

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF POST-EXPANSION OF PANGANDARAN REGENCY IN IMPROVING COMMUNITY WELFARE IN PANGANDARAN REGENCY

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Abstract

This research is motivated by an analysis of the post-expansion impact of Pangandaran Regency on improving community welfare in Pangandaran Regency. However, current problems persist. The purpose of this study is to determine the post-expansion impact of Pangandaran Regency on improving community welfare in Pangandaran Regency. The method used in this study is descriptive analysis. Seven informants were interviewed. Data collection techniques included literature review, fieldwork (observation and interviews), and documentation. The author used qualitative data analysis techniques through processing interview and observation data to draw conclusions that can answer the research questions. Based on the research results, it is known that: the expansion of Pangandaran Regency has provided broader institutional space for local governments to formulate development policies and programs focused on local needs. However, in its implementation, disparities persist between regions, both in terms of access to education, health, social facilities, and economic opportunities. The education aspect has not shown significant improvement. Access to schools, affordability, and the quality of teaching staff remain issues, particularly in villages far from service centers. Similarly, in the health sector, the availability of community health centers and medical personnel has increased, but is not yet fully equitable and accessible to all levels of society. Similarly, in the social sector, community involvement in social activities is still limited by a lack of facilities and infrastructure supporting social interaction. Meanwhile, in the economic sector, the development of leading sectors such as tourism and MSMEs has shown potential, but has not been accompanied by equitable distribution of benefits and expanded access to economic resources for communities across the region. Unemployment and poverty rates continue to indicate that improvements in welfare are not evenly distributed.

Keywords: Analysis, Post-Impact, Regional Expansion of Pangandaran Regency, Community Welfare

A. INTRODUCTION

With the enactment of Regional Government Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government and Government Regulation No. 78 of 2007 concerning Procedures for the Formation, Dissolution, and Merger of Regions, the government provides space for regions to undertake regional expansion in order to improve public welfare in an integrated manner at all levels. According to these provisions, regional expansion can involve the merger of several regions or parts of adjacent regions, or the expansion of one region into more than one region. At the same time, regional expansion primarily focuses on improving government

ARTICLE

services to the public, encouraging regional economic development, enhancing security, and achieving harmonious development between the central and regional governments.

With the enactment of Law No. 21 of 2012, Pangandaran Regency officially separated from Ciamis Regency to become a new autonomous region. The central government's approval of Pangandaran Regency as a new region naturally took into account the region's capacity for independence, including in terms of regional economics and financing. Kuncoro (2012) argues that each regional expansion is primarily motivated by improving the welfare of its people. This often leads to resources being drawn to the parent region, leaving regions far from the center of power behind. Each expansion brings with it broad involvement as a logical consequence, such as the distribution of regional revenue and income sources previously assigned to the original region (Muqoyyidin, 2013).

Similarly, research conducted by Nurwanda and Badriah (2021:43) states that: "It began with the creation of regional autonomy in the post-reform era to support the democratic system implemented in Indonesia. Regional autonomy is the authority of autonomous regions to regulate and manage the interests of local communities according to their own initiatives, based on community aspirations, in accordance with laws and regulations."

Pangandaran Regency covers an area of 168,509 hectares, with 67,340 hectares of sea water. Pangandaran Regency has a coastline of 91 km and consists of 10 districts: Parigi, Cijulang, Cimerak, Cigugur, Langkaplancar, Mangunjaya, Padaherang, Kalipucang, Pangandaran, and Sidamulih. Pangandaran Regency's potential includes agriculture, fisheries, livestock, forestry, and, most importantly, tourism.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a measure of progress and quality of life in a country or region. According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the HDI is a measure of human development achievements based on a number of quality-of-life indicators. The 2020-2023 HDI for Pangandaran Regency is presented in the following graphic:

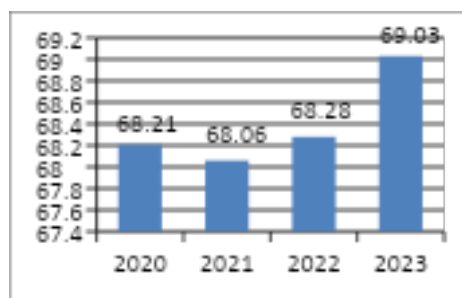


Figure 1. Human Development Index Pangandaran Regency 2020-2023
Source: Central Statistics Agency (BPS)

Based on data from the Pangandaran Regency Human Development Index, the index fluctuates, reaching 68.21 percent in 2020 and declining to 68.06 percent in 2021. In 2022, the index rose again to 68.28 percent and continued to rise until the end of 2023. The Pangandaran Regency Human Development Index reached 69.03 percent, although this increase was relatively small.

