



Research Paper

The Role of the Village Government in Realizing the Green Village Program in Teunom District, Aceh Jaya

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Abstract

This study examines the role of village governments in realizing the Green Village Program in Teunom District, Aceh Jaya Regency, Aceh Province, Indonesia. Although Village Funds are available to improve the quality of life of village communities, their use often does not focus on sustainable environmental projects. The study aims to analyze the role of village governments and to identify the inhibiting and supporting factors in implementing the Green Village Program. The study used a qualitative approach, with data collected through observation, in-depth interviews with eight informants, including the head of Teunom District, and documentation. The results show that village governments play a role in formulating Green Village policies, managing waste, carrying out greening programs, providing environmental education, cooperating with related parties, and monitoring and evaluating the program. The Green Village Program aims to create sustainable villages with a focus on renewable energy, environmentally friendly transportation, the preservation of green spaces, and sustainable agriculture, and collaboration between village governments and communities is crucial for environmental protection. The inhibiting factors include limited financial, human, and infrastructure resources, low community awareness and participation, inconsistent policies, and conflicts of interest, while the supporting factors include institutional support through village regulations and policies, active community participation, cooperation with external parties, and the use of green technologies and innovations. Strengthening these factors is crucial for the success and sustainability of the Green Village Program in Teunom District.

Keywords: Role, Village Government, Green Village, Village Funds, Sustainable Development



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1. Introduction

The Green Village is an initiative to create environmentally friendly villages, but its implementation in the field still faces many challenges. Villages are identified with a natural environment that is very different from urban areas; however, development in many parts of Indonesia has caused environmental damage as a result of human activities, including land conversion and the expansion of plantations [1], [2]. Climate change has also affected food crop production in Indonesia [3], which makes environmental protection at the village level increasingly important. The Indonesian government has emphasized its commitment to preserving the global environment, and this commitment needs to be realized down to the village level, so that villages are responsible not only for community administration but also for preserving the environment.

From the perspective of budget allocation, Village Funds are mostly directed toward physical development and other activities, while programs for environmental improvement and sustainability are rarely financed by Village Funds [4], [5]. Law No. 1 of 2022 on Financial Relations between the Central Government and Regional Governments regulates the use of Village Funds for village development [6], but environmental improvement is often overlooked. This deserves attention, because creating a clean and comfortable environment is a concrete form of improving community welfare. At present, the Green Village program has not been implemented in all villages, which indicates that the development of the Green Village concept at the village level has not been optimal. Village governments play an important role in managing and preserving the environment [7], [8], and an imbalance between village policies and environmental conditions may hinder the achievement of Green Village goals.

Previous studies have shown that Village Funds can improve community welfare and reduce poverty [9], [10], [11], [12], and that ecovillages can contribute to sustainable development [13]. However, studies that examine the role of village governments in implementing the Green Village concept in Aceh, particularly in Teunom District, Aceh Jaya Regency, remain limited. This study therefore aims to analyze the role of village governments in realizing the Green Village Program in Teunom District and to identify the inhibiting and supporting factors.

2. Literature Review

The Green Village Concept

The Green Village is a concept that focuses on managing villages or settlement areas to achieve sustainable development, with planning based on environmental conservation, energy efficiency, waste management, water resource conservation, and other related aspects. The success of a Green Village or ecovillage depends on the integration of four main pillars, namely ecology, economy, society, and institutions [13]. Its implementation requires the active role of various parties, especially the government as the holder of formal authority and the community as the main actor in development [14], [15]. The action plans of Green Village programs include greening, household waste management, the improvement and maintenance of infrastructure, education on environmentally friendly behavior, and the establishment of environmental institutions, funded by development planning funds, regional budgets, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and community self-help.

