Challenges of Public Participation: A Qualitative Study

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ABSTRACT

The participation plays an important role among other people. When social participation is used today, a public participation will be rapid. The problem has happened when less participation of young people involved on youth associations. The youth has believed that they have still lacked the partcipation has needed for an effective participation and expressed little confidence in their involvement. This paper has analysed the challenges of public participation among youth associations. The methods that used a qualitative study by an interview for five youth associations in Kedah. Drawing on the final findings, two challenges which are: (i) financial and (ii) a less youth participation. Furthermore, the findings are expected to contribute to strengthening the youth associations to achieve good governance in the public participation.

KEYWORDS: Challenges, Youth, Youth Participation, Public Participation, Governance.

INTRODUCTION

Participation refers to the participation of all parties regardless of gender, background and status to speak directly or indirectly. Participation is also seen as the public has the result of responsive efforts by the government to improve the living standards of the people (Popescu 2014; United Nations Economic & Social Commission, 2004). Every individual in society needs to have a desire to get involved and express views either directly or through institutions that represent their interests. However, broad participation will only occur if there is freedom of association and expression. Efforts to uphold good governance should be a priority for all parties to re -empower the delivery system (Aziz, Amir, & Auzair, 2019).

According to the Development Plan Division, the Department of Urban and Rural Development Peninsular Malaysia (2004) states that public participation is the participation of the public in assisting and identifying current and future constraints and opportunities in its area as well as examining and understanding the content of development plans and subsequently submitting appeals, their suggestions or views. Public participation is an important process in planning to ensure that the government's development plan can meet the aspirations and views of the general public. The basis of public participation focus is more on (i) evaluating the specific mechanisms to operate the agencies used to inform and validate decision-making authorities, and (ii) evaluating the influence of decisions in decision-making agencies (Norton, 2007).

The idea of public participation is also more of a democratic system in the planning process with the intention that the planning decisions made can preserve the rights of individuals and the public interest. Martin (2007) states that: (i) public participation is viewed as an important aspect by a democratic government, (ii) public participation is a way of making decisions to improve the environment, and (iii) public participation can foster social legitimacy by building trust or "sense of ownership" in the decision -making process and reduce conflict.

Therefore, when a country practices good governance that is participation in the implementation of its duties and responsibilities, based on the principles of integrity, accountability, and transparency, then this will enable a country to succeed and get high and excellent ratings, especially among youth. A governance will only be said to be good or excellent when it reaches a certain level or standard and rating, which is a measure of performance towards a culture of excellence in the country (Suhaimi, Abıdın, & Yeon). Once an excellent level or a high rating has

been achieved, the effort cannot stop there. In fact, it is important to ensure that the level of excellence is maintained. This means that good governance practices are an ongoing process and must be cultivated to ensure lasting excellence.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public participation is a complex process, but it is important to make the development implemented is to meet the needs and wants of the community (Aiyeola et al., 2014; Bergmuller, 2015). In this research, public participation refers to the process of opinion expression that aims to make the community more involved in voicing views in a more orderly and transparent decision -making process (Dietz & Stern 2008). Public participation is an important element in the planning process, and the planning function is used to analyze community information and values (Suhaimi, Arshad, & Yeon, 2018). This situation proves that the community or the public wants to participate in the process of community participation, community protest, communication and good relations between the authorities/government and the community (Jenkins 1993; Kamarudin, 1993). Due to the lack of public knowledge, the process and quality of public participation is limited (Kamariah, 2003). This is consistent with Jenkins' (1993) argument.

According to Bramwell and Sharman (1999), if society cannot be represented fairly, the effectiveness of community participation is impossible. At the same time, according to Li et al. (2012), the number of youth participation in Malaysia is still at a disappointing level, as Malaysians still lack understanding of the public participation process and still have questions about process control and planning rules. Public participation is also a pillar in implementing good governance (Cuppen et al., 2012; Abelson et al., 2003; O'Faircheallaigh, 2010). Weaknesses in the process of public participation cause democratic processes and decision -making to not be able to run smoothly, fairly and effectively (Marzuki, 2009). Weak or failed community participation factors, such as low credibility and public trust (Woolcock, 1998), low motivational factors (Bierle & Cayford, 2002), and other factors have not been studied and discussed, which exacerbate the situation. In addition to the lack of use of information technology (Fedotova et al., 2012; Ayodele et al., 2015). For example, research on community participation in India (Tosun, 1998) and Turkey (Marzuki, 2015) shows that existing legal structures pose barriers for young people.

Other challenges include lack of capacity, lack of financial resources, lack of information and absence of a positive engagement culture (Musarurwa, 2018; Agbiboa, 2015; Lührmann, 2013;

Qasem, 2013). This statement that government budget allocation for youth programs and initiatives is very inadequate. As a result, the programs only reach or impact a small percentage of the youth population in need and are barely visible to the majority of youth.

In a study conducted by Mohd Uzaini Mohamad Sani and Suhana Saad (2018) expressed those fifty-one individuals (49%) respondents powerfully agree and thirty-seven individuals (35.6%) agree that the dearth of monetary funds to implement programs with state youths could be a major challenge baby-faced. However, this example happens is thanks to establish money procedures. Provisions are created for teenagers, however, have to be compelled to meet the government's money procedural procedures and this is often seen to administer some issue to youths to be actively concerned.