Similarly, data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Ciamis Regency indicates that the expansion of Pangandaran Regency has not significantly impacted the welfare of the people in Pangandaran Regency, both economically. The number of people still struggles to meet basic family needs, while the number of people completing education remains low. The number of people experiencing difficulties in accessing health facilities remains difficult. The number of people receiving social assistance, both the National Disaster Mitigation Program

(BPNT) and the Family Hope Program (PKH), has also increased. (BPS Pangandaran Regency 2023)

Similarly, observations revealed that the Post-Expansion Impact Analysis of Pangandaran Regency in improving community welfare in Pangandaran Regency still presents current problems, as evidenced by the following indicators:

1. After the expansion of the Pangandaran Regency area, it has not been able to improve the fulfillment of basic family needs. This is proven by data that as many as 40 percent of the population with the lowest expenditure in Pangandaran Regency are still relatively not prosperous because most of their income is only enough to cover food/basic needs.
2. Post-regional expansion, Pangandaran Regency has not been able to improve public access to education. In general, the average length of schooling for residents aged 15 and over in Pangandaran Regency in 2023 reached 8.04 years, an increase from the previous two years, namely 7.85 years in 2021 and 8.03 years in 2022. This means that the average Pangandaran resident was only able to complete education up to the second grade of junior high school or dropped out of school in the third grade of junior high school in 2023.
3. Post-regional expansion, Pangandaran Regency has not been able to optimally increase local revenue from the tourism sector. This is due to a lack of adequate infrastructure support, suboptimal management of tourist attractions, and a lack of collaborative governance in developing tourism potential.

Based on the background of the problem above, the author wishes to conduct research with the title "Analysis of the Impact of Post-Expansion of the Pangandaran Regency Region in Improving Community Welfare in Pangandaran Regency".

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Regional Expansion

Regional expansion is a decentralization policy aimed at accelerating development and improving the welfare of communities in new areas. Based on Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government and Government Regulation Number 78 of 2007 concerning Procedures for the Formation, Elimination, and Merger of Regions, expansion can be carried out through the merger or separation of regions that meet administrative, technical, and physical territorial requirements.

According to Kuncoro (2012), the main reason for regional expansion is to shorten the span of government control, resulting in more effective public services, especially for previously underserved regions. Expansion is expected to reduce development inequality, increase community participation, and accelerate economic equality. However, Muqoyyidin (2013) emphasized that the expansion process also has logical consequences in the form of greater distribution of resources, regional revenues, and financing needs.

Regional Autonomy

Regional autonomy grants autonomous regions the authority to regulate and manage the interests of local communities based on regional aspirations and needs. According to Nurwanda and Badriah (2021), regional autonomy emerged as an effort to support the democratic system in post-reform Indonesia, where regions have the freedom to manage their potential to improve public welfare.

With regional autonomy, local governments have full responsibility for natural resource management, infrastructure development, improving human resource quality, and managing local economic potential, including the tourism and fisheries sectors.

Human Development Index (HDI)

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite indicator that measures human development achievements across three basic dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023). The HDI is often used to evaluate development success, including in newly established regions.

