

Socio-economic Transformation and its Impact on Community-based Development: A Case Study of Moncongloe Village, Maros Regency

ABSTRACT

Community-based development is one of the strategies to empower local communities in facing socioeconomic challenges. This study aims to analyze the influence of socioeconomic transformation on the sustainability of community-based development in Moncongloe Village, Maros Regency. A qualitative approach was used to explore changes in social structure, community participation, and the dynamics of relationships between development actors. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and local document studies. The results show that changes in social structure due to migration and modernization have an impact on community participation patterns, which affect the effectiveness of development programs. The conclusion of this study emphasizes the importance of an adaptive approach to local dynamics to promote development sustainability.

Keywords: Community-based development; socio-economic transformation; community participation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic transformation due to globalization, migration, and modernization has had a significant impact on local communities, especially in rural areas (Ulfah et al., 2017). Community-based development emerged as a strategy to address social inequality and strengthen the role of communities in development. The population of Moncongloe Village mostly belongs to the lower-middle economic category. The majority of the population work as farmers and laborers, while only a small proportion work as private or public employees. Based on the results of the initial observations of the Service Team, most women in the village do not have jobs or only act as housewives (95%). The lack of skills makes people, especially women, reluctant to look for other sources of income and completely dependent on their husband's income. (Sampara et al., 2022) Moncongloe Village, which is located in an area with high migration intensity, faces great challenges in maintaining community

participation in development programs. (Rosazilla, 2016).

Amidst these changes, globalization accelerates the flow of information, technology and capital that often affects traditional social structures in rural areas. Modernization, while bringing various benefits such as access to education and infrastructure, also contributes to changes in work patterns and cultural values that can trigger disruptions in community social capital. Meanwhile, migration, particularly labour migration, often reduces the presence of productive-age people in villages, which in turn leads to low levels of participation in development programs. (Akbar et al., 2023).

Studies have shown that community-based development based on the active participation of local communities is the key to successful sustainable development. However, such success is highly dependent on the community's ability to maintain social capital, such as trust, shared norms and social networks. Changes in

social structure due to socioeconomic transformation often lead to a decrease in solidarity and coordination between actors in the community. (Puspitasari& Lukman, n.d.)

However, these changes also present opportunities. Population diversification due to migration creates the possibility of building new, more heterogeneous social networks, while technological developments can be utilized to strengthen communication and collaboration between community members. It is therefore important to delve deeper into these dynamics to understand how socio-economic transformation can be strategically managed to support the sustainability of community-based development. (Darmi, 2016).

This research aims to explore how socioeconomic transformation affects community-based development in Moncongloe Village. In addition, this research also aims to identify adaptive strategies that can be applied to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of development programs in areas with complex socioeconomic dynamics. (Hs et al., 2024).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Community-based development has become an increasingly popular approach in encouraging the involvement of local communities as the main actors in the development process. This approach is based on the principle that successful development depends not only on external interventions but also on the ability of communities to collaborate and utilize local resources (Mansuri & Rao, 2019).

2.1 Community-Based Development and Social Capital

Social capital, such as trust, norms and solidarity networks, plays an important role in community-based development. According to Putnam (2000), social capital is the basis for effective collective participation. Studies conducted by Krishna (2020) show that villages with high levels of social capital tend to be more successful in implementing community-based development programs, compared to villages with weak social capital.

However, challenges arise when social changes, such as migration and urbanization, weaken traditional social capital. Some studies show that migration can reduce the involvement of productive-age residents in development activities, but also open up opportunities through

the transfer of remittances and new experiences gained by migrants (De Haas, 2021).

The implementation of sustainable development within the Baduy community, which continues to uphold traditional cultural values amidst modern challenges, is the focus of this research. The study aims to examine how the Baduy community achieves sustainable development by optimizing natural resources in their daily lives. This is done by emphasizing social life, economic activities that meet basic needs, careful environmental management, and ensuring environmental sustainability alongside legal certainty for effective security enforcement.

The research employs a qualitative method with descriptive data analysis. Findings reveal that the Baduy community prioritizes life values, adherence to laws, satisfaction, efficiency, and effectiveness in their pursuit of prosperity. The community demonstrates a profound environmental consciousness, understanding the importance of maintaining ecological balance for the continuity of life. While they resist certain forms of development, their unique cultural practices bind them together, ensuring that positive changes are sustained in a way that aligns with their traditions. This distinctive approach makes the Baduy community a unique example of balancing cultural preservation with sustainable development.

2.2 Socioeconomic Transformation and Changes in Community Participation

Socioeconomic transformations, including globalization and modernization, have changed the pattern of community participation. A study by Bebbington and McCourt (2020) found that development that does not take into account the local context often fails due to a lack of ownership from local communities. This emphasizes the importance of adaptive strategies that consider social and cultural dynamics.

On the other hand, digital technology has become an important tool in maintaining social connectivity in communities affected by migration. For example, the use of communication platforms such as WhatsApp can help coordinate community activities despite members being spread across different locations (Ling & Campbell, 2019).

