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JURNAL TATA LOKA; VOLUME 8; NOMOR 1; JANUARI 2006  
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## EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF EMPOWERMENT

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**Abstract :** *Empowerment is a laudable goal for planners and other practitioners, in dealing with poverty and other community problems. In spite of being applied extensively in a variety of programs, definition of empowerment is still elusive. This article attempts to explore the concept of empowerment, what are the goals of empowerment, and what theories guide empowerment practice. These answers are expected to lead to a clearer understanding of the concept of empowerment.*