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# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SELF-HELP HOUSING STIMULUS PROGRAM (BSPS) TO IMPROVE HOUSING QUALITY AND COMMUNITY WELFARE IN RETOK VILLAGE

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#### **KEYWORDS**

#### **ABSTRACT**

RTLH; BSPS; Low-Income Communities

The Self-Help Housing Stimulant Assistance Program (BSPS) is a policy of the Indonesian government aimed at improving the quality of decent housing for low-income people through a self-help (swadaya) approach. This study aims to find out how the BSPS program improves the welfare of the community in Retok village. The method used was a descriptive qualitative study with field observation techniques and in-depth interviews with aid recipients, local implementers, and related agencies. The results of the study show that BSPS has a positive impact on improving the quality of houses, the welfare of beneficiaries, and the surrounding community. However, challenges are still found in the technical aspects of implementation and limited funds. Therefore, it is recommended to strengthen coordination between agencies and increase community capacity in the process of building self-help (swadaya) houses.

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#### Introduction

Indonesia is a large developing country facing many challenges, one of which is poverty. Poverty is a condition characterized by the economic inability to meet the average standard of living in a particular area. This inability is marked by low income levels that are insufficient to fulfill basic needs, including food, clothing, and shelter. (Setiawan, 2020; Siregar & Hidayat, 2019; Tambunan, 2017; Junaidi, 2018; Rahmawati et al., 2021).

Poverty is a measure used to assess the level of welfare in a country; the higher the percentage of poor individuals in a country, the lower the level of welfare in that country. The condition of the so-called poor community can be identified based on the ability of income to meet the standard of living (Nugroho, 1995; Kusumastuti, 2020; Amri, 2021; Darmawan & Setiawati, 2019; Budianto, 2018). In principle, the standard of living in a society is not only the fulfillment of the need for food, but also the fulfillment of the needs for health, housing, and education.

The issue of housing remains a strategic concern in national development, especially for low-income communities (Masyarakat Berpenghasilan Rendah or MBR) that often encounter various obstacles when accessing livable houses. The Self-Help Housing Stimulant Assistance Program (Bantuan Stimulan Perumahan Swadaya or BSPS) was launched by the Indonesian

government through the Ministry of Pekerjaan Umum dan Perumahan Rakyat (PUPR) as an effort to overcome this (Subari, 2021; Kusumaningrum, 2019; Andriani & Nugroho, 2020).

Livable housing is one of the important aspects in improving the quality of life and people's welfare. But in reality, there are still many people in the low-income group (MBR) in Indonesia who have difficulty in getting a decent and safe house (Purnama et al., 2020; Fadhli & Sari, 2021; Wijayanti, 2020; Suryana & Jati, 2020; Fitriani et al., 2020). This situation often negatively impacts the welfare and socio-economic development of the MBR.

Therefore, the government has made efforts to overcome poverty in Indonesia, especially in terms of livable houses for low-income people (MBR), one of which is by launching the Self-Help Housing Stimulant Assistance Program (BSPS) which is regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Public Works and Public Housing No. 07/PRT/M/2018 concerning Self-Help Housing Stimulant Assistance. The government's goal is to provide assistance to the community so that low-income people can have livable houses and improve their standard of living. BSPS also functions as an economic driver in the community because BSPS is a labor-intensive program that can create jobs in the construction sector and other sectors, thus increasing people's income in other related sectors. Thus, BSPS not only provides direct benefits for aid recipients, but also has a positive impact on the economic aspect and poverty alleviation in the community.

One of the youngest regencies in West Kalimantan Province to receive BSPS allocation from the central government is Kubu Raya Regency. Kubu Raya was formed as a result of the division of Mempawah Regency based on Law Number 35 of 2007 concerning the establishment of Kubu Raya Regency. Kubu Raya consists of 9 sub-districts and has 123 villages. Within Kubu Raya, there are 14 independent villages, 21 advanced villages, and 52 developing villages, while 4 villages are still classified as disadvantaged, and 1 village is categorized as very disadvantaged.

