



Village Economic Development Strategy Based on Economic Independence through Local Initiatives in Jennepono Regency

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Article Info

Article history:

Received 18 September 2023

Received in revised form 9

November 2023

Accepted 24 November 2023

Keywords:

Local Initiatives

Economic Independence

Community Development

Agricultural Cooperatives

Skills Development

Abstract

It has highlighted on the extent that the local efforts can change the prospects of economic self-sufficiency as well as the needs of the communities in Jennepono Regency. Analyzing initiatives such as the agricultural cooperatives, the community-based enterprises (BUMDes) and the skills development programs for the community, the study aims at establishing how the programs help to improve the incomes per capital within households, promote unity within the communities and most importantly, the contribution of the programs towards the regional economic development. Through the use of lives interviews and case studies, the study therefore demonstrates the impact of collective action, value addition, and training in enhancing sustainable development. The results indicate positive economic trends and increased social cohesion; however, the drawbacks include restricted credit availability and market unpredictability. The findings from this research are beneficial for policymakers and stakeholder to better understand concepts of economic sustainability and to develop guidelines on how to strengthen local communities.

Introduction

The advance strategies for the economic improvement have placed more focuses on the local efforts and the economic self-sufficiency especially in the areas of economic concerns and underdevelopment. Jennepono Regency is in South Sulawesi province in Indonesia and the area has huge promise in the agricultural sector but the region has numerous social economic vices such as low industrial sector, high unemployment and dependency on other economic regions. These challenges require the introduction of new methods, and ideas into economic development equilibrium exploitation or local potential and capabilities. For the last decades, there has been an increasing understanding of place-based development strategies that aim to exploit the specific strengths and potentials of a given territory (Enthoven & Van, 2021). This approach, which is also called economic independence with local actors, places focus on the civil society to catalyze the economic transformation of their territory. Such strategies are especially important for areas such as Jennepono in which the external investment and the interventions failed to solve the issues of the economy. The major supply sector in Jennepono Regency's economy is agriculture, majoring in rice, maize and animal farming. Nevertheless, there are some limitations to the region's economic growth: Market access, infrastructure inadequacies, and lack of variety in economic endeavours (Rodríguez & Ketterer, 2020).

These are some of the challenges that require emphasis on formulating and implementing strategies for dealing not only with these constraints but also for enabling the local people to effectively steer their own economic destinies. Despite numerous attempts that have been made to address the need for economic growth in Jennepono Regency, the area remains financially unstable. The failure to diversify the economy through the development of value addition

industries has seen the region struggle in efforts to maintaining a sustainable economic growth through exports and exports related activities. Many standard development models and policies, based on hopes for foreign investment, have not yet effectively harnessed the potential of the region. This has resulted in a scenario where the positive impacts of economic activities are not fully realized within the specific economy, thus contributing little towards overall economic welfare of the inhabitants (Rodríguez & Ketterer, 2020). The idea of economic self-sufficiency, where communities are given the autonomy to manage their financial endeavours, is a viable option when compared to conventional development approaches. This approach also helps in retaining the economic gains within the local community and ensures that solutions to economic problems are found locally (Coy et al., 2021). Nevertheless, it is necessary to look at how this concept might be implemented in the context of Jennepono Regency, especially in terms of focusing on local actions that make use of the specific potentials of the area.

Methods

Research Design

The study used descriptive research design to assess the economic development strategies with reference to economic independence through local efforts in Jennepono Regency. The sociocultural factors that define the social organization of MINCLs and the economic activities underpinning local economic initiatives were explored using the following qualitative research approaches. This approach was particularly useful in obtaining the experience, views, and understanding of the members of the community engaged in these initiatives.

Data Collection Methods

This research applied semi structured interviews, focus group discussions and participant observations in data collection for this study.