2.3 Participatory Approach to Village Development

A participatory approach to village development aims to actively involve communities in the decision-making process. Chambers (2020) emphasized that inclusivity and active community involvement are key to ensuring the sustainability of development programs. Another study by Hickey and Mohan (2019) shows that participation-based programs are more effective in creating outcomes that are relevant to the needs of local communities.

However, challenges arise in implementing this approach, especially in rural areas with complex social structures. Lack of human resource capacity and weak local leadership are often key barriers (Wong, 2021).

2.4 Research Context in Indonesia

In the Indonesian context, community-based development has become part of government policy, such as through the Dana Desa program. The study by (Betan & Nugroho, 2021) shows that the success of the Dana Desa program relies heavily on the active participation of communities and the capacity of village governments. However, obstacles such as lack of transparency and weak monitoring mechanisms often reduce the effectiveness of the program.

The implementation of sustainable development within the Baduy community, which continues to uphold traditional cultural values amidst modern challenges, is the focus of this research, by (Purwanto, 2024). The study aims to examine how the Baduy community achieves sustainable development by optimizing natural resources in their daily lives. This is done by emphasizing social life, economic activities that meet basic needs, careful environmental management, and ensuring environmental sustainability alongside legal certainty for effective security enforcement. The research employs a qualitative method with descriptive data analysis. Findings reveal that the Baduy community prioritizes life values, adherence to laws, satisfaction, efficiency, and effectiveness in their pursuit of prosperity. The community demonstrates a profound environmental consciousness, understanding the importance of maintaining ecological balance for the continuity of life. While they resist certain forms of development, their unique cultural practices bind them together, ensuring that positive changes are sustained in a way that aligns with their traditions. This distinctive approach makes the Baduy community a unique

example of balancing cultural preservation with sustainable development.

(Ocktilia & Ismudiyati, 2019) This research aims to describe the social transformation occurring in human resources as agents of rural community empowerment through the implementation of the Desa Sejahtera Mandiri (Prosperous and Independent Village) Program. The findings indicate progress in the examined aspects, namely the social transformation of human resources, marked by the establishment and improvement of local institutions' performance in enhancing social welfare. Examples include the formation of Social Welfare Centers, the development of Community-Based Social Rehabilitation, and the creation of Communities Concerned for Out-of-School Children. Overall, the research results demonstrate that the process of social transformation through activities designed in the Desa Sejahtera Mandiri Program has led to significant advancements in the performance of human resources in carrying out their roles and functions as agents of community empowerment.

3. METHODS

1. This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study design, focusing on Moncongloe village as the research location. This is a research method used to understand social or human phenomena through in-depth exploration of the perspectives, experiences, and meanings given by individuals or groups. This research focuses on non-numerical data such as words, narratives, and observations (Fadli, 2021)
2. **Data Collection:**
 - a. **In-depth interviews** were conducted with 20 respondents, including village heads, community leaders and local community members.
 - b. **Participatory observation** was conducted over three months to observe community activities, such as village meetings and economic empowerment programs.
 - c. **Study of local documents**, such as village development reports, migration data, and government policies related to community-based development.
3. **Data Analysis Techniques:**
 - a. Data was analyzed using thematic analysis techniques with a focus on key themes

such as social transformation, participation and development sustainability.

4. RESULTS

1. Interview with the Village Head

- **Question:** What are the biggest challenges faced by Moncongloe Village in implementing development programs?
Answer:
The biggest challenge is the low level of community participation, especially from the productive age group who mostly work outside the village. Additionally, financial constraints and limited access to technology are obstacles. However, we try to utilize remittances from migrants to support several development programs.
- **Question:** How do you view the role of migration in the development of Moncongloe Village?
Answer:
Migration has both positive and negative impacts. On the one hand, remittances from those working outside help the village economy. On the other hand, the departure of productive-age residents leaves us short of manpower for communal activities or community programs.

2. Interview with a Community Leader

- **Question:** How is the current state of social capital, such as trust and solidarity, in Moncongloe Village?
Answer:
Social capital is weakening because many residents have migrated. Communal work that used to be routinely done is now rare. However, technology like WhatsApp groups helps us stay connected and coordinate activities
- **Question:** What are your suggestions to increase community participation in village development?
Answer:
I think programs that attract the interest of youth, such as skill training or SME development, are needed. Additionally, transparency in fund management is crucial so that residents feel more confident in getting involved

3. Interview with a Housewife

- **Question:** Do you feel involved in the village's development programs?
- **Answer:**
Honestly, I feel less involved because most

of my time is spent taking care of the household. However, I enjoyed the skill training programs, like handicraft making, that were conducted recently. It made me feel more productive.

- **Question:** What are the main obstacles for you in participating in village activities?
Answer:
Time is the main issue. Also, information about village activities sometimes reaches us late. If there was earlier socialization, more housewives might be able to join.

4. Interview with Village Youth

- **Question:** What is your opinion about development in Moncongloe Village?
Answer:
In my opinion, the development programs in the village rarely involve the youth. We have many ideas, but we are rarely invited to discussions. Young people could be the drivers of change
- **Question:** What are your suggestions to increase youth contributions to village development?
Answer:
Maybe there could be training on technology or entrepreneurship for young people. We also want to help promote the village through social media, but we need support from the village government.