Table 1 Number of RTLH in Kubu Raya Regency

District	Population	<b>Number of Houses</b>	Uninhabitable House
Sungai Raya	240.066	65.780	3.930
Kuala Mandor B	27.253	8.096	2.406
Sungai Ambawang	87.378	19.683	4.832
Terentang	13.768	5.058	1.755
Batu Ampar	36.442	10.269	638
Kubu	43.544	11.697	725
Rasau Jaya	32.217	9.107	780
Teluk Pakedai	20.750	6.039	1.698
Sungai Kakap	123.654	39.720	1.656
		175.449	18.420

Source: The Kubu Raya Regency PUPR Office

Based on the table above, the number of uninhabitable houses in Kubu Raya Regency amounts to 18,420 units. One of the villages receiving special attention in the implementation of the BSPS program by the central and regional governments is Retok Village, Kuala Mandor B Subdistrict, Kubu Raya Regency. The majority of Retok Village residents work as farmers, fishermen, and laborers. However, their income is often insufficient to meet their many needs, especially for low-income families (MBR) who hope to have decent housing.

Furthermore, some community members still do not own a house or live in homes that do not meet the criteria for decent living conditions. This issue is a concern for the local government in its poverty alleviation efforts. With the flagship government program related to the Self-Help

Housing Stimulus Assistance Program (BSPS), low-income residents in Retok Village are able to receive assistance from the government.

To date, there has been limited research specifically focused on government assistance programs in terms of providing decent housing. This program reveals the effectiveness and contribution of the BSPS initiative in improving the welfare of low-income families (MBR) in Retok Village. Therefore, this study aims to fill this knowledge gap and conduct an in-depth analysis of the role of BSPS in enhancing the welfare of MBR in Retok Village, Kuala Mandor B Sub-district, Kubu Raya Regency.

By analyzing the role and impact of BSPS, we can gain better insights into the program's effectiveness and objectives in delivering tangible benefits to low-income families at the village level. The findings of this study are expected to provide valuable information for the village government, regional authorities, NGOs, and other related institutions in formulating more effective and sustainable policies to improve access to decent housing for MBR in Retok Village and surrounding areas.

In addition, this research can also provide a better understanding of the factors that affect the implementation of BSPS at the village, district, and central levels, including the challenges and obstacles that may be faced. With a more comprehensive understanding of these issues, it is possible to identify the necessary steps to strengthen the BSPS program, increase community participation, and ensure the sustainability of the program in the future. Through this research, it is hoped that recommendations can be found to support the development of more effective and sustainable housing programs for MBR in Retok Village, Kubu Raya Regency. In addition, the results of this study are also expected to be a valuable source of knowledge in the context of housing for MBR in the region.

#### **Research Methods**

The research employed a qualitative descriptive method to objectively describe and analyze the implementation and role of the Self-Help Housing Stimulant Assistance Program (*Bantuan Stimulan Perumahan Swadaya* or *BSPS*) in improving the welfare of low-income communities in *Retok* Village, *Kuala Mandor B* District, *Kubu Raya* Regency. The study aimed to systematically and accurately present the facts related to the phenomenon being researched, focusing on how the *BSPS* program affects the target community.

Data for this research were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were obtained directly through interviews and observations with *BSPS* assistance recipients in *Retok* Village. Secondary data were gathered from relevant documents, books, journals, and reports to support and strengthen the research framework and findings.

The data collection techniques used included interviews with 15 program recipients to capture their experiences and the impact of the assistance, direct observation of the implementation process in the village, and documentation from various written sources. These combined methods provided a comprehensive understanding of the *BSPS* program's effectiveness, and the challenges faced in its implementation at the local level.

### **Results and Discussion**

Village development refers to development carried out at the lowest level of government, namely the village. The key characteristic of village development is the active participation of the community, either directly through self-help efforts or mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*). The main objective is to transform villages across Indonesia into self-sufficient villages, classified as

advanced and developing villages, where the community's standard of living and welfare continue to improve.

This study was conducted in Retok Village, Kuala Mandor B Sub-district, Kubu Raya Regency. Retok Village borders Sebangki Village, which is located in Landak Regency. Retok is inhabited by various ethnic groups including the Dayak, Javanese, Madurese, Chinese, Malay, and Bugis. Retok is classified as a *swakarya* village, meaning it is in a transitional phase from a *swadaya* (self-help) village towards a *swasembada* (self-sufficient) village. This reflects progress in local potential development and utilization, although challenges such as limited funding remain. Currently, Retok Village is in a developing condition, where the community is beginning to show a strong spirit of cooperation and is starting to utilize existing potentials to improve their quality of life and welfare. The majority of Retok residents work as farmers, casual laborers, fishermen, and construction workers.

