

The Role of the Head of the Neighborhood Association (RT) in the Implementation of the Population Information System

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of the RT (Neighborhood Association) head in managing the Population Information System in Mekar Sari Village, Kumpoh District, Muaro Jambi Regency. Mekar Sari Village consists of 17 RTs, each of which is responsible for handling population data such as birth, death, and migration reports. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method, with primary and secondary data collection through observation and interviews with the RT head and related parties. The research findings indicate that although the RT head plays a crucial role in compiling, updating, and reporting population data, its implementation is still ineffective. The main obstacles include time constraints, low community participation, and late reporting to the village government. These findings highlight the need for increased support and system improvements to ensure more effective population data management, which in turn can better support overall village administration.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's administrative regions consist of provinces, regencies/cities, sub-districts, and villages/wards, which form a unified government. At the basic community level, the Neighborhood Association (RT) is a community organization formed by community agreement and authorized by the village government. It plays a vital role in managing population data, including reporting births, deaths, population movements, and migration flows [1]. Population encompasses all aspects related to people, such as their number, structure, distribution, growth, and various other characteristics.

The Population Information System is an integrated system that plays a role in managing and processing various data and information related to the population [2]. Indonesia's administrative regions consist of provinces, regencies/cities, sub-districts, and villages/wards, which form a unified government. The Neighborhood Association (RT) is a basic community-level organization formed by community agreement and authorized by the village or sub-district government [3]. The Neighborhood Association (RT) is an organization formed by community agreement and officially authorized by the village or sub-district government. As a local community unit, the RT plays a crucial role in managing population data, including recording events such as births and deaths, tracking the arrival of new residents, and monitoring the movement and mobility of residents in the area. Population information systems play a crucial role in producing accurate and reliable data to support more effective public services. The government has developed an integrated strategy for utilizing technology [4]. Mekar Sari Village in Kumpoh District, Muaro Jambi Regency, Jambi Province, covers an area of 31 km² and is home to 2,996 residents in 17 RTs. A neighborhood association is managed by a chairman elected through a voting process by local residents. However, the implementation of these responsibilities by several neighborhood association heads has not been fully optimal in practice [5]. Good performance by the RT head

significantly impacts the smooth running of administrative processes in the village. Monitoring results revealed that several RT heads, particularly those in RT 03 and RT 08 of Mekar Sari Village, have not updated population data regularly every month, including information on births, deaths, and population movements [6].

Therefore, an RT leader must have a strong leadership spirit and a sense of responsibility in carrying out his duties, without prioritizing personal interests, so that his duties and roles can be carried out properly. If an RT head performs well in his duties and supports the smooth operation of the Village Government, it will have a positive impact on the performance of the Village Government and the RT itself. Signs can be seen in delays in reporting information, and ineffectiveness is one of the factors that causes slow data updates. The expected data updates should be submitted by the Mekar Sari Village Government to the Kumpoh District Office. The RT head has not been effective in providing population data to the Mekar Sari Village Government. Providing adequate population data to the Mekar Sari Village Government is a necessary prerequisite. In Mekar Sari Village, which has 17 RTs, the existing guidelines state that population data reports must be submitted no later than the 12th of each month. However, in practice, most RT heads often submit their reports late, sometimes even past the deadline set by the village government [7].

Basic Theory of Understanding Regarding Roles refers to the actions taken by individuals or groups when exercising their rights and obligations, indicating that a person has functioned within the framework of the social system. The RT head has a role to carry out obligations, functions, and responsibilities in the community, both in providing administrative services and interacting with the Village Government. This task covers various areas, including general governance and the collection of monthly data on births, deaths, and population movements. Most neighborhood heads often do not submit reports on time, despite the deadline for Mekar Sari Village. Submission of adequate population data to the Government [8]. Based on the author's initial observations, in July 2020, only the RT 04 and RT 011 heads submitted reports on time. In July 2020, only the RT 11 head submitted a report. However, in May, June, and September 2020, none of the RT heads in Mekar Sari Village submitted their reports. This delay occurs repeatedly every month, often due to personal reasons such as working in the fields, running a business, or taking care of other personal matters.

This shows that in July 2020, only the Head of RT 04 and RT 011 submitted reports on time, while in July 2020, only the Head of RT 011 submitted a report. In May, August, and September 2020, none of the RT heads in Mekar Sari Village submitted reports.[9]. The lack of data submission by the RT Head to the Mekar Sari Village Government is one of the factors that hinders the timeliness of updating population data that should be reported by the village to the Kumpoh District Office. Mekar Sari Village, which has 17 RT members, has established a rule that population data reports must be submitted no later than the 12th of each month[10].

2. METHOD

This research method uses a qualitative/quantitative approach with the aim of gaining a deep/measurable understanding of the phenomenon being studied. The data used comes from [for example: questionnaire results, interviews, observations, or secondary sources such as documents and literature] relevant to the research focus. The research process begins with problem identification to determine a clear problem formulation. After that, data is collected according to the selected technique so that the collected data can provide a comprehensive picture of the research object. Next, the data is analyzed systematically based on the approach used, resulting in research findings that can answer the problem and provide recommendations.