According to Todaro & Smith (2011), increasing the HDI depends not only on economic growth but also on equitable access to education and health care, and increased public income. Regional expansion is expected to accelerate HDI improvement through more accessible and responsive public services.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used in this study is a descriptive analysis approach. Informants in this study were the Regent of Pangandaran for the 2015-2024 period, the Regent of Pangandaran for the 2025-2029 period, the Chairperson of the Pangandaran Regency DPRD, the Head of the Pangandaran Regency Bappeda, the Chairperson of the Pangandaran Regency Presidium, and two community representatives in Pangandaran Regency, so that the informants in this study were 7 people.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

To determine the impact of the post-regional expansion of Pangandaran Regency on improving community welfare in Pangandaran Regency, the author presents the following research results:

1. Economic Aspects

Based on the results of research related to the economic aspects of post-regional expansion in Pangandaran Regency, it has not shown optimal results in improving community welfare. The five main indicators studied—meeting basic family needs, increasing income, increasing consumption, increasing expenditure, and opening up employment opportunities—all show limited and uneven progress across the region. While basic family needs have improved in some areas, this is not universal, particularly for people living in remote or rural areas. Community incomes have not increased significantly; in some areas, living expenses have even increased due to high prices of goods and limited employment opportunities. Increased consumption and expenditure have been more pronounced among the upper-middle class, while low-income communities still tend to be cautious in spending their income due to economic constraints. Meanwhile, job opportunities are indeed more open than before the expansion, particularly in the service, government, and tourism sectors. However, not all residents are able to access these opportunities due to limited skills and information. Regional governments have undertaken various initiatives, such as job training and empowering MSMEs, but these efforts have not yet fully reached all levels of society.

Saragih (2021) emphasized that regional economic development resulting from regional expansion requires an inclusive development strategy focused on strengthening the local economy and empowering communities. Without this, regional expansion will only become a fiscal burden without creating job opportunities and increasing income equitably.

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, dampak pasca pemekaran wilayah Kabupaten Pangandaran dalam meningkatkan kesejahteraan masyarakat pada aspek ekonomi dinilai belum optimal. Meskipun pemekaran wilayah memberikan peluang baru dalam pengelolaan sumber daya lokal, pembangunan infrastruktur, dan pembukaan lapangan kerja, namun hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peningkatan kesejahteraan ekonomi belum merata dan belum dirasakan secara menyeluruh oleh seluruh lapisan masyarakat.

2. Education Aspect

Based on research results related to the education aspect, the four indicators examined are not yet optimal. Regional expansion has not been able to increase the number of completed education levels, facilitate access to educational facilities, reduce education costs for the community, and reduce discriminatory education due to various obstacles. For example, the increase in the number of completed education levels has not shown significant changes, as many people still do not continue their education to a higher level due to economic constraints and a lack of environmental support. Second, easy access to educational facilities is also not evenly distributed, especially in rural and remote areas that still lack adequate educational facilities and teaching staff. Third, the reduction in education costs for the community has not been fully achieved because educational assistance provided has not reached all target groups, and many families still have to cover transportation costs and school needs independently. Fourth, regional expansion has also not been able to effectively reduce discriminatory educational practices, due to the persistence of quality disparities between schools in central and peripheral areas and the suboptimal implementation of the principle of inclusivity in the local education system. Therefore, regional expansion is not yet a comprehensive solution to creating a fair, equitable, and discrimination-free education system. Therefore, a comprehensive evaluation and more equitable policy improvements are needed.

According to Santosa (2021), "The main objective of regional expansion is to bring services closer to the community, accelerate development in underdeveloped regions, and reduce inequality in access, including in education."

Based on research on the impact of post-regional expansion in Pangandaran Regency on improving public welfare in the education sector, these positive impacts have not been fully distributed. Disparities in education quality between regions, a shortage of permanent teachers in remote areas, and limited supporting facilities in some schools remain. Therefore, regional expansion provides a strong foundation for educational equity, but its implementation requires ongoing policy support, oversight, and active community participation to truly improve overall welfare through education.

3. Health Aspect

Based on research results, the health aspect, with three indicators examined, is not yet optimal. Regional expansion, which aims to improve ease of access to health facilities, the quality and quantity of health facilities, and the ease of accessing affordable health services to the public, has not yet been achieved as expected. This is evidenced by the persistence of disparities between regions in terms of the availability and completeness of facilities, limited health workers, and still-unaffordable service costs, particularly in rural and remote areas. This situation indicates that although regional expansion opens up opportunities for improving health services, policy implementation and equitable distribution of results still require continuous improvement.

