

Community Empowerment Programs in Poverty Alleviation: A Literature Review

**Tsabita Rifa Ananda¹, Chintya Dzulfiani Safitri², Lusi Rahmawati³,
Dian Nabila Rahmawati⁴, Amanda Prameswari⁵**

^{1,2,3,4,5}Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

Email: daniellanatasha.pls2017@students.unnes.ac.id

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Abstract

The existence of community empowerment is influenced by the complexity of poverty which is not only related to economic aspects, but also social, cultural, and political. This article aims to analyze community empowerment as the main strategy in poverty alleviation. The writing method used is based on literature review with literature search in the last 12 years through Google Scholar, Publish or Perish, Science Direct, focused on the keywords "Community Empowerment" and "Poverty Alleviation". The results of the study obtained a number of articles from national journals that discussed community empowerment strategies, their role and effectiveness in increasing community capacity and independence. It was concluded that community empowerment with a holistic approach involving social, cultural, and political aspects plays an important role in overcoming poverty. Community empowerment efforts must be carried out in a sustainable and integrated manner in a broader development program to achieve significant and sustainable change. The contribution of this research is to identify and analyze the effectiveness of community empowerment programs in poverty alleviation through literature review.

Keywords: community empowerment; poverty alleviation; community capacity; empowerment strategy

INTRODUCTION

The problem of poverty cannot be reduced to a mere economic problem. Social, cultural, and political also play an important role in shaping and maintaining conditions of poverty. Socially, factors such as unequal access to health and education services, as well as social discrimination, can be significant causes of poverty. On the cultural side, norms and values that hinder social mobility or limit opportunities for certain groups can also reinforce the cycle of poverty. In addition, political aspects, such as lack of access to power and decision-making, as well as corruption in the distribution of resources, also play a role in exacerbating poverty (Nindatu, 2019).

Acknowledging the complexity and multi-dimensionality of poverty is important because it can help design more holistic and sustainable strategies to address it. An approach that focuses only on the economic aspect may not be effective enough to address the root of the problem. In contrast, an approach that involves a deep understanding of local social, cultural, and political dynamics will be better able to identify effective and relevant intervention points. Thus, in understanding and addressing poverty, it is important to adopt a holistic and centered approach to the needs and aspirations of marginalized communities, so as to create sustainable and comprehensive changes in poverty conditions.

The main goal of community empowerment is to provide control and strength to marginalized individuals and groups in overcoming the root causes of poverty they face (Hamid, 2018). This means giving community members control over their own lives, so that they are not only passive recipients of assistance, but also active actors in the development process. By providing greater access to resources, education, and economic opportunities, community empowerment seeks to eliminate the inequalities and inequalities that lead to poverty, as well as enable individuals and groups to reach their full potential.

In addition, community empowerment also aims to create sustainable social transformation. It's not just about providing temporary relief, but about creating structural change that allows communities to continue to move towards self-reliance and sustainability. By giving individuals and groups control over their own lives, community empowerment builds the foundation for broader change in social, economic, and political structures. Through these efforts, community empowerment has the potential to create a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society, where everyone has the same opportunity to develop and contribute to the maximum.

Active participation and inclusion from community members underscores the importance of recognizing and respecting the voices and interests of individuals and groups at every stage of the decision-making process that affects their lives. By encouraging active participation, community empowerment allows citizens to have greater control over their own future, ensuring that policies and programs implemented are in line with local needs and aspirations. It also creates a more inclusive climate, where all groups of society feel valued and heard, without any discrimination or exclusion.

Active participation from community members also supports more effective community-based development. By involving residents in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development programs, the process becomes more responsive to the real needs of the local community. This allows for more effective empowerment, as the resulting solutions come from a deep understanding of local conditions and contexts. In addition, active participation also builds a sense of ownership and responsibility for communities' own development, thereby increasing the likelihood of sustainability and success of empowerment initiatives. Thus, active participation and inclusion are important foundations in creating a sustainable and community-based development process (Ruja, 2022).