Implementation is an inseparable part of policy execution, as without implementation, a program cannot be effectively carried out. The Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program is designed to enable low-income communities to have decent housing through a self-help approach (Destrioando and Lumbanraja, 2024). The Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program (BSPS) is a government initiative aimed at improving housing quality for low-income populations. Through this program, beneficiaries receive stimulus assistance in the form of building materials or funds to repair, build, or rehabilitate their homes to meet decent living standards. BSPS encourages active community participation in the construction and repair process, thereby creating healthier, safer, and more comfortable housing. The program also plays a role in reducing social disparities and enhancing community welfare by providing access to decent and dignified housing.

The Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program (BSPS) has been implemented in Retok Village, Kuala Mandor B Sub-district, since 2020, with a total of 128 housing units built by 2024. This program serves as a solution to reduce poverty levels and actively encourages community participation in the construction and repair of houses, resulting in healthier, safer, and more comfortable homes. The program also plays a role in reducing social inequality and improving community welfare by providing access to decent housing in Retok Village. As a result, the community is expected to experience improved living conditions, especially in coping with the increasing daily needs. The short-term goal of this assistance is to reduce the financial burden on low-income families, while the long-term objective is to enhance family welfare, where families can enjoy prosperity through the fulfillment of their basic needs for clothing, shelter, and food.

These technical guidelines (Juknis) were prepared by the Directorate General of Housing Provision under the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR). The implementation of the Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program (BSPS) is based on the Ministerial Decree of PUPR No. 07/PRT/M/2018. This regulation outlines the form of BSPS assistance, types of activities and amounts provided, eligibility criteria for recipients, implementation procedures, as well as supervision and control mechanisms. Permen PUPR No. 07 of 2018 governs the Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance (BSPS) program, which is a government initiative aimed at helping low-income individuals improve the quality of their housing through repairs or new construction, following the principle of self-help. The program targets low-income households who either do not have livable housing or wish to upgrade the quality of their existing homes. In Retok Village, Kubu Raya Regency, recipients receive assistance totaling IDR 17,500,000 for material costs and IDR 2,500,000 for labor wages, funded by the State Budget (APBN). The BSPS program significantly benefits the local economy of Retok Village, as it is a labor-intensive initiative that enhances both the welfare and economic conditions of residents.

# Conditions before and after the BSPS Program in Retok Village



Figure 1.0% Marpuah House

Figure 1 shows the residence of Mrs. Marpuah, a widow living in Dusun Retok Kuala Pak Sela, RT 002 RW 002, Retok Village, Kuala Mandor B Sub-district, Kubu Raya Regency. Mrs. Marpuah has been living in the house for over eight years with her two children. To meet her daily needs, she works as a farmer, earning approximately IDR 1,000,000 per month. The Retok Village government proposed Mrs. Marpuah as a recipient of the BSPS program due to the extremely poor condition of her house, which included a nearly collapsed foundation, severely damaged flooring, and a leaky roof during rain.

In 2022, Retok Village received an allocation of 15 housing units under the BSPS program, and Mrs. Marpuah was among the selected beneficiaries. She received a total of IDR 20,000,000 in assistance from the program, consisting of IDR 17,500,000 for building materials and IDR 2,500,000 for labor wages. The BSPS program emphasizes the self-help aspect of housing development, as the program is intended to provide stimulus support rather than full funding.



Figure 2. 30% Construction Stage

The post-construction 30% phase is a critical stage in the implementation process of the Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program (BSPS). At this stage, the physical progress of the beneficiary's house construction has reached approximately 30% of the total planned work. Field facilitators use this progress as a basis for initial technical evaluation, assessing the compliance of the implementation with the program's requirements.

