How can the Village Law improve participation and access of village women to state funds?

Mies Grijns, Van Vollenhoven Institute
Composition of BPD

Selection of members for BPD planned by village head:
8000 villagers, 8 RW, 28 RT

On paper:
PP 43 2014 (80)

Leaders
1. Traditional
2. Religious
3. Community
4. Educational

Representatives of
5. Farmers
6. Fishermen
7. Artisans
8. Women
9. People that care about children
10. Poor people

Some leaders
40 Representatives
5 from each RW
5 from each RW
5 from each RW
5 from each RW
5 from each RT
5 from each RT
5 from each RT
5 from each RT
1 Posyandu cadre
Obstacles for women to participate

Practical gender issues

- Illiteracy, especially for 30, 40+ ages
- Time (triple burden)
- Schedule (afternoon, before sunset)
- Location (ok in RT, RW if accompanies, desa??)
Obstacles for women to participate

Gender Perception

• Hierarchy in speaking based on gender, age & class (older male elite)
• Expected roles (women arrange consumptions, men talk about budget)
• Woman = Ibu (mother and wife, secondary supporting role)  
  ‘sumur, dapur, kasur’ (private domain)  
  unmarried young woman = child
Empowering efforts

• Gender integrated in implementation from the start (not as appendix)
• Empowering needs continuous efforts, not a sporadic activity
• Village administration at all levels need to be based on gendered data (disaggregated data of household members by gender and age, not just a list of household heads)
• Intensify advocacy at village level (with decentralization the need for advocacy has hugely increased to cover all 461 districts – who has time left to work in villages?)
New Perspectives

* Building a vision of a desired future
* Exploring alternative developments
* Access to information on the wider environment

Required before women can participate on an equal footing? Or should we focus on equal representation?
Photos of child brides March 2016 by Izmy Khumairoh assisted by Aminah Agustinah
Research questions

**Future research questions:**

Knowledge and information:

- Start research with an inventory of what knowledge the general population has about the law and what vision different categories of people have about desired development. Is it clear who are the marginalised people in a particular village?

Organisation:

- Is there a difference in knowledge and information among women that are organised in groups and women that are not organised?
- What is the difference between women members of PKK, Posyandu or other women’s groups in access to information and do they use this to get involved in *Musrenbang* and BPD?
- What is the role of informal women’s groups outside the administrative realm?

Empowerment:

- Is support for the younger, more educated generation of girls more successful than focusing on less literate adult women, or will age hierarchy be a stumbling block?

- What are the ideals in life of marginalised villagers: young, old, women, poor, disabled? Is it possible to have a goal for empowerment that includes the diversity of ideals of all people?

- Is an approach starting with economic empowerment more successful to give women a voice in village affairs, or should it start with education and awareness? Compare the PPSW approach with the approach from Kapal Perempuan with their Sekolah Perempuan Desa.