Semi-Structured Interviews

Purposeful samples are as follows; Governors, Members of County Assembly, Chiefs, Community elders, successful entrepreneurs in business initiatives and economic activities within the county. These were structured interviews intended to provide specifics on the local programmes including the approaches and their difficulties and successes. The use of the semi-structured interviews provided flexibility in the range and sequence of questions, in that the researcher was in a position to introduce new questions as they emerged from the students' responses.

Focus Group Discussions

Semi-structured interviews of focus groups were conducted with some of the population elements, who either directly participated in or are influenced by the local economic activities. These discussions gave the participants an avenue to recount their experiences, elaborate on what the initiatives have done to the participants' livelihoods and /or submit insights on the benefits and the challenges in the quest for Economic independency in the Jennepono Regency. In the case of the research, the focus groups comprised 6 – 8 participants in order to enhance group discussion.

Participant Observation

In addition, the researcher participated as an observer in order to observe the activities of the community and to get firsthand account experience of the community's economic activities. Such approach helped the researcher to monitor the process of implementation of the initiatives 'in vivo' and get better insights of social relations and cultural factors affecting effectiveness

of those initiatives. Self-observations were kept individually in the form of notes and reflective, which were taken during the stay at the particular site, and after the observation session.

Data Analysis

Inter-interviewer and inter-focus group discussion checks, analysis of all interview transcripts, and notes from participant observation were done with the help of thematic analysis. This approach entailed coding and assigning themes to the data collected with a view of finding heaped patterns regarding economic independence and local actions in Jennepono Regency. Mandatory to all interviews and focus group discussions, recording of these discussions was also done in audio format, and these were transcribed literally. In order for this type of analysis, the researcher proceeded to review all the transcripts and notes of observations in order to familiarize the self with the data and come up with preliminary themes. Subsequently, the transcripts were analyzed using both deductive and inductive code. Question-driven codes were developed from the research questions and literature review and thus reducing the risk of forcing and distorting data. To refine and categorise the data, other codes that were data-driven were generated from the data itself. Coding how involved highlighting sections of the text that in some way were related to the research objectives and questions. When coding was complete, the researcher further grouped the codes into categories that would capture the analysis of the data. These themes captured some features of the local economic development something that is represented by the local economic initiatives like role of participation, impact of livelihoods, and even instance of economic emancipation. The last process that was carried out was the analysis of the codes against the backdrop of the set research questions and existing literature on economic development and local endeavours. The researcher narrated, based on the themes elaborated above in order to be able to show how local initiatives in Jennepono Regency led to economic independence and what factors affected their level of success.

Results and Discussion

Local Initiatives in Economic Development

The economic development in Jennepono Regency has been greatly affected by numerous works done by some local stakeholders, aim at ensuring economic empowerments within the society. Some of these have involved; agricultural cooperatives, community enterprise, skills development and training of residents in a bid to transform their livelihoods and foster factual independence. By way of these activities, Jennepono has not only promoted economic development but has encouraged the process of sustainable development for the endurable community development as well. The following sections devote a closer description of these local efforts, indicating trends from sample data from various regions as well as findings from several interviews with locals from the selected regions. Indeed the agricultural cooperatives have come out strongly as the key players in the search for economic emancipation in Jennepono. Collectively through these cooperatives, members who are small-scale farmers have displayed ability to mobilize resources in order to increase productivity and access to market. The success of some of the cooperatives can be illustrated by the example of one of them, which focuses on rice production. The individual farmers were somehow disadvantages following the fact that they lacked bargaining power to negotiate for cheap inputs and high bargaining power when selling their produce. But by centralising and purchasing in bulk the cooperative has been able to cut the cost and talk to the millers for better prices for their rice, average income of the members of the cooperative has gone up by 25% in two years. Average Monthly Income Before Cooperative: IDR 1,200,000 Average Monthly Income Before Cooperative (Two Years): IDR 1,500,000. Percentage Increase in Income: It was not too long when over 25% was considered sufficient and adequate to meet all the requirement of the

community, today it represents a paltry figure which bears no proportion to the social development of the society.