In general, the condition of Mrs. Marpuah's house at this stage indicates that:

- The initial structural components, such as the foundation, ground floor, and partial walls, have been constructed using reinforcement mesh;
- The use of aid-provided materials such as cement and sand is visibly evident at the construction site;
- The construction process is carried out through self-help efforts, involving the beneficiary's family, village officials, and surrounding community through mutual cooperation (gotong royong);
- In some cases, construction progress was temporarily hampered by rain and flooding.

These findings suggest that houses reaching the 30% post-construction stage generally have a high potential for timely completion, especially when beneficiaries have sufficient access to labor and strong social networks (Nurhadi & Sari, 2021). Thus, successful progress at the 30% post-construction phase serves as an important indicator in determining the continuity and effectiveness of the BSPS program.



Figure 3. 100% Construction Stage

Figure 3 depicts the post-construction phase of the BSPS housing project. The construction of Mrs. Marpuah's house has been fully completed (100%), with the active involvement of various parties, including her family, village officials, and neighbors. Their collaboration ensured that the house was completed on time. The 100% post-construction phase marks the final stage in the implementation of the Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program (BSPS).

At this stage, the house built by the beneficiary is fully completed and ready for occupancy. In general, a house in the 100% post-construction phase demonstrates:

• Habitability, as indicated by permanent walls, a sturdy zinc roof, adequate ventilation, and proper sanitation facilities;

- Improved quality of life for the beneficiary, especially in terms of comfort, health, and safety. Mrs. Marpuah expressed significant gratitude for the support provided by the BSPS program;
- An increase in property value, serving as a long-term asset for the family;
- The achievement of the primary objective of the BSPS program, which is to reduce the number of uninhabitable houses (RTLH) in Retok Village, Kuala Mandor B Sub-district, Kubu Raya Regency.

Several studies note that the impact of the BSPS program extends beyond physical improvements to include social and economic benefits. According to Nurhadi & Sari (2021), beneficiaries have reported increased motivation to work, better family health due to healthier living conditions, and more positive social interactions, as a decent home enhances dignity and social standing.

Mrs. Marpuah, a BSPS beneficiary from Retok Village (July 29, 2022, at 14:25), stated that the BSPS program greatly helped her, as her previous house was unfit for habitation and posed a danger to her family. The housing renovation assistance provided in Retok Village is highly valuable for supporting low-income families living in uninhabitable homes. Mrs. Marpuah hopes that the BSPS program will continue to be available annually in Retok Village, as many low-income residents still need housing assistance. She expressed her sincere gratitude to the village government, the central government, the Housing Agency, and Mr. Syarif Abdullah Alqadrie, a member of parliament, for their support through the BSPS program in helping her rebuild and improve her home.

Table 2. BSPS Beneficiaries in Retok Village, 2022

Name of the beneficiary	Gender	Address	
Maidi	L	Dsn retok tembawang rt 004 rw 005	
Mursidi	L	Dsn retok tembawang rt 004 rw 005	
Sholihan	L	Dsn retok tembawang rt 004 rw 005	
Samsul aripin	L	Dsn retok kuala rt 003 rw 002	
Samuri	L	Dsn retok tembawang rt 002 rw 005	
Marninten	P	Dsn retok tembawang rt 002 rw 005	
Marsiana	P	Dsn retok acin rt 002 rw 004	
Muhaimin	L	Dsn retok tembawang rt 001 rw 005	
Munarwi	L	Dsn retok tembawang rt 006 rw 005	
Jumad	L	Dsn retok kuala rt 002 rw 001	
Nabid	L	Dsn retok kuala rt 004 rw 001	
Marpuah	P	Dsn retok kuala pak sela rt 002 rw 002	
Miswadi	L	Dsn retok pak salam rt 003 rw 005	
Nahruji	L	Dsn retok kuala rt 002 rw 001	
A'ang	L	Dsn retok bebantek rt 004 rw 003	

The table above lists the recipients of the BSPS assistance in Retok Village in 2022. Based on interviews and field observations, the majority of the beneficiaries experienced a significant improvement in housing quality after participating in the BSPS program. Prior to receiving assistance, their houses were typically constructed with bamboo or decayed wood walls, had leaky zinc roofs, and lacked adequate sanitation facilities. After the implementation of the program, these homes were renovated using permanent materials such as concrete blocks and reinforcement mesh, and were equipped with essential facilities such as bathrooms and proper ventilation.

