

THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY AND VILLAGE EMPOWERMENT OFFICE IN IMPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT VILLAGE INDEX

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Abstract

This research aims to understand the role of the Ciamis Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) in increasing the Village Development Index (IDM). IDM is an indicator that reflects village progress in social, economic and ecological aspects. Using a qualitative approach, this research explores various programs and policies implemented by DPMD, as well as the factors that influence their success. The research results show that the Ciamis Regency DPMD has succeeded in increasing village status to "Independent" in 2024, with the number of independent villages reaching 210, a significant increase compared to previous years. This success is supported by the commitment of the local government, adequate budget allocation, strong capacity of village officials, and the availability of quality village data. Community empowerment programs, development of village officials, and facilitating access to village resources and funding are the keys to this achievement. However, this research also found several challenges that still need to be faced, such as limited infrastructure, limited access to capital, and coordination between agencies that needs to be strengthened. To overcome these obstacles, the Ciamis Regency DPMD has implemented various strategies, including strengthening the capacity of village officials, improving the quality of village data, developing the village economy, and increasing access to public services. In conclusion, with strong commitment and continuous efforts, the Ciamis Regency DPMD is optimistic that it can continue to improve the welfare of village communities and achieve independent village status throughout its region, making a significant contribution to sustainable development in Indonesia.

Keywords: Community Empowerment, Developing Village Index, Independent Village, Village Development.

A. INTRODUCTION

The use of the term "village development" or "building villages" is a paradigmatic choice that is full of meaning (Herwin, 2024). The State's recognition and respect for Villages is accompanied by full redistribution of resources and development authority as mandated by Law no. 6 of 2014, provides a clear sign that the Village must become the foundation for developing Indonesia (Afiah et al., 2022). Village development is an effort to improve the quality of life and life for the greatest welfare of the community (Law No. 6 of 2014) (Affandi et al., 2022). Measuring village development is carried out by the Ministry of Villages by making Regulation of the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration or Ministry of Villages No. 2 of 2016 (Harmadi et al., 2020). Development measurement by the Ministry of Villages in Presidential Decree no. 2 of 2016 is called the Village Development Index or IDM. This IDM contains data collection and

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mapping of village capabilities in 4 categories, namely very underdeveloped, underdeveloped, developing, advanced, independent based on certain parameter calculations (Manurung et al., 2022).

Community empowerment is a strategy to realize community capabilities and independence. Community empowerment is the granting of authority, delegation of authority or granting lower level autonomy, which in essence is empowerment, an effort to generate all existing capabilities to achieve goals and empowerment is carried out so that regions become more capable and independent, meaning they are able to provide opportunities for the community to show their characteristics as a community and build the welfare of society itself (Fauzi, 2019). Community empowerment is an effort to make the community independent and the potential abilities they have (Christens, 2019). Community empowerment always involves two groups that are often related, namely the community as the party who is empowered and the party who cares as the party who empowers. Community empowerment is an effort to increase the abilities and potential of the community so that the community can realize their identity, as well as elevate their dignity and dignity to the maximum in order to survive and develop themselves independently in the economic, social, religious and cultural fields (Aliyah, 2021). According to (Damanik, 2019) Empowerment is a movement and sustainable process to awaken potential, strengthen participation, build civilization and community independence. Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning community empowerment villages is an effort to develop community independence and welfare by increasing community knowledge, attitudes, skills, behavior, abilities and awareness (Pujiningsih, 2019).

Government regulation no. 72 of 2005 concerning villages which states that community empowerment means that government administration and implementation of development in villages is aimed at improving the standard of living and welfare of the community through establishing policies and programs and activities that are in accordance with the essence and priority of community needs. The implementation of Law No. 6 of 2014 aims to improve public services for village communities in order to accelerate the realization of general welfare (Hajar et al., 2021). Apart from that, giving respect to the village that in Indonesia consists of many diverse villages, providing clarity and certainty in village law relating to the Indonesian constitutional system in order to create justice for all village communities, creating professional, effective, efficient and responsible villages, strengthening village economy as well as overcoming national development gaps and strengthening village communities as development subjects (Sakti et al., 2021).