A community-based approach to community empowerment places the community as the main subject in the development process. In this approach, the solutions needed to overcome poverty and other social problems are seen as coming from within the society itself. It recognizes that communities have unique local knowledge, experience, and resources that can be used to identify and solve the problems they face. Thus, a community-based approach respects and utilizes local wisdom and social forces that exist in the community to achieve the goal of empowerment.

In addition, a community-based approach also aims to increase people's capacity and independence in overcoming their own problems. This is done through various efforts, such as training, education, and social infrastructure development. By increasing people's capacity in terms of knowledge, skills, and access to resources, they become better able to identify, plan, and manage their own empowerment initiatives. This approach also encourages cooperation and solidarity among community members, allowing them to support each other and work together in achieving common goals. Thus, a community-based approach is a strong strategy in building a solid foundation for sustainable and inclusive social change (Margayaningsih, 2016).

Cross-sector collaboration is key to the success of community empowerment because it allows synergy and utilization of diverse resources to achieve common goals. The government has an important role in providing supportive policies, resource allocation, and infrastructure development necessary to support community empowerment initiatives. Non-governmental institutions, on the other hand, often have the expertise and experience in implementing effective empowerment programs in the field, and can be a more independent voice of the community in policy advocacy. Meanwhile, the private sector can contribute in the form of finance, technology, and management skills that are important to support community empowerment initiatives. By involving all these parties, cross-sector collaboration creates a strong and diverse ecosystem that is able to address the challenge of poverty in a more holistic and effective way.

In addition, active participation from civil society is also important in strengthening cross-sector collaboration in community empowerment. Civil society organizations often have extensive networks at the local level, in-depth knowledge of community needs and aspirations, and the ability to mobilize and strengthen community capacity directly. By encouraging the participation and representation of civil society in the decision-making process and program implementation, cross-sector collaboration becomes more inclusive and sustainable. This creates a healthy balance of power between governments, the private sector, and civil society, and increases accountability and transparency in community empowerment efforts. Thus, cross-sector collaboration and active participation of all stakeholders are an important foundation in creating sustainable and equitable change in addressing poverty and inequality (Rohyadi, et al., 2024).

The principles of integration and sustainability in community empowerment emphasize the importance of seeing these efforts as an integral part of broader and sustainable development. This means that community empowerment cannot be seen as a stand-alone or isolated effort, but must be integrated into various ongoing development programs and activities. In this context, community empowerment is an important part of a larger development agenda, such as economic, social, and environmental development. This integration ensures that community empowerment is not only the ultimate goal, but also a tool to achieve the goals of broader development goals, such as reducing poverty, improving welfare, and strengthening community resilience. In addition, the principle of integration and sustainability also emphasizes the importance of seeing community empowerment as a process that takes place in a sustainable manner. This means that community empowerment efforts must be continuously integrated into development activities and maintained after special projects are completed.

Community empowerment has great potential to overcome poverty and improve people's welfare, but it is also faced with a number of significant challenges. One of them is inequality of access, where some

community groups may not have the same opportunity to participate in empowerment programs or get the same benefits. In addition, conflicts of interest between various groups or parties involved can also hinder the implementation of community empowerment, slow progress and create instability at the local level. Another challenge is the lack of resources, both financially and manpower-wise, which can limit the scale and impact of empowerment programs. Overcoming these challenges requires well-coordinated and planned efforts, as well as strong commitment from various parties involved (Khausar, 2012).

