Community Development: Concepts and Implementation in Sustainable Development

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Abstract. Community development is a key element in achieving sustainable development, which focuses on improving social, economic, and environmental welfare. This article explores the challenges and opportunities in implementing community development concepts, highlighting the importance of community participation, cross-sector collaboration, technology integration, and human rights-based approaches. The method used in this research is a qualitative method with a library research approach. The initial step involves identifying relevant primary and secondary sources from various digital and physical libraries. Then an in-depth analysis of texts related to community development, its concepts, and implementation in the context of sustainable development is carried out. Data was collected from journal articles, books, government reports, and official documents related to community development and sustainable development. The results of this research show that community development is a key element in achieving sustainable development, with a focus on improving social, economic, and environmental welfare. Despite being faced with various challenges, such as social inequality, environmental damage, and political conflict, there are great opportunities to increase the effectiveness of community development through active community participation, cross-sector collaboration, technology integration, and a human rights-based approach.

Keywords: *Community Development, Sustainability, Participation, Collaboration, Integration, Human Rights.*

A.   INTRODUCTION

In general, people dream of ideal conditions which are the order of life they want, this condition describes a life where needs can be met, a condition that is no longer colored by worries about tomorrow, a life that provides a conducive climate for self-actualization and the realization of a just social relations process if current life does not meet these ideal conditionsc, there is always an urge to make efforts to make it happen, and likewise, if there is a reality that is considered to hinder the achievement of these ideal conditions, it will encourage efforts to change and improve it (Blondeel et al., 2020; Noack & Federwisch, 2020).

Social problems are conditions that are undesirable because they conflict with the desired ideal conditions, or at least can become an obstacle to achieving these ideal conditions. The reality that is considered a social problem always encourages or inspires the emergence of efforts to make changes and improvements (Durán-Díaz et al., 2020; Gohori & van der Merwe, 2020). Ideal conditions that are desired are referred to as prosperous conditions, while conditions that are social problems are the opposite reality because they conflict with ideal conditions. Social problems are a social reality, but it is a reality that is not expected, while the condition of a prosperous society is a condition that is expected but is ideal because a fully prosperous society has never been found, which is a social reality is a process of change that describes efforts or struggles to realize these ideal conditions (Abukari & Mwalyosi, 2020; Kaplanidou, 2021).

Community development is intended to describe social reality in the form of qualitative changes in structure and function in social life which bring society into a better condition in fulfilling its goals and hopes. All development concerns and is even aimed at society, but as a

method, community development has its characteristics (Shaturaev, 2021; Winston, 2022). Community development does not only mean fostering relationships and the lives of each person living in society but also building society because each unit of society has its strength which is called community power. A society can lose its strength if the society experiences community disorganization. To overcome this, community development was launched. Community development becomes even more important if we remember that society needs to be prepared to enter a form of society called society, so that these two ideal forms are a continuum, community society continua (Brugmann, 2021; Zimon et al., 2020).

Community development plays an undeniable central role in the context of efforts to achieve sustainable development. Community development is not just about economic growth; it includes holistic social, environmental, and cultural aspects. When we talk about sustainable development, we not only pay attention to the achievement of economic indicators but also pay attention to social welfare and balance, as well as environmental sustainability and cultural heritage (Dantas et al., 2021; Pohlmann et al., 2020). Community development places people at the center, emphasizing active community participation in formulating and implementing policies, as well as paying attention to local needs and aspirations. Community development is not an end goal, but rather a means to achieve sustainable development goals that are inclusive and empowering (Velenturf & Purnell, 2021; Yin et al., 2022).

This article aims to be a comprehensive guide for practitioners, researchers, and policymakers in their efforts to advance inclusive and sustainable societal development. Thus, its scope includes an in-depth explanation of the concept of community development in its various dimensions, including economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects. This article will also review various theories and approaches in community development and identify key dimensions that must be considered in efforts to promote sustainable community development, this article seeks to illustrate how the concept of community development can be applied in various sustainable development contexts. This article has significant relevance in increasing our understanding of effective strategies for achieving sustainable and inclusive sustainable development goals.

B.   LITERATURE REVIEW
1. Understanding Community Development

The concept of development includes anatomical (form), physiological (life), and behavioral (behavior) aspects based on an etymological review. Meanwhile, from an encyclopedic review, the concept of development is related to growth, reconstruction, modernization, westernization, social change, liberation, renewal, development, and development. 'Community' in the context of 'community development', is society in the sense of community which can be interpreted as community. In terms of etymology, community has meaning (a) a social group that lives in a certain location, and has the same culture and history, (b) the smallest residential unit; on it are towns, cities, and large cities (Moallemi et al., 2020; Tien, Minh et al., 2020).