The development of the Developing Village Index (IDM) is dedicated to strengthening the achievement of priority development targets as stated in the 2015–2019 National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN), namely reducing the number of Disadvantaged Villages to 5000 Villages, and increasing the number of Independent Villages to at least 2000 Villages in 2019 . The Village Development Index (IDM) is a Composite Index formed based on three indices, namely the Social Resilience Index, Economic Resilience Index and Ecological/Environmental Resilience Index (Arina et al., 2021). The indicator set developed in the Developing Village Index was developed based on the concept that in order to achieve a developed and independent village, a sustainable development framework is needed in which social, economic and ecological aspects are forces that complement each other and maintain the potential and ability of the village to improve village life (Christianingrum, 2020). Village community development and empowerment policies and activities must produce equality and justice, be based on and strengthen local and cultural values, and be environmentally friendly by managing natural resource potential well and sustainably. Policy is a form of government relationship with the environment or society. Policies are made to

create order, peace, community welfare and to protect community rights (Firmansyah et.al, 2023). In this context Social, economic and ecological resilience work as dimensions that strengthen the process and achieve the goals of development and empowerment of village communities.

In Permendesa PDTTrans Number 2 of 2016 (PDTTrans, 2016) concerning the Village Development Index (IDM) classifies Village Status into 5 (five) Village statuses, namely:

1. Independent Villages or what are called Sembada Villages are Advanced Villages which have the ability to carry out Village development to improve the quality of life and welfare of the Village community as much as possible with social resilience, economic resilience and ecological resilience in a sustainable manner.
2. Advanced Villages or what are called Pre-Sembada Villages are villages that have the potential for social, economic and ecological resources, as well as the ability to manage them to improve the welfare of village communities, the quality of human life, and overcome poverty.
3. Developing Villages or what are called Madya Villages are villages with the potential to become advanced villages, which have the potential for social, economic and ecological resources but have not yet managed them optimally to improve the welfare of the village community, the quality of human life and overcome poverty.
4. Disadvantaged Villages or what are called Pre-Madya Villages are Villages that have potential social, economic and ecological resources but have not, or have not managed them enough, in an effort to improve the welfare of the Village community, the quality of human life and experience poverty in its various forms.
5. Very Disadvantaged Villages or what are called Pratama Villages are villages that experience vulnerability due to natural disasters, economic shocks and social conflicts so that they are unable to manage potential social, economic and ecological resources, and experience poverty in various forms.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Community Empowerment Concept

Community empowerment is a process that aims to increase the ability of individuals and groups to meet their living needs (Darwis et al., 2021). This process involves various activities designed to provide knowledge, skills and resources to communities so they can overcome the challenges and difficulties they face. Community empowerment also plays an important role in building self-confidence and critical awareness, which ultimately encourages people to be more proactive in changing their social and economic conditions (Albab et al., 2024). Community empowerment is an effort to develop the potential of society, especially for disadvantaged groups (Amruddin, 2021).

Disadvantaged groups often do not have sufficient access to education, health and economic opportunities (Scanlon et al., 2019). By identifying and developing existing potential, community empowerment helps this group to escape the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment. Empowerment programs often include skills training, health education, and small business capital support, all of which aim to improve community welfare

The concept of community empowerment focuses on strengthening the capacity of communities to participate in development processes and decision making that affect their lives. Active participation from the community is very important so that development programs can run effectively and sustainably. By being directly involved in program planning and implementation, communities can ensure that their needs and aspirations are properly accommodated. This also creates a sense of ownership and responsibility for development

results, which in turn will encourage the sustainability and success of empowerment programs (Qarib, 2024).

The role of the Community and Village Empowerment Service

The Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) has a strategic role in increasing the Village Development Index. DPMD is responsible for creating and implementing programs aimed at strengthening the capacity of village communities in various aspects of life. One of its main tasks is to provide training and counseling to the community so that they have the knowledge and skills needed to develop local potential. Apart from that, DPMD also facilitates access to various resources and opportunities that can help village communities to improve their standard of living. Apart from its educational and facilitative role, DPMD also functions as a liaison between the government and the community. In this capacity, DPMD ensures that the needs and aspirations of village communities are heard and accommodated in development programs designed by the government. In this way, DPMD helps create effective two-way communication, so that development programs can be adapted to real conditions and needs in the field. Through this approach, DPMD contributes significantly to ensuring the success and sustainability of village development programs that are more inclusive and responsive to community needs (Hidayat et al., 2024).

