

## The Empowered Village Community Development Model South Konawe Regency Coastal Region (Study of the Underdeveloped Village of the Coastal Region of South Konawe Regency)

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Received July 21st, 2020; revised December 8th, 2020; accepted December 21st, 2020

### ABSTRACT

Communities who lack the power and ability to manage existing resources are very vulnerable to poverty and find it challenging to achieve a better quality of life. The purpose of this study was to formulate a model of community empowerment in underdeveloped villages in the coastal area of South Konawe Regency. The empowerment model of rural communities in coastal regions is designed by strengthening through the institutional system that must be played by the economic institutions in the village. The town is empowered to have alternative expertise so that financial resources are not focused on just one activity. The important thing that needs to be done is that empowerment activities for disadvantaged rural communities in coastal areas require collective action based on participatory, self-supporting, partnership, and sustainability approaches. The following needs to be supported by policies on the construction of rural environmental facilities and infrastructure, provision and strengthening of social and economic institutions in the village, improvement of human resource competencies, namely technical and managerial skills.

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### Keywords:

Model, Empowerment, Under the developed village, Coastal

### 1. Introduction

The main carrying capacity of rural communities to be empowered can be seen from the physical and material aspects, economic, institutional, and cooperation between cities in building strength to be able to help themselves based on the application of the principles of empowerment.

Related to the development program, that the goal to be achieved is to shape individuals and communities to become independent. This independence includes the independence of thinking, acting, and controlling what they do concerning resource management as a potential lever for empowerment. Sumodiningrat [1] explained that community empowerment, which is marked by independence, could be achieved through a process of community empowerment.

South Konawe Regency has several natural resources that can be used as a source to foster the empowerment of community economists in it. Konawe Selatan Regency has 25 underdeveloped villages. The number of people living in poverty is 33,940 people or 10.91% of the population of South Konawe Regency, with 309,298 people [2]. The majority of the poor live in the backward villages of the South Konawe Regency by working as farmers and fishers.

Various efforts have been made to improve the standard of living of the people in the South Konawe Regency, such as assistance in agricultural equipment, fertilizer, seed and seed aid and so forth. The number of people living on the poverty line has continued to increase in the last five years.

Widjajanti [3] explained that Community empowerment can be realized through active community participation facilitated by perpetrators of empowerment. The main target of community empowerment is a group that is weak and does not yet have the power, strength, or ability to access potential productive resources. The ultimate goal of the process of community empowerment is to make the community independent so that they can change their lives to prosper by optimizing the resources they have. This goal can be achieved by developing a model of empowering disadvantaged rural communities based on local resources found in coastal villages in underdeveloped areas.

## **2. Material and Methods**

This research was conducted from January to May 2018, which is located in underdeveloped villages in the coastal area of South Konawe Regency.

The research data was obtained from respondents consisting of fishers, village heads, sub-district heads, and the Regional Representative Office in South Konawe Regency, which was conducted with an in-depth interview approach and Focus Group Discussion involving various stakeholders in the Konawe Selatan District.

The data needed in this study consists of the number of poor people, fisheries production, income, and community socio-economic institutions. Data analysis was performed using descriptive techniques that explain the tangible and intangible aspects related to the study.

## **3. Results And Discussion**

### ***3.1 Poverty Conditions***

Poverty is still one of the social phenomena in the South Konawe District. The population living on the poverty line continues to grow in the last five years. Based on the data presented below, population growth in poverty lines stands at 20% in the 2014-2018 period. Regarding population on the poverty line and the number of poor people can be seen in the following figure.

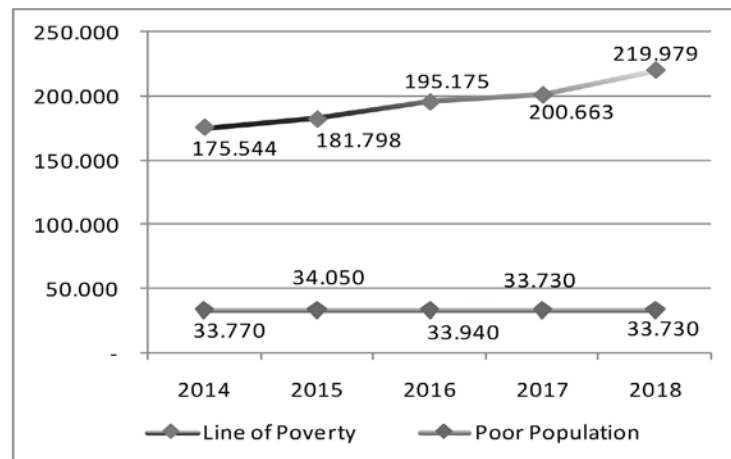
Community poverty in underdeveloped villages is motivated by various factors, including the unavailability of necessary infrastructure in the town, non-functioning institutions, patterns of social relations, lack of alternative expertise, and weak competence of human resources in managing potential resources in the village. Responding to the polemic mentioned above, the empowerment effort is an obligation that must be carried out collectively by involving various elements, especially at the village, sub-district, and district levels.

