

ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS IN INCREASING HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN POSIGADAN SUB-DISTRICT

Cindra Arabi¹⁾, Ely Ibrahim²⁾, Nuzmerini Rauf³⁾

^{1,2,3)}Universitas Bina Mandiri Gorontalo

E-mail: cindraarabi9@gmail.com, elyibrahim07@gmail.com, iinnuzmerini@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the implementation of community economic empowerment programs and their contribution to increasing household income in Posigadan Sub-District, Bolaang Mongondow Selatan Regency. A qualitative descriptive research design was employed to explore the experiences and perceptions of community members, government program implementers, and relevant stakeholders. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews, complemented by relevant documentary sources as secondary data. Data were analyzed using the Miles and Huberman interactive model through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification. The findings indicate that empowerment programs focus primarily on agriculture, fisheries and marine activities, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through assistance, counseling, training, and entrepreneurship-oriented activities. These interventions strengthen community capabilities and create opportunities for productive activities and additional household income. However, the sustainability of economic outcomes remains constrained by limited access to business capital, restricted market opportunities, discontinuity of assistance, and unpredictable weather conditions affecting resource-dependent livelihoods. The study concludes that community empowerment can support household income improvement when capacity building is integrated with productive assistance, financial access, market development, and continuous institutional support. The findings imply that local government should develop more integrated and sustainable empowerment strategies that strengthen community economic resilience and income-generating capacity.

Keywords : Community Empowerment; Household Income; MSMEs; Local Economic Development; Rural Livelihoods

INTRODUCTION

Community economic empowerment has become an increasingly important approach to addressing poverty, improving household welfare, and strengthening the economic capacity of local communities. Rather than treating poverty solely as a problem of insufficient income, empowerment-oriented development emphasizes the ability of individuals and communities to access resources, develop productive capabilities, participate in economic activities, and make decisions affecting their livelihoods. This perspective is particularly relevant in rural and developing-country contexts, where limited access to capital, markets, skills, and productive opportunities can constrain households'

ability to improve their economic conditions. Recent research suggests that poverty reduction strategies are more sustainable when they strengthen community capacity and economic agency rather than relying exclusively on short-term assistance [1][2][3].

Household income represents an important indicator for assessing the economic outcomes of empowerment interventions because improvements in productive capacity should ultimately translate into better livelihood opportunities and greater household economic security. Community-driven development programs, for example, have increasingly incorporated local participation, capacity building, and access to productive resources as mechanisms for improving the welfare of poor households. Evidence from

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Tanzania indicates that community-driven development through the Tanzania Social Action Fund has contributed to poverty-reduction efforts by supporting communities in addressing local development needs and strengthening household welfare [1]. Similarly, research on village funding in Indonesia demonstrates that financial resources allocated at the village level can contribute to community empowerment and poverty reduction when they are directed toward locally relevant development activities [2]. These findings indicate that the effectiveness of empowerment programs cannot be separated from their ability to generate tangible economic benefits for households.

The relationship between empowerment and household welfare is also evident in programs that strengthen the productive and economic capacities of specific community groups. Women's economic empowerment, for instance, has been associated with improvements in household living standards and poverty reduction, particularly when empowerment is supported through access to education, productive opportunities, and economic resources [4]. Community-based training can similarly provide practical skills that enable participants to develop income-generating activities. In Indonesia, community training focused on the production of processed products has been implemented as a mechanism for strengthening women's economic capabilities and encouraging small-scale entrepreneurship [5]. Such interventions suggest that empowerment is not merely a

process of providing assistance but also involves developing the knowledge, skills, confidence, and productive capacities necessary for communities to participate more effectively in local economic activities.

