

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE****OPEN ACCESS****Analysis of The Pillars of Rural Development: A Concept For Timor-Leste****Alexandre de Sousa Guterres**Lecturer at Faculty of Economics UNPAZ Timor-Leste  
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**ABSTRACT**

Rural development is one of the important pillars in national development strategies, especially in developing countries such as Timor-Leste. This study aims to analyze the various pillars of rural development that can be applied in Timor-Leste, as well as identify existing challenges and opportunities. Using a qualitative methodological approach, this study explores aspects that affect rural development, including infrastructure, economic, social, and environmental. The results show that strengthening local capacity and sustainable utilization of rural resource potential are the keys to achieving successful rural development in Timor-Leste.



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**INTRODUCTION**

According to Rustiadi et al. (2009), the new paradigm of development must be directed towards equity, growth, and sustainability. Equity does not imply the same development in all regions, but the utilization of the potential of each region so that it is beneficial for the economic growth of the population in all regions (Priadi, 2018). Each region or part of a region has a variety of potentials and conditions.

According to Damhuri (2010:3) in his book entitled Political Economy and Development, it is stated that: development is a transformation process that in the course of time is marked by structural changes, namely changes in the foundation of economic activities and in the framework of the economic structure of the society concerned. In contrast to Damhuri, the development economics literature in Mardikanto and Subianto (2013:11) states that: development is a continuous process to realize an increase in real income per capita through an increase in the number and productivity of resources. The success of a development is with efforts that are made continuously, consciously and planned as well as the support of various parties.

By Mohammad Solekhan in his book Implementation of Village Government Based on Community Participation (2014: 70-71) that the development of rural areas is a combination of inter-

village development in one district which includes: the use and utilization of village areas in the context of determining development areas in accordance with the district/city spatial planning, services carried out to improve the welfare of rural communities, infrastructure development, improving the rural economy and development of appropriate technology, empowerment of village communities to increase access to services and economic activities.

In his opinion, Atmojo et al. (2017) explained that village development has a very important and strategic role in the context of national development and regional development, because it contains elements of equitable development and the results can directly touch the interests of most people living in rural areas in an effort to improve welfare.

Learning from the success of the rural development movement in several Asian countries, especially China and South Korea, a concerted movement and comprehensive support from the government and other parties involved in village development are needed. South Korea, which faced difficult conditions after the Korean War (1950-1953), was able to rise up to build the countryside through the Saemaul Undong movement or the New Village Movement. The movement was followed by the Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1962-1976) which succeeded in turning rural areas into the motor and basis of Korea's development in general until it could become one of the

developed countries in the world (2008). Based on learning from the achievements of other countries in rural development, there is a need for a balance in the development of human resources as individuals and as a community, especially to overcome the government's limitations in supporting rural development. In the situation of rural communities that are increasingly heterogeneous in various dimensions of life, both from an economic, social and cultural point of view, a new approach is needed to foster new momentum for the rural development movement.

Rural development is a comprehensive improvement to the social and economic living conditions in rural areas. Rural development is carried out as an effort to increase economic growth that simultaneously increases income distribution among villagers (de Haen, 1982).

The quality of human resources is increasing, government investment is needed through public spending. These expenditures are expected to make the quality of human resources better. Public expenditure by the government in the education sector means public investment, so it is expected to increase skilled human resources (Winarti, 2014).

The success of the active standby village and sub-district development program can be seen from the household order, educational institutions, public places and health facilities can practice PHBS (Hartono, et al, 2010).

The Village Information System (SID) is information implemented through information technology devices and software applications operated by village apparatus. (According to Wilhem Wau in Sulistyowati, Fadjarini and Dibyorin Mc. Canra R, 2013).

Rural areas are often described as areas with low accessibility and mobility (Starkey, et al., 2002). In general, transportation facilities in rural areas have greater variation than urban areas (Dewanti, et al., 2013).

## **THE METHOD**

The method of this study is literature review. The data source of this study is secondary data. The data collection technique of this study is to review international journals related to the title of this study, study and interpret them into research results.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Economic level**

In his research, Kusuma, Karmela, 2018, with the theme of the Economy of Kota Baru Village, Geragai District, East Tanjung Jabung Regency, explained that economic activities are very important things that support the development and progress of a region. The results of the findings in the field show that economic activities in Kota Baru Village show conditions that continue to progress, so that they can improve their economic life.