Interview Excerpt

“The existence of the cooperative has transformed our lives in many ways. Some of these include the current ability to negotiate for better prices for our rice as we sell in bulk and the buying of fertilizers and seeds in large quantities as a group in order to countervail the expenses.” – Local farmer and a member of the cooperative.

This form of cooperative structure has also helped in the sharing of information between farmers and encouraged support amongst themselves thus increasing the solidity of the farmers’ economy. These alliances have helped the farmers adapt to better farming techniques, increased production and make sure that the fruits of development are shared both with the rural and urban society. Other than agricultural cooperatives, the community-based enterprises (BUMDes) have been very influential in the economic development of Jennepono. Such enterprises may be almost exclusively oriented at the processing and the enhancement of value of the agricultural products of the region and thus generates employment and enhances the earning capacity of the people of the community. For instance, cassava processing facility has been developed through a local BUMDes which has change the economic aspect of the village. Raw cassava is processed into flour and chips at this complex, thus adding at least 30 percent market value to cassava, and has created job security to the people. Employment Growth: - expand the employee of 15 in the first year, 45 in the third year Increase Cassava Market Value: By 30% each year Annual re-trial in upgrading community projects: 50,000,000.

Interview Excerpt

“Employment at the cassava processing facility has provided a stable source of income: ‘former we sold raw cassava for a very low price; now in a processed form such as flour and chips, we get much better returns for our produce’ The additional income has been used in constructing the better roads and upgrading the community center”.

Experience of the cassava processing enterprise was not only about establishment of business, but also the role of value addition to businesses in agricultural districts. This way the community stands to benefit more from the revenues as more value addition is done within the region. Also, the profits that the enterprise produces are channeled towards the development of other local projects, and as a result, the growth gives rise to a continuous enhancement that shall benefit everyone in the community. This model shows that the idea of local development can be closer for the economic development of communities and overcome their needs. Other vocational training activities have also contributed towards economic emancipation in Jennepono especially the women and the youths. These programmes make provision of vocational training in several areas such as weaving, handicrafts, and small business enterprise to allow participants set up their own companies or get better paying jobs. The connection of governments to such programs is well reflected in the enhanced economic status of participants. For instance, a weaving program for women has empowered participants in a way that involves developing of an income-generating strategy to support their homes. Many women before joining the program depended solely on the income generated by their husbands, and therefore they would be financially instable. Yet, these women with weaving skills and business experience opened local small shops where they sold woven products via the internet and in local markets. Income Before Training Program: The salaries and wages expense to be incurred monthly to staffs will be around IDR 500,000. Income After Training Program: That is twenty four hundred thousand Indonesian Rupiahs per month. Percentage Increase in Income: This we

have been able to post an average assessment of 80% in the course of our three semesters in school. Percentage of Participants Starting Own Business: The total came to 60 percent and.

Interview Excerpt

“The weaving program has made us woman transform. I only depended on my husband to cater for our needs, but with the weaving business I have been able to start my own business and sell my products online and markets, hence being able to contribute to the family needs. – Participant, Skills Development Program

Apart from having increased participants’ financial capabilities, these skills development programs have also empowered some of the most vulnerable sections of society, by generating their self-esteem. Supporting skill development among the recipients of these programs, and providing them with the knowledge on how to find a job, contributes towards the development of a satisfying and productive community, and puts an end to the one’s mentality of dependence. However, the study also found out that these local efforts have some challenges that should be overcome to support the continuity and expansion of the successes of these programs. One of the biggest challenges that small and many local cooperatives and enterprises continue to face is the lack of capital. Lacking adequate cash funding, these efforts are unable to grow through acquisition, innovation or market diversification. This limits their ability to contribute more to the regional epoitization process of economic development. Moreover, fluctuating market prices is another threat which is very evident for the agricultural cooperatives and the community based enterprises that deals with the few commodities which are volatile in the market. Income volatility results from changes in market prices that provide the base for generating revenues for such initiatives; consequently, many of them struggle to find ways to cover their costs in the long run. All of these issues cannot be solved without government and especially private company intervention; such interventions include the provision of increased credit, markets and infrastructure.

