



Sustainable Thematic Village Development Strategy in Probolinggo City

Lucia Aries Yuliyanti¹; Gatot Ciptadi²; Andi Kurniawan³; Koderi⁴

¹ Doctoral Program of Environmental Science, Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia

² Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia

³ Department of Aquatic Resources Management, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia

⁴ Environmental Science Doctoral Program; Graduate School; Brawijaya University, Indonesia

E-mail: lucia.yuliantikeren@gmail.com

<http://dx.doi.org/10.47814/ijssrr.v6i12.1814>

Abstract

Cities are always synonymous with rapid growth because they are the destination of migration for people to live, work, and study. The rapid flow of urbanization causes urban population growth to increase very rapidly causing high levels of population density. Sustainable settlement development is an approach that seeks to overcome the challenges posed by slums by encouraging sustainable community development. Normatively, thematic village development involving community participation emphasizes the principles of sustainability, social justice, and respect for local values. In the context of sustainability, this approach considers the long-term environmental impacts of thematic village development projects, including efforts to reduce carbon footprints, utilize renewable energy, and strengthen resilience to climate change. The purpose of this research is to design a strategy for optimizing community participation in thematic village development as part of sustainable development in Probolinggo City. The policy of managing community participation in the development of thematic villages in a sustainable manner was designed using the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) approach. The results showed that an environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic village development strategy is an optimistic strategy. The consideration of determining this strategy is supported by the advantages of an optimistic strategy, namely Product Quality, History and Culture, Environmental Impact, Tourism Potential, and Minimal Conflict. By considering the results of data processing and the advantages and disadvantages of alternative strategies for developing environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages in Probolinggo city, an optimistic strategy will be recommended.

Keywords: *Thematic Village; Development Strategy; Local Economic Potential*

1. Introduction

Normatively, thematic village development involving community participation emphasizes the principles of sustainability, social justice, and respect for local values. In terms of sustainability, this approach considers the long-term environmental impacts of thematic village development projects, including efforts to reduce carbon footprints, utilize renewable energy, and strengthen resilience to climate change (Haughton, 2021).

In terms of social justice, community participation takes into account aspects of distributive and procedural justice, by seeking equal access to resources, public services and economic opportunities. It also takes into account local values and cultural traditions, by respecting local wisdom and building a strong village identity. Thematic village development involving community participation emphasizes the principles of sustainability, social justice, and respect for local values (Bednarska-Olejniczak et al., 2019).

Some local values that can be respected in thematic village development include local wisdom, biodiversity, and local power. Local wisdom can be maintained and preserved as the life support of local communities (Suardana et al., 2022). Biodiversity must also be considered in the development of thematic villages, and there needs to be a role for the government as a policy regulator that is closely related to the welfare of the people. In addition, local power can build the pattern of community empowerment itself. By paying attention to these local values, thematic village development involving community participation can be more targeted and in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the local community, and can improve the quality of life and welfare of residents in urban areas.

Probolinggo City as one of the tourism cities in Indonesia, has a very fast growth and development of the city both in physical and economic growth. This of course attracts migrants as urbanites to try their luck in making a living in Probolinggo City which causes an increasingly dense population in the area. This has become an attraction for people outside the city to look for opportunities to find work. However, along with population and economic growth that is not matched by the availability of sufficient land, there is a gap in settlement needs that results in the emergence of slum areas in Probolinggo City. The most basic problem is the availability of space for community settlement land. If settlement land is decreasing, it will lead to the formation of new settlement land that is immediately legal or illegal (de Paula et al., 2022).

Theoretically, this approach is based on the principles of local democracy, openness and transparency in decision-making. Theories of community participation, such as citizen engagement theory, power concentration theory, and social capital theory, provide a framework for understanding the role and mechanisms of participation in thematic village development. Community participation is considered a means to strengthen policy legitimacy, improve implementation effectiveness, and create an inclusive social climate (Khatibi et al., 2021).

