The Village SDGs? Can Partnership Aspect Enhance the Economic Development in Pangandaran Village?

Jayanti Armida Sari

1 Public Administration Study Program, Faculty of Law, Social, and Political Sciences, Universitas Terbuka, jayanti@ecampus.ut.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

This study describes the implementation of SDG programs through partnerships to improve economic development in Pangandaran villages. This research adopts qualitative research method and case study design. A qualitative approach was used because this study aims to analyze how the SDG program builds the economy in Pangandaran village through partnerships. Furthermore, the case study approach was chosen because this study focuses on partnership policies in the SDGs. Primary data obtained from semi-structured and unstructured interviews were using purposive sampling techniques. On the other hand, secondary data comes from other sources through literature research. The stages of data analysis are data consideration, data display, and drawing and verifying conclusions. The analysis revealed that one of the SDG programs, the partnership aspect, has been implemented in Pangandaran village to promote economic development. However, there are still some obstacles in the implementation process. This is reflected in several aspects such as cooperation with third parties, availability of Internet access in villages, village statistics and goods export activities.

Corresponding Author:
Jayanti Armida Sari
Public Administration Study Program, Faculty of Law, Social, and Political Sciences, Universitas Terbuka, jayanti@ecampus.ut.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight 17 fundamental aspects that focus on solving existing problems, one of them being the partnerships sector. Partnerships are an essential instrument (Bull, 2019) to complete the SDGs agenda by 2030 (Stott & Murphy, 2020). Moreover, the post-Covid-19 Pandemic reminds us to continue growing to build equitable partnerships. For this reason, the capacity of partnership must be strengthened by various types of organizations so that they can create multi-stakeholder partnerships (Moreno-serma et al., 2020). For example, the collaboration between corporate and organizational philanthropic funds will contribute to achieving the SDGs (Gehringer, 2020). Furthermore, the collaboration between the private sector, public, and third organizations in order to implement SDGs programs, especially in developing countries, is very important to develop to know how the characteristics of each organization and how their role in achieving the SDGs goals (Filho et al., 2022).
Indonesia's commitment to the implementation of the SDGs is the issuance (Peraturan Presiden Republik Indonesia nomor 59 Tahun 2017, n.d.) concerning the Implementation of the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The regulation contains 17 SDG goals and stipulates the role of each ministry, institution, and the participation role of non-governmental stakeholders such as civil society groups, philanthropy, academics, and businesspeople (Iskandar, 2020). The expected impacts of implementing these SDGs are: first, equitable distribution of sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and livelihoods and decent work; second, equitable access to services and social protection; third, environmental sustainability and increased disaster resilience; fourth, improving the quality of government and equal access to justice (Ermalena, 2017). Furthermore, eight years are left to improve the results of all SDG indicators in Indonesia. It is a big challenge considering that the score obtained by Indonesia is 69.2 and is ranked 82 out of 163 countries committed to implementing the SDGs (Sustainable Development Report, 2022).

As previously described, one of the expected impacts of implementing the SDGs policy is the reduction of poverty in Indonesia. Poverty is still a heavy burden for Indonesia, especially related to the issue of the gap between rich and poor. Moreover, Indonesia's highest poverty rate is at the village level. Based on a report from Statistics Indonesia, the Poverty Depth and Poverty Severity Index in villages are higher than in cities (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2022). Various conditions that force people to live below the standard are economic, cultural, and lifestyle crises (Sari & Abdullah, 2017). This condition will be an obstacle in the development and transformation process because it will cause socioeconomic problems in the community (Lalira et al., 2018). Therefore, the Indonesian government then formed a policy consisting of the SDGs policy for a lower level of government, namely the Village SDGs.

The background of the Village SDGs program is to push village funds to have significant impacts on all levels of village society, especially those in the lower classes. The following reason is that the community experienced significant development in that village. (Zaini et al., 2021). Therefore, this policy was then ratified in the (Peraturan Menteri Desa Pembangunan Daerah Tertinggal dan Transmigrasi Nomor 21, 2020) as the direction of village development policies until 2030. In that regulation, village SDGs are defined as integrated efforts to build villages to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals and as a policy direction in developing villages and empowering rural communities. Therefore, this ministry has guidelines for 18 focus areas of Village SDGs as an integrated effort to build the economy, environment, law, social, and community governance at the village level (Abbas & Jumriani, 2020).