Interview Excerpt

“Our biggest challenge is access to capital. We have great ideas and skilled people, but without enough funding, it’s hard to expand our business. We hope the government can provide more support in this area.” – Local Entrepreneur

However, these potentials contain several barriers to scaling up local initiatives in Jennepono; The positive effects of these initiatives imply that with proper anchorage and right supportive infrastructure, such programs could be scaled to capture more citizens and boost the economy for higher independence of the region. In addition, the experiences of this case in Jennepono may contribute the bench mark to other areas which want perform similar work in the societal welfare with high qualities based on community participation in economic development.

Impact on Community and Economic Growth

The local initiatives which have been put in practice in Jennepono Regency have been effective at the community and economic development levels. Most of these programmes have centred on enhancing the abilities and opportunities of the local people through promoting agricultural co-operatives, community based enterprises, and skills development, these improvements have not only enhanced human welfare but also economic growth. The subsequent sections will describe how such initiatives have contributed to developing the solidarity of the community, growing the incomes of households, as well as developing the economy and occasional results of the practical application and interviews will be included. Perhaps the most noteworthy implication of such local activities has been the improvement of fraternity within communities. Farming institutions and other communal based businesses have obliged communal feeling and support among the people. For example, the rice production co-

operative that has been discussed earlier enhanced positive economic results for the members, along with binding the community through collective responsibility and decisions. Percentage of Cooperative Members Reporting Increased Community Engagement: It reached a high of 85% on increase in number of vehicles on the road. Number of Community Projects Initiated by Cooperative Members: 5, from two years and above.

Interview Excerpt

The cooperative has helped to foster realization of togetherness and unity amongst the farmers; we have to work together and bear one another's burden not only in farmers' activities but also in other aspects of the community; the farmers have embarked on initiating projects that will benefit the village such as constructing a new community hall.

This has brought a closer sense of community within the cooperative and vice versa has had numerous impacts beyond the organization. Having brought decent results and members' unity in the cooperative, other individuals in the community also follow the formation to initiate cooperative actions and produce the social capital effect. Not only has this collective approach helped to improve the economics but it has also strengthened the community as a whole and placing it in a better position in relation to how it deals with future adversity. Insofar as the economic gains arising from these interventions are concerned, these are most apparent via the enhanced household earnings among the beneficiaries. Most of the inhabitants are happy with the changes that have taken place in their fiscal abilities whether through the agricultural cooperatives, the community based enterprises, or the skills development. For instance, members of the cassava processing enterprise have recorded improved incomes because of the relatively higher market value of processed cassava products. Average Monthly Income Before Joining Initiative: The cost of registering the birth is IDR 1,200,000. Average Monthly Income After Joining Initiative: Rp 1,800,000. Percentage Increase in Household Income: It was noted to be 50 percent. Reduction in Poverty Rate Among Initiative Participants: 30 percent.

Interview Excerpt

That life was so unbearable before joining the cassava processing enterprise the little earnings we got was inadequate to feed ourselves let alone take our children to school, today with the extra earnings we can at least afford to buy better foods for our families, take our kids to school and even save a little.

With improved income levels in households, poverty levels have been cut in the region as result of the increased earnings. More middle income earner families can afford better shelter, education and health care, and these are among the factors that lead to high living standards. This role reduces poverty, hitting overall income and spending capacity and gains may boost spending and thus economic activity in the home economy. This in turn cycle back to productivity improvement and general welfare of the community hence leading to more economic development. Not only has the community benefiting from the new incomes but the overall welfare of the regional economy has also seen an upsurp. Most of these initiatives have served to improve the value of locally produced inputs through adding value through processing and has created new market outlets hence promoting economic activities in Jennepono Regency. For instance, the cassava processing facility seems to have a ready market with many outside buyers visiting the place to access good that are processed locally. Increase in Regional GDP Attributed to Local Initiatives: This will translate to at least 10 % increase at the end of the three years beginning from this year, this has to be achieved. Growth in Local Employment Rates: A new work 20% employment growth in cooperative and BUMDes related

activities. Number of New Businesses Established as a Result of Skills Development Programs: fifteen business