METHOD

This research uses the literature review method. Literature reviews are conducted carefully and in accordance with protocols to avoid bias in data and analysis and synthesis results. Data for this study were obtained from various articles in indexed journals in Sinta that are relevant to the topic of community empowerment in poverty alleviation. The article search process was carried out on several databases such as Google Scholar as many as 5 articles and Publish or Perish as many as 15 articles using keywords related to community empowerment, poverty alleviation, and empowerment strategies. The inclusion criteria used in selecting sources are the last 12 years of time, the type of article, namely full text, and whether the article is included in the original research, resulting in a number of relevant articles. The articles are then analyzed by a descriptive analysis method that describes the facts that have been obtained and provides sufficient explanation and understanding of the findings. The analysis is carried out by explaining the topic that has been previously determined and presented in the form of tables and narratives related to the findings. All of the analyzed articles discussed various community empowerment strategies to overcome poverty, such as skills development, the establishment of micro-enterprises, the strengthening of local institutions, and the promotion of access to basic services. The results of this review provide an in-depth understanding of various effective strategies and approaches in addressing poverty through community empowerment.

DISCUSSION

Article Title	Author's Name	Researcher Results	Source
Identification and empowerment of the coastal poor	Sabarisman Muslim	The role of poverty and empowerment solutions for coastal communities.	Google Scholar
Analysis of Poverty Alleviation Programs and Community Empowerment in Indonesia	Roni Ekha Putera	Accelerating poverty alleviation can be done by changing the paradigm of community empowerment from top-down to bottom-up (participatory), by relying on local strengths and resources.	Publish or Perrsi
Empowerment of Village Communities as an Effort to Overcome Poverty	Dwi Iriani Margayaning	To increase fair growth without financing the poor, independence is needed by cultivating the community with its potential so that it can	
The phenomenon of poverty from the perspective of poor female heads of households (a phenomenological study on the meaning and causes, as well as strategies to overcome poverty feminization in Wonorejo	Ahmad, N. R., Kanto, S., & Susilo, E.	Poor KRTP experience acute and complex poverty due to fate. They accept and are grateful for this situation, such as not having land assets and minimal business capital.	

Village, Singosari District, Malang Regency).			
Overcoming Poverty Through Community Empowerment	Khausar, K.	As a social problem, poverty needs to be overcome with the aim of solving these social problems, namely trying or making improvements because there is an unexpected situation or an event that disturbs and damages the community	
Community Empowerment-Based Poverty Alleviation in Pohuwato Regency. Madani Journal of Political and Social Societies	Djafar, R., & Sune, U.	Empowerment-based poverty alleviation in Pahuwato district has not been maximized to make the poor empowered and independent supported by training, consultation and technical assistance, as well as similar activities in collaboration through the coordination of the program.	
Poverty Alleviation Strategies Through Work and Distribution According to As-Syaibani and Its Relevance in Indonesia.	Syamsuri Syamsuri Ainun Amalia Zuhroh	Empowerment facilitators are on duty developing learning for local communities to build a level independence in solving the problems they face. Realization Independence is characterized by the increasing empowerment of groups social media in meeting the basic needs of its members.	
Poverty and Social Change: A Model of Community Empowerment Transformation in Indonesia.	Ruja, I. N.	Carrying out program activities with the theme "Desaku Menanti" was able to alleviate poverty significantly, because the lives of people who were previously very desperate to get a decent life. These social changes include social structure, potential for self-development, progress, and the availability of educational facilities such as PAUD	
Implementation of Poor Community Empowerment Policy (Study on the Family Hope Program in Palembang City)	Kiagus Muhammad Faisal and Jumroh Jumroh	The implementation of the policy of empowering the poor has not been effective. This is because the ineffective implementation environment factors contribute to the implementation process of the poor empowerment policy	
Community empowerment through PKBM to improve the skills of the poor	Aceng Ibrahim Bachrun Rifa'i Ratna Dewi	Efforts are made to improve the skills of the poor through educational and economic programs, namely by preparation,	

