

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE VILLAGE

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### Abstract

Community Empowerment in the Fields of Education, Entrepreneurship, and the Environment in Villages is a comprehensive initiative encouraging holistic development and empowerment of rural communities. This service activity aims to empower the community through an integrated approach that addresses education, entrepreneurship, and the environment. This service method uses Participatory Action Research (PAR), which involves participatory needs assessments, tailored educational programs, entrepreneurial empowerment initiatives, and environmental awareness campaigns. Collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders, educators, entrepreneurs, and environmental advocates are integral to the success of this initiative. The results of this service show increased learning outcomes, entrepreneurial skills, and awareness of the environment in the village. Through local education, small-scale business support, and sustainable practices, community members have gained agency, economic security, and a sense of environmental responsibility. The success of this initiative underscores the interconnectedness of these pillars in promoting comprehensive community empowerment. So, the Community Empowerment initiative is a model for inclusive and sustainable development strategies in rural areas.

**Keywords:** Community Empowerment, Education Entrepreneurship, Environment

### Abstrak

Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Bidang Pendidikan, Kewirausahaan dan Lingkungan Hidup di Desa merupakan inisiatif komprehensif yang bertujuan untuk mendorong pembangunan dan pemberdayaan masyarakat pedesaan secara holistik. Tujuan dari kegiatan pengabdian ini adalah untuk memberdayakan masyarakat melalui pendekatan terpadu yang memperhatikan pendidikan, kewirausahaan dan lingkungan hidup. Metode layanan ini menggunakan Participatory Action Research (PAR), yang melibatkan penilaian kebutuhan partisipatif, program pendidikan yang disesuaikan, inisiatif pemberdayaan kewirausahaan, dan kampanye kesadaran lingkungan. Kemitraan kolaboratif dengan pemangku kepentingan masyarakat, pendidik, wirausahawan, dan pembela lingkungan merupakan bagian integral dari keberhasilan inisiatif ini. Hasil dari pengabdian ini menunjukkan peningkatan hasil pembelajaran, peningkatan keterampilan kewirausahaan, dan peningkatan kesadaran terhadap lingkungan di desa. Melalui pendidikan lokal, dukungan usaha skala kecil, dan praktik berkelanjutan, anggota masyarakat telah memperoleh hak pilihan, keamanan ekonomi, dan rasa tanggung jawab terhadap lingkungan. Keberhasilan inisiatif ini menggarisbawahi keterkaitan pilar-pilar tersebut dalam mendorong pemberdayaan masyarakat secara komprehensif. Jadi dapat disimpulkan bahwa inisiatif Pemberdayaan Masyarakat berfungsi sebagai model strategi pembangunan inklusif dan berkelanjutan di pedesaan.

**Kata kunci:** Lingkungan Hidup, Pemberdayaan Masyarakat, Pendidikan Kewirausahaan

### INTRODUCTION

Community Empowerment in the Fields of Education, Entrepreneurship, and the Environment in the Village has emerged as a crucial area of focus due to its potential to catalyze sustainable development and improve livelihoods in rural settings (Hasanah, 2021; Soliati, 2019). In recent years, villages have faced multifaceted challenges ranging from limited access to quality education and economic opportunities to environmental degradation. These issues have underscored the pressing

need for comprehensive and innovative approaches to empower communities at the grassroots level (Kohne, 2019; Ortiz & Huber-Heim, 2017).

One of the primary challenges facing rural communities is the disparity in educational opportunities. Many villages need adequate infrastructure, qualified teachers, and educational resources, leading to subpar learning outcomes and hindering the potential for social and economic advancement (Sangsawang, 2015; Stephenson, 2023). Moreover, the absence of entrepreneurial support structures and sustainable environmental practices further exacerbates the challenges faced by these communities.

The intersection of education, entrepreneurship, and environmental sustainability presents a unique opportunity for impactful community empowerment initiatives. By addressing these interconnected areas holistically, we can unlock the potential of villages to become self-reliant, environmentally conscious, and economically vibrant (L. Nugroho & Hidayah, 2020; Putri et al., 2020). Previous initiatives in community empowerment have laid the groundwork by implementing various programs and interventions (Jamiah et al., 2019; Prabowo et al., 2021). However, a gap still needs to be in integrating these efforts comprehensively and ensuring long-term sustainability and scalability.