In his research Andari, 2017, with the theme Optimizing Village Original Income Management to Improve Village Economic Development in Pejarakan Village, Gerokgak District, the

results of this study show that village original income plays a very important role in rural development.

In the research study Marala, Wibowo and Kurniawan, 2018, with the theme of Research on the Management Model of Village-Owned Enterprises (Bumdes) in Building the Village Economy, a Case Study of Masalima Village in Masalembu District, Sumenep Regency, East Java Province, from the results of the existing research show that with the current economic situation of the people of Masalima Village, where the majority of the population are fishermen who only depend on their marine products for their livelihood. Meanwhile, fishing in Masalima Village is only seasonal, so if the fishing season ends, the people of Masalima Village have only two choices, namely using their savings to survive during the non-fishing season or going to big cities to find other jobs.

In their research by Sudarya, Sitorus and Firdaus, 2013, with the theme of research on regional economic development analysis for the direction of sub-district development in the coastal area of Garut Regency, in encouraging the improvement of the coastal area economy, it is necessary to select alternative economic sectors that need to be prioritized for development. The selection is based on the results of analysis and stakeholder perception. Stakeholder perception is a consideration because according to the opinion of Sharp, et al. (2002) that in relation to regional development, development needs to be based on active community consideration, private sector support and better relations between the community and the government.

In his research Kirowati and Lutfiyah, 2018, with the theme of independent village development through bumdes in improving the welfare of village communities, Case Study: Temboro Village, Karas District, Magetan Regency, The results of this study show that 1). The development of village-owned enterprises (BUMDes) can be felt by the residents of Temboro Village, Karas District, Magetan Regency, namely Creating new businesses, Absorbing labor, Improving community welfare and Contributing to development and giving a direct impact on the rural economy and community culture. 2). The role of social capital in the management of village-owned enterprises (BUMDes) which includes trust, the network in the form of joint responsibility is a social network that closely strengthens cooperation, and the norm that is reflected in mutual help has been well implemented in the management of BUMDes in Temboro Village, Karas District, Magetan Regency.

In his research Atmojo, Fridayani, Kasiwi, Pratama, 2017, with the theme Effectiveness of village funds for the development of economic potential based on community participation in Bangunjiwo Village, The results of this study show that Village Funds are funds sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget intended for villages which are transferred through the Regency/City Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget and used to fund the administration of government, implementation of development, community development, and community empowerment.

### **Education Level**

In his research, Basrowi, Juariyah, 2010, with the theme of analyzing socio-economic conditions and education levels of

the community of Srigading Village, Labuhan Maringgai District, East Lampung Regency, explained that Education is a conscious effort to contribute human business abilities in order to advance activities. The results of the study show that: 1) The socio-economic condition of the people of Srigading Village is still relatively low, this can be seen from the houses occupied by the community, namely permanent, semi-permanent, and non-permanent, and can be seen from the type of work owned by the people of Srigading Village, the majority of whom are working farmers. 2) The education level of the Srigading Village Community is still relatively low, this can be seen from the number of people who do not go to school and the average person only graduates from basic education. 3) There is a tendency between socioeconomic conditions and education levels, the higher the socioeconomic level, the higher the level of children's education.

In their research Hanafi and Zulham, 2019, with the theme of their research on the influence of government expenditure in the education sector on the Human Development Index in South Aceh Regency, explained that the paradigm of a prosperous state as reflected in the development paradigm has undergone a shift where the orientation that is used as a benchmark for welfare is assessed on the quality aspect of human capital (Hakim and Sukmana, 2017). The results of this study show that: 1) Education sector expenditure positively affects the HDI of South Aceh in 2008-2017. That way, every time there is an increase in spending, especially the HDI education sector in South Aceh, it will increase. 2) Education sector expenditure affects HDI by 85.43 percent, of which the rest is clarified by other variables. The p-value of PPSP is 0.0001 where  $< 0.05$  means that there is an influence on the bound variable.

His research hukama, 2017, the perception of rural communities towards higher education, a theoretical analysis study of George Herbert Mead, explained that the level of education in an area is actually determined by the shape of the region or village. The results of this study also show that: the results of the study show that 1). The level of formal education of the people of Banjarsari Village is still relatively low. 2) The perception of the people of Banjarsari Village towards higher education is quite good, if it can support their welfare in the future but this must also be supported by their ability in terms of the quality of knowledge from higher education as well as the ability to practice in the community. 3). The concepts of rural communities towards higher education are influenced by internal factors (parental educational background, parents' awareness of higher education, economic conditions, and children's interests) and external (community environment and negative assumptions towards university graduates).