Entrepreneurship and local economic activities are particularly significant in rural and coastal communities, where household livelihoods frequently depend on small-scale businesses, agriculture, fisheries, informal activities, and the utilization of locally available resources. Economic empowerment programs can therefore play a strategic role in connecting household capabilities with available local economic opportunities. Research on coastal community empowerment in Indonesia highlights the importance of identifying community characteristics, resources, and priorities when designing empowerment strategies [6]. Entrepreneurship-oriented interventions may also contribute to poverty alleviation by enabling individuals and households to diversify their sources of income and strengthen their participation in economic activities [7]. Consequently, the success of an empowerment program should be assessed not only in terms of program implementation but also according to its contribution to the economic resilience and income-generating capacity of participating households.

Despite the potential benefits of empowerment programs, their implementation does not automatically guarantee improved economic outcomes. Differences in access to resources, institutional support, community participation, program targeting, and local economic conditions may influence the extent

to which empowerment interventions produce meaningful changes. Recent scholarship has emphasized that empowerment without adequate institutional and governance support may generate limited or uneven outcomes for vulnerable communities [3]. Government programs must therefore be designed and implemented in ways that correspond with local socioeconomic conditions, community capabilities, and the availability of sustainable economic opportunities. This issue is particularly important in rural areas, where structural limitations in infrastructure, markets, financial access, and human capital can affect the sustainability of household economic activities.

In the Indonesian context, community economic empowerment is closely connected to decentralized development and village-level development initiatives. Government funding and community-oriented development programs provide opportunities for local governments and communities to formulate interventions based on local needs. However, the existence of empowerment programs alone does not provide sufficient evidence that household economic conditions have improved. There remains a need to examine how such programs are implemented at the local level, what forms of assistance and economic activities are provided, and whether these interventions contribute to improvements in household income. This local-level assessment is important because national or regional program outcomes may not fully capture differences in implementation and socioeconomic characteristics between communities.

One area that warrants further examination is Posigadan Sub-District, Bolaang Mongondow Selatan Regency, where community economic empowerment represents an important component of local development. The socioeconomic characteristics of households in the sub-district create a relevant context for examining whether empowerment interventions can strengthen household income and livelihood opportunities. However, empirical studies specifically examining the implementation and economic contribution of community empowerment programs at the sub-district level remain limited. Existing studies have predominantly examined empowerment from broader perspectives, including poverty reduction, village funding, women's empowerment, or community-driven development [6][1][2][4]. This creates a contextual gap concerning how empowerment programs operate within specific rural communities and how their implementation is perceived in relation to household income.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze community economic empowerment programs in increasing household income in Posigadan Sub-District. The study focuses on understanding the implementation of empowerment programs, the forms of economic support provided to communities, and their contribution to household income improvement. By examining empowerment at the local level, this research is expected to provide empirical insights into the extent to which community-oriented economic programs can support household livelihoods and local economic development. The

findings may also contribute to the formulation of more context-sensitive empowerment policies and programs that strengthen community economic capacity and promote sustainable improvements in household welfare.

Literature Review

Community Economic Empowerment and Empowerment Theory

Community economic empowerment is fundamentally concerned with strengthening people's capacity to access resources, participate in decision-making, and improve their ability to influence the economic conditions that shape their livelihoods. Empowerment theory views communities not merely as beneficiaries of development interventions but as active actors who possess knowledge, resources, and collective capacities that can be mobilized to address socioeconomic challenges. In this perspective, effective empowerment requires participation, access to economic resources, capacity development, and opportunities for communities to exercise greater control over productive activities. Recent evidence from Indonesia demonstrates that empowerment initiatives based on local wisdom and community participation can strengthen local economic institutions and improve communities' capacity to manage development resources [8]. Similarly, research on coastal communities emphasizes the importance of identifying community characteristics, local resources, and participation when designing empowerment strategies [6]. Thus, community economic empowerment in this study is understood as a

process through which government and community actors strengthen household capabilities and access to productive resources to improve economic welfare.