		data collection and reporting, mapping, implementation, analysis, support programs, and evaluation.	
Empowerment of the Poor Through Non-Formal Education in Mattanete Bua Village, Palakka District, Bone Regency, South Sulawesi Province.	Gusnanda Bondan Febriansyah Made Agus Adi M.Vryatno Moonti	Empowerment of the poor through non-formal education is carried out by conducting anti-drug counseling, sewing skills training, and training electric lighting installation.	
Islamic Values in Empowering the Poor in the Independent National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM)	Farhan Kamiluloh, Mohamad Maulidin Alif Utama, Nirwan Nazaruddin	The PNPM Mandiri program for poverty alleviation in urban areas contains Islamic educational values, the values taught in PNPM Mandiri poverty alleviation program in urban areas are as follows: Khuluqiyah values and amaliyah values.	
Empowerment of the Urban Poor	Emiliana Martuti Lawalu Adrianus Ketmoen Benurtiana Vevin	PKH recipients can improve aspects of education and health, such as increasing access to health services at health centers, increasing education levels school children, the existence of adequate assistance and the establishment of coordination between related agencies in the success of PKH.	
Community Economic Empowerment as an Effort to Reduce Poverty	Ferdy Leuhery, Fitriningsih Amalo Pandu Adi Cakranegara Raden Rara Ayu Widaningsih Klemens Mere	Community economic empowerment has a positive and significant influence on poverty alleviation. Community economic empowerment for poverty alleviation must be carried out gradually so that maximum results are obtained.	
Community empowerment for the development of the Cireong River tourist area in Ciamis Regency in the context of poverty alleviation	Marlina Nur Lestari, Nina Herlina	Knowledge about entrepreneurship will create business ideas and strategies to be able to develop areas that will become a growing and sustainable tourist area in the future. This will be a driver of the economy in the region and can subsequently alleviate poverty.	
Model of empowerment of the poor through non-formal education in Gajahmungkur District, Semarang City	Sungkowo Edy Mulyono	The unemployed poor is someone who has no income or money, while the poor are people who do not work or stay at home.	
Poverty Alleviation Through Human Resource	Mardi Murachman	The human resource management sector at the leadership level and village government structure has	

Empowerment in Managing Rural Local Potential		not been able to become an innovator in efforts to overcome village difficulties which have a systemic effect on the acceleration of the village economy as a support for the welfare of the village community.	
Implementation of Strengths-Perspective in the Poor Community Empowerment Program	Marcelino Vincentius Poluakan Nandang Mulyana Hadiyanto A.Rachim	An effective program for empowering the poor should make each target independent, empowered, sustainable, involved or participating in development, and have resilience in facing poverty problems or to get out of the poverty trap.	
Impact Analysis of Poverty Alleviation through the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM)	Reni Mei Susanti R Abdul Haris Agustina Pujiastutik	Empowerment is an effort to improve the abilities and potentials possessed by a community so that they can actualize their identity, passion and dignity to the maximum to survive and develop themselves independently.	
Empowerment of the Poor in Gunungcupu Village, Sindangkasih District through Counseling on the Importance of Education to Increase the Human Development Index	Yeni Wijayanti, Sri Pajriah, Yadi Kusmayadi	There is a change in mindset, attitude, and behavior, and in particular, an increase in people's understanding, especially the poor, about education which has an important meaning to the Human Development Index.	

Economic problems, especially poverty, are still an existing problem and continue to increase along with the development of the times and multidimensional that are still faced by the Indonesian nation. This condition of poverty is not only caused by economic factors but also because of social, cultural, and political factors that are the source of poverty. The phenomenon of poverty inherent in individuals, especially in families and individuals, is not only an individual responsibility but must also be paid attention to by the national component of the government to overcome this problem. Various efforts made by the government to overcome this poverty problem still exist today. Poverty does not only include economic problems but also non-economic problems because they are multidimensional. According to [Sunartiningsih \(2004\)](#) divides several poverty into several dimensions, namely: (1) Absolute poverty, in this condition a person has a salary but is not enough to meet basic needs such as drinks, food/food, clothing, health and education; (2) Relative poverty where a person has a salary that is only enough to meet basic needs and is still below average than the surrounding population; (3) Cultural poverty is poverty that is influenced by cultural factors; (4) Structural or political poverty is a person who is trapped in poverty but does not have access to be involved in politics so that he occupies the lowest social structure.