Government Performance in Realizing the Green Village Program

There are no guidelines that explicitly regulate or require communities to manage waste, use environmentally friendly technologies, or adopt environmentally friendly behavior in their daily lives, which is one of the reasons for the low performance of local governments in realizing the Green Village. Village Funds are also mostly spent on physical infrastructure, while their use for environmental sustainability remains limited [4], [5]. On the other hand, work plans, goals, visions

and missions, budget allocations, and targets that are well prepared can be important assets in implementing the program.

The Role of the Government

A role is an action carried out by an individual or group in a particular situation, reflecting the activities that should be carried out by someone in a certain position, usually based on public demands or needs. The government is a system that exercises power and authority to regulate the social, economic, and political life of the state and its territory. Under the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, regional governments have the right to regulate and manage their own affairs to accelerate community welfare through improved services, empowerment, and public participation. Under Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, village governments have the authority to manage village development and community empowerment [8], [16]. The role of local governments in development planning is therefore strategic, especially as providers of public services and facilitators of community empowerment [7], [17].

3. Method

This study used a qualitative approach to examine the object of study in its natural setting, with the researcher as the main instrument [18]. The study was conducted in Teunom District, Aceh Jaya Regency. Primary data were collected through observation, documentation, and in-depth interviews with eight informants, including the head of Teunom District, while secondary data were obtained from research reports, scientific journals, and other written sources. The data were analyzed inductively through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing [19], and the findings were organized into themes related to the role of village governments and the inhibiting and supporting factors [20]. Source and technique triangulation was used to check the credibility of the data.

4. Result and Discussion

The Role of Village Governments in Realizing the Green Village Program

Village governments play a crucial role in the success of the Green Village Program in Teunom District, Aceh Jaya Regency. Based on the interviews and observations, their roles can be grouped into six areas, as described below.

Formulating Green Village Policies

The Green Village policy aims to create sustainable villages with a focus on the use of renewable energy, environmentally friendly transportation, the preservation of green spaces, sustainable agriculture, and community participation. The program requires cooperation among various parties, especially village governments and communities, to protect the environment together and ensure future welfare. With proper implementation, the policy can provide a basis for integrating environmental objectives into village development plans and budgets.

Waste Management

If carried out systematically and with the involvement of all elements of the community, waste management in Teunom District can be an effective solution to reduce the negative impacts of waste on the environment. By providing separate waste bins, encouraging recycling, turning organic waste into compost, and reducing the use of single-use plastics, the community can participate in maintaining cleanliness and environmental sustainability. Village governments play an important role in providing education, support, and adequate facilities.

Greening Programs

Tree planting and the development of green parks in Teunom District have great potential to have a significant positive impact on both the environment and the community. Tree planting helps improve air quality, creates cool and comfortable open spaces, supports social and recreational activities, and supports ecological and economic sustainability. This greening policy is an integral part of the Green Village Program, which aims to create environmentally friendly, sustainable, and high-quality villages, and with the active involvement of the community and the support of village governments, it can be implemented optimally and provide lasting benefits for future generations.

Environmental Education

Increasing environmental awareness in Teunom District is an integral part of efforts to achieve sustainability and support the Green Village Program. Through outreach campaigns, environmental education in schools, community training, the use of social media, and collaboration with educational institutions, the community is expected to understand the importance of protecting the environment and to contribute actively to a more sustainable future. These measures are expected to produce long-term changes toward more environmentally friendly behavior and a better quality of life.

Cooperation with Related Parties

Multi-stakeholder collaboration is the key to the success of the Green Village Program in Teunom District. The involvement of the government, communities, non-governmental organizations, academics, the private sector, and the media opens opportunities to obtain the support, resources, and technology needed to achieve sustainability goals. Strong synergy ensures that the Green Village initiative is not only well implemented but also brings long-term benefits to the environment and the community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are important steps to ensure that the Green Village Program in Teunom District runs effectively, efficiently, and sustainably. As an initiative that focuses on environmental sustainability and improving the quality of life, the program requires well-planned monitoring and evaluation to ensure that each stage achieves its objectives. M&E allows village governments and related parties to evaluate progress, measure impacts, and identify areas that need improvement.