Openness also involves providing clear and comprehensive information about the objectives, processes, and outcomes of policies related to thematic village development. So that transparency in decision-making can be fulfilled wisely. Transparency refers to openness and honesty in decision-making that involves community participation. Local residents should be given the opportunity to understand how decisions are made, how considerations and concerns are taken, and how those decisions will affect them. Transparency in decision-making helps build trust and strengthen policy legitimacy (Mosley & Wong, 2021).

2. Review of Existing Literature.

2.1 Thematic Village

Thematic villages have developed in Indonesia with all their forms and uniqueness. Thematic village development can have a positive impact if the community can see the positive side, participate in it, and can see the potential for additional income that can be generated (Kłoczko-Gajewska, 2013). A thematic village can be likened to a development-oriented toward unique and distinctive topics and ideas (Hamamah et al., 2020). The thematic village is also the creation of a characteristically sustainable village space that is community-based (Widiastuti & Yuwono, 2019). Thematic village management requires the participation of the community to develop optimally (Rahmawati et al., 2021). A strong commitment from the district is needed to support creative village activities and promotions (Yuliastuti & Sukmawati, 2020). In other words, each thematic village has its characteristics and uniqueness by not letting the community intervene.

A village is a traditional environment typical of Indonesia, characterized by life that is intertwined with close family ties. A Dirty village, which is a unique form of settlement, cannot be equated with slum - or also equated with low-income population settlements (Turner, 2021). A Village is a unit of residential environment inhabited by a group of people consisting of family units. A group of villages is called a village. The village is the only type of settlement that can accommodate the Indonesian population's lowest economic and educational levels. However, it is far from high-income and highly educated people (Khudori, 2002).

Thematic village development is a promising approach in the context of sustainable development. By considering environmental, social, and economic aspects, thematic village development policies can help comprehensively achieve sustainable development goals (Irungu et al., 2023). However, successful implementation depends on active community participation, a deep understanding of local challenges, and support from the government and other stakeholders (Hasan et al., 2018). Therefore, it is important to design sustainable and supportive policies to drive thematic village development as an integral part of sustainable development efforts at both local and national levels.

2.2 Community Participation

Community participation in sustainable development must be connected to the influence of education or the transformation of knowledge about waste management. The purpose of education or the transformation of knowledge has three domains, namely the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor (Ponto, 2020). The cognitive domain includes behaviors related to intellectual aspects such as knowledge, understanding, and thinking skills. The affective domain includes behavior related to feelings and emotions, such as attitudes, interests, and appreciation. The psychomotor domain includes a person's behavior in an organization, which can be a variable in research by paying attention to cognitive, affective, and psychomotor responses (Umar, 2003).

Community participation is people's voluntary contribution/concern/involvement in playing an active role, taking the initiative, and having autonomy in developing the environment, life, and themselves (Mikkelsen, 2005). Community participation has levels, with community empowerment being the ideal level of community participation. Community participation in sustainable development is an important thing to do. Community participation can be seen in the extent to which they actively implement policies and practices that support a healthy and sustainable environment (Rudito et al., 2022). Sustainable livelihood strategies can be used to formulate strategies involving community participation in developing and managing environmentally friendly settlements.

The growing popularity of rural tourism in the tourism industry in recent years (Fotiadis et al., 2016) is partly due to the nature of this type of tourism. First, it promotes family togetherness, peace, quiet, friendly reception, changes from routine, and good food (Pesonen & Komppula, 2010). Second, though not connected with luxury, this new type of tourism encourages interaction with the local community and exploring new sensations (López-Guzmán et al., 2011). Third, rural tourism activities occur in villages where a small group of tourists lives within or near traditional life or in remote villages, where they learn about local village and neighborhood life. Fourth, tourists enjoy the atmosphere of rural life while respecting and gaining the added value of life from local communities' customs and traditions and the natural environment, as well as improving the welfare of local communities. Rural tourism generally encompasses a wide range of activities centered on preserving local communities' cultural and natural environments, allowing tourists to have unique experiences during their stay (Bouchon & Treat, 2016).