In their research, Vito, Krisnani, & Resnawaty, 2015, explained that the purpose of national education is not only to produce intelligent human resources but also to be able to produce personalities with character, morals, creativity, have a visionary and responsible mission and as good citizens.

In his research, Wahyuni, Zulkifli, 2019, explained that the existence of human resources in the countryside is also one of the determining factors for the success of a village. Because human resources (HR) is one of the most important factors in a

work activity in a village area in addition to other factors such as capital.

In his research Rahayu, 2019, about the analysis of the level of education in Pusong Village, West Langsa District, Aceh, explained that the low level of education in the village is not only caused by internal factors from the village community but also a form of lack of support from the government itself, this can be seen from the inadequacy of educational facilities and infrastructure in rural areas, especially in a remote village. The results of this study show that the factor that causes the low level of education in the Pusong Village area, West Langsa District is due to the lack of awareness of the villagers who think that the ability to work is more important than intellectual ability. In addition to these factors, another factor is due to the lack of educational implementers such as the existing educational infrastructure facilities can be said to be far from feasible and also access to education is very difficult for students in Pusong Village.

In his research, Indy, Waani, Kandowangko, 2019, with the theme of the role of education in the process of social change in Tumuluntung Village, Kauditan District, North Minahasa Regency, explained that education is an important thing for people's lives. Because with education an individual is able to actualize himself. Currently, the development of the times has brought changes to various aspects. The results of this study show that the role of education in social change in Indonesia society is: Critical and innovative thinking. Education in social change in order to improve critical analysis skills that play a role in instilling new beliefs and values about the human way of thinking .

### **Health Level**

in his research Suwarni, Selviana, Sarwono, Ruhama, 2018, with the theme of research Community Empowerment Through PENKES (Education and Health) to Improve Public Health Degrees in his research explained that people in the West Kalimantan expansion area are still poorly educated (even some are still illiterate) and health problems always exist. The results of this study show that: 1). Mentoring, counseling, and training activities can increase public knowledge/understanding of the importance of clean and healthy living behaviors and raise awareness to start healthy living behaviors. 2). The establishment of smart boarding schools and educator cadres can increase children's interest in reading, and help overcome problems in the existing field of education.

In her research, Achadiyani, Yunita, 2017, with the theme of potential health problems in the community of RW 10 Cilayung Village, Jatinangor District, explained that social and environmental problems that are still a problem for the people of Cilayung village, especially are very related to health problems. The results of this study show that some of the problems that occur and develop in the community of RW 10 Cilayung Village, do not clearly show the occurrence of diseases, but environmental conditions, garbage disposal behavior, living conditions adjacent to livestock pens are very likely to occur one day due to unhealthy environmental conditions.

In his research, maharani, martanti, bahiyutan, nisa, 2018, with the theme of research on community empowerment through standby villages in the context of efforts to reduce gas akidi in Semarang Regency, explained that the standby village is one of the government's efforts in order to achieve the vision and mission of a healthy Indonesia which essentially empowers people to be willing and able to live a healthy life. The results of the study show that 1) The community's knowledge about the standby village in their area is quite good. 2). The implementation of the standby village program in this region has been in a vacuum for several years and is currently in the process of re-establishing the standby village with the establishment of the standby village organizational structure, the existence of implementing midwives for standby villages, the existence of village ambulance facilities, and standby village training for cadres. 3) The village head has issued regulations for the implementation of the Standby Village, but to integrate the Standby Village Development Plan into the Development Work Plan (RKP) has not yet been implemented.

In his research, Sukendar, 2018, with the theme of research on the empowerment of the poor through the improvement of health services by Rumah Sehatbaznas Yogyakarta in Wukirsari Village, explained that the current welfare of the community according to UNDP is measured by the Human Development Index (HDI) or Human Development Index (Sulaeman, 2012:2). The results of this study show that the health advocacy carried out by Rumah Sehat Baznas Yogyakarta to the central management is indeed very flexible, because it is more decentralized. This means that when there is an urgent need, it can be realized immediately without having to wait for a decision from the central management.