Challenges and Inhibiting Factors

Even though the Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) has an important role, there are several challenges in implementing empowerment programs that must be faced. One of the main inhibiting factors is the lack of community participation in various planned activities. Lack of awareness or understanding of the benefits of empowerment programs often makes people reluctant to become actively involved. Apart from that, budget constraints are also a significant obstacle. Insufficient funding can hinder optimal program implementation, so that many initiatives cannot be implemented or completed properly. Lack of coordination between government agencies is also a big challenge, because it can lead to overlapping programs, inefficiencies, and loss of focus in achieving empowerment goals (Amruddin, 2021).

However, these challenges are not without solutions. Strong support from the government, both in the form of policy and funding, is very important to ensure the sustainability and success of empowerment programs. The government can take steps to increase the budget and provide the necessary resources for DPMD. Apart from that, active community participation is also very crucial. Through intensive outreach and education efforts, the community can become more aware of the importance of their involvement in empowerment programs. By creating an environment that encourages collaboration and synergy between society and government, the effectiveness of empowerment programs can be significantly increased. Better coordination between government agencies must also be improved to ensure that all parties are working towards the same goals, with coordinated and integrated strategies (Nurhati & Mudiyarso, 2023).

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative approach to explore the role of the Ciamis Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) in increasing the Village Development Index (IDM). The scope or object of research includes in-depth analysis of various programs and policies designed and implemented by DPMD to empower village communities. This research also examines the extent to which these initiatives are effective in improving IDM in Ciamis Regency. The operational definition of the variable includes the role of DPMD which is defined as all the activities, programs and policies they implement, as

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well as the increase in IDM which is measured based on the indicators in the index, such as economic, social and ecological aspects of the village. The description of the research focus includes an evaluation of the empowerment program that has been implemented, the challenges faced in its implementation, and its impact on improving IDM. This research was conducted in Ciamis Regency by looking at the development of the entire village which reflects various categories in the IDM, namely independent villages, developing villages and underdeveloped villages, as a research site.

The sample/informants in this research consisted of several DPMD officials who participated in the empowerment program. The main materials and tools used in this research include policy documents, IDM reports, as well as the results of in-depth interviews with key informants. Data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews to obtain a comprehensive perspective from informants. The data analysis technique uses the thematic analysis method, which involves a coding process, identifying main themes, and thematic interpretation to understand patterns and relationships that are relevant to the role of DPMD in improving IDM. This analysis was carried out by considering the social context and local dynamics that exist in the villages of Ciamis Regency, so that it can provide in-depth insight and appropriate policy recommendations for empowering village communities.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The Ciamis Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) has a very strategic role in designing and implementing policies and programs aimed at empowering village communities. The main task of the DPMD is to ensure that every policy and program prepared is truly in accordance with the local needs and potential that exist in each village in Ciamis Regency, with a focus on increasing village welfare and independence. Welfare is measured not only from an economic perspective, but also from the social, educational and health aspects of village communities. Meanwhile, village independence is defined as the village's ability to manage and develop its resources independently without relying too much on external assistance. The programs designed by DPMD aim to improve the village economy through the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as well as optimizing the village's agricultural and tourism potential. DPMD also seeks to strengthen village institutions such as Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes) and other community groups. This program aims to create jobs and increase the income of village communities. It is hoped that strong institutions will be able to become a driving force in village development. Through these various efforts, the Ciamis Regency DPMD hopes to create villages that are independent, prosperous and highly competitive, so that they are able to make a positive contribution to overall regional development.

The existence of IDM data makes the availability of data and measurements needed such as village status and especially in developing policy interventions capable of answering basic problems of development and empowerment of village communities. Apart from that, equitable impact and economic development are the ultimate goals of village development in accordance with the availability of existing facilities and infrastructure in the village (Permendesa, No. 15 of 2015). The Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia welcomes this Law as a point rejecting the (re)birth of a new village, as well as being a momentum to throw away the old village paradigm. In essence, the village is a national entity that has formed the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). Through the development of a new paradigm and concept for national Village governance, based on the principle of diversity and prioritizing the principles of recognition and subsidiarity, the Village is no longer positioned as the "background of Indonesia", but rather as the "front page of Indonesia". Many parties have

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understood that the Village Law provides inspiration and a spirit of change. Regarding Village Funds, for example, the redistribution of state assets sourced from the APBN has proven capable of driving change in the Village. Village development grows into new greatness and enthusiasm in village life. Based on the Village Law, changes in Village life are driven within the framework of: definition and types of Villages (namely Villages and Traditional Villages or what are called by other names), regulatory objectives, principles, position, authority, finances and assets, governance, institutions community and customs, empowerment of Village communities, development of Villages and Rural Areas, and the following support from Village assistants and Village information systems. It is in contextual relevance that IDM was developed.

