not in school. The two components of education are intended for school-age children aged 6-21 years who have not completed compulsory education. Third, the social welfare component consists of the elderly and people with severe disabilities. This program is structured from the central government to the village level. One of the rights of the Elderly PKH Beneficiaries is to receive social assistance and the obligations of the elderly to participate in activities in the social welfare sector as needed, which are carried out at least once a year (36).

The case study of this research is researchers focused on social assistance activities from PKH for elderly beneficiaries in Gondang Rawe Village, Andong District, Boyolali Regency, Indonesia. There are 157 beneficiaries in this village, including 25 elderly beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are elderly who are more than 70 years old. One village is assisted by one PKH facilitator. Every month, Beneficiaries participate in Family Improvement Capacity Meeting or Pertemuan Peningkatan Kemampuan Keluarga (P2K2) activities with PKH facilitators. The purpose of this meeting is to increase knowledge and understanding of the importance of childcare and education, health, financial management, child protection, and social welfare in the family sphere to encourage behavior change. This meeting activity is mandatory, if the Beneficiary is unable to participate in the activity four consecutive times, the distribution of social

assistance will be postponed. Therefore, if you are unable to attend the meeting, other members of the Beneficiary's family will be represented. Besides the elderly Beneficiaries, the elderly Beneficiaries have their equity inclusiveness by concentrating on the aspect of the elderly's empowerment to participate in these activities, for the elderly who are still productive and in good physical condition are allowed to participate in the meeting, and the elderly with unhealthy physical conditions are not allowed to participate

The PKH Elderly Garden has a vision of "Efficient PKH Elderly", this program is initiated by Elderly Beneficiaries and PKH Facilitators in regular monthly meetings. Starting from 2019 by using land owned by the elderly, then in 2021, the Gondang Rawe Village Government provided an empty land of 1500 m² beside the village government office to be managed by the PKH Elderly Garden. This garden is planted with various kinds of plants namely chili, eggplant, squash, cucumber, bitter melon, kale, shallots, long beans, and other secondary crops. The results of this garden harvest are intended to meet the needs of the Beneficiaries, especially the elderly. Hence during this pandemic, the household spending for daily shopping can be reduced, because the consumption needs of harvest produce can help. In addition to being able to meet daily needs, PKH Elderly Gardens can have a positive impact on elderly beneficiaries in reducing the risk of senile dementia. Being active in the PKH Elderly Garden implies interacting with other Elderly Beneficiaries, so they feel happier and the mind feels fresher. Elderly activities in agriculture have been revealed to improve the elderly quality of life and better health behavior (10); improve the level of stress experienced by the elderly and physical functional abilities in the elderly (37); often meeting with fellow elderly is also proven to be able to motivate each other in implementing a healthier lifestyle (38). Activities in this garden have revealed the results of empowerment for the elderly both physically, economically, socially, and psychologically. Elderly participants who took part in this activity felt happier, not only depending on their family for happiness by having their community.

3.2. Social Engagement

The social engagement approach is the main key to encouraging various empowerment efforts for the elderly (33), and social roles have a positive influence on the welfare and health of the elderly (39), this is supported by the existence of the elderly community, which is a place for the elderly to support each other and play an active role in various activities with an age range that is not much different (40). In the family can also arise

the problem of differences or gaps between generations. This gap occurs because of differences in the values held. New values that are difficult for the elderly to follow lead to different perceptions and behavior patterns of the elderly who are considered old-fashioned (41). These conditions lead to the emergence of social status problems in the elderly. This will continue when the elderly begin to realize the decline in social functions they have because of barriers to physical and psychological functions. As an older person, a younger person often asks an older person for advice or guidance about life. Despite a declining physical condition and vulnerability. The people around him no longer ask for advice and opinions from the elderly. To deal with this situation, the elderly must think positively that life is not static and is constantly changing. The changes in the social functions of the elderly will move to other people and conditions that usually occur. Social support from the surrounding environment is needed for the elderly to get through this condition.