Community Empowerment, Poverty Reduction, and Livelihood Improvement

Community empowerment is closely associated with poverty reduction because poverty is influenced not only by inadequate income but also by limited access to productive resources, skills, opportunities, and institutional support. Empowerment programs seek to address these constraints by providing capacity building, training, facilitation, and access to resources that enable households to develop sustainable livelihood strategies. However, recent scholarship also cautions that empowerment programs may produce limited outcomes when they focus predominantly on individual or community capabilities without addressing broader institutional and structural constraints [3]. Empirical research on rural women and self-help groups indicates that participation in community-based economic activities can strengthen access to economic resources and improve household livelihood conditions [9]. In Indonesia, community empowerment has likewise been linked to poverty reduction through interventions that utilize local resources and strengthen community participation [8]. Therefore, poverty reduction through empowerment should be understood as a multidimensional process involving increased capabilities, productive participation, access to resources, and improved livelihood opportunities.

Local Economic Development and Government Empowerment Programs

Local economic development (LED) provides an important theoretical perspective for understanding how community empowerment can contribute to broader economic development at the local level. LED emphasizes the mobilization of local resources, collaboration among government institutions and communities, development of productive activities, and creation of economic opportunities that are compatible with local conditions. From this perspective, government empowerment programs function as institutional mechanisms for facilitating local economic development rather than simply distributing financial assistance. Recent discussions of LED emphasize the importance of local institutional capacity, stakeholder collaboration, innovation, and community participation in creating sustainable economic development [10]. Evidence from Indonesia further shows that village funding can contribute to community empowerment and poverty reduction by providing resources for locally oriented development initiatives [2]. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of government empowerment programs depends on how resources are allocated, how communities participate in implementation, and whether programs correspond to local economic opportunities. Accordingly, the present study positions government-supported community empowerment as an important instrument for strengthening local economic development in Posigadan Sub-District.

Community Economic Empowerment and Household Income

Household income represents an important outcome for evaluating whether community economic empowerment generates tangible economic benefits for beneficiaries. The theoretical relationship can be explained through the assumption that empowerment improves households' access to resources, knowledge, skills, productive capital, and market opportunities, which subsequently increases their capacity to generate income. This relationship is particularly relevant in rural communities where households often depend on small-scale enterprises, agriculture, fisheries, informal employment, and other locally available economic activities. Research on coastal community empowerment indicates that identifying local economic potential and strengthening community capabilities are important components of improving household economic conditions [6]. Similarly, village funding has been associated with improvements in community empowerment and poverty conditions, demonstrating the potential role of public resources in supporting household and community economic development [2]. However, income improvement should not be assumed solely from program participation; the actual outcome depends on the relevance of program assistance, community capacity, access to markets, and continuity of economic activities. Based on this framework, the present study examines whether community economic empowerment programs in Posigadan Sub-District contribute to increased household income and identifies the

mechanisms and implementation factors that influence these outcomes.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research Design

This study employed a qualitative research approach with a descriptive research design to examine the implementation of community economic empowerment programs and their contribution to increasing household income in Posigadan Sub-District. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate because the study sought to understand the experiences, perceptions, and perspectives of community members and program stakeholders within their social context. The descriptive design was used to provide a comprehensive description of the empowerment programs, including their implementation, forms of assistance, community participation, and perceived economic outcomes. Through this approach, the study explored the phenomenon as it naturally occurs and interpreted the information obtained from participants according to the research context.

Data Sources and Informants

The study utilized both primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from informants through interactions and interviews conducted in accordance with the social and institutional context of the research. The informants consisted of community members who benefited from community economic empowerment programs, government officials or program implementers responsible for implementing the programs, and other relevant stakeholders

involved in community economic empowerment activities. These informants were selected because they possessed direct knowledge and experience regarding the implementation and outcomes of the programs. Secondary data were obtained from relevant written sources, including books, official documents, government regulations, institutional records, and other relevant online and documentary sources that supported the analysis.

