



PRIMARY RESEARCH

ETA: Rural resources and economic management program by rural empowerment to attain millennium development goals

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Abstract

Almost three quarters of poor people in Southeast Asia live in rural areas. The poverty affects 1.8 million deaths occurring among rural poor families. Most of the villagers depend on the agricultural sector. Agricultural land only 40% can be planted and 20% can be irrigated. They live with limited knowledge and skills, as well inadequate access to information. If the poor families are given knowledge and skills in processing natural resources which exist, the management of agriculture and forestry will be more optimum. Then, it can improve the economy of rural communities. Programs that are concentrated on rural development are indispensable for equitable development so that it can reduce economic disparities between rural and urban areas. The rural economy will not lag far from urban areas. It will be same between rural and urban areas. The program can be realized by rural empowerment. Community is empowered by Education, Training, Assistance (ETA). Rural community education should be improved to create educated human resources. In other hand, skill also should be improved both soft skill and hard skill. Through skills training programs, rural communities are expected to be more skilled and more competent in optimizing rural resources. After education and training, rural communities cannot be released but should be provided assistance for them. People can consult about the problems encountered all the time. Thus, the community will feel more appreciated and more confident to increase the life targets. The results of ETA will create educated, skilled, competent, and high competitiveness rural human resources so that the poverty can be eradicated and millennium development goals can be attained.

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INTRODUCTION

Background of Study

The biggest asset of Southeast Asia is the people. Proper Strategy and funding will enable its community to achieve the potency. Based on [United Nation Development Program \(2017\)](#) with ASEAN and China on sustainable development financing, estimating 36 million people in Southeast Asia still live under the poverty line in which 90 percent in Indonesia and Philippines ([Ife, 1995](#); [Wu, 2016](#); [United Nation Development Program, 2017](#); [United Nation, 2018](#)). Based on the report, extreme poverty in Southeast Asia decline 17 percent in 2005 becoming 7 percent in 2013. But, many poor people who work are vulnerable to be back to poverty line. Statistics Indonesia (BPS) reported in September 2017

that the number of poor people in Indonesia is 26.58 million people or 10.18 percent from total population. 10.27 million of poor people live in urban areas and 16,31 million of poor people lives in rural areas ([Badan Pusat Statistik, 2018](#); [Rex, Yetunde, Grace, & Pearl, 2017](#); [World Bank, 2014](#)). They have income each capita under poverty line every month. It is caused by economic policy which is not appropriate and not affirmative against poor people. Also capitalist economy chases economic growth merely. The policy does not empower and eradicate poverty thoroughly. Almost three quarter of poor people in Southeast Asia live in rural areas. The poverty affects 1.8 million death occurring rural poor people families. Rural regions are diverse and highly influenced by their specific natural environment.

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Most of villagers depend on agricultural and forestry sector. Whereas, result of agriculture and forestry is tentative based on weather. It causes people not have clear income each year. In other hand, rural areas have many potencies which should be optimized by people. Unfortunately, that matter is not balanced by people's skill and knowledge to process the natural resources which is available abundantly in nature. If potential sectors are ignored, it will become target for foreign investor to dominate all resources which are exist. This issue can increase poverty in the area. The poverty more increases and urbanization is inevitable.

One of cause of poverty is less skill and knowledge from community in management of natural resources which exist. Most of them are not educated well. Highest education is just senior high school and not a little of them dropped out from their school because of financial problem. They more choice to work as farmer and any job in their region than continue their study to higher education. People do not have enough ability to process each potential side of their region. Rural community fulfill their need depend on nature only. Processing of agricultural sector and plantation uses conventional equipment. They are also difficult to get access to water sources to water their field. Lack of well infrastructure support becomes obstacle for rural community to fulfill their livestock. In other hand, health of rural community is vulnerable against various diseases. The main cause of this issue is inadequate sanitation facility and lack of clean water in few regions. It absolutely inhibits their productivity.

The other cause is lack of contribution from Government and private sector. The effort in eradicating poverty are not optimum yet. Government have not done significant program to empower rural community. Even though, basically government has obligation to increase prosperity of their folk. The significance of rural empowerment program is a national development mechanism creating community which plays a main role in development, implementation, until evaluation and following-up in the end ([Asian Development Bank, 2018](#); [Labaran, Hakim, & Hardi, 2014](#); [Montasser & El-Nakeeb, 2017](#)). Therefore, government policy is continually needed and developed to eradicating whole poverty.

The accumulation problem about poverty in Southeast Asia is very complicated. One of the failure of giving goodly empowerment to the community by government. Bureaucracy was originally intended to facilitate the development of region, but actually developed with a poor people tendency. Based on the urgency above Southeast Asia very needs to formulate a new strategy to make a breakthrough

in reducing the poverty issues. Thus, the author initiated to found a new strategy in alleviating poverty in Southeast Asia through the community empowerment concept, especially in rural area based on education, training, and community assistance.

Problem Formulation

Based on background above, the author will formulate a problem that will be discussed in this paper following:

1. What is relevance of rural resources and economic development based on rural empowerment to eradicate poverty in Southeast Asia?
2. What is strategy to develop resources and economy of rural area based on rural empowerment to eradicate poverty in Southeast Asia?

