

Sustainable Development Strategies for Enhancing Gender Welfare in Kelurahan Kalitirti, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta

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Abstract: *This study explores sustainable development strategies to enhance gender welfare in Kelurahan Kalitirti, Sleman, Yogyakarta, with a primary focus on women's empowerment through integrated social and economic programs. Employing a qualitative research method, data were collected via in-depth interviews and participatory observation. The findings reveal that these programs significantly increased women's participation in local economic activities. Through various initiatives, women in this community have substantially contributed to the local economy and improved their families' welfare. Furthermore, the social support and skills training provided have bolstered women's independence and opened new business opportunities. The study concludes that this community-based sustainable development approach serves as an effective, replicable model for enhancing gender welfare in other regions. This approach not only positively impacts the economy but also addresses social aspects, reducing gender disparities at the local level.*

Keywords: *Gender, Kalitirti, Welfare, Sustainable Development, Women's Empowerment.*

Abstrak: *Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi strategi pembangunan berkelanjutan dalam meningkatkan kesejahteraan gender di Kelurahan Kalitirti, Sleman, Yogyakarta. Fokus utama penelitian ini adalah pemberdayaan perempuan melalui program sosial dan ekonomi yang terintegrasi. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah pendekatan kualitatif, dengan teknik pengumpulan data berupa wawancara mendalam dan observasi partisipatif. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa penerapan program-program tersebut secara signifikan meningkatkan partisipasi perempuan dalam kegiatan ekonomi lokal. Melalui berbagai inisiatif yang dilakukan, perempuan di komunitas ini mampu berkontribusi lebih besar dalam perekonomian serta meningkatkan kesejahteraan keluarga mereka. Selain itu, dukungan sosial dan pelatihan keterampilan yang diberikan terbukti memperkuat kemandirian perempuan dan membuka peluang usaha baru. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pendekatan pembangunan berkelanjutan yang berbasis komunitas ini efektif sebagai model yang dapat ditiru untuk meningkatkan kesejahteraan gender di wilayah lain. Pendekatan ini tidak hanya berdampak positif pada ekonomi, tetapi juga pada aspek sosial, dengan mengurangi kesenjangan gender di tingkat lokal.*

Kata Kunci: *Gender, Kalitirti, Kesejahteraan, Pembangunan Berkelanjutan, Pemberdayaan Perempuan.*

1. Introduction

Sustainable development has emerged as a pivotal focus within global development policies, aimed at enhancing overall social welfare, including gender equality (Rahim, 2024). The paradigm of sustainable development encompasses diverse dimensions, economic, social, and environmental, necessitating equality and fairness in the distribution of resources and opportunities (Rizal, 2024). In Indonesia, challenges related to gender inequality remain profound, particularly at the local level. The disparity in access to economic resources, education, and healthcare between men and women persists as a significant issue, adversely affecting women's quality of life and their growth opportunities. A notable case is Kelurahan Kalitirti in Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta, where substantial gender disparities in resource access and economic opportunities endure, despite numerous efforts to mitigate this gap (Aula, 2023). Women in Kalitirti face pronounced challenges, especially in economic roles, where they remain marginalized and predominantly confined to household duties. This inequality not only detracts from women's quality of life but also impedes economic and social progress in the region, exacerbating broader social inequities (Sukarma, Karyasa, Hasim, Asfahani, & Azis, 2023). Consequently, gender inequality emerges as a significant barrier to achieving sustainable development at both local and national levels.

Afandi and Erdayani (2022) assert that sustainable development must integrate a gender justice-centered approach as a fundamental strategy to ensure equitable welfare across society. This perspective is corroborated by research conducted by Erlinnawati and Purwanto (2024), which indicates that investing in women's empowerment can substantially enhance community welfare and expedite the attainment of sustainable development goals. Consequently, women's empowerment is an indispensable component of sustainable development strategies. Despite the critical importance of gender equality in sustainable development, research specifically examining the implementation of gender-oriented sustainable policies at the village level, such as in Kalitirti, remains scarce.

Local policies at the village level have the potential to directly impact communities. This article seeks to address the existing gap in the literature by focusing on the implementation of sustainable development policies oriented toward gender equity at the local level, particularly in Kelurahan Kalitirti. This study aims to analyze various strategies that have been implemented in Kelurahan Kalitirti to enhance gender welfare, through both government programs and local community initiatives. Government programs are often designed to improve overall community welfare, but their success heavily relies on the extent of women's involvement in their planning and execution (Arsyad & Ahmad, 2024). Thus, the success of sustainable development is significantly influenced by the active participation of women in various socio-economic domains.