Interview Excerpt

“Our local enterprises are doing great and this has placed Jennepono on the map, we are now receiving orders from other regions and that has created more employment opportunities for our people. “ – A Local Business Owner

This economic growth has been also benefited from the reinvestment of the profits from the severn and other community based enterprises back into local infrastructure and development projects. Such investments entail upgrading the roads, constructing centres for community use, as well as sponsoring educational programmes which have facilitated the creation of a favourable atmosphere for further investments. On these bases, it is clear that these investment impact the total development of the region by having better and more increased GDP as well as employment rates. In addition the skills development programs have exposed the residents to the relevant knowledge and skills needed in opening their own businesses hence expanding the economy. The following diversification is important for the continued and sustainable economic development of Jennepono, since the region depends on the continuation of a single major type of economical activity and has no protection against external blows in this sphere. At the same time, the study also revealed some of the concerns that need to be tackled to continue the extension of those initiatives: High rates of financing are still a major challenge affecting the majority of community based businesses and cooperative members hindering them from expand their businesses and diversifying into new products and services. Also, the income of the participants is unstable; this is because of the volatile market especially in the agricultural sector. But the potential for coming out on top in these areas is significant. These local initiatives could easily reach greater heights if only government and private sector players would give them the necessary support such as: access to cheap funds, market access and other structure support. In the same way, the activities that have been completed in Jennepono are also prove as successful models for other regions where the community heads and other stakeholders are interested in economic development but at the same time cognizance of the threats of ‘people like us’ complex are present.

Interview Excerpt

“Indeed, the cooperative has made significant progress but encountering issues such as access to capital and changing market prices that affect the price it offers to its members Major issues such as access to capital if addressed appropriately and increased market pricing that affect the price offered to the members, I believe this cooperative will progress and be even more successful.”

This study provides valuable insights into the role of local initiatives in fostering economic independence and community-driven development, specifically within the context of Jennepono Regency. By focusing on agricultural cooperatives, community-based enterprises (BUMDes), and skills development programs, the study not only sheds light on how these initiatives contribute to economic growth but also addresses several gaps in the existing literature on local economic development. The study has shown that agricultural cooperatives in Jennepono have significantly contributed to economic resilience by empowering small-scale farmers. This finding contrasts with existing literature, which often emphasizes the challenges faced by small-scale farmers in achieving economic sustainability (Mizik, 2021; Wagner & Growe, 2021). While previous studies highlight the vulnerability of smallholder farmers due to limited market access and high production costs (Maganga et al., 2021; Mbuli

et al., 2021), this study demonstrates that cooperative models can effectively overcome these challenges by pooling resources and enabling collective bargaining.

For example, through the promotion of cooperatives, the increment in income of the cooperative members by 25 percent proves that cooperatives can enhance the welfare of smallscale farmers (Ankrah et al., 2021; Lin et al., 2022). In line with this study that shows that cooperatives can bargain for better prices and manage to cut on their costs of input, there is a rising literature that suggests that collective formation is a way of promoting better economic performance in developing rural economies (Ajates, 2020; Fontoura & Coelho, 2022). Increase in Income for Cooperative Members: 25%. Average Monthly Income Before Cooperative: US \$ 86,500. Average Monthly Income After Cooperative (Two Years): 1,500,000 IDR The proposal amount is as follows: Interrogatives with cooperative members add more blow to the cultural aspects that preach for solidarity and group consensus in defending economic prosperity. One participant summed it up this way saying, “Through the cooperative, we are now neighbors; we go through our daily struggles together and support each other.” This insight pushes a limit on the individualistic theory of development and avails the constructive confirmation of collectivism in rural development. The case of Jennepono being the base for the growth of successful community-based enterprises that focuses on value addition of agricultural products is tapped in the study and fills a literature gap concerning adding to community economic development (Ahmad et al., 2020; Devaux et al., 2021).

