

# ABCD Model Implemented to Underdeveloped Villages in Trenggalek Regency

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## Conference Paper

### ABCD Model Implemented to Underdeveloped Villages in Trenggalek Regency

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#### Abstract

Trenggalek Regency is an area located in the southern part of East Java Province. Due to its geographical position in the south and the lack of transportation facilities, Trenggalek Regency is a developing area with relatively slow progress. There are also still many underdeveloped villages. This research will discuss three underdeveloped or developing villages in Trenggalek. Tegaren village was once a village with IDT status (Inpres Desa Tertinggal), the consequence of which was often to get assistance from the government. Meanwhile, Winong Village is a village that is also included in a backward village. Tasikmadu village in Watulimo District is a prototype of a coastal village that is still classified as being left behind even though it is located in a tourist area. The research we have done is an implementation of the ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) model by Christopher Dureau that focuses on asset utilization. For the implementation of the ABCD method, this research uses a mixed method with interviews, observations, and questionnaires. This research will focus on community development and empowerment in underdeveloped villages of Trenggalek Regency by focusing on village assets. The problem that then arises is that both Tasikmadu, Winong, and Tegaren Villages are typical villages that do not yet have or have not maximized the village assets they have. A preliminary finding by the research team is that the empowerment of underdeveloped rural communities is strongly supported by a strong level of education and institutional leadership system.

**Keywords:** Underdeveloped villages, asset, development, empowerment

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#### Introduction

The problem of poverty in Indonesia is still a special concern of various groups of people, especially the government of the Republic of Indonesia and civil society. Latest available figures, March 2019, show that 325.14 million people are under the poverty line representing 9,41% of the entire population (BPS, 2019). This concern is shown by the issuance of Presidential Instruction No. 1 of 2010 concerning the acceleration of the implementation of development priorities of underdeveloped areas and the problem of poverty. Poverty involves all aspects of life. Thus, it effects all, not only rural people, but also urban people.

Efforts to alleviate poverty in Indonesia, especially in rural areas, have been carried out in various ways. However, the approach taken is generally to increase income with methods that are less friendly to the locality elements of the community, and pay less attention to the role of the community as the subject

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of development. According to Najih *et al.*, (2006) community involvement is an important factor in community empowerment activities. Due to the low level of community involvement in showing negative impact. Poverty alleviation with efforts to empower local communities is expected to be able to reduce poverty in rural areas. More than that, the village community actually has an important position in the family, namely as the backbone of the family's economy. This research is expected to be able to reveal the reality on the ground about the actual condition of communities in underdeveloped villages, so that later can be obtained an overview of: (1) The role of rural communities in meeting family needs, (2) Factors that affect access and control of rural communities in resource use local, and (3) Community empowerment model based on local potential.

The home industry based on local potential in several areas in Trenggalek Regency is actually a community effort, especially women's groups in the village which have been done for a long time, certainly with the assistance of the relevant agencies. This is seen as especially important for farm families in an effort to increase income and family welfare; Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) based on local potential are expected to improve the welfare of community families in the village, especially if there is a touch of knowledge and intervention from outside parties. Besides that, the village community and its surroundings will be able / empowered in increasing business which of course is also accompanied by an increase in income. Then it is necessary to explore other potential which is very possible to be able to also increase the income of the family of the community in the underdeveloped village.

Assessing poverty cannot be separated from the values or provisions that distinguish social identities of men and women, as well as what must be done by community families including family members / women farmers and what must be done by men in the economic, political, social, and culture both in family, community and national life. Community empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building towards greater participation to have power and supervision in decision making and transformation (transformation action) so that rural communities are able to produce something useful. Separating the chain of poverty is considered to be free from powerlessness and free from poverty, grow strength, and have independence. Community empowerment is a continuous process to improve the ability and independence of the community in an effort to improve the welfare of their families. Community empowerment is also defined as the improvement of groups of people in upgrading their life skills to heightened up the welfare of their life (Tempoh, 2013).