5. Interview with the Elderly

- **Question:** What changes have you noticed in the village's development over the past 10 years?
Answer:
There have been many changes, especially in physical development, like roads and public facilities. However, I feel that solidarity has decreased compared to the past. We used to gather and work together more often, but now it's rare.
- **Question:** What are your hopes for the future of Moncongloe Village?
Answer:
I hope traditions like communal work and togetherness can be preserved. Also, the younger generation needs to be more involved because they are the future of the village.

Initial Insights from the Interviews:

1. Community participation in village development has decreased, particularly among the productive-age group.
 2. Technology holds great potential to connect the community, though it is not yet fully utilized.
 3. More inclusive programs tailored to the needs of specific groups (women, youth, elderly) can improve community participation.
1. **Field Observation**
 - a. **Physical Development Program:** Observations show that village road construction projects involve more non-local workers than local residents, as the majority of productive-age residents work outside the village.
 - b. **Gotong Royong activities:** The level of participation in gotong royong decreased compared to the previous five years. Currently, these activities are dominated by the elderly.
 - c. **Education and Training:** Community-based skills training programs are of greater interest to women and non-migrating youth.
 2. **Village Documents and Archives**
 - a. **Migration Data:** Shows a 30% increase in migration rates in the last five years, with the majority of residents working in the informal sector in large cities.
 - b. **Village Fund:** 40% of the Village Fund allocation is used for infrastructure development, while 20% is allocated for training and human resource development.
 - c. **Total Village Activity Participation:** Data shows a decline in village activity participation from 70% (in 2015) to 45% (in 2023).
 3. **Testimonials from Migrants** (Through Online Communication)
 - a. *We want to contribute more to the village, but it is difficult to physically return. Maybe a digital system like the village app could help us participate remotely.*
 - b. *The funds I send to the village are usually used by the family for daily needs. It would be better if there was a clear investment program for village development.*
 4. **Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**
 - a. Women's groups stressed the importance of education and training programs to improve their skills, such as training in small business management.
 - b. The youth group proposed the development of a digital platform to promote village potential, such as local products and tourism.
- c. The elderly highlighted the importance of maintaining local traditions as a form of solidarity between residents.
- Initial Analysis:**
1. **Key Issue:** Lack of local labor due to migration is a major constraint in physical and social development programs.
 2. **Opportunities:** The use of technology and collaborative strategies can strengthen participation from both locals and migrants.
 3. **Initial Recommendation:** Establish a community-based digital platform to increase virtual and physical villager engagement.
 1. **Changes in Social Structure:**
 - a. High levels of migration lead to an imbalance in the composition of society, with the majority of the young population moving to the cities.
 - b. The shift in values from collective traditions to individualism reduces solidarity within the community.
 2. **Community Participation:**
 - a. Active participation in development programs declines due to lack of time and local manpower.
 - b. Programs that use inclusive approaches, such as involving women and marginalized groups, show higher success rates.
 3. **Local Policy Support:**
 - a. Village government policies that encourage cross-group collaboration, such as through village cooperatives, can increase community involvement.
- 5. DISCUSSION**
- The research found that socio-economic transformation has a double impact on community-based development:
1. **Negative Impact:**
 - a. Shifting traditional values and the low involvement of the productive-age population are major obstacles to the implementation of development programs.
 - b. Unequal access to resources, such as land and capital, worsens the economic conditions of the poor.
 2. **Positive Opportunities:**
 - a. Social diversity due to migration creates the potential to build new networks through cross-community activities.

- b. The use of information technology for coordination, such as social media, helps connect dispersed local communities.
3. **Adaptive Policy:**
- a. Village governments that are flexible in designing community-based programs, such as skills training based on local needs, can improve program sustainability.

5. CONCLUSION

This study highlights the dynamic relationship between socio-economic transformation and community-based development in Moncongloe Village. Its findings show that migration, modernization and global influences have significantly affected the social fabric of the community. On the one hand, remittances from migrants have contributed positively to the local economy and physical development. On the other hand, these changes have weakened social capital, such as trust and solidarity, which are critical to sustaining collective efforts.

Despite these challenges, communities have shown resilience by adapting to changing circumstances. The use of technology, such as social media platforms, has helped maintain communication and coordination among citizens, while inclusive programs targeting youth and women have shown potential to increase participation.

For the sustainability of community-driven development, it is crucial to strengthen local capacities, encourage inclusive decision-making processes, and utilize technology to bridge the participation gap. Policymakers and stakeholders should focus on enhancing social capital, addressing structural barriers, and encouraging innovation to ensure that development initiatives are not only inclusive but also adaptive to ongoing changes in society.

This research contributes to the broader discourse on rural development by emphasizing the importance of balancing external interventions with local initiatives, especially in areas undergoing significant socioeconomic transformation. Future research could explore the long-term impact of this strategy and identify best practices for scaling up successful models to similar communities.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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