Community development or community building is a process. Whether the efforts of the community concerned are taken based on their initiative, or government activities, to improve the economic, social, and cultural conditions of various communities, integrate these various communities into the life of the nation, and enable them to contribute fully to the progress of the nation and state, run in an integrated manner in the process. This process includes two basic elements, namely: (1) community participation, in the context of their efforts to improve their standard of living as far as possible based on their strength and initiative, and (2) technical assistance and services aimed at generating initiative, determination to help

themselves and willingness to help others (Anh et al., 2022; Tien et al., 2022). This process is expressed in various programs designed to facilitate improvements to various programs.

These programs usually involve the general interests of the local community, because they have the same interests. Other matters of a special nature or group interest are handled by functional groups that do things that are not in the general interest of the community. Community development is a planned effort to enable individual participation in solving various community problems democratically through development training and education, and through community development, there is an education process for action. The community is prepared to realize community goals democratically in this process, the leader becomes more of an agent to shape the learning experience for the community rather than as a driver for achieving program goals (ElMassah & Mohieldin, 2020; Tien et al., 2021).

Community development has a non-coercive character, meaning without coercion, voluntary, based on initiative and self-responsibility. Community development works on several basic assumptions, namely: 1) Community as a work unit, even though each community is different in quantity and quality; 2) Activities based on local initiatives and local leadership. This local initiative contains the principle of giving people the opportunity and trust to freely choose, the right to defend their choices, and the opportunity to learn from experience: success or failure. Local leadership functions to ensure the unity or coherence of the community movement as a whole, as well as as an agent of change; 3) Rely on local sources and external sources. The main local resources are human resources; 4) Community participation. What is meant by participation is direct participation in such a way that every community group, even every person directly and significantly plays a role in the development process; and 5) Community development works at the community level, meaning: the center of attention of community development is community household affairs (Gunawan et al., 2020).

2. Community Development Goals

The goal of community development is to build a community structure that facilitates the growth of democratic participation when decision-making occurs. This effort requires the establishment of a process that allows a society to have access to resources, and to be able to control data sources and power structures in society. Community development is an effort to develop a community condition sustainably and actively based on the principles of social justice and mutual respect. The essence of community development is to educate and make community members capable of doing something by giving community members the ability to do something by providing the necessary strength or means and empowering them (Ali et al., 2021; Cantarero, 2020).

Community development is a commitment to empowering the lower levels of society so that they have real choices regarding their future, all community development activities are directed at forming a community structure that reflects the growing spirit of self-reliance and participation (Tien, Hiep, et al., 2020; Tsalis et al., 2020). Community development includes efforts to strengthen social interactions in society, create a spirit of togetherness, and solidarity among community members, and help them to communicate with other parties using dialogue naturally or without intervention, based on full understanding and followed up with real social action (Streimikiene et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2020).

Community development is a process of restructuring society by offering self-help-participatory patterns in managing and organizing socio-economic life so that it will be more possible for them to meet their own needs compared to previous times. Community development activities usually take place within a group, social unit, or community organization such as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). There are four basic elements of community development, namely (Mondejar et al., 2021; Montiel et al., 2021): 1) Planning

program; 2) Building people's determination to help themselves and not always depend on other parties; 3) Technical assistance (from other parties), including personnel, equipment, and funds; and 4) Combining various skills to help the community. Community development also includes every activity carried out by any institution or agency for the benefit of a particular community.

C.   METHOD

The method used in this research is a qualitative method with a library research approach. The initial step involves identifying relevant primary and secondary sources from various digital and physical libraries. Then an in-depth analysis of texts related to community development, its concepts, and implementation in the context of sustainable development is carried out. Data was collected from journal articles, books, government reports, and official documents related to community development and sustainable development. Next, coding and thematic analysis of the information obtained was carried out to identify emerging patterns, trends, and themes. This approach allows researchers to understand in depth the concept of community development and how this concept can be implemented effectively in the context of sustainable development.

D.   RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Community Development Management

Community development is generally actualized in several management stages starting from planning, coordinating, and developing various steps to handle community programs. As a collective program, community development involves several actors, such as social workers, local communities, donor agencies, and related partners. They work together in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs. Community development programs generally emphasize the implementation of community-based management, namely a program management approach that places the knowledge and awareness of local communities as the basis. Community-based management is a strategy to realize human-centered development practices, where communities are given the opportunity and responsibility to manage the resources they have. Society itself defines its needs, goals, and aspirations and makes decisions for its welfare (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2023; Tien, Anh, et al., 2020).