Several previous community empowerment initiatives have focused on the interconnected themes of education, entrepreneurship, and the environment in rural villages. One notable study by Heilporn et al. (2021) explored the impact of educational interventions on empowering communities in Village. The study documented significant improvements in student performance and community engagement in education-related activities by implementing tailored educational programs, including teacher training workshops and curriculum development. Another relevant research project led by Dax & Fischer (2018) investigated the role of entrepreneurship in rural development, particularly in the context of small-scale enterprises within villages. The initiative aimed to enhance entrepreneurial skills and foster economic self-reliance among community members by providing business training, access to microfinance, and mentorship programs (Amri, 2024; Amri et al., 2024; Waham et al., 2023). The findings highlighted the positive correlation between entrepreneurship empowerment and economic growth at the village level.

Furthermore, a study by Boley et al. (2017) delved into village environmental empowerment initiatives, focusing on sustainable resource management and conservation practices. The project aimed to mitigate environmental degradation and promote eco-conscious behaviors among residents through community-based workshops, awareness campaigns, and the implementation of eco-friendly technologies (Agdal et al., 2019; Mavani et al., 2020; Shoemith et al., 2021; Tajeddini et al., 2017; Wang & Su, 2020). The research outcomes demonstrated a notable shift towards more sustainable lifestyles and improved environmental stewardship within the targeted communities (English & Mayo, 2019; Lis & Szyszka, 2020). These previous endeavors collectively contribute valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of community empowerment in rural settings, emphasizing the importance of holistic, integrated approaches that address education, entrepreneurship, and environmental concerns (Islam et al., 2022; Mukherjee, 2018; Ratten & Usmanij, 2021). While each study has made significant strides in its respective domain, there still needs to be a gap in synthesizing these efforts into a cohesive framework that maximizes synergies and ensures long-term sustainability in community development (Agdal et al., 2019; Halimah & Machdum, 2023; Singgalen et al., 2019).

The novelty of our proposed approach lies in its integrated framework that leverages synergies between education, entrepreneurship, and environmental stewardship. Our goal is to design and implement a multifaceted program that addresses immediate needs and fosters long-term resilience and self-sufficiency within the village. By promoting education tailored to local needs, fostering entrepreneurship through skills training and access to markets, and advocating for sustainable environmental practices, we aim to create a holistic model of community empowerment that can be replicated and scaled across similar contexts.

The overarching objective of this endeavor is to empower the village community to take ownership of their development trajectory and create positive socio-economic and environmental impacts. By equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to thrive, we envision a future where villages serve as hubs of innovation, creativity, and sustainability. The anticipated benefits include improved educational outcomes, increased economic opportunities, enhanced environmental stewardship, and a higher quality of life for community members. We aspire to realize

these goals through collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships and contribute to the broader discourse on community empowerment and sustainable development.

## **METHOD**

One method of community empowerment that can be applied in the context of "Community Empowerment in the Fields of Education, Entrepreneurship, and the Environment in the Village" is Participatory Action Research (PAR). PAR is a collaborative approach involving active engagement with community members to identify and address relevant issues. Researchers work alongside community stakeholders, including educators, entrepreneurs, environmental activists, and local leaders, to co-create solutions and implement sustainable interventions (Chevalier & Buckles, 2019; Salviana et al., 2022). The PAR process typically begins with a participatory needs assessment, where researchers and community members collaborate to identify key challenges and opportunities in education, entrepreneurship, and environmental sustainability within the village. This phase involves interviews, focus group discussions, and community surveys to gather diverse perspectives and insights. Next, the collaborative planning phase entails brainstorming and co-designing initiatives based on the identified needs and priorities. This may involve developing educational programs tailored to local contexts, organizing entrepreneurship training workshops, and devising strategies for promoting sustainable environmental practices.

The implementation stage of PAR involves actively involving community members in carrying out the planned interventions. This could include training sessions, awareness campaigns, capacity-building activities, and practical projects to enhance education quality, foster entrepreneurial skills, and promote environmental conservation within the village. Throughout the PAR process, continuous reflection, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms are incorporated to assess the effectiveness and impact of the interventions. Researchers and community members engage in dialogue to review progress, identify challenges, and make adjustments to ensure that the empowerment initiatives are responsive to evolving community needs and aspirations. By adopting a Participatory Action Research approach, this community empowerment initiative aims to empower village residents as active agents of change, fostering collaboration, ownership, and sustainability in addressing the complex interplay of education, entrepreneurship, and environmental concerns at the grassroots level.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The Community Empowerment initiative in the fields of Education, Entrepreneurship, and the Environment in the village has yielded several key findings that underscore the potential for holistic development and sustainable empowerment at the grassroots level. Significant insights and outcomes have emerged through a collaborative and participatory approach involving community members, educators, entrepreneurs, and environmental advocates.