According to Kuncoro (2013), regional expansion must be accompanied by regional capacity to develop health development plans based on local needs, including strengthening human resources and service infrastructure. Without proper planning, regional expansion will

only amount to administrative changes without significant improvements in the community's quality of life.

Based on research findings, the impact of the post-regional expansion of Pangandaran Regency on improving public health in Pangandaran Regency has not been optimal, despite positive contributions. In general, the expansion has opened up new policy opportunities for local governments to focus more on developing the health sector by increasing the number of facilities, service approaches, and the availability of subsidized programs or free services for the community. However, not all communities have experienced equal benefits, especially in remote areas. There are still limitations in the availability of medical personnel, the availability of medical equipment, and the inconsistent quality of services. Residents in some areas still face additional costs due to having to purchase medicines outside the region or seek private healthcare due to limited services at government facilities.

4. Social Aspects

Based on research findings related to the social dimension, three indicators examined: community involvement in social activities, access to social facilities, and equitable distribution of social development have not shown optimal results. The expansion of Pangandaran Regency does provide broader institutional and fiscal opportunities for local governments in designing social development policies. However, in practice, research results indicate that there is still a gap between the central and peripheral areas in terms of the availability and utilization of social facilities. This also results in limited public participation in social activities.

According to Santosa (2010), public participation in social development is highly dependent on the availability of adequate public space and government support in fostering inclusive social activities. If this participation space is not properly facilitated, the spirit of autonomy and regional expansion will not have a tangible impact on strengthening the social life of residents.

Research on the impact of post-regional expansion in Pangandaran Regency on improving community welfare in the social aspect shows that the results are less than optimal. Although the expansion has provided flexibility for the local government to regulate and manage development policies that are more targeted and tailored to local needs, its implementation still faces various obstacles in terms of equitable access, community participation, and the quality of social services.

Therefore, the impact of post-regional expansion in Pangandaran Regency on improving community welfare in Pangandaran Regency is less than optimal, as seen from the study of community welfare levels across four dimensions and 15 indicators used as measurement tools. Although administrative regional expansion provides opportunities for local governments to manage resources, budgets, and development policies more independently and with greater focus, in practice, it has not been able to fully improve the quality of life of the community in a comprehensive and equitable manner. Welfare indicators such as equitable access to education, affordable healthcare, adequate employment opportunities, and community social participation in development have not shown consistent results across all districts. Several sub-districts located near the center of government have experienced faster development, while outlying and remote areas remain lagging behind in terms of infrastructure development, public services, and socio-economic well-being. This development disparity demonstrates that the spirit of regional expansion to bring services closer to the community has not been fully realized in practice. Equitable distribution of development outcomes, community involvement in planning, and strengthening the capacity of local institutions remain key challenges that require immediate and systematic addressing..

ARTICLE

In response to the finding that the expansion of Pangandaran Regency has not been able to optimally improve community welfare, the local government has implemented various strategic efforts to address this challenge. These efforts are being implemented in stages, comprehensively, and based on the diverse needs of the communities in each region. One crucial step is developing development plans based on data and local needs. Through the Development Planning Consultation (Musrenbang) forum, community aspirations at the village level are collected and integrated into regional planning documents such as the RPJMD (Regional Medium-Term Development Plan) and RKPD (Regional Work Plan). This ensures that development proceeds not only administratively but also in accordance with the realities and priorities of the community on the ground. The local government is also striving to achieve equitable distribution of basic infrastructure and social facilities. Village roads, inter-regional bridges, schools, health facilities, and community halls continue to be built and repaired, especially in areas that have previously received less attention. Social facilities are no longer concentrated solely in the district center but are beginning to reach villages in border and remote areas. These efforts are complemented by collaboration with the private sector through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs to accelerate the provision of social infrastructure. In the education and health sectors, the government allocates a significant budget to improve service quality and ease of access. Scholarships for underprivileged students, incentives for teachers and health workers in remote areas, and active integrated health posts (Posyandu) and mobile health services are all part of this strategy. Equally important, the government also focuses on community economic empowerment through the development of MSMEs and skills training based on local potential, such as tourism, agriculture, and fisheries. Capital assistance and business mentoring are part of efforts to reduce unemployment and increase family incomes.