Following activity theory which states that social involvement is substantial for positive adjustment in old age, people who continue to engage in social activities tend to maintain a positive attitude and remain in good psychological condition and general health (30). In PKH Elderly Gardens activities, the form of social engagement can be seen based on communication, socialization, mobilization, and personal contributions (27,32). Communication acts as the basis for planning to determine activities. This good communication can be seen from the continuity of actors in processing various programs that will be performed out, namely between the elderly group, project workers, and external stakeholders. An Elderly group is an elderly group of PKH Beneficiaries, PKH facilitators as project workers, and the local village government as external stakeholders. The form of communication between actors in the PKH Elderly Garden activities is performed out using 3 media, namely, online media, meetings once a month and “*getok tular*” (spreading information by word of mouth). Online media that is performed out using WhatsApp groups was considered quite effective for a response in giving and receiving information. This applies to Beneficiaries who have media to access, but for the elderly who do not use the device, the “*getok tular*” method is considered an effective way. This is done by providing continuous information from house to house. As people who live in rural areas, this is appropriate to use because it still respects etiquette, culture, and ethics between older people and younger people. In this way, the elderly feels more valued and respected as elders and have more experience of their life journey. This monthly routine meeting is usually called the Family Capacity Building Meeting (P2K2), this meeting is designed to accelerate changes in the behavior of the beneficiary’s independence in accessing health, education, and social welfare services.

Participants of this meeting are generally women and are mandatory, if unable to be represented by other family members. This is done in an effort to fulfill the commitment of PKH Beneficiaries. This socialization is very necessary and becomes a necessity for various public issues. In addition, the exchange of information can run well between the elder group, project workers, and external stakeholders. For the elderly, this meeting is an important activity as recipients of social assistance. The existence of various forms of socialization and education can affect their cognitive condition, they feel more confident, enthusiastic, have many friends and become closer, and fill the void in their spare time. This meeting is accessible to channel their potential in old age. Through PKH facilitators, at each of these meetings, the elderly is invited to participate in planning and evaluating programs that suit their needs and the benefits they can experience for themselves. Personal contribution is the key to the sustainability of social relations between actors. The meeting gives the initiative for the elderly.

Project workers have an important role in maintaining the relationship between various actors and the success factor of the program to be performed out. Like facilitators, project workers can truly understand what the elderly group and external stakeholders want. It is based on how to communicate, build social relationships, and always be present in every activity. Some of the activities performed aim to animate this social work. As a facilitator, the project worker believes that every change is basically due to the intentions of the project worker, the efforts of the client himself, and the role of the facilitator is to facilitate or enable the client can make changes that have been determined and agreed upon. The project worker identifies the membership or who will be involved in the implementation of the activity. Hence a sub-project worker is formed from within the community as the executor of the activity program. To build reliable sub-project workers, project workers create communication patterns, maintain relationships, facilitate engagement, build knowledge and skills, and encourage collective activities.

Social support for the elderly is in the form of support obtained from social intimacy in the form of providing information, verbal advice, non-verbal assistance, real or not, actions that are useful and have an effect on the positive behavior (42). This increased sense of self-acceptance can be seen by how the elderly can actively participate in empowerment activities with enthusiastic and high spirits. The self-confidence that they once had when they were younger reappeared and their potential was well applied. This is because they get good and pleasant treatment. Anxiety that begins to appear in their daily lives, such as feelings of loneliness, feelings of worthlessness, often increased emotions and a sense of inability to adjust to the development of the elderly can be overcome with a social engagement approach built by project workers through PKH

elderly garden activities. The intensity of mentoring the elderly has a very important role to improve the social functioning of the elderly (41). Hence the elderly in living the rest of their life journey can achieve physical and spiritual well-being, in other words, the elderly can carry out their social functions well and can improve their quality of life.