Data Collection

Data were collected primarily through in-depth interviews with selected informants to obtain detailed information regarding the implementation of community economic empowerment programs and their effects on household economic conditions. The interviews were conducted flexibly to allow informants to explain their experiences, perceptions, challenges, and assessments of the programs in their own words. In addition to interviews, relevant documentation was examined to complement and verify information obtained from informants. The combination of interviews and documentary evidence enabled the researcher to obtain contextual information concerning the forms of empowerment provided, community participation, program implementation, and changes perceived by households in relation to their economic activities and income.

Data Analysis

The qualitative data were analyzed using the interactive model of data analysis proposed by Miles and Huberman, which consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification. Data

reduction was conducted by reviewing interview transcripts, identifying relevant information, summarizing the main points, and classifying the data according to themes related to community empowerment and household income. The reduced data were then presented systematically in narrative form to identify patterns, relationships, and important findings emerging from the informants' accounts and supporting documents. Finally, conclusions were drawn by interpreting the identified patterns in relation to the research questions. The conclusions were continuously verified throughout the analytical process by comparing information across informants and data sources to ensure that the findings were supported by sufficient and consistent evidence.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The findings indicate that the community economic empowerment program in Posigadan Sub-District is implemented as a local development initiative aimed at strengthening community productive capacity and improving household economic conditions. Based on interviews with community members, program implementers, and relevant stakeholders, the program primarily focuses on three economic sectors considered important to local livelihoods: agriculture, fisheries and marine activities, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The selection of these sectors reflects the economic characteristics and productive potential of the local community. Government support is provided through

several forms of intervention, including assistance, counseling, and skills training. Assistance is directed toward supporting productive activities and addressing community needs, while counseling provides information and guidance related to agricultural practices, fisheries, entrepreneurship, and business management. Training is intended to strengthen practical skills and enable community members to develop their productive activities more effectively. The findings therefore show that the empowerment program is not limited to the distribution of assistance but incorporates capacity-building activities intended to strengthen the ability of community members to participate in local economic activities.

The implementation of the empowerment program also demonstrates a focus on developing income-generating activities, particularly through the strengthening of MSMEs. Interview findings indicate that MSME training covers several aspects of business management, including financial management, marketing, and product development. These activities are intended to improve the capacity of business actors to manage and develop their enterprises. In addition, the government facilitates a menu creation competition that is conducted regularly and provides an opportunity for community members to develop innovative local food products. The activity serves as a platform for developing creativity while identifying potential products that can be developed into economic activities. The findings suggest that empowerment activities provide community members with

opportunities to acquire new skills, improve existing productive activities, and explore additional sources of income. In this regard, the program contributes to the development of economic activities by connecting capacity-building interventions with locally available business and livelihood opportunities.

In relation to household income, the findings indicate that the empowerment program has provided economic benefits perceived by community members, particularly through increased productive capacity, business development, and the creation of additional income-generating opportunities. Informants reported that training and assistance enabled them to improve their ability to manage businesses and productive activities, while the development of MSMEs provided opportunities to generate or supplement household income. The program also contributed to the development of individual and collective capacities that support greater economic independence. However, the findings do not indicate that participation in the program automatically results in stable or substantially increased household income for all beneficiaries. The economic outcomes experienced by households vary according to their ability to utilize program support, the continuity of their economic activities, access to markets, and availability of capital. Thus, the contribution of the empowerment program to household income is reflected primarily through the expansion of productive opportunities and improvement of economic capacity rather than through a uniform income increase among all participants.

The findings further identify several factors that influence the effectiveness and sustainability of the empowerment program in increasing household income. Limited access to business capital remains an important constraint, particularly for MSME actors seeking to expand production and improve their businesses. Market access is another challenge because limited market opportunities can restrict product sales and reduce business turnover. In addition, unpredictable weather conditions affect households whose economic activities depend on agriculture and fisheries, creating uncertainty in production and income generation. The continuity of assistance also remains an important issue, as community members require sustained guidance and support to maintain and develop the skills and economic activities acquired through the program. These findings demonstrate that the outcomes of community economic empowerment are influenced not only by the availability of government assistance but also by broader economic, institutional, market, and environmental conditions.

