

A Descriptive Analysis of Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), Community Empowerment and the Participatory Rural Appraisal Approach



Boge Triatmanto^a, Mokhamad Natsir^b

^{a,b}) Faculty of Economic & Business, University of Merdeka Malang



INTRODUCTION

At the regional level, Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) targets must be integrated into the Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah (RPJMD) or Regional Medium Term Development Plan in the form of measurable programs, indicators, and targets as well as funding supports. In implementing the SDGs target, regional road maps need to be formulated. Furthermore, the roadmap needs to be elaborated in the form of an SDG Action Plan in accordance with the conditions and problems in the area. The action plan is expected to show commitment and clarity in the program's planning and budgeting, as well as the activities for implementing the SDGs target.

This research is essential for reconstruction in the form of developing a community empowerment program model based on Participatory Rural Appraisal, which adapts to the characteristics of the community and local culture, and is integratedly planned in respect of the local resource potential. It starts from the coordination of institutions involving in poverty alleviation programs; they are the Tim Koordinasi Penanggulangan Kemiskinan Daerah (TKPKD) or the Regional Poverty Alleviation Coordination Team and the local governments (sub-district/village), making relations with the stakeholders, and other concerning groups (the private sector or state/ regional owned enterprises, non-governmental organization and universities). The research question is formulated to explore the essential factors conforming to non-governmental organizations and community culture characteristics as a basis for developing or reformulating human resource empowerment program models of non-governmental organizations which employ the concept of participatory rural appraisal aligned with SDGs' goals.

METHODS

This is descriptive qualitative research combined with confirmatory exploration. The research variables are derived from the concept of Empowerment, Participatory Rural Appraisal, and the four dimensions of the SDG concept which can be the basis for determining a competitive and sustainable empowerment management scheme. The population in this research is the members of community organization implementing programs related to the achievement of SDGs. The research employed proportional sampling and documentation techniques. From the questionnaires distributed to respondents of community membership institutions, 179 responses were analyzed. The data analysis utilizes the descriptive qualitative technique. It is to explain the variables based on the respondents' opinions or ideas to explore the existing programs and according to the community's expectations towards the SDGs achievement program.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The role of regional governments in accelerating the achievement of SDGs still needs to be optimized, particularly in funding support for the implementation of poverty alleviation programs. It is expected that the funding support from the regional budget will be able to accelerate the goals' achievement in the SDGs' agreement.

The community empowerment utilizing the Participatory Rural Appraisal approach has been implemented albeit it is still not optimal. It is applied in almost all activities oriented towards accelerating the achievement of the goals in SDGs. Some poverty alleviation activities conducted by the local governments are still charitable and have not been essentially empowering communities. Thus, we need a good example of the PRA method application to empower the community in accelerating the achievement of SDGs.

The respondents' perceptions of the achievement of SDGs assert that it still needs to be optimized, especially sustainable economic development. Based on the descriptive analysis, it was found that the achievement of SDGs on economic development still did not reach the community evenly. New economic growth can only benefit the middle and upper classes. This is indicated by the economic growth that exceeds the surrounding area, and it surpasses the provincial and national economic growth; however, but it has not been complemented by the decrease rate of percentage in poverty.

Pertaining to the uneven distribution of sustainable economic development, the second indicator that needs to be considered is human development. The human development index based on statistical data is excellent, but in general, the respondents reported that they had not benefited from the results of human development, scilicet increased income, health services and even distribution of education.

Recommendations

The local governments still need to stand behind the marginalized communities by developing a community empowerment program from regional budget funding. Being dependent on the government's funding is unwise, given the long bureaucracy involved in the activities. The involvement of other non-government parties (community and universities) still needs to be improved, especially in terms of community empowerment, starting from its program planning, and implementation of activities, to supervision.

In accelerating the achievement of SDGs, the private sectors need to be involved through funding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). This is in accordance with the findings of the variable community empowerment participation indicator, presenting that that public participation, which includes that of the private sector, generally needs to be improved considering that local government original income is still at the lowest.

Updating the data needs to be done continuously by adjusting the dynamics of the community to get more accurate data of the poor community. This needs to be conducted every fiscal year to avoid community conflict and to accurately empower the poor community.