The Village SDGs program initiated by the government is to create sustainable development starting from the village level, where the village is a granary for resilience and economic support (Sayuti et al., 2022). In practice, various obstacles are faced in the implementation of the SDGs. The study conducted by INFID explained that the main obstacle faced is policy coherence between the central and regional governments, where there still needs to be more of an understanding of the SDGs program at the regional level (Kawuryan, 2022). The difference in understanding between the central and local governments implements the SDGs program outside the previously established regional action plan. Another problem faced in implementing the SDGs program, according to the INFID study, is the need for more precise and complete socialization related to preparing the SDGs Regional Action Plan. The next problem is the coordination and availability of data between Regional Apparatus Units, which directly impacts the preparation of regional plans in determining SDGs indicators and targets (Mutiani et al., 2021).

One of the programs initiated in the Village SDGs policy is partnerships. The partnership is a strategy to reach formal cooperation agreements between various stakeholders to improve the competitiveness of the various organizations involved. Various evidence reveals that most SDGs cannot be achieved without the simultaneous involvement of stakeholders from different sectors working together towards the same goal in a sustainable development (Galan & Zuñiga-vicente, 2022). This partnership for village development is a strategy to implement and revitalise village partnerships to
achieve all SDGs through multi-party engagement. The involvement starts with community leaders, village-driving youth, women driving the village economy, universities, the business world, village supra, village leaders, Village Consultative Bodies, and villages (Iskandar, 2020). Furthermore, Iskandar explained that to measure these goals’ achievement, several indicators are used, including the existence and form of villages in collaboration with third parties, availability of internet network in the village, village statistics and exports of goods and activities.

The SDGs report on Pangandaran Village, accessed through the Kemendes website accessed on November 4, 2022, describes the Village SDGs scores on 18 development assessment indicators. Chart 1 shows that each development indicator is still lower because the indicator of achievement is that when the score acquisition is higher, the goal of the village's SDG is achieved. The aspect of partnership for village development that is the focus of this study still needs a score in achieving growth.

**Figure 1. Pangandaran Village SDGs Score**

Pangandaran Village is one of the West Java regions famous for its fish production and beautiful beaches for tourists. In addition, the regional income of Pangandaran Regency tends to increase from these two sectors. However, this does not impact the economic life of people working in the fishing and labour sectors, where they still live in poverty (Lubis, 2020). In addition, the experts are needed in fisheries business management counselling. With the limited capital, facilities, and human resources, fishermen's catches are not optimal, so they cannot provide sufficient profits, sometimes due to bad weather that hampers fishing activities and low prices of caught fish in the market (Hayat et al., 2022). Based on the background study, a village needs to improve the existing partnership strategy to build a better village economy. Therefore, this study aims to analyse the SDGs program's implementation through a partnership strategy to build the economy in Pangandaran Village.

**2. METHODS**

The research method used is a qualitative with a case study design. The qualitative was used to analyze how the SDGs program built the economy in Pangandaran Village through partnership programs. In addition, case studies were used because this study aims to identify the strategy that focuses on a single organization, institution, event, decision, policy, or group (Bakker, 1999). This study represents the policy of the SDGs program at the village level through a partnership strategy.

The data obtained in the form of primary and secondary data. The primary data obtained from informants using *purposive sampling* technique. After the informant is determined, the interview is conducted both in an unstructured and semi-structured approach. In semi-structured interviews, researchers have created interview guidelines aimed at the Pangandaran Village apparatus. The reasons selected official bureaucrat of the village are, they are village officials who carry out every policy. Meanwhile, they understand comprehensively regarding the issue related to this study. The next steps is, unstructured interviews are applied on certain occasions spontaneously with third parties, actors who focus in developing information technology to create a food security system in Pangandaran Village. Both the interview process is conducted face-to-face for about 45-60 minutes each.