In addition to physical and economic aspects, the government also encourages the strengthening of social institutions and citizen participation. Training is being provided to Karang Taruna (Youth Organization), the Family Welfare Movement (PKK), farmer groups, and other community organizations to enable communities to be more active in social, cultural, and village development activities. Village officials are also being trained to become facilitators in the sustainable management of social facilities. To complement all these measures, the use of information technology is also being optimized. The Pangandaran Regency Government is developing various digital-based information systems to support public services, accelerate information delivery, and increase transparency and efficiency in government services.

With these various efforts, the regional government hopes to reduce development inequality, expand access to basic services, and improve the overall quality of life for the community. Although the results are not yet fully optimal, the policy direction and implementation, which are continually being improved, demonstrate a strong commitment to realizing the ideals of regional expansion, namely to provide more equitable and equitable prosperity for all residents of Pangandaran Regency.

E. CONCLUSION

Regional expansion has provided greater institutional space for regional governments to develop policies and development programs focused on local needs. However, in its implementation, disparities persist between regions, both in terms of access to education, health care, social facilities, and economic opportunities. In the education sector, significant improvements have not been achieved. Access to schools, affordability, and the quality of teaching staff remain issues, particularly in villages far from service centers. Similarly, in the health sector, the availability of community health centers and medical personnel has

ARTICLE

increased, but is not yet fully equitable and accessible to all levels of society. Similarly, in the social sector, community involvement in social activities remains limited by a lack of facilities and infrastructure supporting social interaction. Meanwhile, in the economic sector, the development of leading sectors such as tourism and MSMEs has shown potential, but has not been accompanied by equitable distribution of benefits and expanded access to economic resources by communities across the region. Unemployment and poverty rates continue to indicate that improvements in welfare are not evenly distributed. The expansion of Pangandaran Regency poses several obstacles to improving the welfare of its people. In education, the main obstacles lie in geographical disparities and limited educational infrastructure. Residents in Langkaplancar, Cimerak, and parts of Padaherang Districts still have to travel long distances to reach schools, especially junior high and senior high schools. Similar obstacles are also encountered in the health sector. Although physical developments such as the addition of community health centers (Puskesmas) and community health centers (Pustu) have been carried out, the availability of medical personnel remains uneven. Meanwhile, in terms of access to social facilities, public spaces such as meeting halls, community parks, or community activity areas remain very limited, especially in villages. This obstacle leads to low levels of social interaction and limited space for community participation in community-based development activities. In some villages, social facilities function as temporary offices, rather than as venues for community social activities. Economically, the greatest obstacle lies in the lack of access to business capital, skills training, and market networks. Most micro and small businesses still rely on self-financing without technical assistance from the government. Furthermore, economic infrastructure, such as production roads and internet networks, remains unevenly distributed, limiting the mobility of goods and information. Although the tourism sector has developed in coastal areas, its economic benefits have not yet been widely enjoyed by rural communities in the interior, the majority of whom work as farmers, fishermen, or daily laborers.

To address various obstacles following regional expansion, the Pangandaran Regency Government has implemented a number of strategic efforts targeting four key aspects of community welfare: In education, efforts have been made through the construction of new schools in remote areas, the rehabilitation of educational facilities, the provision of scholarships, and the equitable distribution of teachers through the appointment of PPPK (Community Empowerment and Child Protection) and the distribution of teaching staff based on zoning. In the health sector, the government has increased service coverage by establishing sub-health centers (Puskesmas), providing village ambulances, recruiting contract health workers, and strengthening Posyandu (Integrated Health Post) activities and training community health cadres. In the social sector, village governments are encouraged to build public facilities such as community halls and community parks using Village Funds, and to activate social institutions such as Karang Taruna (Youth Organization) and the Family Welfare Movement (PKK) to enable them to organize social activities independently. Meanwhile, in the economic aspect, the government is developing local potential through skills training, strengthening MSMEs and BUMDes, developing agricultural infrastructure, and expanding access to capital and marketing of local products, including the development of tourism villages and the creative economy.

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