Ciamis Regency, with 258 villages under its auspices, continues to improve to increase the IDM of villages in its area. In 2022, Ciamis Regency succeeded in achieving "Independent" status in the IDM category, which shows significant progress in village development. Ciamis Regency's success in improving IDM cannot be separated from the strategic role of the Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD). The Ciamis Regency DPMD has implemented various community empowerment programs and activities, developing village officials, as well as facilitating access to village resources and funding. IDM is calculated based on eight dimensions, namely economy, infrastructure, education, health, institutions, information and communication technology, security and environment. Ciamis Regency has great potential to improve IDM. This is supported by several factors, such as abundant natural resources, sufficient human resources, and strategic location.

Developing Village Index (IDM)

Village development is an effort to improve the quality of life and life for the greatest welfare of the community (Law No. 6 of 2014). Measuring village development is carried out by the Ministry of Villages by making Regulation of the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration or Ministry of Villages No. 2 of 2016. Development measurement by the Ministry of Villages in Presidential Decree no. 2 of 2016 is called the Village Development Index or IDM. This IDM contains data collection and mapping of village capabilities in 4 categories, namely very underdeveloped, underdeveloped, developing, advanced, independent based on certain parameter calculations.

The classification of Village status based on IDM is also directed at strengthening efforts to facilitate support for Village progress towards becoming an Independent Village by having the ability to manage Resources in sustainable social, economic and ecological resilience (Permendesa, No. 15 of 2015).

The Membangun Village indicators are seen as follows

- a. The Social Dimension consists of health, education, social capital and housing indicators.
- b. The Economic Dimension consists of the diversity of village community production, availability of trade service centers, access to logistics distribution, access to financial and credit institutions, economic institutions, regional openness.
- c. The Ecological Dimension consists of environmental quality, potential/prone to natural disasters.

Based on the results of the IDM data, we can map out how to carry out village development, the ultimate goal of which is to eradicate high levels of poverty in villages and improve the welfare of village communities by fulfilling basic needs, developing village facilities and infrastructure, developing village potential and utilizing natural resources according to mandate. Constitution.

IDM Data Update

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The Village Development Index (IDM) is a strategy used to realize data-based village development, with the aim of determining the status of village progress and independence using measurable indicators, in accordance with PERMENDES PDTT Number 2 of 2016. Ciamis Regency DPMD has taken various steps to implement IDM, including socialization, assistance with data input, and verification of IDM data in every village in Ciamis Regency. Through IDM, the government can evaluate the extent to which development in each village has progressed and identify areas that still need improvement. By having accurate and up-to-date data, the Ciamis Regency DPMD can develop development plans that are more effective and on target. This is expected to improve the welfare and progress of all villages in Ciamis Regency, as well as ensure more optimal allocation of resources and development programs in accordance with the needs of the local community.

Socialization of IDM Data Updates

The Ciamis Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) held a socialization on updating the 2024 Village Development Index (IDM) data as a strategic step to prepare for more independent and sustainable village development. This socialization aims to convey the importance of IDM data as a tool for measuring village independence and progress, increase understanding of village officials and the community about the process and benefits of updating IDM data, and encourage active participation of all elements of society in data collection and validation. The material presented in the socialization includes the meaning and components of IDM, the data updating process, and the role of village officials and the community in this process. In this activity, they discussed obstacles and solutions in updating IDM data, shared experiences and best practices from villages that had succeeded in upgrading their IDM, and carried out simulations of filling in IDM data. In addition, villages are asked to prepare specific follow-up plans, including a timeline for updating data, appointment of work teams, and coordination mechanisms with DPMD.

DPMD emphasized that the success of updating IDM data really depends on the active participation of all elements of society. The community is involved in collecting field data to ensure accuracy and representation that corresponds to real village conditions, as well as in the data validation process to ensure validity and accuracy. The community is also invited to understand and utilize IDM data in planning and implementing village development programs. By updating accurate IDM data, it is hoped that the quality of development at the village level can improve significantly. Accurate IDM data enables village governments to develop more targeted and effective development programs, improving the quality of life of village communities through infrastructure development, improving public services and developing the local economy. In addition, updating IDM data allows each village to identify its specific needs and potential, which is very valuable for designing programs that can optimize village potential and overcome existing problems. IDM is also an effective tool for monitoring and evaluating village development, so that village and district governments can measure development progress, identify obstacles, and make necessary improvements.