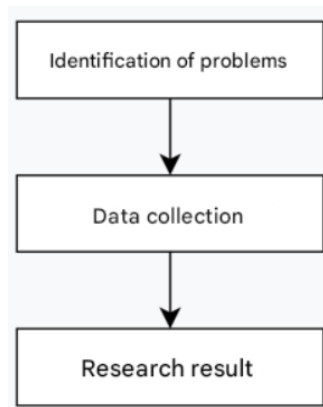


Figure 1. Research Stages

2.1. Problem Identification

This research is a descriptive qualitative study, aimed at providing a systematic overview of the research focus's functions, including the role of the Neighborhood Association (RT) head in implementing the Population Information System in Mekar Sari Village, which includes:

- a. Preparing reports on population data within the RT area.

- b. Regularly updating population data.
- c. Submitting population data reports to the village government.

Various obstacles encountered in carrying out the RT Head's duties related to the Population Information System in Mekar Sari Village[11].

2.2. Data Collection

The data for this research includes primary and secondary data, collected through questionnaires, direct interviews, and field observations. This study uses both primary and secondary data. Raw data was collected using methods such as questionnaires, direct interviews, and field observations. To determine the informants in this study, a purposive sampling technique was used, as explained by Sugiyono (2017:218). This is a sampling approach that is not random, but rather determined based on specific criteria related to the research objectives, thus providing clarity regarding the issue being studied. Secondary data is information obtained from sources that have previously collected data. This data is not obtained directly from primary sources, but rather through documents, reports, archives, or notes related to the research (algorithms, pseudocode, or other). There are several stages in the data collection process:

a. Observation

Observation is direct observation of the implementation of the Population Information System by the RT Head in Mekar Sari Village. This observation is conducted in the field to actually observe the process, such as how the RT Head compiles and updates data and submits reports [12].

b. Interviews

Interviews are a data collection method involving direct questions and answers between the researcher and key informants (RT Heads 03 and 08) and other informants selected through purposive sampling. This in-depth interview aimed to gather information regarding the role of the neighborhood association (RT) head and the obstacles in implementing the Population Information System. Key informants are individuals considered to have in-depth knowledge related to the topic being researched. In this situation, the primary information sources were the RT heads of neighborhood associations 007 and 010 in Mekar Sari Village, Kumpoh District, Muaro Jambi Regency. Data sources consisted of individuals who possessed knowledge and understanding of the subject being researched and were willing to provide information deemed important by the researcher. In this study, a purposive sampling method was used, including the Mekar Sari Village leader, the Head of Administration and General Affairs in Mekar Sari Village, and surrounding residents [13].

2.3. Research Results

The RT heads in Mekar Sari Village play a crucial role in managing population data by regularly compiling, updating, and reporting data. However, they face obstacles such as limited resources, technical issues, and poor communication with the village government. This suggests that support and system improvements are needed to make the RT heads' performance in the Population Information System more effective [14].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Compiling Neighborhood Association Population Reports

According to interviews with the Head of RT 03 and RT 08, the population data reports were compiled by collecting population information in the areas under their respective responsibilities. The data collected included Resident Identity Cards (KTP), Family Cards (KK), Birth Certificates, Death Certificates, Marriage Certificates, and information on residents who moved into or out of the area. The heads of RT 03 and RT 08 obtained this information by visiting residents directly, receiving reports from residents who came to the office, and communicating with other RT heads. Furthermore, in the compilation process, they also utilized data collected from the previous month. Although the reports should be compiled monthly, the Head of RT 03 submitted reports every two months, while the Head of RT 08 submitted them every two to three months. This indicates that both groups have not been carrying out their duties optimally, considering that these reports are required to be prepared and submitted to the village government monthly.

3.2. Population Data Updates

Population data updates were carried out by re-collecting information such as birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, ID cards (KTP), family cards (KK), and data on residents' movements, both new and new, based on information from the heads of neighborhood associations (RT) 03 and 08. The RT 03

head obtained the latest data from direct reports from residents and through home visits, while the RT 08 head was more passive, waiting for residents to provide reports. This situation indicates that the RT 08 head has not been optimally carrying out his duties, as he should have been proactive in reaching out to residents to update data.

3.3. Submission of Population Data Reports to the Village Government

Based on interviews with the RT 03 and RT 08 heads, both submitted compiled and updated population data reports to the village government. According to regulations, these reports must be submitted at the beginning of each month, between the 1st and 5th. However, both were frequently late in submitting them. This situation indicates that the RT 03 and RT 08 heads have not been carrying out their duties and responsibilities effectively, even though the RT head's role is to assist the village government with administration and data collection. Obstacles hampering the role of RT 03 and RT 08 in implementing the Population Information System in Mekar Sari Village, Kumpeh District, Muaro Jambi Regency, Jambi Province. Based on interviews, several factors hinder the role of the RT 03 and RT 08 heads in implementing the population information system, namely:

1. The RT 03 and RT 08 heads' work schedules, which often require approximately 12 hours outside the home, often interfere with the performance of their duties and responsibilities.
2. Participation of RT 03 residents in reporting population data remains low, resulting in data that should be submitted to the RT heads not being collected optimally [15].

4. CONCLUSION

The Neighborhood Association (RT) heads in Mekar Sari Village play a crucial role in managing the Population Information System, which includes compiling, updating, and regularly reporting population data to the Village Government. However, in practice, the RT heads' duties, particularly in RT 03 and RT 08, have not been optimal. One of the main problems is a lack of time due to people being busy working outside the home. Furthermore, community participation in data reporting is also inadequate. Furthermore, efforts to collect and update population data remain inadequate. As a result, reports are often submitted late, hampering the smooth updating of population data at the village and sub-district levels. Therefore, increased support and system improvements are needed so that RT heads can carry out their roles effectively, which will ultimately bolster the village government's administrative performance in population data management.

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