

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MIDUANA INDIGENOUS VILLAGE COMMUNITY

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Abstract

This research examines the role of social capital in supporting community economic development in Miduana Indigenous Village, Cianjur. Social capital, which includes social networks, norms and trust that facilitate cooperation and collective action, has been shown to promote local economic development. This study uses qualitative methods through observation and semi-structured interviews to find out how social capital affects economic development in Miduana Indigenous Village and how policy interventions and development programs can support the strengthening of social capital in the traditional village. The results showed that the community of Miduana Indigenous Village has a large social capital, which can be seen from the practice of gotong royong that strengthens social ties. Support from the government and non-governmental organizations through education, training and infrastructure development programs also play an important role in strengthening social capital and facilitating economic activities. The research suggests policy implications that highlight the importance of social capital and local assets in determining the direction of economic development. It is emphasized that continued support from local governments in the form of improved education, training, infrastructure development and financial support is essential to improve the welfare of indigenous communities. Thus, social capital can be optimally utilized to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development in Miduana Indigenous Village.

Keyword: Social capital; economic development; indigenous village

1. Introduction

Social capital theory developed in response to the understanding that social relationships and networks between individuals have an important role in various aspects of life, including economic, political, and social. Social capital refers to the networks, norms, and beliefs that facilitate action and cooperation for the common good in a society (Serageldin & Grootaert 2017). This concept has been raised by a number of prominent thinkers such as Pierre Bourdieu, James Coleman, and Robert Putnam, who emphasized the importance of social relations in creating economic and social value (Claridge 2021).

Social capital can be an important element in community-based strategies if applied wisely and supported by strong local leadership and active participation from the community. (CastroArce & Vanclay 2020). Despite the constraints of rural development, social capital is emerging as an important factor that can play a role in supporting economic development in remote areas (Li et al 2019). Social capital, which includes social networks, trust, and collaborative norms, is a resource that can facilitate cooperation and collective action to achieve shared prosperity (Bhandari & Yasunobu 2009).

Miduana Indigenous Village is located in Balegede Village, Cianjur Regency, West Java. To provide a clear picture of the role of social capital in the economic development of the Miduana indigenous community, observations and interviews were conducted by asking semistructured questions without limiting the participants' answers. The research questions included the following:

1. How do social relations affect economic development in Miduana Indigenous Village?
2. How can policy interventions and development programs support the strengthening of social capital in Miduana Indigenous Village?

This research aims to identify and analyze the role of social capital in the economic development of Miduana indigenous village and provide policy recommendations that can strengthen social capital for sustainable development. The research methods used include direct observation and semi-structured interviews with various local stakeholders, including members of the indigenous community and customary council, to collect comprehensive and in-depth data.

By understanding the role of social capital and appropriate policy interventions, it is hoped that effective strategies can be found to optimize social capital in achieving the economic welfare of the Miduana indigenous community.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Social Capital

Social capital, in an academic context, refers to the concept of trust, networks and social norms that enable effective interaction and cooperation between individuals and groups in society. Social capital is defined as a set of informal values or norms shared among the members of a group that facilitates coordinated actions (Fukuyama, 2002), while it is described as the process of social interaction in accessing social networks and participating in groups (Woolcock and Narayan, 2006). Pierre Bourdieu states that social capital is "actual and potential resources possessed by an individual based on their social network, which provides various forms of collective support." (Bourdieu 1992). James S. Coleman adds that social capital is a combination of various entities that have two common elements, namely aspects of social structure and aspects related to daily life (Engbers et al 2017). Robert Putnam defines social capital as "social connections and networks that facilitate cooperation and collective action"(Bourdieu 1992). Overall, social capital can be seen as an important resource that strengthens cooperation between parties and improves people's welfare. In the rural context, social capital has great potential to address various challenges faced by farming communities, increasing productivity, efficiency, and overall well-being. Therefore, strengthening social capital should be an integral part of a sustainable rural development strategy (Isham et al 2002).

2.2 Economic Development of Village Communities

Village economic development is a structured and sustainable process that aims to improve the economic welfare and quality of life of rural communities. The process of village economic development includes increasing productivity and efficiency, developing infrastructure that supports economic activity and improves accessibility, and empowering the local economy (Sara et al 2020). This approach also emphasizes the importance of communitybased development, where village communities are actively involved in the planning and implementation of development programs to ensure that local needs and aspirations are well accommodated (Agustang et al 2021). Moreover, sustainable management of natural resources is key to ensuring that economic development does not damage the environment and natural resources (Barbier 2002).

