

## ABSTRACT

Sarah Rohadatul Aisyi. 2025. **“Empowerment of Community Groups Through the Elderly Food ATENSI Program of the Ministry of Social Affairs”** (A Study on the “Abadi Raga” Community Group in Indihiang, Tasikmalaya City). Department of Community Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Siliwangi University, Tasikmalaya.

*The Elderly Food ATENSI Program, as a form of attention from the Ministry of Social Affairs, aims to improve the welfare of single elderly individuals throughout Indonesia by involving community groups as the main implementers; however, the internal empowerment of these groups is often overlooked. Essentially, the success of a program is determined by its implementers, yet the empowerment of these implementers frequently escapes scholarly examination, causing their capacity to be underdeveloped and ultimately threatening the sustainability and effectiveness of the program. Therefore, this study examines the empowerment of community groups through the Elderly Food ATENSI Program as experienced by the Abadi Raga Community Group in Indihiang District, Tasikmalaya City. The research gap lies in the lack of in-depth studies on the stages of internal empowerment of community groups as program implementers, while previous studies have focused more on the program’s impact on elderly beneficiaries. The purpose of this study is to analyze the empowerment process of community groups as implementers of the elderly food program. The method used is phenomenology with a qualitative descriptive approach, in which data were collected through interviews, observations, and documentation, and analyzed using data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing techniques with source triangulation. The results of the study show that the stages of empowerment include mental and member readiness, participatory needs identification, program planning, organizational structure formation, implementation according to plan, performance evaluation, and preparation for the group to be able to operate independently. This empowerment process encourages the enhancement of the capacity and role of community groups in the implementation of social programs in a systematic and sustainable manner. The conclusion of the study emphasizes that internal empowerment of community groups is the key to the success and sustainability of the Elderly Food ATENSI Program, which ultimately improves the quality of life of the community and the welfare of the elderly.*

**Keywords: Community Empowerment, ATENSI Program, Elderly Food Provision**