Overall, the results demonstrate that the community economic empowerment program in Posigadan Sub-District operates through a combination of sector-based assistance, capacity building, skills development, and support for income-generating activities. The program has contributed to strengthening community capabilities and creating opportunities for household income generation, particularly through agriculture, fisheries, and MSMEs. Nevertheless, its contribution to sustainable

household income improvement remains constrained by limited capital, market access, continuity of assistance, and environmental uncertainty. Therefore, the findings indicate that the effectiveness of community economic empowerment in Posigadan depends not only on the implementation of empowerment activities but also on the extent to which beneficiaries can sustain and expand the economic activities developed through the program.

DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrate that community economic empowerment in Posigadan Sub-District is primarily implemented through assistance, counseling, and training directed at agriculture, fisheries and marine activities, and MSMEs. These interventions reflect an approach that seeks to strengthen community productive capacity by combining material support with knowledge and skills development. This finding is consistent with Suminah et al. [11], who found that empowerment influences the capacity of agricultural business actors by strengthening their ability to manage and develop economic activities. Similarly, Rana and Kiminami [12], emphasize that capacity building and entrepreneurship development can strengthen economic capabilities and contribute to broader empowerment outcomes. In the context of Posigadan, the combination of assistance and capacity building is therefore important because community members require not only resources to initiate or maintain productive activities but also the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize those

resources effectively. The findings suggest that empowerment becomes more meaningful when government interventions move beyond the distribution of assistance toward developing the capabilities required for communities to sustain their own economic activities.

The role of MSMEs identified in this study further demonstrates the importance of small-scale economic activities in creating household income opportunities. The MSME training provided in Posigadan covers business management, financial management, marketing, and product development, while the menu creation competition provides an additional mechanism for encouraging product innovation and entrepreneurial activity. These findings are consistent with the broader literature identifying MSMEs as important contributors to employment, income generation, and inclusive local economic development. Fomum and Opperman [13], show that financial inclusion is an important factor in MSME performance, while Cosa [14], highlights the potential of MSMEs to contribute to inclusive growth and poverty reduction. Consequently, the development of MSMEs through government-supported training can provide households with opportunities to diversify their sources of income. However, the findings also indicate that training alone is insufficient to guarantee sustained business growth. The capacity of MSME actors to convert improved knowledge and skills into higher income remains dependent on access to capital, markets, production resources, and continued institutional support.

The findings regarding agriculture and fisheries are particularly relevant to the socioeconomic characteristics of Posigadan communities. Empowerment programs directed toward these sectors utilize economic activities that are already embedded in local livelihoods and therefore have the potential to generate more contextually appropriate outcomes than interventions that introduce completely unfamiliar economic activities. This finding corresponds with Suminah et al. [11], who demonstrate the importance of empowerment in strengthening the capabilities of agricultural business actors. The findings also support the broader argument that rural empowerment programs should be connected to existing local resources and productive capacities. In Posigadan, agriculture and fisheries can function not only as sources of employment but also as foundations for household income generation. Nevertheless, dependence on natural resources creates particular vulnerabilities, as unpredictable weather conditions identified by informants can disrupt production and consequently affect household income. Thus, sector-specific empowerment needs to be accompanied by strategies that strengthen resilience against environmental and economic uncertainty.

