



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITY
PROJECT IN A FILIPINO BARANGAY**

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By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti
Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Doctor of Philosophy**

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This study examined women's participation in the Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) project in a Filipino barangay. Specifically, the study identified the different processes involved in establishing the ARC projects and examined the forms and extent of women's participation in each process. It also analyzed the conditions that influenced their participation, and the benefits that they derived from their involvement in these projects. The policy implications of this study were also discussed.



This study utilized a qualitative-ethnographic approach. Various methods of data collection were used in the study. These included in-depth interviews, focus group discussions (FGD), key-informant interviews, and direct observations method.

The findings of the study revealed that two processes were involved in setting up the ARC projects. The first process was mobilization covering several phases, namely: social preparation, organizational building, capability building, and enterprise development. The second one was operationalization, comprising the planning, implementation and monitoring stages. Various activities were carried out in the mobilization and operationalization processes of the ARC projects.

The results of the study showed that women were involved in many different forms of participation in both processes. However, during the initial phase of mobilization, they played a rather limited role, since they were not involved in decision-making. A higher degree of participation was only noted between the organizational building phase and the capability-building phase during which they began to participate actively in planning and in decision-making. In the operationalization process, the women were given the authority to manage the ARC projects. As a result, they demonstrated a high extent of participation in all the activities, be they at the planning, implementation or monitoring stages.



Women's participation in the ARC projects was associated with several conditions. These were conditions that were associated with the women themselves, conditions that were associated with the projects, conditions that were associated with their leaders, and conditions that were associated with networking. Their participation in the ARC projects provided them with both material and non-material benefits.

The study concluded that the implementation of the ARC projects not only resulted in the creation of income-generating activities in the barangay, but also it facilitated women's participation in development efforts. Despite their limited resources, they showed greater motivation to take part in the projects. They had demonstrated that through a participatory form of development they could, by acting collectively, achieve self-reliance.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PENGLIBATAN WANITA DI DALAM PROJEK KOMUNITI
REFORMASI AGRARIA DI SEBUAH BARANGAY DI FILIPINA**

Oleh

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Kajian ini meneliti penglibatan wanita di dalam projek-projek Komuniti Reformasi Agraria (ARC) di sebuah barangay Filipina. Kajian ini mengenal pasti pelbagai proses yang terlibat di dalam projek-projek ARC, dan menyelidiki bentuk sumbangan wanita di situ serta pembentukan sejauh mana penglibatan mereka di dalam setiap proses. Kajian juga menganalisis keadaan yang mempengaruhi penglibatan wanita tersebut di dalam projek-projek ARC, dan faedah yang mereka perolehi hasil daripada penglibatan mereka. Implikasi polisi kajian ini juga dibincangkan.

Kajian ini telah menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif – etnografik. Pelbagai kaedah pengumpulan data telah digunakan untuk kajian ini, termasuk temubual mendalam, perbincangan secara berkumpulan, temubual informan utama, dan pemerhatian secara langsung.

Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa, pembentukan projek-projek ARC melibatkan dua proses. Proses pertama ialah proses mobilisasi yang merangkumi beberapa fasa, iaitu persediaan sosial, pembangunan organisasi, pembangunan kemampuan, dan pembangunan perusahaan. Proses kedua ialah proses pengoperasian mengandungi tiga peringkat iaitu, perancangan, implimentasi dan peringkat pemantauan. Pelbagai aktiviti telah dijalankan semasa proses mobilisasi dan pengoperasian projek ARC.

Hasil kajian telah menunjukkan bahawa wanita telah melibatkan diri dalam pelbagai bentuk penglibatan di dalam kedua-dua proses. Walau bagaimanapun, semasa peringkat awal mobilisasi, mereka memainkan peranan yang agak terhad, kerana mereka tidak terlibat di dalam membuat keputusan. Darjah penglibatan yang lebih tinggi hanya dapat dilihat antara fasa pembangunan organisasi dan fasa pembangunan kemampuan, dalam mana mereka mula terlibat secara aktif di dalam



merancang dan membuat keputusan. Semasa proses pengoperasian, wanita yang terlibat telah diberi autoriti untuk menguruskan projek-projek ARC. Oleh hal yang demikian, mereka telah menunjukkan tahap penglibatan yang tinggi di dalam semua aktiviti, iaitu aktiviti membuat perancangan, membuat keputusan, dan pemantauan.