Poverty is a condition of helplessness where this factor is characterized by limited assets, especially production factors, low wages, low bargaining position and low skill ability. Helplessness in politics is characterized by a weak bargaining position and defense of weak politics so that discrimination occurs. Social helplessness is due to low information services and weak social interaction of the community so that it is marginalized. Cultural helplessness is characterized by a weak carrying capacity and the impetus of cultural values for efforts to improve conditions in life. These various forms of helplessness result in poor people becoming problems to meet their living needs. They tend to be lazy and wait for the government, they are dependency or dependent on the government so that the poor do not have the independence to develop.

Various efforts to alleviate poverty have still not yielded satisfactory results. There are 2 causes of poverty (Setiadi and Kolip, 2010), namely: The program that is carried out focuses too much on poverty social assistance, this is not a solution but instead makes people lazy, they rely on assistance from the government and are lazy to work. The second factor is the lack of understanding of various parties about the causes of poverty as they know that they conducted poverty surveys only based on surveys and the fact that there are still many mistargeted aids.

The two factors above are factors used for centralistic national planning, but in reality such information data cannot reflect the level of diversity and complexity that exists in Indonesia as a large country consisting of several regions. In overcoming poverty, efforts that can be made are such as giving access to the community to develop skills such as skills training to foster an entrepreneurial spirit so that they can develop themselves and no longer depend on the government.

The discussion of the poverty phenomenon covers various aspects, ranging from the definition, causes, and impacts. Poverty is a multidimensional problem that goes beyond income levels, but also involves vulnerability, risk factors, and the inability of individuals or groups to improve their quality of life. It is not only measured by income but also includes factors such as access to basic needs, health services, education, and housing. In Indonesia, poverty has become a significant concern, and efforts are being made to reduce its prevalence through economic development initiatives. Nevertheless, challenges still exist and the complexity of poverty requires a comprehensive approach that considers social, economic, cultural, and other relevant factors. The problem of poverty is still a global challenge that requires attention and concrete actions to reduce its impact on individuals and society. In addition, there are several factors that cause poverty according to sociology, including: (1) Economic factors: Poor economic conditions, economic development that does not reach the average, low income, and lack of resources; (2) Social factors: Unbalanced social conditions, discrimination, social differences, and lack of education; (3) Geographical factors: An unbalanced geographical location, such as a remote or remote area, that affects a person's ability to meet basic needs; (4) Cultural factors: Unbalanced cultural conditions, such as the concept of cultural poverty or the culture that causes poverty; (5) Political factors: Unbalanced political conditions, such as the lack of effective government, lack of law, and lack of government capable of building the economy; (6) Personal factors: Individual physical and psychological conditions that cause poverty, such as lack of physical conditions, lack of psychological conditions, and lack of consciousness; (7) Structural factors: Complex relationships between individuals who live with weak power in a family tradition, society in a complex social structure (state) and adhere to its production system.

Community empowerment through education and skills training programs can reduce poverty levels

Education and skills training programs open the door to wider access for disadvantaged communities to obtain formal education. This allows individuals who were previously limited in educational opportunities to acquire skills relevant to the needs of the job market. For example, they may learn technical skills such as computer programming, welding, or expertise in creative industries such as graphic design or music. Thus, they not only gain practical knowledge that can be applied in work, but also gain self-confidence and motivation that drives them to seek out new opportunities. In addition to improving access, the program also provides opportunities for individuals to improve their quality of life through increased productivity. By acquiring relevant skills, individuals can become more efficient in their jobs, resulting in more products or services in less time. This not only benefits individuals financially by increasing their income, but also makes a positive contribution to the economy as a whole. By having a more productive society overall, the country can experience more sustainable and equitable economic growth, significantly reducing poverty levels (Susanti et al., 2023).