### ***3.2 Community Income***

The income of the people of the coastal area of South Konawe Regency is also affected by two seasons, namely the west wind season and the east wind season. The income in the western wind season is higher than the west wind season. This happens

because, during the east wind season, the weather conditions are less conducive, so the number of catches is lower.

Commonly caught fish are demersal fish or fish that live on the seabed. The catch is usually sold around the village with an average price of Rp. 20,000.kg<sup>-1</sup>. The powerlessness of the community, especially in the management of fisheries resources in the coastal areas of South Konawe Regency, is reflected in the condition of the community, such as the use of traditional fishing equipment and a small and non-motorized boat fleet. This situation causes fishing areas to capture fishing communities tend to be limited in nearby areas so that the catch is also low.



**Figure 1. The condition of the poverty line and poor population in the Regency of South Konawe**

**Table 1. The income of the people of the coastal area of South Konawe Regency**

Catching Period	Number of Catches (kg.month <sup>-1</sup> )	Catch Value (Rp.month <sup>-1</sup> )
West Wind Season	132	2.640.000
East Wind Season	98	1.960.000
Average	115	2.300.000

Source: Survey results, 2018

### 3.3 Village Economic Institution Support

Economic institutions are institutions that have specific duties and functions to achieve the welfare of the community. Konawe Selatan Regency has financial institutions that aim to improve the village economy, one of which is the Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes). To support economic development in the village, the government took the initiative to manage the economic potential based on local resources, which then transferred responsibility to BUMDes.

The existing BUMDes still look vacuum and do not show performance that has implications for community empowerment in the village. This situation is a result of the formation of BUMDes managers who do not pay attention to aspects of human resource competence. Besides, the lack of mentoring on the manager's performance causes weak BUMDes performance.

BUMDes formed intending to improve the economy of communities in underdeveloped villages, optimizing village assets, increasing community businesses, creating business opportunities, creating jobs, developing the village economy, and increasing village income, in the end, cannot be realized according to the purpose of its formation.

If BUMDes' management is optimal, the village will become an independent village. BUMDes, as one of the village government partners in realizing economic development plans, is demanded to be able to provide the needs of the community in developing business.

### ***3.4 Potential and Empowerment Problems***

Problems that are the cause of the weak community empowerment in the underdeveloped villages of the South Konawe Regency, namely: a) the absence of intensive assistance to community businesses, b) the company is still production-oriented, has not yet reached marketing management, c) the boat fleet used by the community still small or traditional size, d) fish handling has not been excellent, e) The lack of village economic institutions that can be accessed by the community, f) The quantity of production depends on the season or weather conditions, g) Lack of business capital. h) Limited alternative skills held by the community, i) Low public awareness of the importance of education, j) There is a tendency of the city to move to other areas, k) Lack of public facilities in the village, l) Assistance received from the government is ineffective, m) Lack of processing fishery products, n) There is no village market.

Apart from the above problems, several potentials can be utilized in community empowerment as follows: a) There is considerable potential in the field of fisheries and agriculture (plantations and horticultural), b) A fishing group has been formed, c) The community has the spirit to accept and cooperate with outsiders, d) High community motivation to develop their business, e) experienced fishers, and f) The spirit of cooperation is still firmly planted in the community.

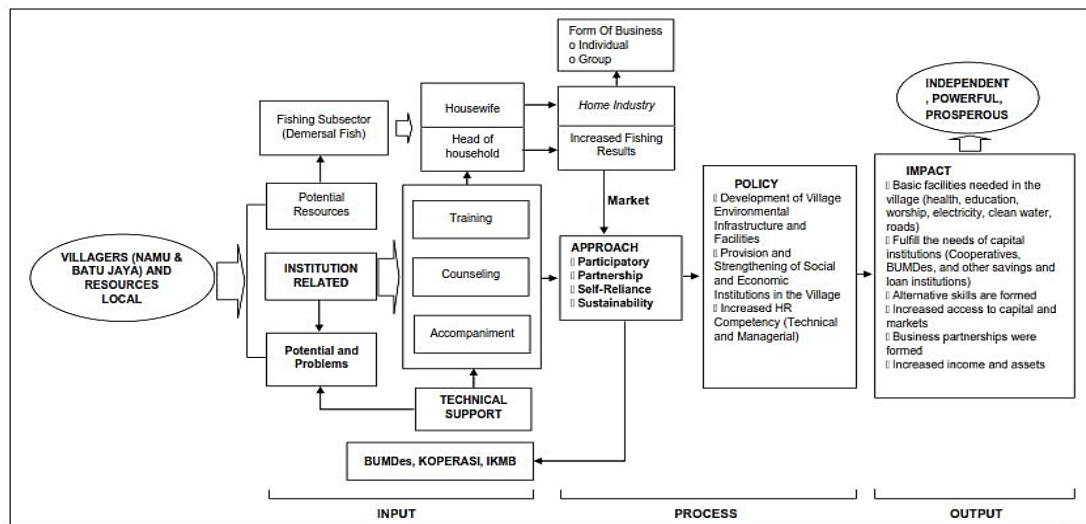
For the target of empowerment to be more productive and to quickly realize empowerment, it is necessary to look at the potential of local resources, which can then be managed by the community into products that can be seeded in the village. This also becomes a general policy direction for the development of community empowerment based on independence to realize community economic resilience [4].

