

NGO Accountability in Foreign Aid Process : Case Study of “Taiwan Indonesia Aceh Digital Education Project”

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Abstract

The article is focusing on how NGO are involved in the social development in Southeast Asia, especially the dilemma and myth facing by NGO in developing countries. To investigate the issue of accountability, the article takes the example of Taiwan-Aceh Taskforce, an NGO funded by Taipei City Government; also, the article describes how the Taskforce promoting digital education in Indonesia's Aceh, a province suffered seriously in the tsunami disaster in December 2004.

The article describes how the Taiwan-Aceh Taskforce was trying to promote the development of local community by connecting the social network between Taiwan and Aceh. The Taskforce established a Digital Learning Center in Peunayong District, and through the transnational network, this Taiwan-originated NGO promoted the digital learning in Peunayong and thus promoting the development of the local community. The endeavor of the Taskforce, though helping Peunayong accessing more information from abroad, was failed to achieve the expected further development for local community. We found that the failure of internal governance was the determinant, making the Taiwanese NGO failed to perform as well as expected.

Besides reviewing related literatures, the authors also adopted the methods of participant observation and in-depth interview. Furthermore, the author's participation in operations of the program studied is helpful for understanding the context of this event. Based on related data and experience, this article analyzes the operation and accountability of NGO, and thus providing some opinions on the practice of foreign-aiding and the prevailing social capital theory.

Keywords: Indonesia, Aceh, NGO, social development, accountability, foreign aid