Individuals and social groups engage in socioeconomic regeneration, development, and transformation to become empowered, thereby creating stronger and more self-reliant communities (McClenaghan, 2000). Individual empowerment is nurtured towards communal control and accountability to community problems and needs. In addition, community development can be carried out in a sustainable manner by promoting a balance of environmental concerns and development goals while improving local social relations (Bridger

& Luloff, 2001). It helps communities to mobilize resources, think critically, and build their organizations by generating trust and care among community members (Labonte, 1999).

Improving access to social services such as education and healthcare is crucial in human resource development, as it emphasizes a balance between moral and material wellbeing (Kabene et al 2006). People's economy is a system that includes all levels of society in the development process with the aim of improving overall economic welfare, and emphasizes the importance of economic democracy and justice (O'Neill 2020). In addition, community economic development involves various aspects such as trust, networks, and social norms that enable effective interaction and cooperation between individuals and groups within the community (Fukuyama, 2002).

Community development must rely on more than just existing resources, especially when communities are homogeneous, marginalized, and disadvantaged and coexist with other distinct groups (Kilpatrick et al 2003). Recognizing and transforming the network of institutional relationships that generate and control community resources is critical to its success (Emery & Flora 2020). Good governance and expansion of public space to include an active and dynamic third sector to achieve sustainable development (Dale & Newman, 2010). All of these approaches contribute to the development of inclusive and sustainable economy, which is expected to enhance the overall welfare of the community.

2.3 The Role of Social Capital in Community Economic Development

The bond is an important first step in creating and defining shared values and goals that influence the type and scope of social interventions such as community development. (Kilpatrick et al., 2003). Social capital and empowerment are important concepts in community development (Islam, 2014). This development relies heavily on social capital as a facilitator and its consequences (Wakefield & Poland, 2005). Social capital can guide community development by exploring various community activities (Halstead et al 2022), and the use of this concept is very important for the development of society from time to time (Dale & Newman, 2010).

The concept theoretically and philosophically links community economic development with social capital.

3. Material and Method

The research uses qualitative methods to understand people and their actions. The research method is a case study in data collection and analysis, which explores information about a person, social setting, event, or group to understand its processes and functions. Exploration helps to dig deeper into participants' thoughts to understand the occurrence of the value creation

process. Qualitative techniques fit this context as it explores the meanings, individuals, or groups attached to a person or social issue (Creswell & Poth 2016).

3.1 Sampel penelitian

The unit of analysis was the indigenous community in the indigenous village of Miduana (Figure 1), where a total of 11 participants were involved in this research. The determination of the location was carried out by snowball sampling to the indigenous leader, indigenous council and indigenous people in the Miduana traditional village. This research was conducted in May and June 2024.

3.2 Data collection

There were 11 participants (3 women and 8 men, aged between 20 and 64 years old) who were assessed as representing the indigenous community of Miduana, West Java. Data was collected using interviews, photos, notes and videos. Photos and videos were taken with the participants' permission. Subsequently, the data was analyzed.

3.3 Data analysis

This research uses operational definitions to conceptualize and categorize data from participants. Operational objectives determine the units used to encode the data. Meanwhile, data obtained from interviews, videos, photos, and observations were analyzed for better understanding. The triangulation method was used to analyze the research data to ensure validity. (Miles & Huberman 1994; Creswell & Poth 2016).

Figure 1. Research Model

4. Result

Miduana Indigenous Village is a traditional village located in Balegede Village, Naringgul District, Cianjur, West Java, until now still firmly holding the ancestral cultural customs. The entire population of Miduana Village totals 363 people who are led by the indigenous chief and the indigenous council. All forms of culture and traditions are still preserved by the community and are still practiced today, there is a role from every aspect of society through three forms of cultural inheritance paths, namely, internalization with invitations from families, externalization by looking at the habits of previous generations, and objectivation of providing information from the indigenous chief and the indigenous council. All parties are committed to maintaining the integrity of Miduana indigenous village.