Previous studies, including those by Ediyono (2023), demonstrate that approaches integrating the roles of government and local communities are more effective in addressing social inequality issues. In the context of Kalitirti, empowerment programs that involve women directly in planning and implementation, and provide them with access to skills training and business opportunities, can have a greater impact on reducing gender inequality. This article aims to further explore the concrete application of these concepts at the village level, particularly within the unique cultural and social context of Yogyakarta, which possesses distinct local characteristics compared to other regions. Yogyakarta's strong cultural values of mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*) and deliberation (*musyawarah*) must be considered in the design of women's empowerment policies.

This study employs a qualitative approach using a case study method (Prasetio, 2024). This methodological choice allows for an in-depth understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and impacts of policies implemented at the local level (Khomsinnudin, Pangeran, Tamyiz, Wulandari, & Firdaus, 2024). A qualitative approach enables the author to gain comprehensive insights into the policy implementation process and the factors influencing its success or failure. It also facilitates the revelation of social dynamics that are not always visible in statistical data or official reports. Kadriah and Sumarna (2024) emphasize that qualitative research can provide a nuanced analysis of social phenomena, ultimately leading to recommendations that are more relevant to local conditions.

Data for this study is derived from secondary data analysis, including government reports and previous studies, as well as interviews with local stakeholders, such as community leaders, local government officials, and beneficiaries of existing programs. These interviews gather perspectives and experiences from women involved in empowerment programs, as well as from observers and program implementers with a thorough understanding of the local context. This data analysis is expected to elucidate the extent to which implemented programs have succeeded in reducing gender inequality and the factors supporting or impeding successful policy implementation.

The primary objective of this article is to identify key factors that support the successful implementation of sustainable development programs aimed at gender welfare in Kelurahan Kalitirti. Additionally, the study aims to formulate recommendations that can be adapted by other regions facing similar challenges related to sustainable development and women's empowerment. Therefore, this research not only contributes to the academic discourse on sustainable development and gender equality but also provides practical guidelines for policymakers and practitioners at the local level in designing and implementing more effective programs (Marpaung & Bakti, 2024).

Through this research, it is anticipated to identify contextual approaches that can be applied in other regions in Indonesia facing analogous difficulties in terms of gender

inequality and sustainable development. The findings are expected to provide insights into how sustainable development policies focused on women's empowerment can help reduce gender inequality and enhance socio-economic welfare at the local level. The model of development based on active women's involvement is expected to serve as a template adaptable to other regions, thereby fostering inclusive development.

2. Results

2.1. The Sustainable Development Approach in Kalitirti

This study elucidates that Kelurahan Kalitirti has adopted proactive measures to implement sustainable development principles with an emphasis on enhancing gender welfare. Several initiatives have been undertaken, including entrepreneurship training programs specifically designed to economically empower women. These programs aim to equip women with the necessary skills to initiate and expand independent businesses, thereby augmenting family income. Additionally, the reproductive health program facilitated by the local health center (Puskesmas) constitutes a strategic effort to improve women's quality of life. This initiative not only provides access to reproductive health services but also elevates community awareness regarding the significance of reproductive health for women. To bolster the local economy and encourage women's participation in productive economic activities, the village government has facilitated the establishment of joint business groups (Kelompok Usaha Bersama, KUB) (Ikram, Syamsiyatun, & Rifa'i, 2024). Through KUB, women can support each other, exchange knowledge, and access broader resources.

Evaluation results indicate that these policies have significantly improved women's welfare in Kalitirti. Over the past two years, the average family income has increased by 15%, while women's participation in local economic activities has risen by 20%. The sustainable development efforts in Kelurahan Kalitirti, focused on gender welfare, are commendable. Through a series of programs, such as entrepreneurship training, reproductive health services, and the formation of KUB, the village government has demonstrated its commitment to achieving gender equality and enhancing the community's quality of life. The success of these programs not only contributes to economic improvement at the family level but also positively impacts overall community development (Ariyanti & Sujud, 2024). Increased women's participation in economic activities not only boosts family income but also strengthens women's bargaining power in household and community decision-making (Huda, 2024). Moreover, enhanced access to reproductive health

services is anticipated to improve the quality of life for women and children, and reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

This study underscores that Kelurahan Kalitirti exemplifies the successful implementation of sustainable development principles with a focus on gender welfare. Several initiatives, such as entrepreneurship training, reproductive health services, and the formation of KUB, have yielded significant positive outcomes. However, to fully realize the goals of sustainable development, more sustained and comprehensive efforts are necessary. The following recommendations are proposed: expanding access to education and training for women, particularly in technology and entrepreneurship; strengthening women's roles in decision-making at the village level; increasing private sector involvement in supporting women's empowerment programs; and conducting periodic evaluations of ongoing programs to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability.