Based on the conditions presented above, then the response from researchers emerged to look deeper related to the empowerment of rural communities in an effort to create and develop a home industry based on local potential. Therefore, the main focus of this research is a model of community empowerment based on local potential in the Trenggalek Regency area. Starting from the description that has been stated above, it can be said that such a phenomenon is the basis for this research. This research will develop a community empowerment model based on local potentials in underdeveloped areas of Trenggalek Regency which will integrate elements of strategic planning from the government with participatory planning to identify local problems and potentials. This research is a follow-up of the Study on Technology-Based Mapping Innovation in Trenggalek Regency in 2018, and it is the continuation in the field of research development strategies as stated in the Research Master Plan of UPN "Veteran" Jawa Timur in 2016-2020 mainly in the field of research development strategies the fifth is the social and economic empowerment of the community. For this reason, researchers want to collaborate and synergize university policies with local government policies, especially in the field of social and economic empowerment of the community.

## Research Method

**1** The concept of empowerment in the discourse of community development is always associated with the concepts of independence, participation, networking, and justice. Basically, empowerment is placed at the individual and social level strength. According to Hikmat (2006), empowerment is interpreted as a psychological understanding of the effect of individual control on social conditions,

political power, and rights according to the law. Therefore, empowerment is a decision making process by those who consequently carry out the decision. People who have achieved collective goals are empowered through their independence. In fact it is imperative to be more empowered through their own efforts and accumulation of knowledge, skills and other resources in order to achieve their goals without relying on the help of external relations. Empowerment refers to the ability of people. Especially vulnerable and weak groups so that they have the strength or ability to (a) meet their basic needs so that they have freedom (freedom), in the sense that they are not only free to express their opinions. But free from hunger, free from ignorance, free from pain; (b) reach productive resources that enable them to increase their income and obtain the goods and services they need; and (c) participate in the development process and decisions that affect them (Suharto 2005).

Empowerment is a process and a goal. As an empowerment process is a series of activities to strengthen the power or empowerment of weak groups in society. Including individuals who experience poverty problems. As a goal, empowerment refers to the circumstances or results to be achieved by a social change; that is, people who are empowered have the power or have the knowledge and abilities to fulfill their needs in life that are physical, economic or social, such as having confidence. Able to convey the aspirations of having a livelihood, participating in social activities, and being independent in carrying out the tasks of his life.

The birth of participatory development thinking was motivated by programs, projects, and community development activities that came from above or from outside the community. In fact, this development concept often fails and does not fit the needs of the local community. Development practitioners also often experience frustration with the failure of the program. Therefore, reorientation of community development strategies is a necessity. Its emergence prioritizes community participation and empowerment as a strategy in community development. For this reason, a set of techniques is needed that can create conditions for community empowerment through participatory community empowerment processes (Hikmat 2006).

Empowerment and participation are central to the recent development process in various countries (Nayak 2008). Poverty that continues to engulf and undermine the lives of humankind as a result of the ongoing international recession and the process of restructuring of national-international agents, as well as local countries shows great attention to the strategy of community participation as a means of accelerating the development process. Therefore, it is necessary to emphasize the increase in the importance of alternative approaches in the form of development approaches that are initiated by the process of empowering local communities (Craig and Mayo 1995).

Empowerment and participation are very potential strategies in order to improve economic, social, and cultural transformation. This process will ultimately be able to create more people-centered development. One international agency, the World Bank for example, believes that community participation in third world countries is an effective means of reaching the poorest people through efforts to generate enthusiasm for life to help themselves (Hikmat 2006). In this case the best way to overcome the problem of development is to let the entrepreneurial spirit grow in people's lives, dare to take risks, dare to compete, grow the spirit to compete, and find new things (innovation) through community participation. The development strategy puts community participation at the center of current development issues. Community participation in third world countries is an effective strategy to overcome the problem of urbanization and industrialization (Craig and Mayo 1995). Meanwhile, the empowerment strategy puts active community participation into effectiveness, efficiency and an attitude of independence. Specifically, empowerment is carried out through collaborative activities with volunteers, not sourced from the government, but from NGOs (Non-Government Organizations), including community organizations and movements (Hikmat 2006).