3. Methodology

This research uses the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) method to examine in detail human lived experiences expressed in terms of terms, rather than in a predetermined category system (Smith & Fieldsend, 2021). IPA ensures a thorough examination of a particular experiential phenomenon in detail, what the person's experience is like, and what meaning the person makes of what happened to them (Bustard et al., 2019). In addition, this research uses AHP analysis, an unstructured or static complex problem is solved into manageable and organized components using expert judgment (stakeholders, objectives, and options) in a hierarchical manner. In this case, respondents were selected based on their understanding of the subject matter. The survey participants came from the ranks of government officials, non-governmental organizations, academics, business leaders, and investors (Alnamrouti et al., 2022).

4. Result and Discussions

The Thematic Village Program is a joint effort of the government, community, and all stakeholders to increase the added value and independence of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) based on regional potential. This is not only in the context of economic interests, but can also encourage equity between rural and urban areas. Thus, this program is expected to reduce the gap between villages and cities. Thus, various social problems, such as urbanization, unemployment, poverty, and slow economic growth, can be unraveled (Burgoyne & Mearns, 2020; Listyorini et al., 2021). Each thematic village in an area is unique and different from other clusters. However, it is not uncommon to find that the implementation of the thematic village program is still not optimal in accordance with the principles developed. Therefore, it needs the support and involvement of all stakeholders to support its success.

In the technical guidelines for the implementation and development of thematic villages by the Ministry of Industry, product requirements that must be met include product categories, requirements, and the number of product samples. Furthermore, the general requirements that must be owned by the product are that the product must be unique or have the potential to be exported, and the production process is continuous (Putro et al., 2022). A thematic village program always has benchmarks to determine the extent of a program's success. These benchmarks or indicators can serve as corrections for the future. There are key indicators to determine the success of empowerment.

Environmental, social, and economic aspects need to be considered in developing thematic villages. It is intended that the development of thematic villages can run well and provide maximum benefits for the local community. Thematic villages can improve the quality of life of the community

through the utilization of existing local potential and can help improve the economy of the local community. The thematic village development policy must be part of sustainable development to ensure the development of thematic villages can run well and provide maximum benefits for the local community. The following table presents the importance of supporting factors in determining strategy alternatives.

Table 1. Prioritization of Supporting Factors Based on the Design of Environmentally Friendly and Sustainable Thematic Village Development Strategy

No.	Supporting Factors	Priority Value
1.	Innovation and Technology	0,065
2.	Community Participation	0,269
3.	Ecology	0,351
4.	Social Economy	0,105
5.	Government Role	0,210
Inconsistency = 0,08		

Source: AHP Analysis Results (2023)

From the table above, the priority value of supporting factors is obtained, namely innovation and technology factors of 0.065, community participation factors of 0.269, ecological factors of 0.351, socio-economic factors of 0.105, and government role factors of 0.210. This indicates that ecological variables and community participation are the most important in determining policy strategy solutions for developing environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages. This context shows that environmental considerations and community participation are very important in the development of environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages, one of which is during a pandemic such as a virus that attacks many areas. The results of this calculation have consequences for advanced decision-making. The Ecological factor, which received the highest weight, indicates that environmental sustainability should be the main focus in the development of thematic villages. The implementation of environmentally friendly practices and the protection of natural habitats are key in ensuring that thematic villages not only provide an engaging experience but also preserve biodiversity. Ecological factors are closely related to environmental conditions including, among others, batik location criteria; building density criteria in one neighborhood; road, neighborhood, and drainage conditions; proper water availability; and waste management and environmental disaster protection systems and conditions (Dewi et al., 2019).

Meanwhile, Community Participation, with a weight of 0.269, shows that involving the community in the process of developing a thematic village is a very crucial step. Active understanding and support from the local community will create thematic villages that are more in line with local needs and expectations, increase a sense of belonging, and encourage the long-term sustainability of the initiative. The results also suggest that the factors of Innovation and Technology, Socioeconomics, and Role of Government, while still important, have a relatively smaller impact in the context of developing environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages. Therefore, in the face of situations such as a pandemic that affects many regions, policies and strategies for developing thematic villages should be more focused on environmental conservation efforts and active community involvement. This weight

calculation provides a strong basis for further decision-making, leading to more targeted and effective policies in achieving sustainability goals in thematic village development.