Penglibatan di kalangan wanita di dalam projek-projek ARC berkait dengan beberapa situasi iaitu situasi yang berkaitan dengan kaum wanita itu sendiri, situasi yang berkaitan dengan projek, situasi yang berkaitan dengan ketua mereka, dan situasi yang dikaitkan dengan jalinan kerja. Penglibatan mereka di dalam projek ARC telah memberi faedah baik dari segi material dan bukan material.

Kajian ini menyimpulkan bahawa implementasi projek-projek ARC, tidak sahaja telah mewujudkan aktiviti-aktiviti pendapatan, tetapi ia juga telah memberi ruang yang mendatangkan kepada kaum wanita untuk melibatkan diri dalam usaha-usaha pembangunan. Walaupun berhadapan dengan masalah sumber yang terhad, mereka telah menunjukkan motivasi yang tinggi di dalam mengambil bahagian dalam projek-projek yang dijalankan. Mereka telah menunjukkan potensi untuk mengambil tindakan secara kolektif untuk berdikari, melalui pembangunan berturut-serta.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ARC	Agrarian Reform Community
BARC	Barangay Agrarian Reform Council
BC	Barangay Council
CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DA	Department of Agriculture
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DBP	Development Bank of the Philippines
DF	Development Facilitator
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
GAD	Gender and Development
GNP	Gross National Product
LBP	Land Bank of the Philippines
LGU	Local Government Units
MARO	Municipal Agrarian Reform Office
MTPDP	Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGO's	Non-government Organization
PARO	Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
PDPW	Philippine Development Plan for Women



UN United Nation

UNDP United Nation and development Program



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Development in the 1950s and 1960s was seen as an economic phenomenon in which rapid gains in overall and per capita Gross National Product (GNP) growth would “trickle down” to the masses in the form of jobs, new economic opportunities, or better conditions for wider distribution of economic and social benefits of growth. During this period, a large number of Third World nations did achieve the United Nations growth targets. However, the levels of living of the masses remained for the most part unchanged. Todaro (1982) pointed out the experience in the 1950s and 1960s signaled something was wrong with the narrow definition of development. A redefinition of development concept among less-developed countries was then deemed necessary.

It is, therefore, apparent that the focus of development should be the welfare of human beings. Women constitute a significant portion of the human population and their participation in development has been increasingly appreciated. This participation is best captured in



Nelson's (1979) statements:

“Women's participation in development is obviously not a simple one, it relates to a complete range of socio-economic activities. Women are not only users of basic economic services, bearers and socializers of children and keepers of the home, where they are underemployed or inefficient and overworked, they represent a productive potential, which is not being tapped. Women form half of the population and the development of a country cannot be realized if half of the people lagged behind”.

Failure to include women in the development process runs counter to the true meaning of development and invariably hinders the process itself. Development programs which do not take into account the cooperation and participation of women may be slowed down and made less effective than they could have been had the aspects been considered.

The role of women in development has grown in importance and recognition. The various efforts initiated at the international arena since 1975 have become effective channels to popularize the notion of women's participation in the development process, and to increase the awareness on issues related to women in development among developing countries.

The awareness of women in development issues actually began when the United Nation's (UN) General Assembly declared 1975 as the International Women's Year with the theme: equality, development and peace. In line with this declaration, several world conferences on



women were held. The first conference was held in Mexico in 1975, and it was the first global effort to give recognition to women's active participation in development of a nation as well as for family well-being. This was followed by a conference in Copenhagen in 1980 and in Nairobi in 1985. A series of conferences mostly hosted by non-governmental organizations resulted in free-flowing debates on various issues relating to women and led to the formation of networks and organizations advocating issues on women in development. In all the conferences, networking programs for women and the integration of women in development have been consistently recognized.

The integration of women in development has been consistently emphasized in the Philippines. This is illustrated by the formulation of the Medium-term Philippine Development Plan 1993-1998, which also included women in its priorities (Department of Agrarian Reform, 1993).

In the Philippines, there is a shift in viewing development as a mere economic issue taking into account the impact of this change on the social life of the people. Development interventions then should treat women not as mere beneficiaries, but actors of development. In this paradigm shift, women should assume an active role in determining the content and process of development. The Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) envisions that by the end of