All 15 BSPS beneficiaries reported feeling safer and more comfortable living in their improved homes. This improvement also positively impacted the health conditions of families—particularly children and the elderly—who had previously been vulnerable to illnesses due to poor living environments.

Mr. Sahidin, the Head of Retok Village (July 29, 2022, at 14:25), stated that the BSPS is a government program aimed at reducing poverty and inequality in Retok Village through housing improvements. The program provides support in the form of building materials and labor wages. Many local construction workers in Retok Village were involved in building the houses for BSPS recipients. Additionally, villagers engaged in the sand and timber trade also participated in the program's implementation, thereby boosting the local economy.

The village government greatly appreciates the BSPS program, as it has been highly beneficial for low-income residents whose homes were previously uninhabitable, helping them acquire safe and livable housing. The selection of BSPS aid recipients is based on the technical guidelines outlined in Regulation of the Minister of Public Works and Public Housing (Permen PUPR) No. 7/PRT/M/2018 and focuses on low-income families (MBR) with unfit housing conditions. The village government also extends its gratitude to the national government and members of the Indonesian House of Representatives, especially Mr. Syarif Abdullah from the Nasdem Party, whose efforts helped secure the BSPS allocation for Retok Village.

Mr. Abdurohhim, Head of Retok Tembawang Hamlet (July 29, 2022, at 15:00), stated that the BSPS program—commonly referred to by villagers as the "bedah rumah" (home renovation) program—has been highly beneficial for eligible low-income families (MBR). He explained that many MBR households in Retok Village previously lived in houses with leaky roofs during the rainy season, deteriorating floors, and even foundations on the verge of collapse. These families expressed joy and gratitude upon receiving assistance through the BSPS program.

During the renovation process, the community of Retok Village demonstrated strong mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*), with residents helping one another. Mr. Abdurohhim emphasized that the spirit of tolerance and mutual aid among villagers is very strong in Retok. This solidarity contributed to Retok Village being one of the fastest in completing the physical construction of the BSPS houses, thanks to the collaborative efforts of village officials, local residents, field facilitators (TFL), and everyone involved in the program.

# The Role of the Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program in Enhancing Family Welfare

In addition to improving the physical quality of housing, the BSPS program also has indirect economic impacts in Retok Village. The self-help nature of the housing construction encourages community participation, both as construction workers and small to medium-scale material suppliers, thereby creating temporary employment opportunities at the village level. Some beneficiaries have also utilized their improved homes to start small businesses, such as small shops.

The BSPS program has been proven to promote the values of mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*) and social participation. Many residents assist one another during the construction of their neighbors' houses, in line with the self-help principle. The completion of houses at the 100% post-construction phase under the BSPS program serves as a direct indicator of the government's successful intervention in providing adequate housing. Besides enhancing welfare, these completed houses also strengthen social structures and contribute to the sustainable economic stability of poor households.

The BSPS program positively impacts poverty reduction by decreasing the number of slum and uninhabitable houses. This has been observed directly by researchers during visits to beneficiaries, where previously unlivable houses have been transformed into decent homes with complete structural components. Given that Retok Village is still categorized as self-help

(swakarya), the presence of the BSPS program has had a very positive effect on the community's welfare (Sari & Iskandar, 2021; Adi & Fitri, 2021; Wulandari & Yuliana, 2020; Fitriani & Wibowo, 2021; Zainal & Gunawan, 2021).

#### **Conclusions**

Based on the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that the Self-Help Housing Stimulus Assistance Program (BSPS) in Retok Village, Kuala Mandor B Sub-district, Kubu Raya Regency, plays a crucial role in improving the welfare of low-income communities in Retok. This labor-intensive assistance program has helped low-income residents to obtain decent housing, improve their quality of life, and provide a sense of safety and comfort.

The BSPS program also encourages active and significant community involvement and mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*) throughout the house construction process. The program has a significant role in enhancing the welfare of low-income communities in Retok. Not only do the beneficiaries benefit, but many local construction workers and village residents are also empowered through the activities, thereby improving the overall welfare of the Retok community. BSPS is a well-targeted labor-intensive program that effectively supports poor and low-income populations

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