Increasing productivity is one of the key benefits of education and skills training programs in an effort to reduce poverty rates. By acquiring relevant skills, individuals can become more productive in their jobs. For example, a trained computer technician can repair more devices in less time, while a skilled welder can complete projects of better quality (Wijayanti et al., 2019). This increased productivity not only benefits individuals with higher incomes, but also contributes positively to the economy as a whole by driving the growth of certain sectors and creating new jobs (Murachman, 2021). In addition, increasing productivity can also reduce individuals' dependence on social assistance or other government programs. By having adequate skills to obtain a stable job and generate a sufficient income, individuals can become more economically

independent. People no longer depend on government assistance to meet their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Instead, people can better manage their own finances and even contribute to the development of the local economy through the purchase of goods and services.

Education and skills training programs play an important role in increasing people's economic independence. By learning new skills that are relevant to the needs of the job market, individuals can create their own job opportunities and become more financially independent. For example, someone who is learning business skills such as management or marketing can open a small business or a home-based business. Thus, they not only rely on the jobs available in the job market, but also become entrepreneurs who can create jobs for others. Additionally, by becoming economically independent, individuals can develop a sense of self-confidence and have greater control over their own lives, thereby reducing their dependence on social assistance or other government assistance (Leuheri et al., 2023).

Furthermore, increasing economic independence also contributes to the empowerment of the community as a whole. As individuals and their families become more economically independent, they have the ability to influence positive changes in their environment. For example, they can invest in their children's education, improve housing conditions, or even contribute to the development of local infrastructure. Thus, education and skills training programs not only empower individuals directly, but also strengthen the overall social and economic structure of their communities. Education and skills training programs have great potential to reduce economic inequality in society. By providing equal opportunities for all members of society to acquire the skills needed in the job market, the program can reduce the gap between economic groups. For example, individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds may gain access to the same training as individuals from more financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Thus, they have a greater chance of improving their economic conditions and improving their quality of life. In addition, by reducing economic inequality, this program can also create a more stable and harmonious society, because economic inequality is often a source of social conflict (Lawalu et al., 2022).

In addition, skills education and training programs can make a real contribution to social and economic inclusion. By providing previously marginalized individuals with the opportunity to acquire the skills needed in the job market, these programs can help them engage in economic activity more significantly. This not only provides financial benefits for individuals, but also strengthens social cohesion between various groups in society. Thus, education and skills training programs are not only about increasing individual incomes, but also about building a more inclusive and sustainable foundation for economic and social growth (Febriansyah et al., 2021). Improving the quality of life is a direct result of education and skills training programs. By acquiring the skills needed to secure a better job, individuals can increase their income and automatically increase their access to healthcare, education, and other facilities that impact their overall quality of life. For example, with higher incomes, individuals can gain better access to quality medical care and nutritious food, and can provide better education for their children. This gradually creates a healthier and safer environment for society as a whole.

In addition, the program can also create a significant long-term impact by helping to change people's mindsets and behaviors related to education and skills. When individuals see positive results from participation in these programs, they are likely to become agents of change within their own communities by inspiring others to follow in their footsteps (Adon et al., 2023). This can create a snowball effect where the more individuals involved in skills education and training, the greater the impact on reducing poverty and improving the overall quality of life. Thus, the program not only serves as a short-term solution to overcome poverty, but also as a long-term investment in human development and the development of society as a whole.

The Role of Social Capital in Community Empowerment to Improve Economic Welfare and Reduce Poverty

Social capital creates a strong network of social relationships among community members, both in the form of family, friends, neighbors, and local communities. Through this network, individuals can access diverse economic resources, such as skills training, business capital, and job opportunities. For example, someone who wants to start a new business can take advantage of his social network to get capital from community members or get information about available assistance programs. Additionally, in the context of the job market, strong social relationships can allow individuals to obtain job recommendations or career opportunities that may not be open to those who lack extensive social networks (Kamiluloh et al., 2020).