Furthermore, secondary data is information not obtained from the field directly but from other sources with the same contextuality, obtained through the study of documentation. In this case, secondary data were obtained from Statistics Indonesia and the Pangandaran Village Monograph.
Data analysts in the study have several stages, such as data consideration, data display, drawing, and verifying conclusions sampling (Miles et al., 2014). Data consideration refers to selecting, focusing, simplifying, or transforming data obtained from interview transcripts with the aim of having the data obtained stronger. The second stage is displaying data, meaning organizing the information obtained for easy analysis for conclusion drawing or Action. The next stage is to draw a conclusion and verify the results.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The right policy should consider the local wisdom. More precise (Putri et al., 2021) stated that local wisdom as a sign of community from various external culture to solve the existed problems. Due to Pangandaran village located in coast, therefore the main economic sectors of the population in Pangandaran Village are fishermen, marine, and tourism. Data from the Pangandaran Village Monograph revealed that various types of industries developed in this region, such as clothing convection, shell crafts, and various processed foods (Desa Pangandaran, 2020). In the welfare industry, this policy in the village targets the poor and other vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, industrial tuna, and abandoned children and toddlers. This situation alludes to industrial change that results in inequality in various people’s lives. On the other hand, the report also showed the conditions of social class in this area.

Figure 1. Social Class of Pangandaran

With the great potential in the marine and tourism sector in Pangandaran Village, the right strategy requires that the existing potential becomes a trigger factor in sustainable economic development in Pangandaran Village. The results show that the partnership strategy impacts building this region’s economy. In practice, partnership activities have been running in various activities but have not been optimal. It can clarify by (Iskandar, 2020) views that to achieve the sustainable development goals in the partnership aspect, several achievement indicators are used, including cooperation with third parties, the availability of internet access in villages, and village statistics and goods export activities.

Village cooperation with third parties

A good partnership with various aspects leads to achieve sustainable development in the village level. Cooperation can occur between the village government and third parties. In carrying out these activities, the village government must know the community’s needs so that the programs carried out are right on target and can be monitored by the community (Sitorus, 2020). Various programs have been implemented by the Pangandaran Village Government, some of which are in the intelligent village development sector, MSME capacity development, and empowering fishing communities. However,
several challenges occurred in running the program, such as coordination, human resources capacity, and the financial sector.

Coordination is an important aspect that the village government must consider in carrying out cooperation activities with third parties. The plan cannot be optimally realized when coordination does not go well. (Rahajeng & Manaf, 2015) explained that the main supporting factor for coordination is communication. Coordination through communication allows all parties to share views and ideas on what problems need to be resolved immediately in the village. The study results found that coordination between the Pangandaran Village Government needed efficiency. Village governments often need to be more involved in the existing partnership agenda in program formulation and implementation. There needs to be more harmonious communication between the district government and the village government so that capacity-building programs involve villages and existing development programs align with the community’s actual needs.

Another obstacle in carrying out cooperation is the capacity of human resources owned by the village. Partnership activities require strengthening and support based on the expertise and understanding of village officials in managing the collaboration process. To execute these activities with other parties, the village government should prepare human resources based on aspects of competence (Soemaryani, 2019) and qualifications (Ardianti & Fitranandan, 2019). The results found that the human resources capacity in Pangandaran Village is still at a lower level. Qualifications, the village apparatus is still dominated by secondary education. It is a big challenge for Pangandaran Village to continue collaborating in economic development. Because when the resources owned by the village are qualified, sustainable, fair, and inclusive, sustainable multi-party cooperation can realize. On the other hand, when the village apparatus does not have the capacity to run partnerships, the parties who should contribute to the development to answer the challenges tend to run independently. The impact is that each party needs to understand their respective roles in solving the existing problems.

The next barrier related to partnership activities in Pangandaran Village is the financial capacity of the village government. The availability of adequate budget allocations for information-based technology services indicates the seriousness of the central and regional governments in implementing e-government. The budget allocation to implement application services is a crucial thing that should focus on because it concerns the financial capabilities of the governments involved. The limited financial aspects of Pangandaran Village have inhibited several economic development programs. In addition, the Covid-19 Pandemic also harms the community’s economy, which is why the allocation prioritizing for recovery to create productive economic development. The study discovered financial constraints in continuing partnership activities in the technology-based local food security sector. The village government experienced obstacles to continuing this program in terms of financing a website-based program because village funds prioritize the recovery of the post-pandemic economic sector.