The Ciamis Regency Government is committed to continuing to support and facilitate every effort made by the village to realize community welfare. This commitment is realized through providing an adequate budget for implementing IDM data updating and village development programs, providing facilities and resources such as training, information technology tools, and technical assistance, as well as collaboration with various parties including government institutions, the private sector, and civil society organizations. With these steps, the Ciamis Regency DPMD hopes to improve the quality of village development and achieve more inclusive and sustainable development goals. Updating IDM data is not only an administrative task, but is also an important foundation for development planning that is data-based and oriented towards community welfare.

Development Village Index Declaration

The Ciamis Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service, through the PMPKD Division, implemented the 2024 Development Village Index Declaration (IDM). This activity was carried out in order to photograph village development based on the implementation of the village law, using a measuring tool for the development of village status based on the IDM (Developing Village Index), which where the IDM is a composite index formed based on three indices, namely the social resilience index, the economic resilience index and the ecological/environmental index.

Based on the results of the IDM recapitulation from 2020 - 2024 in Ciamis Regency, it can be seen as follows:

Table 1. IDM Recapitulation Results for 2020-2024 in Ciamis Regency

<i>Years</i>	<i>Village Status</i>			
	<i>Independent</i>	<i>Proceed</i>	<i>Develop</i>	<i>Left Behind</i>
2020	19	93	146	0
2021	45	120	93	0
2022	116	107	35	0
2023	178	73	7	0
2024	210	48	0	0

Source: Processed by Researchers, 2024

The status of independent villages in 2024 will be 210 villages, an increase of 32 villages compared to the achievement in 2023 of 178 independent villages. The status of developed villages in 2024 is 48 villages, a decrease of 25 villages compared to the achievement in 2023 of developed villages of 73 villages. The status of developing villages in 2024 is 0 villages, a decrease of 7 villages compared to the status achieved in 2023 of developing villages of 7 villages. There are 23 independent sub-districts, an increase of 6 sub-districts in 2024 compared to 17 sub-districts in 2023.

The increase in the number of independent villages from year to year shows positive achievements in efforts to develop independent and sustainable villages. However, the decrease in the number of developed villages and the absence of developing villages in 2024 compared to the previous year indicates a change in status from developed to independent villages, and from developing to developed villages. Overall, it appears that Ciamis Regency continues to strive to improve the welfare and progress of villages through monitoring and evaluation using IDM. It is hoped that these steps can optimize development strategies that are more effective and targeted according to the needs of local communities.

E. CONCLUSIONS

The Ciamis Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) has played a crucial role in adopting the Village Development Index (IDM) as a benchmark for holistic village progress, covering social, economic and ecological dimensions. Through a number of programs and policies that focus on community empowerment, development of village officials, and facilitating access to village resources and funding, DPMD has succeeded in driving a significant increase in village status in Ciamis Regency. In 2024, impressive achievements will be seen with 210 villages in Ciamis Regency successfully achieving "Independent" status. This shows commitment and consistency in implementing

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empowerment programs designed to increase village independence as a whole. This success cannot be separated from the full support of the regional government in adequate budget allocation, effective capacity building of village officials, and the provision of accurate and integrated village data.

Despite this brilliant achievement, the Ciamis Regency DPMD is also faced with various challenges that require planned and integrated solutions. The main challenges include limited infrastructure, limited access to capital for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as well as the need to increase coordination between agencies in supporting various village development initiatives. To overcome this obstacle, the Ciamis Regency DPMD continues to implement various proactive strategies. These include strengthening the capacity of village officials through training and mentoring, improving the quality of village data to support more precise planning, developing the village economy through diversification and innovation of local products, as well as increasing access to public services that are equitable and inclusive for all village communities. With a strong commitment, strong and sustainable efforts, the Ciamis Regency DPMD is confident that it can continue to improve the welfare of village communities and achieve independent village status throughout its region. This is not only a local achievement, but also an inspiration for other regions in their efforts towards sustainable and inclusive development at the local level.

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