

## THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT WITH PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL APPROACH

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### ABSTRACT

This research is a research on empowerment of human resources in regional government apparatus in achieving the goals stated in the SDGs. Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) has been implemented using 17 indicators. All of the countries that are members of the MDGs declaration have participated in the SDGs declaration, including Indonesia. In general, this research aimed to further analyze the implementation of SDGs implementation with the implementation of human resource empowerment through the application of Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA). In particular, this research provided input to regional governments in the achievement of SDGs' goals implementation for harmonizing government regulations and programs with community empowerment. This research was conducted by reviewing the case studies about achievement of SDGs' goals in Batu City. This research was conducted by observing the regional organizations (OPD) related to poverty reduction policies and the readiness of regional governments in implementing SDGs. This research was done by conducting interview, distributing questionnaire and FGD with regional government officials in the OPD that carried out programs related to achievement of SDGs. The analysis was carried out with descriptive qualitative by combining statistical analysis to strengthen the results of descriptive analysis, namely by using frequency analysis to determine respondent responses to the questionnaire. The results of this research indicated that some of the objectives listed in the SDG document have been successful, however, they were still not optimal, especially in terms of sustainable economic development. This finding encourages the regional government to be more extra in terms of achieving economic equality so that it would also have effect on lower class society.

**Keywords:** Community Empowerment, SDGs, Poverty Reduction, Participatory Rural Appraisal

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainability Development Goals is an effort to accelerate the achievement of MDGs targets to become development priorities both nationally and regionally, thus, it requires synergy in planning policies at the national level and at the provincial and regency/city levels. At the regional level, MDGs targets must be integrated into the Regional Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMD) in the

form of programs, measurable indicators and targets and indications of financial support.

In implementing SDGs targets, it is necessary to formulate a regional roadmap. Furthermore, the roadmap needs to be elaborated in the form of SDGs Action Plan in accordance with the conditions and problems in Batu City. From the action plan, related parties are expected to have a commitment and clarity in planning and budgeting programs and activities for SDGs target implementation.

Poverty reduction programs remain relevant at all times. The regional government emphasizes the efforts of the human development program with various creative steps in order to minimize social inequality including efforts to open up adequate employment opportunities for the community. Therefore, the coordination of the efforts of the human development program will continue to be carried out periodically and continuously.

The HDI figure of 76.50 shows the condition of the human development status of Batu City, including the middle to upper level category. The magnitude of the HDI figure shows that in general, the achievement of the status of human development during the 2012-2014 period experienced significant changes, although it was still in the middle to upper level. The development carried out during the last 3 years had been able to show good performance in terms of human development to be more qualified and highly competitive.

In general, the progress of human development can be demonstrated by looking at the development of the Human Development Index (HDI), which reflected the achievement of progress in the fields of education, health and economics. The increase in the HDI figure occurred due to the improvement of programs in the field of education and health. In addition, the increase in people's purchasing power also influenced the HDI figure.

Various government programs have been strived to increase the HDI numbers, such as programs in the fields of health, education and economics and improving the quality of other community infrastructure. In addition, the success of the program is determined by the mindset of the community in utilizing the available facilities. Human development portrayed through HDI figure does not give immediate impact in the following year, it will be visible a few years later.

The primacy of this research is to do a reconstruction in the form of developing a community empowerment program model based on the Participatory Rural Appraisal in order to realize a model that is more in line with the characteristics of the local community and culture. In addition, the program is planned in an integrated manner with regard to the potential of local resources, starting from an institutional structure that is able to synergize between the institutions built in the poverty alleviation program in general, the Regional Poverty Reduction Coordination Team (TKPKD), with elements of the regional government (urban village/village), to network with stakeholders, and other caring groups (private and BUMN/D (State Owned Enterprises and Regional Owned Enterprises), non-governmental organizations, and colleges. The formulation of research questions is, how to explore important factors that are in accordance with the characteristics of the non-governmental organizations and

culture of the community as the basis for the development or reformulation of the program model for empowering human resources in the community's non-governmental organizations with the concept of rural appraisal participatory that is aligned with the goals of the SDGs.