Unlike most of the previous works that centres around on primary production and problems of raw agri-food commodities (Bjornlund et al., 2020; Inegbedion et al., 2020), this study reveals an eligible economic value of processing and value addition to these products. The improvement in 30% in the market value causes of processed cassava products prove that value addition is vital in boosting local economy growth (Adejo et al., 2020). This is in concordance with current research that has called for processing as a way of creating more value locally within the rural areas (Lowery et al., 2020; German et al., 2020). They also create employment and reinvest earnings on infrastructure and other local needs hence are good for the local economy as they are not closely associated with just a single sector. Increase in Market Value of Processed Cassava: It leveled off in 2000 at 30 percent of the gross domestic product. Employment Growth in Cassava Processing Enterprise: From 15 to 45 employees in the period of three years. Annual Profit Reinvestment: This remains at an average of IDR 50,000,000. Interviews conducted in BUMDes also provide a rich example of how value addition changed the lives of people in the local villages. A participant said, ‘The additional income has contributed to making more appropriate roads and enhancing the standard of our community center’, how income growth enhances quality life of a society. It is in this regard that this study has come up with this finding to support other researchers who have also emphasized the social returns on value addition initiatives arguing that the social angles are also very relevant in enhancing sustainable development (Barrett et al., 2022; Kano et al., 2020).

Most skills development programmes in Jennepono have known to be strategic weapon for empowering women and youths in particular. Hence, this study contributes to the literature in the following ways: It shows how enhanced training programmes may enhance economic prospects for those in the groups that are usually excluded from economic growth (Galvão et al., 2020; Hasan & Chowdhury, 2023). The women, who attended weaving activities, experienced an 80% increment in income proves that skills make a significant difference in the improvement of income by the women (El Badriati et al., 2022; Raniga, 2021). Prior research has largely pointed to constraints in then pillar of employment, education and financial services for women and youths for instance education and credit facilities (Yoosefi et al., 2020). This study, however, offers a basis for trying to understand how skills development cuts across these

barriers with a view of achieving enhanced economic participation and sectoral representation. Income Before Training Program: IDR 500,000 per month. Income After Training Program: IDR 900,000 per month

Percentage of Participants Starting Their Own Business: It was 60%.” The narratives gained from interviews supplement this conclusion in the sense that they show that employees of company X do not have satisfactory levels of contentment. For instance, one of the interviewees said, ‘the weaving program has empowered us women. I used to depend on my husband for income but now have my own business as a weaver.’ The fact that participants in the weaving program have described it as empowering them, especially the women shows that the program has been effective at promoting gender equality, while also underlining the potential for job creation for the needy groups in the society. However, the study also reveals some of the areas of difficulty that needs to be overcome to sustain such local initiatives even they bear the positive outcomes. Accessibility to capital and fluctuation in market act as constraints to scaling up such programmes, as revealed in the quantitative analysis and qualitative responses. This finding agree with the real literature on development in the rural area indicating that inadequate capital is one of the major challenges that can slow down the development of enterprises in the rural area. But at the same time, this research reveals ways of addressing these issues as challenges. Consequently, other direct orthogonal multipliers including more government funding, better credit and market access are tracks which can support and expand such actions. This finding is in line with recent suggestions in the literature for policy attraction that more targeted to local economic development.

Interview Excerpt

‘Lack of funding’ is our biggest problems, we have good ideas and talented staff, but if we don’t have adequate capital it is difficult to grow our companies, so we would like the Ministry to give much attention to this problem.

This study hence fills this gap by providing a realistic view of some of the issues and prospects that characterise the process of local economic development. Unlike most of the previous work, this study gives tangible examples of how the gaps that limit the development of SMEs in rural regions can be effectively addressed by means of tailored assistance and community mobilisation.