Community development activities go through several steps, The first: is the problem presentation stage. The role of social workers is to provide explanations, and information, facilitate deliberation or discussion activities among residents to group and determine the problems faced by residents. Second, is the problem analysis stage. This stage collects information starting from the type, size, and scope of problems faced by residents and making this information accessible to interested parties. Third, the stage of determining goals and objectives. Goals refer to vision, long-term goals, and statements of general direction. While targets are more specific than goals (Belmonte-Ureña et al., 2021; Chen et al., 2020). The targets set consist of activities that can be identified, analyzed, and improved by citizens. Fourth, is the action planning stage. This stage is in the form of planning activities for various actions to achieve goals, attention must be paid to workforce, equipment, social networks, funds, place, information, available time, inhibiting factors, supporting factors, stakeholder problems, and real tasks that need to be done. carried out, parties significantly influencing the results, key players both individually and in groups, dilemmas or contradictions or tensions between means and goals, and the results that may be achieved. Fifth, is the activity implementation stage. This stage is carried out by implementing the community development steps that have been designed, while still paying attention to the consequences that may arise as a result of the actions taken. Sixth, is the evaluation stage. This stage is carried out

continuously, formally or semi-formally at the end of the community development process, or informally on a monthly, weekly, and even daily basis.

2. The Role of Community Development Workers

The role of community development workers is to help the community identify issues, problems and needs through joint solutions to these issues, problems, and needs. Community development workers work with and for the Community, they do not work as patrons or outsiders but are built on the principle of mutual emancipation. Community development workers play a role in encouraging and stimulating the community to cooperate with them.

The role of workers in community development is mostly carried out in their capacity as companions, not as problem solvers. The companion function is very important, especially in developing and directing the activities of the target group. The companion is tasked with directing the process of forming and organizing the group as a facilitator, communicator, and dynamist. The ultimate goal of mentoring is the transfer of control to the community so that they can solve the poverty problems they face independently and sustainably. The mentoring stage includes three stages of activities, namely (Alam, 2022):

a. Animation Stage

The result of the animation process is the building of self-confidence and commitment to making life better. Animation is an effort to raise people's awareness that they have great potential. This activity is carried out to change people's understanding, attitudes, and behavior so that they become more dynamic and optimistic in looking to the future.

b. Facilitation Stage

The facilitation stage is the stage of providing technical assistance, managerial assistance, and training. This stage is carried out by perfecting and strengthening local organizations or institutions that have been built together with the community. In the mentoring process, it is necessary to pay attention to efforts to foster citizens' abilities, awareness, volunteerism, and independence.
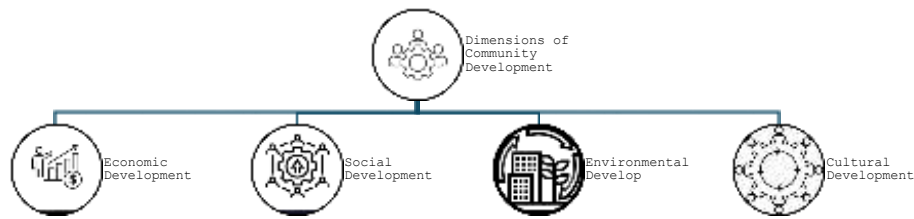
c. Self-Elimination Stage

All decisions regarding program planning, implementation, and evaluation must always be made by the community itself so that the community feels they own the program and are responsible for its success. A good mentoring process will produce a condition where educated people can always learn independently, so that at the end of the mentoring a continuous learning process will be built in the community.

3. Dimensions of Community Development

The community development dimension is a concept that refers to the various aspects involved in improving the welfare and sustainability of society as a whole. Community development is not only related to economic growth but also involves social, cultural, environmental, and political aspects. In this context, the community development dimension includes efforts to increase access to education, health, and adequate housing, as well as promote gender equality, social inclusion, and justice. Community development also emphasizes the importance of preserving local culture, strengthening relationships between community members, and building community capacity to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. These dimensions are explained in the following image:

Figure 1. Dimension of Community Development
Source: data proceed

There are several parts and dimensions in Community Development Efforts, which will be explained in the following paragraph:

a. Economic Development

Efforts to improve the economic welfare of the community through infrastructure development, skills training, and the development of micro and small businesses have a significant impact on improving the standard of living and strengthening the economic competitiveness of a region. First, inclusive and affordable infrastructure development, such as roads, bridges, and energy sources, creates better access to markets, facilitates the distribution of goods and services, and encourages investment in the area. Second, skills training provides opportunities for people to improve their abilities in entering an increasingly complex job market, this training can cover a wide range of areas, from technical skills to management and marketing skills. Third, the development of micro and small businesses provides opportunities for local entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, create new jobs, and increase community income as a whole. A holistic approach that combines these three elements can create a more dynamic and inclusive economic environment, which in turn will contribute to improving the overall economic well-being of society.

