

Qualitative Research on Community Leaders as a Catalyst for Youth Empowerment in Rural Areas

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Abstract

Future success and achievement depend on the willingness of today's young people to develop their identities, gain expertise, create skills, and lead. Government efforts to empower young people need the engagement and cooperation of local authorities to ensure that they will contribute to society. The research has followed a phenomenological approach that is considered acceptable for the topic under study. Interviews, observations and analysis of records were performed to obtain the relevant information. 60 informants were directly involved in this research, they are the chairperson for the Village Development and Safety Committee (JPKK), JPKK committee members, chairperson of the local youth association, local youth, officers from government agencies and local residents. The data for research were analysed using the qualitative software. The study findings show that strong community leadership can provide support in every angle to ensure the success of the local youths such community leadership as liaison between youth and relevant parties, develop leadership skills and responsibility and empower social capital. Furthermore, they are able to help the youth face challenges and focus on achieving success.

Keywords: Qualitative study, rural community, leadership, empowering youth