The study also reveals that the empowerment program contributes to household income primarily by expanding productive opportunities and strengthening the capacity of community members to engage in economic activities. Informants reported improvements in business management capabilities, opportunities to develop MSMEs,

and the creation of additional income-generating activities. These findings are broadly consistent with research showing that economic empowerment can improve the socioeconomic position of vulnerable groups when interventions combine skills development, access to productive resources, and opportunities for entrepreneurship [12][15]. The evidence also indicates that empowerment can generate benefits beyond direct financial outcomes, as economic participation may strengthen individual autonomy and broader aspects of well-being [16]. However, the findings from Posigadan suggest that income improvement should be understood as a process rather than an immediate consequence of program participation. Households differ in their capacity to utilize assistance, develop businesses, access markets, and sustain productive activities, meaning that the economic effects of empowerment are unlikely to be uniform across beneficiaries.

One of the most important findings concerns the constraints of capital and market access. Although the empowerment program provides training and assistance, informants identified limited business capital and restricted market access as major obstacles to the development of MSMEs and other productive activities. This finding is strongly supported by Fomum and Opperman [13], who identify financial inclusion as an important factor in MSME performance. Similarly, the systematic evidence examined by Dela Cruz et al. [17], indicates that improving access to financial services represents an important area of intervention

for MSMEs in low- and middle-income countries. The implication is that empowerment programs may have limited economic effects when capacity-building activities are not accompanied by mechanisms that enable beneficiaries to obtain sufficient working capital and reach broader markets. In the case of Posigadan, therefore, improving household income requires an integrated approach in which training is connected with financial access, market development, product promotion, and business assistance.

The findings concerning limited and unsustainable assistance further highlight the importance of continuity in government empowerment programs. Community members may acquire knowledge and skills during training, but maintaining productive activities requires continued access to resources, mentoring, markets, and institutional support. This is particularly important for households operating small businesses or resource-dependent livelihoods because their economic activities may be highly vulnerable to fluctuations in demand, production conditions, and available capital. The literature on capacity building similarly indicates that empowerment outcomes depend on the extent to which communities can translate acquired capabilities into sustainable economic activities [12]. Therefore, the effectiveness of the Posigadan program should not be evaluated solely according to the number of training activities or forms of assistance delivered, but also according to the continuity of support and the ability of beneficiaries to maintain and expand the

economic activities developed through the program.

Overall, the findings and literature indicate that community economic empowerment can contribute to household income improvement when it combines capacity building, productive assistance, entrepreneurship development, financial access, and market opportunities. The Posigadan program has established important foundations through training, counseling, assistance, and support for agriculture, fisheries, and MSMEs. However, its economic impact remains constrained by capital limitations, market access, environmental uncertainty, and the continuity of assistance. These findings extend the existing literature by showing that the effectiveness of empowerment at the local level depends not simply on whether government programs are available, but on whether beneficiaries possess the institutional, financial, and market conditions necessary to transform program support into sustainable income-generating activities. Consequently, future empowerment interventions in Posigadan should adopt a more integrated approach that links community capacity development with financial inclusion, market access, business mentoring, and strategies for strengthening resilience in agriculture and fisheries.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the community economic empowerment program in Posigadan Sub-District contributes to strengthening community economic capacity and creating opportunities for household

income generation through assistance, counseling, training, and support for agriculture, fisheries, and MSMEs. The program provides beneficiaries with knowledge, skills, and opportunities to develop productive and entrepreneurial activities, although its contribution to sustainable household income improvement is not uniform across all beneficiaries. The main constraints are limited business capital, restricted market access, insufficient continuity of assistance, and unpredictable weather conditions affecting agriculture and fisheries. Therefore, local government should strengthen the program through an integrated approach that connects capacity building with financial inclusion, market access, continuous business mentoring, product development, and livelihood resilience strategies. Such interventions are important to ensure that empowerment support can be transformed into sustainable economic activities rather than providing only short-term benefits. This study is limited by its qualitative design and its focus on a single sub-district, which limits the generalization of the findings to other geographical contexts. Future research should examine multiple locations and incorporate quantitative indicators of household income, business performance, and program participation to provide a more comprehensive assessment of the long-term economic impacts of community empowerment programs.

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