

ABSTRACT

The implementation of Regional Spatial Planning Regulations (RTRW) is one of the key instruments for guiding sustainable regional development. However, in practice, various challenges persist, resulting in discrepancies between planning objectives and their implementation on the ground. These challenges include limited human resource capacity, conflicts of interest among stakeholders, weak institutional coordination, low compliance with spatial planning regulations, and the influence of political dynamics on development processes. These conditions indicate that the success of spatial planning implementation is influenced by the roles of actors involved in the planning, implementation, and control of land-use management. In this context, planners occupy a strategic position as professionals who facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration among stakeholders.

This study aims to identify barriers within the spatial planning process and analyze the role of planners in supporting the implementation of spatial planning regulations and regional development in Pati Regency. A descriptive qualitative approach was employed to gain an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon from the perspectives of actors involved in spatial planning and its implementation. Data were collected through structured interviews and document reviews. Informants were selected purposively and consisted of representatives from the Indonesian Planning Experts Association (IAP) Central Java, the National Association of Indonesian Consultants (INKINDO) Central Java, spatial planning consultants, the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) of Pati Regency, and the Public Works and Spatial Planning Agency of Pati Regency. Secondary data were obtained from policy documents, regulations, government reports, and relevant literature. Data were analyzed using descriptive analysis, gap analysis, and triangulation.

The findings reveal that barriers to spatial planning implementation in Pati Regency are systemic and multidimensional. These barriers include data and technical issues, particularly inconsistencies between spatial and non-spatial data across institutions; governance and implementation challenges; regulatory and budgetary constraints; limitations in human resource capacity; and political barriers arising from the intervention of economic and investment interests in development decision-making processes. Furthermore, weak monitoring of land-use activities and the suboptimal integration of spatial planning documents with development planning documents have hindered the effective implementation of spatial control functions. The study also finds that planners can play multiple roles, including as public policy advocates, negotiators, diplomats, decision-makers, problem-solvers, leaders, and political actors who seek to maintain a long-term development perspective. In addition, planners contribute to facilitating stakeholder collaboration and promoting the utilization of spatial technologies to enhance the quality of planning and development monitoring.

Keywords: Development Barriers, Planning Documents, Role Of Planners, Regional Development.