3.3. Stakeholder Analysis

This stakeholder analysis is used to see the actors who are responsible and have a direct relationship in the program implementation. In PKH elderly garden activities, there are external stakeholders and internal stakeholders. This external stakeholder is in the form of the Gondang Rawe village government and consists of the elderly group as the target group and project workers as facilitators or social assistants for activities that encourage the formation of sub-project workers as technical implementers and support activities. The participation of these stakeholders is the most important element for organizing PKH elderly gardens as community empowerment for the elderly. The way of communication and approach to invite and involve the elderly has its privileges. Conditions like this are truly considered by social assistants to encourage them to continue contributing by activities. Social assistants do not only accompany one village and partner with the Gondang Rawe Village Government, but they will also cover all villages in Andong District, Boyolali Regency. Therefore, social assistants form peer groups called sub-project workers to carry out PKH elderly garden activities. Through this peer group, continuity between stakeholders can run well. This peer group consists of representatives of 9 PKH Beneficiaries, generally, they are mothers who are still young and have the spirit to be empowered. The closeness of communication, the intensity of the meetings, and the emotional relationships that exist encourage members of this peer group to voluntarily help and coordinate the elderly community to take an active role in organizing PKH elderly garden activities. Residences that are close to each other facilitate coordination among members of this peer group. Thus, participation between these stakeholders can mobilize the elements needed for a systematic form of participation, maintain the flow of information between all actors involved, and in the end, can activate space and transformation for individuals to be timelier and on target.

Strengthening participation is performed out through aspects of political efficacy, motivation, and institutions (13,16). Political efficacy can be seen from two dimensions, both internally and externally. Internally, this can be seen from the confidence of the stakeholders that they can understand why they should take action in this activity. One of the high motivations is to remove the negative stigma that develops in the

community that the elderly group is disturbing, and cannot be helpless. Hence this activity them feel more enlightened and have a clear direction. There is no commitment of project workers in carrying out this activity but to make the elderly group happier as their belief is the most important factor in maintaining this commitment. Such as “working with all my heart”, “working is worship”, “positioning yourself like them”, “the elderly is our picture in the future”, and “glorifying older people”. Externally, this political success occurred with the political actors involved in the support that the Gondang Rawe Village Government had, they felt that public institutions paid attention to their needs, accepted their complaints, and contemplate the alignment to grow and develop in human development. Participation in this strengthening through political success can ultimately increase the trust of stakeholders to achieve the same goal.

Through the institutional aspect, an organizational structure was formed consisting of the chairman, secretary, and treasurer. This is necessary for the regulation of roles, where there are various mutual agreements. The nature of this organization is unwritten, formed by mutual deliberation. Every time they receive PKH assistance for the elderly group, cash for the operational needs of the garden, which is used to buy seeds, fertilizers, and other agricultural equipment. This is done to be more organized and monitored. From the simple things they do, they can become a place to take care of each other. Like telling each other and visiting each other when sick. Through the formed organization, it has encouraged strong chemistry between one elderly and another. Mediator gets to know each other, and they feel that they are in this community happier and happier because meeting friends who have relatively the same physical and psychological conditions make them can re-confident with various existing limitations. Thus, this participation can be performed out if project workers can understand what the needs of the elderly are. Build emotional, relational, and social interactions with more qualities. This will be positively correlated with the continuity and achievement of the empowerment program in the PKH elderly garden.

3.4. Community Empowerment

Community empowerment is one of the core parts of community development. Community empowerment is reflected in the characteristics of community empowerment that are confident, inclusive, organized, cooperative, and fluent. In addition, there is a more concise definition, namely the shift of power, in influence and responsibility from the center of power holders to the hands of the community and citizens (43). The empowerment factor can be known to work well if it does not only provide changes in the

economic, social, psychological, and political aspects. However, it also pays attention to aspects of ecology and rural community development (43,44). Through the PKH elderly garden, project workers and elderly groups utilize an area of 1500 m² which is next to the Gondang Rawe Village Government office and amid community settlements. Considering environmental conditions, the land in this area is appropriate for planting various vegetables. It has a tropical climate. In addition, the flow of water is easily obtained from the rice fields. There is no need for additional facilities and infrastructure because all of them are well available and by utilizing vacant land owned by the village government. The livelihoods of the residents around the majority are farmers. Hence ecologically the use of gardens as a medium of empowerment is appropriate. The target is right, the elderly group is over 70 years old, they are the elderly group who have reduced their daily farming activities habits. With this empowerment, they feel they have routine activities again. Economically, the harvest from this garden can meet the needs of the elderly group. No need to buy vegetables anymore but you can cook every day from this garden activity. In addition, sometimes the produce from this garden can be sold and the proceeds are used for additional cash income for the organization. Socially, the elderly who are accommodated in this community can meet each other, meet face to face, exchange information, and fill out social activities with another. These activities grow new social networks. Thus, they are psychologically healthier because they have friends who are in the same condition with values and cultures that are not much different. They still believe in their potential and have a sense of self-confidence. By encouraging each other, reminding, chatting, and inviting other positive things, the elderly admit that these activities make the souls and bodies of the elderly better than when they are alone at home.

