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Swaningrum, A.

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Jimpitan in Wonosobo, Central Java:
An Indigenous Institution in the Context of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in Indonesia

Ayu Swaningrum

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Jimpitan in Wonosobo, Central Java: An Indigenous Institution in the Context of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in Indonesia

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Promotores

Prof. dr. G.R. de Snoo

Prof. dr. G.A. Persoon

Promotiecommissie

Prof. dr. ir. P.M. van Bodegom

Prof. dr. ing. M.G. Vijver

Prof. dr. B.A. Barendregt

Prof. dr. Dra. Sulistyowati Irianto, M.A (Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia)

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***You are not a drop in the ocean.
You are the entire ocean in a drop.***
Rumi

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BAPPENAS	Badan Pengawas Pembangunan Nasional
BERMAR-	Bersama Rakyat Maju, Adil, Rahayu,
TABAT	Tentram, Agamis, Berbudaya, Amal dan Terpuji
BKM	Badan Keswadayaan Masyarakat
BKK	Badan Kredit Kelurahan
BMT	Baitul Maal wat Tamwil

BPR	Bank Perkreditan Rakyat
BRI	Bank Rakyat Indonesia
BUMD	Badan Usaha Milik Daerah
DKI	Daerah Khusus Ibukota
DPRDS	Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah Sementara
FES	Field of Ethnological Science
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDRP	Gross Domestic Regional Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HD	Historical Dimension
HDI	Human Development Index
IDR	Indonesian Rupiah
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge System
IMM	Integrated Microfinance Management
KAN	Kerapatan Adat Nagari
KDP	Kecamatan Development Project
KK	Kepala Keluarga
KS	Keluarga Sejahtera
KUD	Koperasi Unit Desa
KUPEDES	Kredit Umum Pedesaan
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSME	Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises
MUSPIDA	Musyawarah Pimpinan Daerah
MUSREN-	Musyawarah Rencana
BANG	Pembangunan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OJK	Otoritas Jasa Keuangan
PCINS	Plural Available institutions/organizational Systems
PDAM	Perusahaan Daerah Air Minum
PERDA	Peraturan Daerah
PKK	Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga
PLTA	Pembangkit Listrik Tenaga Air
PNPM	Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat
PNPM-UPK	Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat-Unit Pengelola Keuangan
POSYANDU	Pos Pelayanan Terpadu
PUSKESMAS	Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat
PV	Participant's View
RKPD	Rencana Kerja Pembangunan Daerah
RPJMD	Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah
RPJPD	Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Panjang Daerah
RT	Rukun Tetangga
RW	Rukun Warga
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIMPEDES	Simpanan Pedesaan

SMA	Sekolah Menengah Atas
SMP	Sekolah Menengah Pertama
SUSENAS	Survey Sosial Ekonomi Nasional
TBK	Terbuka
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
TPKAD	Tim Pengelola Kegiatan Antar Desa
UMKM	Unit Usaha Mikro, Kecil dan Menengah
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNHDR	United Nations Human Development Report
UNSIQ	Universitas Sains Al Quran
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WeD	Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group

Glossary

Alun-alun (B.J):	The square
Arisan(B.I):	Rotating saving and credit associations
B.I:	<i>Bahasa Indonesia</i> . In Indonesian language
B.J:	<i>Bahasa Jawa</i> . In Javanese language
BPS:	<i>Badan Pusat Statistik</i> . Indonesian Office of Statistics
Dawis:	<i>Dasa wisma</i> , a community which consist of women from 10 households in one RT, divided according to geographic location of north, south, east and west or left, middle and right-side.
Desa (B.I):	Village
Dusun/Dukuh (B.J):	Hamlet/ward
Hormat (B.I):	Respect
IDR:	Indonesian (currency) Rupiah
Jimpitan (B.J):	Taking a small amount of rice and save it
Kabupaten (B.I):	District
Kecamatan (B.I):	Sub-district
Kelurahan (B.I):	Village
Koperasi (B.I):	The cooperative
Kotamadya (B.I):	Town
Nyumbang (B.J):	To donate
Poskamling:	<i>Pos keamanan lingkungan</i> . Post Security Neighborhood
Posyandu:	<i>Pos pelayanan terpadu</i> . Integrated service center
Provinsi (B.I):	Province
Puskesmas:	<i>Pusat Kesehatan masyarakat</i> . Community health center
RT:	<i>Rukun tetangga</i> , Neighborhood association, 1 RT consists of 2 or more households

RW:	<i>Rukun warga</i> , Community association, 1 RW consists of 2 or more RTs
Pengajian (B.I):	Religious gathering
Pesantren (B.I):	Islamic boarding school
PKK:	<i>Program kesejahteraan keluarga</i> . Government-sponsored family welfare organization/approach
PNPM UPK:	<i>Program nasional pemberdayaan masyarakat</i> . National Community Empowerment Program-Financial Management Unit
Ronda:	Night patrol
Rukun:	Harmony
RKPD:	<i>Rencana kerja pemerintah daerah</i> . Annual district development plan
RPJMD:	<i>Rencana pembangunan jangka menengah daerah</i> . District/municipal mid-term development plan
RPJPD:	<i>Rencana pembangunan jangka panjang daerah</i> . District/municipal long-term development plan
Selapanan (B.J):	35 days
SMA:	<i>Sekolah Menengah Atas</i> . Secondary high school
SMP: S	<i>ekolah Menengah Pertama</i> . Junior high school
Sumbangan (B.I):	Contribution or donation in cash, for instance, to newly-wed couples or the parents of newly born babies
Tanggung renteng:	joint responsibility
TKI:	<i>Tenaga kerja Indonesia</i> . Indonesian migrant worker