In her research, Wijaya, Sary, Yanti, 2014, with the theme of her research on the influence of counseling on knowledge and attitudes about clean and healthy living behavior (PHBS) on the household order in Mandah Village, the working area of the Brantiya Health Center, Natar District, South Lampung Regency, explained that clean and healthy living behavior is essentially the basis for preventing humans from various diseases. The results of this study show that there is an effect of counseling on knowledge about Clean and Healthy Living Behavior (PHBS) on household order in the treatment group in Mandah Village, Branti Raya Health Center Working Area, Natar District, South Lampung Regency, Lampung Province in 2013.

In another study, Sulaeman, Karsidi, Murti, Kartono, Waryana, Hartanto, 2021, with the research theme Community Empowerment Model in the Health Sector, Standby Village Program Study, explained that community empowerment in the health sector has emerged since the declaration of the Ottawa Charter. The results of this study show that the factors that affect the ability to identify local health problems in the Siaga Village program include access to health information, leadership, social capital, and self-awareness surveys.

### **Technology Level**

In his research Utomo, Rokhmah, Widodo, 2015, with the theme Analysis and Comparison of the Level of Understanding of

Information Technology in Children in Disadvantaged Villages with Urban Areas as an effort to improve understanding of Information Technology in Disadvantaged Villages, explained that Information Technology is a combination of computer technology and information technology used to process data. The results of this study show that after conducting an analysis and comparison of two different environments, it can be concluded that the factors that cause differences in children's understanding in disadvantaged villages and urban areas are as follows: 1). There is no introduction to information technology learning (both as a subject, and as an extra-curricular), which is very different from urban areas, which begin to introduce information technology learning starting from the pre-school education (TK) 2). There is no availability of information technology facilities and infrastructure both in schools and in the home environment, both privately owned and rented, while in urban areas information technology equipment has become a lifestyle and a piece of equipment that almost everyone owns 3). Economic factors greatly affect the level of children's understanding of information technology.

In his research, Anwar, Sujai, 2020, with the theme of research on the analysis of the implementation of integrated village information systems in Pangandaran Regency, explained that internet connections in rural areas have entered the era of village digitalization, where information that develops from the internet can be accessed directly by rural communities. The results of this study show that the implementation of the Village Information System (SID) in Pangandaran Regency has not been fully integrated. In addition, not all of them have a village website with a desa.id domain, so it is not open source for output from SID.

In his research, Sulistyowati, Dibyorin, 2013, with the theme of Citizen Participation in the Village Information System, explained that the village information system is a network/system that aims to manage community resources, in addition to being an application that assists the village government in documenting various data belonging to the village. The results of this study show that the Village Information System Program in Terong Village is a program that grows from the needs and desires of the village community.

In his research, Maslan, 2014, with the research theme Analysis of Factors Influencing the Digital Divide Case Study of Bareleng (Batam, Rempang and Galang) Riau Islands, explained that information technology has developed rapidly and is becoming increasingly accessible to the public. Information has spread through various media. The results of this study show that the people of Bareleng (Batam Rempang Galang) still dominate the digital divide.

In another study, Andari and Ella, 2019, with the theme of research on the development of smart rural models for the development of rural areas in Indonesia, explained that the development gap between rural and urban areas in Indonesia is a problem that must be handled seriously to prevent urbanization. The results of the study (Subandri, 2017) show that the development of rural areas has not been implemented due to internal factors originating from the village, namely the lack of initiative and knowledge from the village community

and external factors originating from the government in socializing and providing assistance to the village community.

In his research, Khusna, 2019, with the theme of research on Village Empowerment Strategies Through the Utilization of ICT in Pematang Regency, explained that the global concept brought by internet technology has had an extraordinary effect to date.

### **Transportation Level**

In his research Seda, Allamanda, Chandra, Melina, 2019, with the theme Qualitative Analysis of Village Transportation Needs Case: Pulosari Village, Sukabumi, West Java, explained that the Ministry of Industry of Indonesia (Kemenperin) is developing a prototype of a rural vehicle that functions to meet the needs of village communities for roadworthy means of transportation. The results of this study show that this research answers research questions regarding the ideal transportation needs for villagers, namely villagers need multifunctional vehicles with functions as a means of transporting people and goods, as well as vehicles that are not only in accordance with the condition of village infrastructure, but can be used in the city environment.