### 1.1. SDGs Concept

Starting in 2016, the 2015-2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formally replace the 2000-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs contain a set of transformative goals that are agreed upon and apply to all nations without exception. The SDGs contain 17 goals, one of which is the goal that regulates procedures, namely a peaceful society without violence, non-discrimination, participation, open governance and multi-stakeholder partnership cooperation. The process of formulating SDGs is very different from the MDGs. One of the fundamental changes brought by the SDGs is the principle of "no one is left behind". The SDGs also contain principles that emphasize inter-state and inter-national equality. The SDGs apply to all (universal) UN member states, both developed, poor and developing countries (Hoelman et. Al., 2015)

Indonesia already has development priorities, in accordance with the programs and priorities in *Nawacita* and the 2015-2019 Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN). There is convergence and divergence between SDGs and *Nawacita*. In this research, the SDGs were adapted to the conditions of Indonesia which have been contained in a development action plan, which consists of:

1. Sustainability of the **human development agenda**, such as poverty, hunger, gender justice, and the fulfillment of access to water and sanitation as issues that are always strategic.
2. **Welfare and education improvement** that is in accordance with the priority agenda of improving the quality of human life through social security, education, health and agrarian reform.
3. **Sustainable economic development** is a new issue that will focus on inclusive economic growth, as well as sustainable industrialization and sustainable urban and residential development along with the application of sustainable production and consumption patterns.
4. Affordable **energy** access, as a new focus combined with infrastructure development such as the construction of power plants, the use of biofuels, dams, and transportation routes. The transfer to renewable energy sources and the transparency of the management of the energy sector also become an important focus and social responsibility as part of broader efforts to implement sustainable resource governance.

#### *Human Resource Empowerment & Community Empowerment Concept*

The main problem in the field of human resource empowerment is the term empowerment which is linked to the relinquishment of power/authority. However, in practice, empowerment is usually seen as a form of human resource involvement planned

by management with the aim of generating commitment and increasing the contribution of human resources to the organization.

Based on this view, the empowerment of human resources has a role that greatly determines the performance of an organization and individuals, for that, there is an effort to improve the ability of human resources and create a culture of empowerment. To improve the ability of human resources, it is done through training and development or also called as human resource development. While creating an empowerment culture is to create a conducive environment for empowerment efforts (Erstad, 1997). Furthermore, Erstad (1997) explained organizations that want to generate an empowerment culture must look for ways to establish systems and processes that do not limit human resources. By concentrating on what behaviors are considered optimal for human resources and what they have done well, management can adapt, develop and change organizational structures to produce better behavior: human resources begin to devote their attention to learning, growing, and developing; human resources can take care of themselves; leadership is not only at the top level; there will be a high level of trust between management and human resources and between human resources; there will be human resource participation in decision making; there will be communication that is established both vertically and horizontally; and human resources can overcome conflicts with management and get effective and efficient resolutions.

Empowerment helps eliminate conditions that cause helplessness while increasing self-efficacy, namely feeling in someone that he/she is able to complete any work given to him/her (Newstrom & Davis, 1997). Thus, empowerment is a process to make people become more empowered or more capable to solve their own problems by giving trust and authority so as to foster a sense of responsibility (Wibowo, 2007).

The unsuccessful efforts of empowerment and poverty reduction carried out by the government such as the provision of food needs, health and education services, agricultural development, the provision of revolving funds, the construction of public facilities and infrastructure and assistance occur because the program policies that have been carried out are policies of the central government (*top down*), where the policy has many weaknesses that need to be corrected in the basic ways such as: (1) It is an empowerment that indicates KKN (corruption collusion nepotism) (2) It is still oriented to macroeconomic growth (3) It has centralized policy (4) It is more caricative (5) It positions the community as an object (6) It has poverty perspective that is oriented towards the economy (7) It is sectoral (8) It is less integrated (9) It is not sustainable or overrides the environmental carrying capacity factor.