3.5. Community Development

The PKH elderly garden becomes a mediator for community development, it can be seen how this activity focuses on community empowerment as the most important element for the elderly group. The idea for these activities came from the community and the benefits were felt by them. Community-based activities can transform social transformation (44). Requires "community" as an estuary to the quality of community development which places the importance of a social relationship in the local community, and "development" refers to the direction of society which refers to the direction of community development that has the nature of community movement from a planned and processed society or gradually towards development. The elderly group is one part

of the community group that requires attention. Elderly who are considered weak and helpless, if given space to be empowered, will feel that they still have the potential to carry out social activities and have a significant impact on their old age.

From the observations of this case study, a conceptual model was formed to describe community empowerment in the PKH Elderly Garden as below:

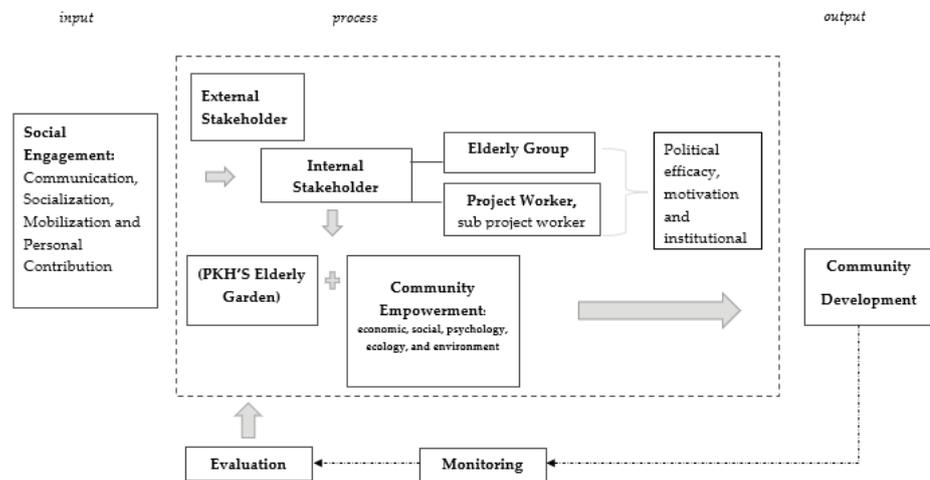


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Elderly Empowerment. (Source: processed by researchers).

4. Conclusion

This study aims to reveal how to strengthen the participation of the elderly in community empowerment programs. The elderly in the community is one of the groups in society that require special attention. The empowerment of the elderly through the PKH elderly garden can form a framework for evaluating empowerment programs that can be applied to other activities. Efforts to build this empowerment program since 2019 and last until 2021 have provided various social changes for the elderly group and the local environment. Intense activities have a lasting effect and can mobilize PKH Beneficiary members to actively participate in the program and provide education to them in developing elderly groups to maintain environmental stability. The interview results show that social engagement is the most important social capital for optimizing roles, building trust, respecting differences, providing tolerance, and increasing self-confidence for various social empowerment actors.

The social engagement approach is the key to the success of the empowerment program for the elderly in the PKH elderly garden. Through communication, socialization, mobilization, and personal contributions that are built between project workers and the elderly group, it has a significant influence on life changes both psychologically,

physically, socially, and economically. The existence of project workers in this elderly empowerment program has a crucial meaning. It can be seen that project workers are dealing and directly involved with the elderly and other beneficiaries in various empowerment programs. Thus, the project workers in the fieldwork have shown that they have worked well and successfully with the elderly group to strengthen the participation of the elderly in the PKH elderly garden. Project workers have performed services as enablers, facilitators, dynamists, mediators, and motivators.

The results of this research can be used by academics in the future, especially those who have an interest in community empowerment research for the elderly group so that they can be used as references and new studies to develop social science.

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