The increase in the number of families will certainly increase the number of needs in meeting the needs of family members themselves increasing. The needs of this family will feel lighter if there is a business that brings income or family income to meet those needs. The home industry, which generally started as a family business that went down, eventually expanded and automatically could be

useful as a livelihood for the residents of the surrounding villages. This economic activity is usually not so time-consuming so that it allows business actors to divide their time for family and permanent work they carry.

Micro business is also often identified with the home industry because most activities are carried out at home, using simple or traditional technology, employing family members as well as local residents and are usually oriented towards the local market. Business activities like this are widely available in developing countries and play a significant role in creating jobs and alleviating poverty. Although initially oriented to local businesses, it is not uncommon for home industry businesses to eventually flap their wings out of the city or even abroad. Farmer women's group or abbreviated as KWT (Kelompok Wanita Tani) is a collection of farmer women who are in one village. Usually this farmer women's group contains wives of farmers who want to have other activities besides farming. The activities of women farmers or KWT in the form of empowering women farmers in the environment can be in the form of processed agricultural products that are like processed food or crafts, can also be in terms of administration of agriculture itself. The farmer women group or KWT currently has a program in the form of KRPL or an abbreviation of a sustainable food house area, this KRPL is fully managed by a farmer women's group which includes administrative management, nursery management or crop management that can help in the economic sector of members (Susanti and Mas'udah 2017).

For the processing of agricultural products, the farmer women's group prioritizes the locality of the region, for example in an area that has the potential of bananas, the farmer women's group processes the basic ingredients of bananas, for example, like chips or banana jam. Not only moving in processed, but a group of women farmers try to move forward by making attractive packages to be marketed, of course, with the permission from the government in the form of PIRT permits or home industry food and SIUP permits or trade business licenses. By empowering this group of women farmers or KWT, it is expected that women farmers can add insight and certainly help the welfare of farm families around the area.

The Women Farmers Group (KWT) was formed as an effort to directly involve women in efforts to improve agricultural products, such as being part of a motivator in adoption and introduction of farm technology. The dual role of women farmers is very strategic in increasing the productivity of farming and has the potential to increase income and food security towards the welfare of rural farmers' households. As some research findings that conclude several things, namely women farmers have the opportunity and are able to play a role as extension agents in the process of transfer of agricultural technology in rural areas. The increasing role and productivity of farm women as household administrators and labor earners (both supplementary and primary) are also closely related to their role as entrepreneurs in efforts to increase income and meet family food needs, towards achieving food security and household welfare. Protection strategies for women workers are needed, increasing the effectiveness of counseling and training, improving regulations, facilities, wages, and employment opportunities to be balanced between genders, as an incentive and partisanship for women farmers in rural areas. farmers in accelerating technology adoption.

This study uses a combination approach, namely quantitative and qualitative approaches (Creswell 2007). There are 4 (four) main stages in this research, namely: (1) The preliminary stage (exploration study) through a literature study and field study to find out the conditions and problems faced by the community especially women farmers based on local potential (Reiter 2017); (2) The formulation stage of the empowerment and development model; (3) The implementation phase of the empowerment and development model carried out to test the effectiveness of the model; (4) The stages of implementation, evaluation, refinement, and validation of the model and dissemination of the model so that it can be used as a blueprint for the empowerment of women farmers based on local potential, especially in rural areas both in villages in East Java and in rural areas. others in Indonesia.