In his research, Judiantono, with the theme of Rural Transportation Service Evaluation (Case Study: Trakyek Pasar Simpang – Wanayasa Terminal, Purwakarta Regency), explained that the minimum service standard for transportation of people with public motorized vehicles on the route is a requirement for the implementation of transportation of people with public motorized vehicles on the route regarding the type and quality of service that is entitled to be obtained by loyal users of transportation services. However, it can be used in urban environments. Based on the results of the analysis of the quality of the angles route of the junction market – wanayasa terminal for general passengers with a score of 21. The assessment is adjusted to the assessment standards from The World Bank-Urban Transport is still in the category of good service standards. Which means that this evaluation does not need to be continued again because the services in the field are good.

In his research, Djunaedi, 2014, with the theme of Research on the Development of Rural Transportation Services in Hilly Areas, explained that rural transportation services often have poor performance and are exacerbated by low population density, limited public facilities and services and scattered residential locations so that it affects the difficulty of access and inefficient transportation services (Starkey, et al., 2002; Williams and White, 2001). The results of this study show that the development of transportation services in the study area shows a significant difference with the developed country area which is currently dominated by private car services.

In his research, Silondae, 2016, with the theme of research on the linkage of transportation routes and economic interaction between North Konawe Regency and surrounding districts/cities, explained that transportation is very important for the region, be it rural or semi-urban or urban areas in developing countries, because it provides access for people to meet their daily needs for goods and services, as well as improve socio-economic life. The results of the study show that: The

condition of the transportation route connecting North Konawe Regency with the surrounding districts in 2013, which was the most severely damaged, the impact of transportation on the economy in North Konawe Regency, had a positive effect on the Gross Regional Domestic Product.

In his research, Kristiano, Suryana, Supriatna, 2018, with the theme of the development of transportation facilities and infrastructure in relation to the economic level of the community in Kolang Village, West Kuwus District, West Manggarai Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, explained that facilities are goods or movable objects that can be used as tools in carrying out the duties and functions of work units. The results of the study show that transportation facilities and infrastructure are the main capital in developing an area, where the role of transportation is very much needed by the community to carry out daily activities.

In her research, Putri, 2019, with the theme Analysis of the Feasibility of Rural Public Transportation Transportation in Pengandonan District, Ogan Komering Ulu Regency, explained that rural public transportation has an important role for economic development efforts in a region. The results of this study show that the variables of speed and comfort affect the feasibility of rural public transportation in Pengandonan District, Ogan Komering Ulu Regency.

In his research, Darmawan, 2018, explained that transportation facilities and infrastructure are important for their existence as a link between regions, between islands, between regions, and between villages. Transportation facilities and infrastructure also have an important function, especially as a liaison in supporting economic growth, regional development and unifying Indonesia's territory.

### **CONCLUSION**

From the results of the above research, it can be concluded that:

1. *The driving factors for the regional/village economic level are* : Agricultural sector, Livestock sector, Trade sector, Small business sector, Village original income, Village-owned enterprise management sector (Bumdes), Regional comparative sector, Regional competitive advantage sector, Labor absorption sector, Regency/city regional revenue and expenditure budget, Community participation, and Village superior products.
2. *The driving factors for the level of education in the region/village are* : Socio-economic conditions, Community knowledge, Parental motivation, Individual desires, Strategic educational environment, Government investment (public expenditure in the sector), Internal factors (family, economy, self-interest), External factors (community environment, culture and behavior), Educators, Social workers, Allocation of education funds, Supporting facilities and infrastructure, Human resources/HR, Capital, Education system, facilities and infrastructure, educators and social aspects.
3. *The driving factors for the level of village health are* : Mentoring activities, counseling and training of health midwives, Establishment of smart cottages and health educator cadres, Community empowerment in the health

sector, Health alert villages, Environmental conditions, Living behaviors, Healthy houses, Healthy cadres, Health programs, Health counseling, Health counseling, Healthy living attitudes and behaviors, Health information, Health leadership, Health social capital, Community self-awareness and Community participation.

4. *The driving factors for the level of village technology are* : Information technology learning, Information technology facilities and infrastructure, Economic factors, Village information system (SID), SID HRS, SID Infrastructure, Technology readiness, Community participation, Digital village, Income, Education, Strategic location, Smart village, Information and communication technology (ICT), Internet management and website management.
5. *The driving factors for the level of village transportation are* : Multifunctional vehicles, Social aspects and common interests, Emotional aspects, Transportation services: Motorcycle services and public transportation services, Transportation lines, Road infrastructure, Transportation speed, Transportation convenience, Access points and Local government participation.

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