Inhibiting and Supporting Factors

The Green Village Program in Teunom District faces several significant inhibiting factors. Limited resources, in terms of finance, labor, and infrastructure, are the main challenges for village governments. In addition, the lack of community understanding and awareness of environmental sustainability reduces their participation in and support for the program. Inconsistent policy changes and legal uncertainty also disrupt the continuity of the program, and conflicts of interest among various parties can hinder the collaboration needed for its success.

On the other hand, institutional support from village governments through relevant regulations and policies is an important foundation for the program. The active participation of the community at various stages of the program also plays a key role by increasing their sense of ownership and involvement. Cooperation with external parties, such as non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, adds the resources and expertise needed, while increasing public awareness of environmental issues and the use of green technologies and innovations are crucial factors in strengthening the effectiveness of the program.

Discussion

The findings show that village governments in Teunom District have identified a broad range of roles in implementing the Green Village concept, from policy formulation to monitoring and evaluation. This is consistent with the ecovillage framework, which emphasizes the integration of ecological, economic, social, and institutional pillars [13], and with evidence that community-driven programs can deliver public goods when local institutions are strong [14]. The limited financial resources identified as an inhibiting factor reflect the general pattern that Village Funds are mostly spent on physical infrastructure rather than on environmental sustainability [4], [5]. At the same time, studies showing that Village Fund programs for development and empowerment improve community welfare [12], [17] suggest that integrating environmental objectives into these programs could produce both environmental and economic benefits.

The importance of community participation and multi-stakeholder cooperation is consistent with studies on community-based development, which show that the active involvement of residents is essential for sustainable development [15], [21]. Environmental protection at the village level is also important in the context of land conversion, plantation expansion, and climate change, which threaten the sustainability of rural livelihoods [1], [2], [3]. Clear village regulations, adequate budget allocations, and continuous environmental education are therefore needed to translate the Green Village concept into concrete programs.

This study has several limitations. The results are based mainly on the views of a limited number of informants and describe the roles of village governments largely at the level of plans and expectations, without quantitative data on program outputs, such as the volume of waste managed or the number of trees planted. Future research should examine specific villages in more depth and measure the outcomes of Green Village programs.

5. Conclusion

The Green Village Program in Teunom District aims to create sustainable villages through the use of renewable energy, environmentally friendly transportation, the preservation of green spaces, and sustainable agriculture. Its success depends heavily on cooperation between village governments and communities and on clear policy support. Structured waste management, tree planting, and increased environmental awareness through education and campaigns are important steps toward these goals. However, challenges such as low community participation and limited resources need to be addressed through a collaborative approach. The crucial supporting factors include institutional support, active community participation, cooperation with external parties, and the use of green innovations and technologies. With the synergy of all these elements, the Green Village Program is expected to provide long-term benefits for the environment and community welfare in Teunom District.

The government is advised to conduct socialization of the Green Village Program in villages and to allocate part of the Village Funds to environmental programs. The community is expected to play an active role in every stage of program planning and implementation, from the development of ideas to evaluation, so that its participation makes a real contribution.

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Authors' contributions and responsibilities

Ana Julia. Is: conceptualization, data collection, analysis, writing – original draft. Usman: supervision, methodology, writing – review & editing. Ammar Zaki: supervision, validation, writing – review & editing.

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Availability of data and materials

All data are available from the authors upon reasonable request.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interest.

Ethical approval

This study involved interviews with adult informants. All informants participated voluntarily after being informed of the purpose of the study, and their identities are not disclosed in this article.

Additional information

No additional information from the authors.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

During the preparation of this manuscript, Claude (Anthropic) was used to improve the language and readability of the English text and to format the manuscript and references according to the journal template. The tool was not used to generate research data, perform the analysis, or draw conclusions. The authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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