This research is therefore significant in developing the knowledge on local economic development at Jennepono Regency with focus on the improvement of local economic self-sufficiency. It offers a body of knowledge on measures of agricultural cooperatives, communitybased enterprises and skill development initiatives, as well as how these initiatives fit into the existing literature. Past literature has been concerned with the plight and the poor performance of the small-scale farmers and the rural folks. Some of the questions highlighted in the research include; restricted market access, high cost of production, and lack of sufficient coordination among the smallholders. The conclusion that has been made in this study reveals that the considerations are met by agricultural cooperatives by creating the pool of funds and buying in bulk to allow members to grab otherwise unattainable favorable deals.

The rise of income that has been realized at the cooperative level, which has been noted to be an increase of 25%, suffices to make the case for this collective economy argument go through which points to the fact that the cooperative models enrich economic performance as well as the spirit of togetherness in the community (Pachoud et al., 2020). This finding resonates with the cooperatives literature as well as recent collective action literature that is prescribing collectivist approaches towards managing hurdles to community support structures. This is in contrast to liberalization mechanisms of rural development, or to write it in the language of

development: Whereas liberalization insisted on methodologies of individuation based on ‘free markets’, SL:AF proposes that ‘cooperatives’ provide a stronger form of solution to the question of ‘empowerment’ of the small growers. It is also important to note that the study responds to a major literature deficiency inasmuch as it identifies value addition as instrumental in local economic growth. Where most of the prior works were centered on the first valorisation phase and the complexities that come with it, the current study shows that further addition of value through processing can definitely improve the economic returns. The increase of the market value worth of processed cassava products by 30 percent and job creation locally reveals the ability of value added enterprises for economic growth.

This finding provides empirical support to recent literature indicating that a shift toward value addition is a feasible approach toward capacity development for both economic growth and poverty reduction in local economies. Through offers of new market opportunities and re-investment of profit back into local improvements these enterprises foster the construction for a stronger and less simultaneously naively dependent economy unlike previous research that points to the merely capacity of primary production. The focus of the study is on analysis of skills development programmes and lifting up the issue of skills development for women and youths is a start within a significant gap in literature on empowering the vulnerable groups. Stake reports that earlier researches have pointed towards restrictions in the economic enfranchisement of such people, mainly lack of education and resources. The chronicling of these researches proves the hypothesis that identified skill enhancement can enhance the economic prospects and 80% income improvement was recorded among women who engaged in the weaving projects. These findings are somewhat converse to a number of studies that pay scanty attention to the overall societal effects of skill development, that usually center on the economic ramifications. Thus, this study extends the knowledge of skills training for income generation and social upliftment to present the perceived benefits of such programs for other positive changes (Gibbs et al., 2020).

But the study focuses on the success stories of local programs and reveals such problems as the lack of funding and market fluctuations. These barriers are equally in consonance with other studies done on rural development that mainly attributed major challenges to the expansion of local enterprises to issues of finance. These challenges could be solved by raising the amount of Government and private sector involvement into local initiatives – and this seems to be the concrete and feasible recommendation which the study provides. This contribution is vital as it offers practical insight into issues of rural development theory, this is as a result of offering specific recommendations from a policy standpoint. Thus, the study assists in developing effective recommendations for rural economic development by identifying barriers to implementing successful initiatives and described how they can be overcome.

Conclusion

This paper brings out the changes on economic emancipation and community advancement in Jennepono Regency by local endeavors. From a close look on the agricultural cooperatives, community based enterprises and skills development programs, the research shows how collective action, value addition, and skills development can greatly increase the households incomes, Unity of the community, and regional economic development. The potential benefits include increased income of the members of the cooperative, successful value added enterprises are some of the key evidence that buttress the relevance of the initiatives to address key economic and social concerns. However, factors such as inadequate capital and market risks have to be fixed in order to maintain and expand these triumphs. All in all, the present study contributes knowledge on the process through which local actions advance sustainable development and may serve as a reference for other areas in their pursuit of economic viability

through community involvement. The results expand existing knowledge about the subject of rural development and provide recommendations on the directions of its further development to practitioners and heads of rural communities.

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