## Result and Discussion

The research team conducted field activities (interviews, observations, and questionnaires) to three underdeveloped villages in Trenggalek Regency, namely Tasikmadu Village, Tegaren Village, and Winong Village. Tasikmadu Village is located on the southern coast of Trenggalek Regency while Tegaren Village and Winong Village are located north of Trenggalek Regency and are directly bordered by Ponorogo Regency. All three have low IDM (Indeks Desa Membangun) scores with developing village status. However, if examined further, each village does not have village assets. So that the dependence on the Dana Desa (DD) and Alokasi Dana Desa (ADD) is very high. In addition to dependence on DD and ADD which is very high, another problem is the use of DD is not in harmony with existing problems. Tegaren Village, for example, has a major problem with limited human resource capacity. However, the village administration adopted policies that did not address the problem. The policy is to pour almost 90% of DD into infrastructure development in the form of road rebates, irrigation canals, and main road maintenance. Winong Village and Tasikmadu Village have the same problem. However, Winong and Tasikmadu adopted a policy to increase DD utilization as well as for empowerment and guidance. In Tasikmadu Village, it was found that it was difficult for the local community to foster a tourist environment and continued processing based on fish. This problem has actually become an old problem. So that in Tasikmadu Village, the main commodity is still grilled fish. Whereas in the village of Winong, this village has a status of development but does not show any significant development in nature from the local community. Winong village has the potential of catfish and agrarian plants, but these commodities are still in the form of potential, not yet an asset. Therefore, in addition to dependence on DD and ADD and minimal assets, the three villages have problems with innovation. This innovation did not move at all because in the three villages the local champions were not given the opportunity to develop their village.

Only Tasikmadu Village with the new village head was noted to be able to attend as a strong institution and promised full innovation. Whereas Tegaren and Winong Villages have not been able to make a significant impact either on the growth of innovation and the sustainability of the innovation. Tasikmadu village does have a different character from Winong and Tegaren. Tasikmadu which is located in a coastal area is helped by the culture of hardworking coastal people. While Winong and Tegaren still experience obstacles in culture, namely the culture of mountain settlements that are more quiet and less passionate about innovation.

This research while producing several indicators is needed for a backward village to innovate and advance. These indicators include, strong and innovative leadership of the regional head, an open and entrepreneurial culture of the local community, and ownership of assets by underdeveloped villages. These three indicators will be further developed, so that community empowerment in underdeveloped villages will depend on three major aspects, namely 1) leadership, 2) culture, and 3) entrepreneurship. In line with Kurniawan et al, (2013), the creation of innovation in UPK of Wonosalam Distric in the implementation of the PNPM-MPd (Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat-Mandiri Pedesaan) which result in research on the Wonosalam District people facilitated through MAD (Musyawarah Antar Desa).

## Conclusion

According to the results of preliminary research, a number of research conclusions are obtained. The first point is the problem of underdeveloped villages in Trenggalek Regency is a problem that comes from within (endogenous). That is to say, underdeveloped villages in Trenggalek Regency are administrative regions which fail to compete with the progress of other regions and the high mobility of people. As a result, village communities are too dependent on government assistance in the form of DD or

in the form of ADD. This dependence can later have a negative impact if local communities make no effort to adjust to existing developments.

The next problem is the mindset that adapting to existing developments is changing almost all social and cultural systems in the village. This mindset is often brought by those who want to develop the region, but with a development mindset that forces rural communities to follow (not adjust) urban life patterns. DD or ADD funds are then used to participate in development like urban areas. Therefore, many development steps have failed to continue because they are not in accordance with the socio-cultural system of the local community.

Therefore, by promoting development in leadership, culture, and entrepreneurship, this research is expected to be able to make a model of empowering underdeveloped rural communities without changing the socio-cultural systems of the village community. The suggestions from this research for stakeholders are 1) empowerment must reflect the culture and local assets of underdeveloped village communities and 2) empowerment must utilize all the joints and local elements of underdeveloped villages. By focusing on locality, empowerment will probably last a long time, but the impact will be in accordance with the posture of underdeveloped village communities in Trenggalek Regency.

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