b. Social Development

Social development is a systematic effort to improve the social welfare of society through various programs and policies aimed at providing better access to education, health services, and social protection. One of the key aspects of social development is ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to access quality education, this involves providing adequate educational facilities, good teacher training, and developing relevant curricula. Communities can reduce gaps in capabilities and opportunities, and improve the quality of human resources which will support long-term economic growth by providing better access to education.

Better access to health services is also an important component of social development. This involves providing affordable, quality health facilities, including community health centers, hospitals, and primary care facilities. In addition, disease prevention and health promotion programs also need to be strengthened to increase public awareness about good health practices. Social protection is also an integral part of social development, to protect individuals and families from social and economic risks that could threaten their well-being. This can include social assistance programs, such as child benefits, unemployment benefits, and other welfare assistance, as well as training and reintegration programs for vulnerable groups such as single parents and people with disabilities.

Social development aims to create a more inclusive, just, and sustainable society by combining these efforts, and communities can improve their quality of life and create a stronger foundation for long-term growth and development by providing better access to education, services health, and social protection.

c. Environmental Development

Environmental development is a series of efforts to promote sustainable environmental management and adaptation to climate change in the context of community development. One of the key aspects of environmental development is ensuring that human activities do not damage natural ecosystems and existing natural resources. This includes practices such as sustainable forest management, use of renewable energy, and reduction of waste and pollution. By adopting these practices, society can maintain the ecological balance that is essential for the survival of humans and other species on the planet.

Environmental development also involves efforts to adapt to increasingly pronounced climate change. This includes building climate-resilient infrastructure, such as flood levees and efficient irrigation systems, as well as developing early warning systems for natural disasters caused by climate change, such as intense tropical storms and extreme droughts. Communities can reduce the negative impacts of climate change and increase their resilience to increasingly frequent natural disasters by taking these steps. Environmental development also involves public education and awareness about the importance of preserving the environment, and this can include environmental education programs in schools, public awareness campaigns about the importance of recycling and waste reduction, as well as active community participation in nature conservation projects and environmental restoration.

Environmental development aims to create a balanced relationship between humans and nature, where human needs are met without sacrificing the sustainability of ecosystems and natural resources. Environmental development creates a solid foundation for the development of sustainable and prosperous communities in the long term by combining sustainable management practices and adaptation to climate change.

d. Cultural Development

Cultural development is a process that recognizes and strengthens the importance of preserving and promoting local cultural values in a society. This involves efforts to understand, appreciate, and protect the unique cultural heritage of a community, including traditional traditions, language, arts, and rituals. Preserving local cultural values is not only important for maintaining a region's cultural identity and diversity but is also an integral part of building strong social networks and strengthening a sense of solidarity among community members. Cultural development also emphasizes the importance of promoting active community participation in cultural and artistic activities, this involves various initiatives, such as cultural festivals, arts workshops, and cultural education programs, which aim to encourage creativity, self-expression, and cross-cultural understanding among local communities, and by strengthening the connection between communities and their cultural heritage, cultural development not only creates a strong foundation for cultural identity and diversity, but also enriches the social and spiritual life of the community as a whole.

Cultural development also makes an important contribution to the economic and tourism development of a region, communities can attract tourists and investors who are interested in experiencing unique cultural riches. Initiatives such as cultural tours, traditional art performances, and local handicraft exhibitions not only provide opportunities to expand the market for local cultural products but also create new economic opportunities for local artists and craftsmen by promoting local cultural heritage through various activities. arts and culture, and cultural development not only supports cultural sustainability but also strengthens the local economy and creates jobs in the arts and culture sector.

Cultural development also has a positive impact on strengthening intergenerational relations and building social solidarity. Communities can form strong social bonds and support each other through participation in cultural and artistic activities, whether carried out individually or as part of a group. Cultural activities often provide a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and values between generations, which helps maintain cultural continuity and continuity over time. Cultural development not only strengthens local cultural identity but also strengthens social networks that form the basis of harmonious and sustainable community life.

4. Implementation in Sustainable Development

An interesting case study is the Sustainable Village Development Project in Bhutan (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2023). Bhutan has a unique approach to development known as "Gross National Happiness" (GNH), which places the welfare of the people as a top priority above mere economic growth. One of the main aspects of this approach is sustainable village development.