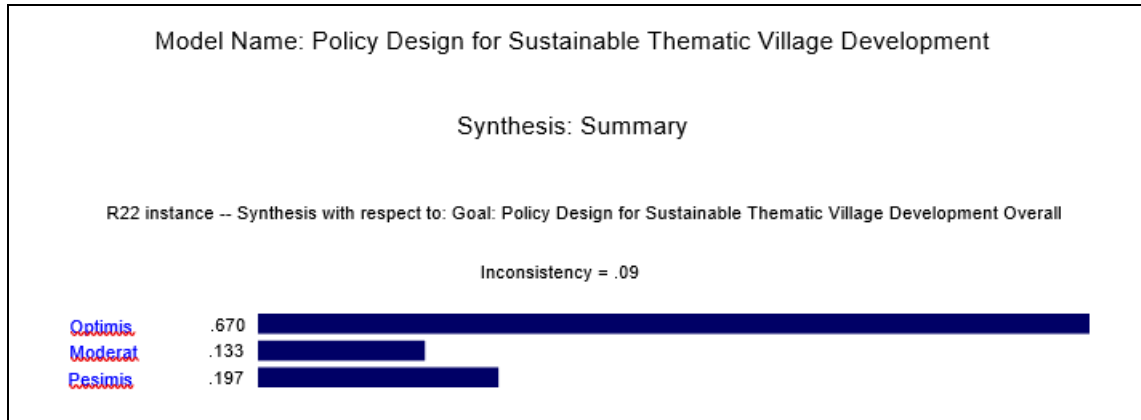


Figure 1. Thematics Village Policy Design
Source: AHP Analysis Data (2023)

Based on the opinions of respondents and experts, each alternative strategy for developing environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages has advantages and disadvantages, and it turns out that the results of data processing show that the strategy for developing environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages is an optimistic strategy. The consideration of determining this strategy is supported by the advantages of an optimistic strategy, namely Product Quality, History and Culture, Environmental Impact, Tourism Potential, and Minimal Conflict. By considering the results of data processing and the advantages and disadvantages of alternative strategies for developing environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages in Probolinggo city, an optimistic strategy will be recommended. The optimistic strategy gained support from various parties, both from the results of the questionnaire showing the preferences of respondents and the views of experts in related industries. Product Quality is an advantage of this strategy, emphasizing the importance of improving the quality of the products offered in an effort to make thematic villages an attractive and memorable destination. In addition, the focus on History and Culture gives the optimistic strategy an edge in preserving local heritage and encouraging community participation in the development process. Environmental Impact is a serious concern, demonstrating a commitment to minimizing negative impacts on the environment and integrating sustainable practices. Tourism Potential as part of the optimistic strategy highlights economic and educational opportunities through the development of educational tourism destinations. Minimal Conflict creates a stable foundation to maintain stability and security within the thematic village environment. Although each strategy has advantages and disadvantages, the results of data analysis and expert judgment confirm that the optimistic strategy has prominent advantages and makes a positive contribution to the sustainability of thematic villages in Probolinggo City. Therefore, the optimistic strategy is recommended as the best option for the development of environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic villages, providing a strong foundation for economic, environmental, and social sustainability in a dynamic context in Probolinggo City.

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it shows that the strategy of developing an environmentally friendly and sustainable thematic village is a serious concern, where each alternative strategy has advantages and disadvantages that need to be considered. The optimistic strategy has broad support from various parties, both from the questionnaire results that reflect respondents' preferences and the

perspectives of experts in related industries. Product quality is the main focus in this strategy, emphasizing product quality improvement as a key step to make thematic villages an attractive and memorable destination. The importance of maintaining and preserving local heritage is reflected in an optimistic strategy that gives prominence to historical and cultural aspects. Environmental impact is the focus of the strategy, demonstrating a commitment to minimizing negative impacts on the environment by integrating sustainable practices. Tourism potential is raised as an integral part of the optimistic strategy, highlighting economic and educational opportunities through the development of educational tourism destinations. Minimal conflict is a serious consideration in creating a stable foundation to maintain the stability and security of the thematic village environment. Thus, the optimistic strategy is recommended as the best solution for the sustainable development of thematic villages in Probolinggo City.

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