Furthermore, social capital also plays an important role in the exchange of economic information among members of society. In a solid community, information about business opportunities, local markets, and other economic resources can be easily disseminated through social networks. This allows individuals to stay informed about economic developments and opportunities, so they can make better decisions in managing resources and taking advantage of emerging economic opportunities. Thus, the access provided by social capital to economic resources and information can play a significant role in improving the overall economic well-being of the community and reducing poverty levels.

Social capital creates a strong foundation for solidarity and cooperation among members of society. When people have a close social network, they tend to be more willing to help and support each other in the face of economic difficulties. This solidarity can be manifested in the form of financial assistance, emotional support, or even cooperation in joint economic projects. For example, in natural disaster situations, communities that have strong social capital tend to be faster in providing assistance to those affected, thus helping to accelerate the economic recovery process (Poluakan et al., 2020).

Furthermore, social capital also increases people's resilience to economic challenges. With a solid social network, individuals and community groups can provide each other with the support and resources needed to overcome the possibility of falling into poverty due to various factors such as job loss or financial crisis (Lestari & Herlina, 2019). Through cooperation and support provided by social capital, people can more easily rise from the economic downturn and improve their living conditions. Thus, the role of resilience and solidarity played by social capital is very important in reducing the risk of poverty and improving the economic welfare of the community as a whole.

Community-Based Economic Empowerment Programs Are Effective in Reducing Poverty Rates

Community-based economic empowerment programs have great potential to reduce poverty rates by encouraging local economic independence. By providing training, funding, and other resources to micro and small businesses at the community level, such programs can create an environment that supports inclusive economic growth. In this context, an approach focused on developing local resources and leveraging local comparative advantages is key. For example, through the development of industries based on local potential such as agriculture, handicrafts, or sustainable tourism, the program can create jobs, increase income, and reduce dependence on larger economic sectors. In addition, community-based economic empowerment programs can also strengthen the involvement and active participation of citizens in their own economic development process. By engaging communities directly in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs, this approach enables local-based recognition and empowerment that enables more sustainable solutions and tailored to local needs. This not only increases the effectiveness of the program, but also builds a sense of ownership and collective responsibility for the changes that occur. Over time, this can result in deeper structural changes in the fight against poverty, by building a stronger foundation for inclusive and sustainable economic growth (Faisal & Jumroh, 2019).

Strengthening social networks and solidarity is an important aspect of community-based economic empowerment programs in reducing poverty rates. Such programs often build cooperation between community members, either through joint business groups, discussion forums, or other social activities. By building strong relationships among individuals in the community, the program creates a social network that can provide emotional, practical, and financial support to individuals struggling to overcome poverty. The solidarity resulting from this cooperation can also reduce social and economic inequalities by strengthening the position of vulnerable groups and ensuring that the benefits of economic development are distributed more evenly (Ibrahim et al., 2020). Furthermore, through active participation in community activities, community-based economic empowerment programs can strengthen a sense of belonging and collective responsibility for the common good. This creates a collaborative culture where individuals feel they have an important role to play in shaping the future of their community. By building trust and solidarity among community members, such programs not only reduce poverty directly by providing social and economic support to individuals, but also form a stronger foundation for sustainable development in the long term (Mulyono, 2020).

CONCLUSION

A literature review on poverty and community empowerment shows that poverty is a complex problem that is influenced by a variety of factors, including economic, social, cultural, and political. To effectively address poverty, comprehensive community empowerment programs and initiatives are needed. By considering social, cultural, and political issues from a broad perspective, community empowerment can help marginalized individuals and groups in addressing the root causes of poverty. The success of community empowerment in poverty alleviation depends on active participation, citizen inclusion, cross-sector collaboration, and the principles of integration and sustainability. However, to ensure that poverty alleviation through community empowerment is successful, issues such as unequal access, conflicts of interest, and resource limitations must be addressed. The study provides important information from a variety of relevant articles and journals, emphasizing the importance of a multifaceted approach to combating poverty.

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