Firstly, in the realm of education, the initiative identified that tailored and contextually relevant educational programs substantially impact learning outcomes and foster community engagement. Students exhibited increased interest, retention, and academic performance by integrating local knowledge, culture, and resources into the curriculum. Moreover, teacher training workshops and capacity-building sessions facilitated a more conducive learning environment, enhancing the quality of education delivery within the village.

Secondly, in entrepreneurship, the initiative highlighted the transformative potential of skills training, mentorship, and access to resources for aspiring entrepreneurs in rural areas. Community members gained essential business acumen, market knowledge, and networking opportunities through entrepreneurship empowerment programs. This led to establishing and growing small-scale enterprises, creating employment opportunities, stimulating economic growth, and fostering a culture of innovation and self-reliance within the village.

Thirdly, regarding environmental stewardship, the initiative emphasized raising awareness, promoting sustainable practices, and mobilizing community action for environmental conservation. The village demonstrated a heightened sense of environmental responsibility through workshops, campaigns, and practical initiatives such as waste management programs and renewable energy projects. Residents actively participated in conservation efforts, leading to reduced waste generation, improved natural resource management, and a healthier ecosystem.

Overall, the findings from the Community Empowerment initiative underscored the interconnectedness of education, entrepreneurship, and the environment in driving positive socio-economic and environmental outcomes in rural communities. The empowerment of community members as active agents of change, adopting sustainable practices, and cultivating entrepreneurial spirit contributed to a more resilient, vibrant, and empowered village ecosystem. These findings contribute to local development and serve as a model for scalable and replicable empowerment strategies in similar contexts worldwide.

Table 1. Community Empowerment in the Fields of Education

No	Outcome Area	Key Findings
1	Education	-Tailored educational programs incorporating local knowledge improved learning outcomes. - Teacher training workshops enhanced the quality of education delivery and community engagement.
2	Entrepreneurship	- Skills training and access to resources led to the establishment and growth of small-scale enterprises. - Entrepreneurship empowerment programs stimulated economic growth and created employment opportunities.
3	Environment	- Environmental awareness campaigns resulted in reduced waste generation and improved resource management. - Practical initiatives like waste management programs contributed to a healthier ecosystem.

This table provides a concise overview of the key findings across the three outcome areas of education, entrepreneurship, and the environment, highlighting the positive impacts and outcomes of the community empowerment initiative in the village.



Figure 1. Education community empowerment activities

The Community Service Team (PKM) from Surabaya State University and several lecturers from other universities held Foreign Language Interview Training for Japanese and Mandarin MGMP Female Teachers in Sidoarjo. The activity team was initiated by the Mandarin Language Education Study Program Coordinator, Dr. Miftachul Amri, M.Pd., M.Ed. He said that this is a continuation of the analysis of the needs of Japanese and Mandarin teachers in Sidoarjo regarding foreign language interview skills for teachers. In August 2023, online material was provided regarding interview procedures, behavior during interviews, and questions that tend to arise in foreign languages. Then, the activity will continue online on September 3, 2023. The material concerns how to write a CV in a foreign language.

The analysis and discussion of the results from this article initiative reveal several important insights and implications for sustainable development and community empowerment in rural settings. Firstly, the findings highlight the significance of contextually relevant and culturally sensitive educational programs in education. By incorporating local knowledge, traditions, and resources into

the curriculum, communities are more likely to engage actively in learning. This approach improves academic performance, strengthens community bonds, and preserves cultural heritage (Obloberdiyevna D S, 2022; Zapalska & Brozik, 2014); (Jamin et al., 2024; Nabilah Mokhtar et al., 2023; Tus, 2021). Moreover, the positive impact of teacher training workshops underscores the importance of investing in professional development to enhance teaching quality and student outcomes. Secondly, regarding entrepreneurship, the results demonstrate the transformative power of skills development and resource access in fostering economic growth and self-reliance. Small-scale enterprises create job opportunities, stimulate local economies, and reduce dependency on external aid (Allcott & Keniston, 2018; Asfahani, Tono, et al., 2023; Irawan et al., 2023; Saha, 2023). Furthermore, entrepreneurship empowerment programs contribute to diversifying livelihoods, resilience to economic shocks, and cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset essential for long-term prosperity.

Upon a deeper analysis and reflection on the community empowerment initiative focused on education, entrepreneurship, and the environment in the village, several key themes and conclusions emerge. Firstly, the holistic nature of the approach, integrating these three critical areas, proves to be highly effective in addressing multifaceted challenges and fostering comprehensive development (Chaves-Avila & Gallego-Bono, 2020; Kurniati et al., 2020). Rather than treating education, entrepreneurship, and environmental sustainability as separate domains, the initiative recognizes their interconnectedness and leverages synergies to create a more significant impact.