The Sustainable Village Development Project in Bhutan combines the principles of sustainable development with local cultural values and traditions. For example, in building village infrastructure, this project pays attention to environmental sustainability by choosing environmentally friendly building materials and designing an efficient waste management system. Apart from that, this project also emphasizes the importance of community participation in every stage of development, from planning to implementation. This is done by involving residents in discussions, decision-making, and project implementation, thereby ensuring that proposed solutions meet the needs and aspirations of local communities.

The project also emphasizes building community capacity through skills training and education. For example, organic farming training is provided to farmers to increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. Education programs are also strengthened to increase community access to quality education. The results of this project include improving the quality of life of the community, including increasing access to clean water, sanitation, education, and health services. This project has also raised people's awareness of the importance of preserving the environment and their own culture. The Sustainable Village Development Project in Bhutan is a clear example of how the concept of community development is implemented in sustainable development projects by integrating aspects such as environment, culture, community participation, and capacity building.

An interesting example is the Sustainable Development Project in the East Coast Region of Malaysia(Durán-Díaz et al., 2020; Noack & Federwisch, 2020). This project aims to improve the welfare of local communities while paying attention to environmental sustainability in the area. One of the main aspects of this project is the development of micro and small businesses in coastal communities. For example, by introducing skills training and business capital to residents, this project helps stimulate the local economy and creates new jobs. These businesses are often related to the sustainable tourism sector, such as homestays, local handicrafts, or eco-friendly tours, which promote the unique culture and nature of the region.

This project also focuses on infrastructure development that supports economic growth and community welfare, for example by improving roads, sanitation systems, and access to clean water, this project facilitates better access to basic services and improves the quality of life of residents. The project also actively involves residents in decision-making and project implementation. Through community forums and participatory meetings, residents have the opportunity to express their aspirations and contribute to project planning and implementation.

The result of this project is an increase in income and welfare of local communities while paying attention to environmental sustainability. Coastal communities become more economically independent and have the opportunity to strengthen their own cultural identity. In addition, with an inclusive and sustainable approach, this project helps maintain the ecological balance in the east coast region of Malaysia. The Sustainable Development Project in the East Coast Region of Malaysia is a clear example of how the concept of community development is implemented in sustainable development projects by paying attention to aspects such as the economy, the environment, community participation, and local capacity development.

5. Challenges and Opportunities

The challenges faced in implementing the concept of community development cover various aspects involving structural, cultural, and political complexity at the local and global levels. One of the main challenges is the imbalance in the distribution of resources and access to basic services such as education, health, and decent work. This inequality is often caused by inequality in the economic system and non-inclusive policies. Climate change and environmental damage also pose serious challenges in community development, especially for communities that are vulnerable to natural disasters and ecosystem changes. The existence of social and political conflicts, both at the local and national levels, can also hamper community development efforts by affecting the stability, security, and sustainability of development programs. Issues such as migration, illegal trade, and external cultural influences can also present challenges in maintaining and strengthening cultural identity and local values in community development. Overcoming these challenges requires a holistic, collaborative, and sustainable approach that involves active community participation and cooperation between government, the private sector, NGOs, and international institutions (Dai et al., 2020; Jaiswal & Arun, 2021).

Opportunities to increase the effectiveness of community development in achieving sustainable development involve various strategies that can be implemented to overcome the challenges faced. First, strengthening community participation is the main key to ensuring that development policies and programs reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities. By involving residents in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development projects, it is more likely to create more relevant and sustainable solutions. Furthermore, cross-sector collaboration and partnerships between government, the private sector, NGOs and civil society can strengthen the capacity and resources available for community development, this allows the adoption of a holistic approach that takes into account various dimensions of development, from economic to environmental and social. The integration of information and communication technology can also increase access to information, speed up the decision-making process, and expand the reach of development programs.

Community development can become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of diverse communities by combining technology with participatory approaches. The final human rights-based approach can also ensure that every individual has equal access to basic resources and services, as well as protect their rights in the development process, community development can be more effective in achieving comprehensive and inclusive sustainable development goals by capitalize on these opportunities and adopt a holistic and sustainable approach.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion, it can be concluded that community development is a key element in achieving sustainable development, with a focus on improving

social, economic, and environmental welfare. Although faced with various challenges, such as social inequality, environmental damage, and political conflict, there are great opportunities to increase the effectiveness of community development through active community participation, cross-sector collaboration, technology integration, and a human rights-based approach. By taking these steps, community development can become a major driver of positive change toward a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous society for all its members.

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