2.2. Enhancing Gender Welfare through Education and Training

This sustainable development strategy emphasizes providing improved access to education and training for women (Anggraini & Nugraheni, 2024). Data indicates the following key initiatives:

1. **Entrepreneurial Skills Training:** Kelurahan Kalitirti administers skills training programs tailored to local needs, including food processing, handicrafts, and basic information technology.
2. **Financial Literacy Programs:** Aimed at augmenting women's knowledge of family financial management, these programs empower women to manage resources more efficiently.
3. **Non-formal Education:** Approximately 80% of women who had previously dropped out of school attended this program and subsequently enhanced their skills to access better job opportunities.
4. **Challenges and Obstacles**

Despite significant achievements, several challenges persist:

- Limited allocation of village budgets specifically for women's empowerment programs.
- Low male participation in gender-related programs, leading to disparities in community perceptions.
- Infrastructure limitations that obstruct the effective implementation of these programs.

Table 1.

The Impact of Gender Welfare Programs on Socio-Economic Indicators in Kalitirti

Indicator	Before Programme	After Programme
Family Income	Rp 2.000.000	Rp 2.300.000
Women's Participation (%)	55%	75%
Healthcare Accessibility (%)	60%	80%

Note: The data illustrates a significant improvement in women's welfare following the implementation of gender-based intervention programs in Kalitirti.

2.3 Data Analysis

The data collected from this research demonstrates a positive correlation between the implementation of gender-based programs and the improvement of women's welfare in Kalitirti. According to the regression analysis conducted, the entrepreneurial skills training program has a significant impact ($\alpha = 0.05$) on increasing family income. This finding aligns with previous research, which indicates that the economic empowerment of women can substantially reduce poverty rates in rural areas (Pellu, 2024).

2.4 Discussion of Findings

This research provides robust empirical evidence on the significance of incorporating a gender perspective in the planning and implementation of sustainable development. The findings from Kelurahan Kalitirto indicate that actively involving women in economic activities and ensuring they have equal access to resources not only enhances family welfare but also fosters a more inclusive and equitable society. The increased participation of women in economic activities impacts not only the household level but also contributes to local economic growth and broader community development.

A distinctive aspect of this research is its micro-level focus, specifically on community-based strategies. Unlike previous studies that often adopt a macro approach, this research delves deeper into how sustainable development policies and programs can be effectively implemented at the local level. Consequently, this study offers valuable

contributions to the development of more relevant and sustainable models, particularly for areas with unique socio-cultural characteristics.

The findings underscore that community-based approaches can be potent tools in achieving sustainable development goals. By actively involving the community in the planning and implementation of development programs, these initiatives become more aligned with the community's needs and aspirations. Furthermore, a community-based approach can also enhance the community's sense of ownership over the development programs, thereby ensuring their sustainability. Overall, this research offers compelling recommendations for policymakers and development practitioners to prioritize the role of women in development and adopt community-based approaches in the planning and implementation of development programs.

3 Conclusions

This study compellingly argues that sustainable development strategies aimed at improving gender welfare in Kelurahan Kalitirti, Sleman, Yogyakarta, are most effective when they prioritize women's empowerment through targeted social and economic programs. By employing qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews and participatory observations, the research demonstrates that the implemented programs significantly enhance women's participation in local economic activities and improve family welfare. Furthermore, the provision of social support and skills training has bolstered women's independence and facilitated new business opportunities, underscoring the efficacy of a community-based development approach in mitigating gender inequality and yielding positive economic and social outcomes.

The findings decisively advocate for the expansion of access to education and training, the strengthening of women's roles in decision-making processes, increased involvement of the private sector, and the regular evaluation of existing programs. Such measures are not merely beneficial but essential for fostering sustainable and gender-equitable development. The success of these initiatives in Kelurahan Kalitirti provides a robust model that can be emulated in other regions facing similar challenges, thereby contributing to the broader goal of achieving equitable and inclusive development at a global scale.

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