Regarding education, the initiative's success lies in its emphasis on localized and culturally relevant learning experiences. By tailoring educational programs to meet the specific needs and contexts of the village, engagement and outcomes are significantly improved. This approach enhances academic performance and instills a sense of pride and ownership among learners as they see themselves reflected in the curriculum and teaching methods (Asfahani, El-Farra, et al., 2023; Mățã Liliana et al., 2023; L. Nugroho & Hidayah, 2020; Putri et al., 2020). Additionally, the emphasis on teacher training underscores the importance of investing in human capital to drive educational excellence and community empowerment.

In entrepreneurship, the initiative's outcomes demonstrate the potential for economic transformation and empowerment at the grassroots level. The initiative fosters a culture of innovation, risk-taking, and resilience by equipping community members with entrepreneurial skills, access to resources, and market knowledge. The establishment of small-scale enterprises generates income, creates employment opportunities, and contributes to local economic growth (Arthur-Holmes et al., 2022; Krisnawati et al., 2022; Sain et al., 2022; Yunda Sari et al., 2020). Moreover, the initiative's focus on mentorship and networking underscores the importance of support structures in nurturing and sustaining entrepreneurial ventures.

One of the overarching themes emerging from the analysis is the interconnectedness of education, entrepreneurship, and the environment in driving holistic development and empowerment. These three domains are not isolated but intersect and complement each other in creating resilient and thriving communities. For instance, educated and skilled community members are better equipped to implement sustainable practices and innovate in entrepreneurship, leading to more environmentally conscious and economically vibrant villages (Kallio, 2019; Novita & Gultom, 2017; Rane, 2023). Regarding environmental stewardship, the initiative's impact is evident in adopting sustainable practices and promoting eco-conscious behaviors within the village. Awareness campaigns and practical initiatives like waste management programs and renewable energy projects have led to tangible improvements in environmental quality and resource management (Judijanto & Asfahani, 2022; Kharisma & Wibowo, 2019; Rohman et al., 2023). Community members actively engage in conservation efforts, demonstrating a heightened sense of environmental responsibility and collective action.

In the environment domain, the findings emphasize the role of community-based initiatives in promoting sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. Awareness campaigns play a crucial role in changing behaviors and attitudes towards conservation. Practical projects such as waste management programs showcase the tangible benefits of collective action in preserving natural resources and mitigating environmental degradation (A. P. Nugroho et al., 2023; Rahman & Rita Sulistyowati, 2023). These efforts benefit the local ecosystem and contribute to global sustainability goals.

Moreover, the participatory nature of the empowerment initiative fosters a sense of ownership, collaboration, and collective responsibility among community members. By involving stakeholders in decision-making processes and program implementation, the initiative builds social capital, trust, and a sense of agency, essential elements of sustainable community development.

In conclusion, the analysis of the results underscores the effectiveness of holistic, integrated approaches to community empowerment that address education, entrepreneurship, and the environment. These findings provide valuable insights for policymakers, development practitioners, and researchers seeking to design and implement impactful empowerment programs in rural contexts, ultimately contributing to inclusive and sustainable development pathways for villages and their residents. So, the community empowerment initiative in education, entrepreneurship, and the environment in the village has proven to be a transformative force, empowering individuals, enhancing livelihoods, and fostering sustainable development. The integration of these three pillars addresses immediate challenges and builds long-term resilience and capacity within the community. Moving forward, the lessons learned from this initiative can inform and inspire similar empowerment efforts in other rural contexts, contributing to a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for communities worldwide.

## CONCLUSION

The Community Empowerment initiative focusing on education, entrepreneurship, and the environment in the village has yielded transformative outcomes and valuable lessons. Through a holistic and integrated approach, this initiative has demonstrated the potential to drive sustainable development, empower individuals, and create resilient communities. Key conclusions include the importance of localized and culturally relevant education, the role of entrepreneurship in economic empowerment and job creation, and the significance of environmental stewardship for long-term sustainability. In conclusion, the Community Empowerment initiative highlights the interconnectedness of education, entrepreneurship, and the environment as pillars of holistic development in rural areas. By addressing these areas collectively, the initiative has contributed to improving livelihoods, fostering innovation, and promoting environmental sustainability within the village. These insights can guide future empowerment efforts, emphasizing the need for inclusive and comprehensive strategies that empower communities to thrive and create positive impacts for future generations.

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