As a result, the aim of this study was to search out however youth organisations saw the challenges of public participation. The goal of this theology study was to seem into the difficulties that came with managing youth. As a result of there's a scarceness of analysis on public engagement, this study can go deeper into the topic. It is vital to be told additional regarding however the youth association regarded the problem of youth management and the way it affected their future course.

METHODOLOGY

To achieve the research's goals, a qualitative approach with a theology analysis style was adopted. The qualitative approach could be a research style that identifies and comprehends the contributions of a gaggle of individuals to a personal or society (Salkind, 2012; Creswell, 2021). The theology analysis style, on the opposite hand, is acceptable for usage as a result of it'll justify the respondents' real-life experiences. The respondents were chosen by the investigator as a result of they shared constant study experiences. The development was explained to the participants supported their own perceptions (Creswell, 2021). The participants were interviewed during a semi-structured manner to gather the knowledge they required.

A total of five youth societies in Malaysia were chosen to require half within the study. The respondent is among Malaysia youth associations committee members. The study doesn't decide participants supported their gender, race, or quality. The participants were chosen to employ a non-probability sample technique. The researcher's elective to use a purposive sampling approach or purposive sampling during this uncommon sample (Patton, 1990). In keeping with Merriam's

(1998) study, sampling procedures presume that researchers need to search out, analyses, and acquire vital which means as a result of contrived knowledge.

The researchers developed the interview queries supported literature reviews and a trustworthy form. The sector specialists valid the interview queries. The situation of the interview session was chosen to bet on the preferences of the participants. Associate in Nursing consent was obtained from the individual before to the interview session. The investigator could begin interviewing the participants once the participant has in agreement to participate within the study. The information was gathered employing a recorder since paper and pen restricted the researcher's ability to look at the participant's countenance and alternative nonverbal cues.

Following the information assortment, the investigator began to analyse the information utilising writing and themes. The knowledge gathered was analyses utilising writing and themes. The investigator initial created the information for analysis, once that he or she evaluated the knowledge gathered. Whereas aggregation the remainder of the fabric, the investigator began writing the information. The investigator next began to develop a topic or topic for the knowledge. Finally, the investigator devised an explanation for the findings (Yeon et al., 2016; Creswell, 2021). Before doing the particular study, the investigator analysed the information and created any necessary changes to the interview queries. A validation and internal control on interview queries was done wherever the queries were valid by victimization member checking technique likewise as subjective matter professional.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Challenges of public participation

Based on the results, challenges of public participation can be perceived in two challenges which are: (i) financial and (ii) less youth participation.

    Financial support. It is understood that financial was important to manage youth.

> *""I believe that money allocation is incredibly necessary in order that the youth community will perform. While not adequate budged to mobilize the community to*

arrange activities then society can fail to assist its members succeed their goals".
(P1)

"Given autonomy to the association itself to in terms of finance, .in terms of conducting meetings, providing funds. Providing consulting services so that the organization runs smoothly." (P2)

"Normally support from the govt. individuals can scrutinize the funds. That is one thing individuals will not run far from. Individuals scrutinize the government; individuals scrutinize the funds." (P4)

All the participants expressed regarding backing is one in every of the challenges. This statement is supported by all the participant that the dearth of support given by the govt. It stressed that government ought to discriminate against others once organizing or promoting for youth. Support by governments in several countries is lacking as a result of governments don't have a selected focus, steerage or policy for youth.

Less participation of youth. The participants talked regarding less participation of youth to affix youth associations program. They conjointly talked that youth need reward and profit initial before they are available and joined the programs.

"For example, individuals don't need to come back. therefore, finally in terms of youth involvement and participation, youth are reduced if we have a tendency to don't pioneer the flavor of the program" (P3).
"For now, his youth is admittedly curious about sports. Second, youth desires to come back and see initial, desires to visualize their we have a tendency to get. (P4)
"issue like this youth, if he joins organizations, associations, ok, the problem is outside, if he doesn't join us, he'll be left behind." (P5)

It is understood that less participation of youth can offer an effect for youth association for future. Youth conjointly need profit and gift before be a part of the programs (Yeon et al., (2016). In short, supported the information provided by the participants, there square measure 2 challenges are created publicly participation. They believed that backing and youth participation impact their

which means in life. Thus, it's understood that these 2 challenges have influenced the youth association future.

CONCLUSION

Youth association believed that financial support and youth participation in program are really important and the reasons of challenges in public participation. Among other challenges is that in addition to problems stemming from adults, youths themselves should also be blamed for low levels of participation, due to their lack of interest and need to acquire knowledge (Musarurwa, 2018). Youth are now less interested in getting involved or less committed to the activities or programs carried out. Youth participation is still at a moderate level. However, from the aspect of self -motivation, a study by Mohamed et al. (2008) has stated that youths who engage in after -school programs are driven by intrinsic or internal interests in the youth themselves, among others to increase knowledge that new and improve yourself. Further studies could be conducted involving government entities including other statutory bodies to prove the validity of the decisions received and the achievement of good governance in other organizations. In addition, to gain a better understanding of management accounting reform in public entities, quantitative research approaches such as questionnaires can be used. Nevertheless, this study adds value to studies already proving that public participation is also relevant in the Malaysian public sector environment.

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