4.1 The role of social capital

The results of the interviews show that the Miduana indigenous village community has strong bonds of solidarity, norms and trust between fellow indigenous people. The existence of tetekon as a shared rule accelerates the development and growth of social capital. Social capital unites society by fostering collective action for mutual benefit (Auer et al 2020). Three of the participants (P1, P2, P3) stated that regular meetings were held to strengthen the sense of community and solve problems in the Indigenous village. Community development benefits from the enhancement of social capital resources, and creation can be part of the community development process (Serageldin & Grootaert 2017).



Figure 2. solidarity of the indigenous village

The results of interviews with other participants (P4) show the solidarity of the indigenous village community in advancing the economy by sharing information related to production and access to markets (Figure 2). Economic development related to social capital is in line with previous research, where social life allows for fruitful collaboration in various aspects of life. As a result, social capital drives economic growth (Hidalgo et al 2024).



Figure 3. Agriculture resources

Economic growth is driven by the potential of natural resources through agriculture, (Figure 3), processing of agricultural products (Figure 4), and cultural tourism (Figure 5). This is supported by previous literature, including how economic improvement is done together by emphasizing existing local wisdom.



Figure 4. Traditional processing of products

Local wisdom enhances the economic self-reliance of rural communities by raising awareness of cultural and environmental preservation (Laksmi et al 2023). Local wisdom strengthens identity and sustainability in rural economic development, contributing to competitive advantages and community empowerment (Demolingo et al 2021). The importance of developing tourism villages that have a positive impact on the local economy and the environment, while strengthening the cultural identity of the village community (Wijijayanti et al 2020).



Figure 5. Cultural tourism

Another participant (P5) explained that the government and non-governmental institutions support the improvement of infrastructure, transportation access in Miduana Indigenous Village. Some government and non-government organizations that care about the environment (Hasan et al 2018). Transportation infrastructure development has a specific role as a driving sector and a leveraging sector for economic and social activities (Oni & Okanlawon 2006).

4.2 Government efforts in indigenous village development

Participants highlighted that the government and indigenous leaders often hold formal or nonformal meetings to discuss and provide infrastructure and facility assistance to the development of indigenous village infrastructure (Figure 6), and the enhancement of indigenous village tourism. Other participants (P7, P8) stated that the local government actively allocates funds to support the development of indigenous villages. The established relationship between indigenous peoples and the government demonstrates collaboration and a shared commitment to achieving sustainable and inclusive development goals (Lima 2021). Indigenous peoples and governments often hold formal meetings to plan and implement infrastructure and tourism development projects (Fletcher et.al 2019). Most successful initiatives in sustainable community development result from democratic engagement, which is impossible to achieve using a top-down approach. This underscores the idea that the knowledge and efforts of local communities are essential for long-term development (Bridger & Luloff 2001).



Figure 6. Government support

Participants further explained that elders support companies to improve village development and education for rural communities through corporate social responsibility. As demonstrated by the expansion of education and training initiatives to rebuild or enhance social capital, education and training has permeated community development methods (McClenaghan, 2000). Other participants (P9, P10, P11) added that teenagers support the community to innovate by utilizing digital technology. This is done by promoting Miduana indigenous village through various posts of cultural activities and the life of the indigenous village community on social media.

Acceptance of diversity indicates openness to new ideas and readiness to change, which is necessary for community development (Nestrova et.al, 2022). Developing locally-based production and distribution systems help the environment and increases social capital (Onyx & Edwards 2007). Sustainable development relies heavily on new collaborative methods and social innovation (Millard et al 2016)

In the management of this indigenous village, the administrators and rulers of the traditional village have their own role in the power system in this Miduana indigenous village. So that the government of the miduana customary area does not deviate, therefore the rulers of this customary area cooperate with the central government so that the state administration is side by side. In the system of power in the Miduana indigenous community, the role of the rulers or administrators of the traditional village here is to continue to preserve the customs and culture of the indigenous village so that it is not eroded by the times.

6. Conclusion, Implication, and Recommendation

Social capital is an interesting concept in many disputes and has become a focal point in community development efforts. The idea has sparked scientific debates and empirical investigations across various disciplines and domains of community development. Therefore, this study analyzes the relationship between social capital and community development. The results show that the Miduana indigenous community has considerable social capital in supporting rural community development. This research has an impact on local government policies to maintain the sustainability of social capital in the Miduana indigenous village with community empowerment and human resource development programs.

This qualitative research has limitations because it only focuses on the Miduana indigenous village with a small scale of participants. Therefore, it is hoped that further research can be carried out in several indigenous villages with a quantitative approach to increase knowledge.

8. References

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