Availability of internet in the village

In areas with the primary commodities of the tourism sector, integrating the internet is crucial element to solve community problems (Soemardjo, 2014). Internet connectivity is essential for communication to increase the introduction of merchandise, for example, through online promotion to improve the quality of the surrounding community and thus connect with the broader market. The findings clarify that Pangandaran Village already has a good internet network; this can be justified by running the Archipelago’s Smart Village development program. Pangandaran is a pilot village for the development of Smart Village Nusantara.

Smart Village Nusantara uses information and communication technology to improve security, comfort, workability, and efficiency in providing sustainable services. It can improve the living standards of rural communities, especially in terms of governance, village social governance, and business. With Smart Village Nusantara, a complete digital-based system was developed and implemented for village digitization. The program is to support national development priorities in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and the sustainability of national development (Pangandaran, 2020).
With the support of infrastructure, access networks, and application-based solutions can boost the development and implementation of digital villages can be facilitated to support the economic, government, and social sectors.

Apart from the Smart Village Nusantara program, there is also the Local Food Security System called Sitangkal. The Sitangkal program initiated by the Regulation of the Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration and Smart Village Nusantara (SVN) Telkom Indonesia aims to encourage the management of local food security in Pangandaran Village. This information system works by connecting village governments with communities and fellow village governments to provide local food, thus avoiding various risks related to food safety. Through this service, the information will be integrated at the local or even regional level because digital applications can create connections between villages. Integrated village data is interconnected amidst the many natural resources in rural areas (Sudrajat, 2022). Therefore, supporting and binding telecommunications infrastructure is vital to improve the community’s economy.

Export activities of goods

The export goods are carried out by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). MSMEs are a foundation in economic activity to restore economic conditions. Therefore, MSMEs play an essential role in the Indonesian economy because they embrace and activate broader social potential to improve people’s lives (Sholicha & Oktafia, 2021). Unfortunately, the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a significant influence that has made economic activity sluggish. Coronavirus has not only affected urban communities but has spread to remote villages. It has an impact on rural MSMEs.

The conditions during the pandemic made incomes decrease, prices of goods rose, and household consumption dropped. This condition has resulted in the sales of small traders and small businesses declining. This condition is a threat to traders, especially small traders, because many people need to buy merchandise, thereby reducing the amount of income (Hardianto, 2022). This condition also occurred in Pangandaran Village during the pandemic.

The study’s results found that the export activities of goods in Pangandaran Village were deterred due to the pandemic. Business actors at both the micro and macro levels in the artisan and convection sectors can only market their products at the local level in Pangandaran Village itself; there is no activity of selling goods outside the area. In addition, the income from the local market has also decreased due to the movement restriction that limits community activities’ working hours, which in turn causes a decrease in the chance of people purchasing goods which results in a decrease in profits by existing business actors.

4. CONCLUSION

Partnerships are one of the important aspects in the village SDG policy to create sustainable development starting at the village level, which is the breadbasket of resilience and economic support. Through existing partnership activities, economic development activities can be carried out in the villages, thereby addressing poverty and enabling better community economic development in the villages. The results of the study showed that one of the SDG programs, the partnership aspect, was implemented in the area of economic development in Pangandaran village. However, in practice, there are still some obstacles. This is reflected in several aspects, such as cooperation with third parties, availability of internet access in villages, and village statistics and goods export activities.

Partnership activities have been carried out in Pangandaran village as part of the collaboration with third parties. Obstacles are low coordination among the parties involved, difficulty in addressing the problem to the target group, low resource capacity of village institutions to carry out collaborative activities, and also financial ability of villages to continue cooperative activities in the context of sustainable development. The next criterion is the availability of an internet network that already exists in the village, as evidenced by the existence of various online-based service systems such as Smart Village and Sitangkal. Also, due to the pandemic, the export activities of the goods have encountered obstacles,
the micro and macro level business players in the handicraft and convection sector can only sell their products in the place of Pangandaran village itself, without any activities to sell goods outside the area, affecting Turnover and dependency of economic operators.

In order to develop partnership activities for co-creation of sustainable development, the village government should give the community a wide range of opinions, contributions and suggestions, so that every partnership process starts from the needs of the community and makes every policy just right. Take aim. In addition, effective coordination among all relevant parties, including village administrations, municipal and district governments, and the private sector, needs to be improved so that partnerships can be implemented to raise awareness and coordinate solutions to emerging challenges in the community.

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