Some important things in advancing the community in empowerment, which is oriented towards activities that provide added value to the community or called participation-based empowerment are:

1. Facilitating knowledge and information improvement for rural communities through regular discussion forum activities conducted around villages (rural roundtable discussion) with understanding of learning and experience to make the empowerment program cycle.
2. Facilitating participatory mapping by village communities as a basis for exploring needs, problems, natural resource potential, and rural communities.

3. Facilitating understanding and partnership of village government, BPD and the community are partners and agents of change who are able to develop and plan community empowerment activities.
4. Facilitating and growing the facilitator from the village itself as an agent of change from within (PRA) that motivates learning activities and characteristics of the village to find its own economic patterns.
5. Facilitating women to be more involved in various rural empowerment and development activities.
6. Making citizen media as a means of accountability and transparency in activities and use of village budgets.
7. Utilizing village potential resources, and managing sustainably and environmental-friendly.

### **1.2. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Concept**

Participatory rural appraisal is a set of approaches and methods that encourage (rural) people to participate in improving and analyzing their knowledge about their own lives and conditions so that they can make plans and actions (Chambers, 1994). In essence, PRA is a group of approaches or methods that allow village communities to share, improve, and analyze their knowledge of village conditions and life, as well as making concrete plans and actions (Chambers, 1994). Some basic principles that must be met in the PRA method include: mutual learning and sharing experiences, involvement of all group members and information, outsiders as facilitators, the concept of triangulation, and optimization of results, practical orientation and program sustainability (Rochdyanto, 2000).

The method is considered to have technicalities that are described as quite operational with the concept that community involvement is needed in all activities. The PRA approach does aspire to make the community become researchers, planners and implementers of development and not just objects of development. The validity of the data obtained, but at practical value for the development of the program itself.

The application of PRA approaches and techniques can provide greater and more targeted opportunities to involve the community. In addition, through the PRA approach, it will be possible to achieve the suitability and usefulness of the program with the needs of the community so that the sustainability of the program can be guaranteed.

## **2. METHODS**

The design of this research was descriptive qualitative combined with confirmatory exploration. As for the research variables, they were derived from the concepts of Empowerment, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), and four dimensions of SDGs concepts that could be the basis for determining a competitive and sustainable empowerment management scheme.



The population in this research in the first year was the regional government apparatuses scattered in regional organizations (OPD) consisting of 37 agencies and agencies that implemented poverty reduction programs in aligning SDGs implementation. The sampling technique used in this research was proportional sampling. The documentation technique was according to analysis needs. From the results of questionnaires submitted to regional government apparatus respondents, 179 questionnaires were analyzed.

The analytical method combined qualitative descriptive analysis and quantitative analysis. Descriptive qualitative analysis was used to explain the relationship between variables based on opinions or ideas from respondents (regional government officials) to explore programs that have been running and people's expectations of poverty reduction programs.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overall, the indicator mean of each variable in this research can be presented as follows:

Table 1. **Variables and Mean of Indicators**

Variables	Indicators	Indicator Mean
Empowerment of Human Resources (X1)	Participation Level (X1.1)	4.24
	Initiative Level (X1.2)	4.09
	Commitment Level (X1.3)	4.09
	Responsibility(X1.4)	4.29
	<b>Variable Mean</b>	4.177
Partipatory Rural Apraisal (Y1)	Attitude & Behavior (Y1.1)	4.175
	Involvement (Y1.2)	4.137
	Facilitation (Y1.3)	3.98
	Results Optimatization (Y1.4)	3.97
	Program Sustainability (Y1.5)	4.15
	<b>Variable Mean</b>	4.0824
Achievement of SDGs (Y2)	Human Development (Y2.1)	3.88
	Welfare and Education (Y2.2)	3.91
	Sustainable Economy (Y2.3)	3.57
	Energy Access (Y2.4)	3.92
	<b>Variable Mean</b>	3.82

In the HR Empowerment variable, the indicator that had the highest value was responsibility with a value of 4.29. Second, the indicator of participation level had an average value of 4.24. Third, the indicator of initiative and commitment level had the same value with an average value of 4.09. From this analysis, it can be concluded that the HR empowerment of Batu City government officials in achieving SDGs has been good, this was shown by the variable mean value of 4.18. However, this empowerment still needs to be optimized. Optimization of HR empowerment that is meant here is in the form of sustainable empowerment.