### ***3.5 Community Empowerment Model***

The work as a fisherman for the rural communities in the coastal areas of South Konawe Regency has been carried out from generation to generation so that the city has enough experience and recognizes the potential that exists. This experience factor can be one of the instruments for community empowerment. Because it facilitates the community from work that has been, they will master more quickly give birth to power to power.

The community empowerment model in each village must be specifically based on the existing potential [5]. Departing from the village's potential, community empowerment is designed to develop fisheries resources with demersal fish commodities. The empowerment model that can be applied can be formed in three parts, namely input, process, and output. These three parts are parts that go hand in

hand and have a systemic connection. Empowerment input is needed as a machine capable of driving the empowerment process. Likewise, this input and process will produce impacts felt by the community. Effects as outputs in empowerment activities are expected to be enjoyed sustainably, so that community empowerment and welfare are experienced sustainably. The model of empowering rural communities behind the coastal areas of the South Konawe Regency can be seen in the following figure.



**Figure 2. Community empowerment model in Namu Village and Batu Jaya Village, Angata District, Konawe Selatan District**

The components contained in the community empowerment input section are human resources (community and related institutions) and financial institutions such as BUMDes, cooperatives, and or similar financial institutions. The fishing community is the main component that has full responsibility for creating empowerment. This is based on the concept of empowerment that the empowerment of a city is the primary responsibility of the community itself because whatever is sought by the government, if the community is not committed to changing their own lives, then empowerment will be challenging to achieve.

The intention referred to in this model is government agencies that are related to empowerment efforts. This agency or institution acts as a supporting element that helps the activities or businesses carried out by the community. This empowerment model applies a participatory approach, partnership, self-sufficiency, and sustainability. The four forms of the plan are the basis formulated to strengthen the power of people in disadvantaged villages. To make this happen, the role of the empowerment agent holds a prominent position. Thus, it will be better if empowerment is supported by the development of the capabilities of the empowerment actors [3].

In the process, both wet fish products and processed food products are sustainably marketed under a partnership system. This market partner will facilitate the distribution of fish and processed fish products produced by the community. Market partners involve existing institutions, especially BUMDes that have been formed in

the village. BUMDes, aside from functioning as a capital institution, can also be used as an institution that accommodates fishery products.

Significant efforts that can be made to realize the empowerment of rural communities lagging behind coastal areas that are encouraged by the policy of infrastructure development facilities and village environment, the provision and strengthening of social and economic institutions in the village, and improving human resource competencies namely technical and managerial competence.

The output of a model is the creation of a condition that has a real impact on improving people's economy and well-being [6]. The utilization of local resources supported by good patterns and policies will affect enhancing the quality of life of rural communities. Arif [7] explains that rural communities that are identical to underdevelopment lives, then empowerment will be challenging to achieve. The intention referred to in this model is government agencies that are related to empowerment efforts. This agency or institution acts as a supporting element that helps the activities or businesses carried out by the community.

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The impact expected to occur through this empowerment model is the fulfillment of basic facility needs in the village settlement area. Besides, capital institutions are also likely to be formed to facilitate access to business credit for the community. Another expected impact is the formation of a business partnership pattern between the city and financial institutions and also marketing institutions, as well as the structure of alternative expertise, especially housewives who can act as home industry players who process the caught fish into ready-to-eat food products. The final expected effect

is an increase in community income, followed by the rise in household asset ownership.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The empowerment model of rural communities in coastal areas is formulated by strengthening through the institutional system that must be played by the economic institutions in the village. The town is empowered to have alternative expertise so that financial resources are not focused on just one activity. The important thing that needs to be done is that empowerment activities for disadvantaged rural communities in coastal areas require collective action based on participatory, self-supporting, partnership, and sustainability approaches. The following needs to be supported by policies on the construction of rural environmental facilities and infrastructure, provision and strengthening of social and economic institutions in the village, improvement of human resource competencies, namely technical and managerial skills.

#### **Important Statement**

This empowerment model is formulated explicitly for coastal communities. The novelty of this model is the strengthening of household cooperation, each of which takes on a different role and focuses on the downstream and growth of alternative expertise.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The research team and stakeholders who participated were conveyed as much as possible because this research can be completed following the target time and planning because of the cooperation and assistance of all parties.

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