Preface

Humans in their lifespan often encounter difficulties, either on a personal or a global scale, that may even be felt as a crisis. Recently, mankind suffered a health crisis, namely the coronavirus pandemic. Initially it appeared in Wuhan, China, in 2019, then spread rapidly throughout the world. The virus made many casualties and most governments began to take preventive measures. However, the result of these preventive efforts led to another crisis, namely an economic downturn. In Indonesia, Covid-19 hit for the first time on March 2nd, 2020, when two women from Depok, West Java, had close contact with the 24th confirmed case in Malaysia (Pranita 2020). The number of people who tested positive for the virus began to rise rapidly. Up until recently, according to the latest data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, in May 2021, it is recorded that 1,697,305 tested positive for Covid-19, as many as 1,552,532 people recovered, and 46,496 people died. The government has been making various efforts to prevent this pandemic from spreading widely. One of them is the PSBB *Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar* (lockdown), more recently there was a restriction on *mudik* (returning to hometown). This turns out to have an adverse impact on the economy.

Other efforts made by the Indonesian government are direct assistance, *eg.* staple food aid, BLT *Bantuan Langsung Tunai* (Cash Direct Aid) and small medium enterprise aid, subsidy for salary under IDR 5 million, and interest subsidy. However, people cannot expect to rely on government aid only to survive in the adverse economic conditions due to the lockdown and other measures in the Covid-19 pandemic. Some people took the initiative and asked for a CSR (corporate social responsibility) fund from the big corporations, or they asked for an extension of the loan from the bank, or there were even some people who were forced to go to a loan shark (*bank titil* or illegal fin-tech). However, those solution are not sustainable, and they also become a psychological burden (Marjono 2020). The local people should depend on their own resourcefulness.

Community participation in dealing with a pandemic, especially related to health and the economy, relies on activities that have mutual cooperation. In Central Java, *jimpitan* is one of the solutions. *Jimpitan* is the collection of a small portion of rice or money taken from households in a neighborhood. Through *jimpitan*, some villages succeed to tackle

the difficulty times in this pandemic era. The governor of Central Java, Ganjar Pranowo, asked the people in the villages to revive the tradition of *jimpitan* as a food barn. He said that *jimpitan* could be used to fulfill the economic needs independent from the assistance of the central or provincial government (Farasonalia 2020). He also initiated the program of *Jogo Tonggo* (literally *jogo* means to keep/to guard, *tonggo* means neighbor). In Tegal, Central Java, in one of its villages called Tegalsari (Tegal Barat sub-district), the local people implement the *Jogo Tonggo* program by growing vegetable crops and other food plants, cultivating the fish in the pond, and growing kale plants and greens. They also have food barns to store the aid from outside the neighborhood or from *jimpitan* within the neighborhood. The food barn is used to help people outside the neighborhood such as informal Al Quran teachers and other people who are affected by Covid-19 but reside outside the RW-Rukun Warga (community association) (Humas Jateng 2020).

In the Wonosobo district, there has been a rise in thefts lately due to the increasing number of poor people because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The local people in the village of Suren Gede (Kertek sub-district, Wonosobo district) attempted to tackle the thefts by reanimating the *ronda malam* and *jimpitan*. In the Suren Gede village, the *jimpitan* is managed by each RT-Rukun Tetangga (neighborhood association) to support the *sedekah canthelan*, a pre-existing program for social fund support (literally *sedekah* means donation, *canthelan* means hanger) (Al Arifa 2020). *Jimpitan*, together with the growing of vegetables and the food barn, is considered important in promoting food security, and it is an illustration of the fact that the tradition of *jimpitan* is still preserved in Central Java, East Java, and West Java (with a different name, *ie. Perelek*) (Abdullah 2020), even though it may seem dormant at times. In Blitar, East Java, the regent suggested that the local people revive *jimpitan* to build the *Kampung Tangguh* Covid-19 (literally *kampung* means village, *tangguh* means tough or firm). It is traditional institutions that empowers the local people to face the pandemic situation. Two of its sub-programs are: (a) *Poskamling* (*pos keamanan lingkungan*, environmental security post), an activity that is intended to promote security, and (b) *jimpitan* for food security (Hadi 2020).

Kampung Tangguh in South Tangerang, Banten Province, is said to be successful in decreasing the number of Covid-19 infections. From the 12 infected persons in December 2020, two recovered, and the other 10 self-quarantined. In January 2021, 2 out of those 10 persons recovered. There are no new cases of Covid-19. Six main programs of *Kampung Tangguh* are *Tangguh Kesehatan jasmani dan rohani* (physical and mental health), *Tangguh sosial ekonomi* (social and economic resilience), *Tangguh keamanan* (safety), *Tangguh edukasi* (education), *Tangguh Demokrasi* (good democracy). In the sub-program for social and economic resilience there are four efforts: 1) home industry with online marketing; (2) *jimpitan*, food barn, and free food store for the local people; (3) fish cultivation, hydroponic plants and goat/cow livestock; and (4) *dapur umum* (cooking together on a massive scale for neighborhood) from people for people (Yandri 2021).

By acknowledging the benefits of *jimpitan* amidst the recent crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, this study describes the utilization and advantages of institutions and organizations that serve the community, particularly *jimpitan*. I hope that this study



Picture 1 The governor of Central Java, Ganjar Pranowo, is visiting people in Tegal, while implementing the *Jogo Tonggo*, the vegetable growing program. Source: Slam (Humas Jateng), 17 May 2020

about the utilization of institutions and organizations, in which *jimpitan* is included as an indigenous institution that describes the resourcefulness of local people, can bring some insightful knowledge to many people, including policy makers, so that in setting out policies they will consider the voice of local people. This study is also dedicated to local people who are still preserving their indigenous way of coping with the situation, in hopes that they will be acknowledged by the people outside their community too, such as academics, governments and the world at large.