Considering the future challenges are more complex, so the community is required to be more creative in financing SDGs achievement programs.

Next is variable of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). This variable had an average value of 4.08. This value illustrated that poverty reduction activities undertaken by government officials in Batu City were generally PRA-based. This can be shown from the mean value of each indicator in the PRA variable. The first indicator was attitude and behavior, which had a mean value of 4.175, the highest among other indicators. In general, this indicator explored the attitudes and behavior of government officials in SDGs achievement activities which must be able to be facilitators in the Batu City area facilitated. This mean value showed that the average attitude and behavior of government officials in implementing poverty reduction programs was in accordance with the provisions of the PRA model but it was still not optimized. This was due to the paradigm problem of government officials who saw poverty reduction programs as a project.

The variable of SDGs Achievement had an average value of 3.74, overall this variable had a value above 3.82, meaning that according to the respondents' perceptions, SDGs performance in Batu City was good enough. This variable had four indicators, among which the indicator that had the lowest mean value was the SDG indicator of a sustainable economy. This indicated that sustainable economic development in Batu City was still not optimal, the results of economic development have not yet seeped down which can be enjoyed by the wider community. Thus, special attention is needed to the indicator of sustainable economic development. The second lowest was the indicator of human development with a mean value of 3.88. This indicated that human development has not touched the community as a whole, especially for the lower classes (poor people) there was still discrimination in equal rights in the opportunity to obtain education, health and income increase. Based on this, it is necessary for the Batu City Government to be more serious in the program of equitable development outcomes, especially for the middle to lower class economic development that will be able to be enjoyed by the majority of the population in Batu City. There needs to be a more precise formula so that the increasing economic growth can increase the income of the lower class. There needs to be an equitable economic growth that can be enjoyed by the majority of the population of Batu City, especially in accessing education, health and other fields.

## **4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **4.1. Conclusion**

The role of regional government in accelerating the achievement of SDGs still needs to be optimized. Especially in terms of funding alignments for implementing poverty reduction programs. It is expected that alignments in terms of funding in the regional budget are able to accelerate the achievement of the objectives set forth in the SDGs agreement.

Community empowerment using the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) approach had been implemented even though it was not optimal. This application

was carried out in almost all activities that were oriented towards accelerating the achievement of the goals stated in the SDGs. Some poverty reduction activities carried out by OPD were still in the form of *charity* and had not empowered the community purely. Thus, we need a good example of the application of the PRA method to empower the community in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

Based on respondents' perceptions of SDGs' achievements, their achievements still need to be optimized, especially achievements in sustainable economic development. Based on the descriptive analysis, it was found that the achievement of SDGs on economic development was still less able to be enjoyed by the community evenly. Economic growth could only be enjoyed by middle to upper class society. This was indicated by the economic growth of Batu City which exceeded the surrounding area and exceeded provincial and national economic growth, but had not been balanced by the declining rate in the percentage of poverty.

In line with the uneven distribution of sustainable economic development, the second indicator that needs attention is human development. The human development index based on statistical data was good, but in general, respondents said that they have yet to enjoy the results of human development in the form of increased income, health services and education equity.

## 4.2. Suggestion

Alignment to marginal communities still needs to be improved for the regional government by creating a program of community empowerment activities from the funding of regional budgets. Being dependent on government is not wise, given the long bureaucracy process in carrying out activities. The involvement of other parties outside the government (community and tertiary institutions) still needs to be improved, especially in terms of community empowerment from program planning, implementation of activities and supervision.

Concern for the private sector in accelerating the achievement of SDGs needs to be involved through funding of corporate social responsibility (CSR). This is in accordance with the findings of the variable participation indicator of community empowerment, that public participation in general, including the private sector still needs to be improved considering that the original revenue of regional governments is still very minimal.

Data updates need to be carried out on an ongoing basis with respect to community dynamics in order to get more accurate data on lower class community (the poor). This needs to be done in every budget year to avoid conflict in the community and empowerment of the poor is done to the right people.

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