Research Objectives

The objective of author to do the research regarding the pertinent topic in this research can be summarized in two purpose:

1. To find out relevance of rural resources and economic development based on education, training, and community assistance to eradicate poverty in Southeast Asia.
2. To analyze accurate strategy which appropriate to develop rural resources and economic based on education, training, and community assistance to eradicate poverty in Southeast Asia.

Output of Study

The benefit which can be taken from this paper following:

1. The theoretical advantages of this paper are expected to be scientific development in economic field in order to attain prosperity in Southeast Asia.
2. The practical advantages of this paper can be used as a functional, methodical, and beneficial input to the government in order to optimize resources and economy of rural area so that poverty in Southeast Asia can be eradicated.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Concept of Millennium Development Goals

The millennium development goals are eight goals with measurable targets and clear deadline for improving the life of the world's poorest people. To meet these goals and eradicate poverty, leader of 189 leader countries signed the historic millennium declaration at the united nation millennium summit 2000. At the time, eight that range from providing universal primary education to avoiding child and maternal mortality were set a target achievement date of 2015.

Concept of Rural Development

Rural development is vital to the economic, social, and environmental viability of nation. It is essential for poverty eradication since global poverty is overwhelmingly rural. The manifestation of poverty goes beyond urban-rural divide, it has sub regional and regional context. It is therefore critical, and there are great values to be gained, by coordinating rural development initiatives that contribute to sustainable live hoods trough effort the global, regional, national, and local level as appropriate. Strategy to deal with consideration the remoteness and potentials in rural areas and provide targeted differentiated approach.

Dynamic agricultural sector is an important foundation of rural development, generating strong linkage to other economic sectors. Rural live hoods are enhanced through effective participation of rural people and rural communities in the management of their social, economic, and environmental objective by empowering people in rural areas, particularly youth. Close economic integration of rural areas with neighboring urban areas and creation of rural off-farm employment can narrow rural-urban disparities, expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth in rural areas. There is considerable potential for rural job creation not only in farming, agro processing, and rural industry but also building rural infrastructure in the sustainable management of natural resources, waste, and residues. Investment in environmental protection, rural infrastructure and in rural health and education are critical sustainable rural development and can enhance well-being nation. Investment must be linked to the potential to raise productivity and income.

Concept of Community Empowerment

The empowerment concept is the answer to the disempowerment society in Southeast Asia. Etymologically, empowerment comes from the word of power which defined as the ability to act. On the other side, the terminology is defined as a process to empower the society to do something better, encourage or motivate individuals to have the ability (Iryani & Murtiwidayanti, 2017; Kirana, 2017; Priyono & Pranarka, 1996). Meanwhile, according to Tjandraningsih, empowerment is meant a method to empowered someone to be an independent person (Tjandraningsih, 1996).

The empowerment generally contains two trends, namely primary and secondary. The primary tendency meaning that the empowerment process which emphasize to the communities to be more empowered. On the other side, the secondary tendency defined as a process to stimulating the society to have power in determine the decision of

life (Priyono & Pranarka, 1996). In this research, the definition of empowerment can be interpreted as a secondary tendency, all efforts to reduce the number of poverty in the society, through the concept of community development which is oriented to provide the potential and independence of human resources (Tjokrowinoto, 1987).

In several research about development and poverty, empowerment is relatively as a new term. Based on the strong influence of modernization theory, the failure of development, the slowness of society in responding the development of technology also influence by mentally error and cultural values in the middle of society. Therefore, to reduce the poverty, it is necessary to consider the concept that can help the government to build their economic capability through the community empowerment rather than the improvement of the environmental conditions. The empowerment community is one of the most effort to establish independence community through the potential ability which owned by the society. Hence, in every effort of community empowerment which done by the government or institutions such as NGOs in private sector that concerned with the community empowerment should be viewed as a trigger to mobilize the economic activities of the community.

Therefore, in every activity which actually related to the community empowerment efforts that undertaken by the government or non-governmental institutions, it should be seen as a method to mobilize the economic activities in the community. According to the Kartasasmita, the efforts of community empowerment could be pursued in three ways (Kartasasmita, 1996; Nisser & Ayedh, 2017): Firstly, create a platform to create a condition that more better than before. Secondly, develop the potential peoples which owned by the lower-class society/poor peoples. Thirdly, empowering the people in the term to protecting and defending the public interests of powerless peoples.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Research Method

The type and characteristic research on this paper are used normative research with conceptual approachment. The method will conducted based on research library or study document, the author will used representative principle which appropriate to implemented with the topic in this paper. The research generally examine the topic based on written rules and journal as secondary data. In this paper the author will use the method of normative legal research because the author will use data obtained from the materials which came from the library to answer the main problem in this paper, the main concept that used by the author to ex-

amine the issue is rural empowerment based on education, training, and community assistance.

Research Object

The research object of this paper will examine and analyze the concept of education, training, and community assistance to get the result and answer about:

1. To find out relevance of rural resource and economic development based on education, training, and community assistance to eradicate poverty in Southeast Asia.
2. To analyze accurate strategy which appropriate to develop resources and economy of rural area based on education, training, and community assistance to eradicate poverty in Southeast Asia.

The Sources of Data

The source of data which used in this study are primary research materials, secondary research materials, and tertiary research materials.

1. Primary research materials, the materials become a main source that used as the basis for this paper such as interviews, documents, and literature on education, training, and community assistance.
2. Secondary research materials, the secondary legal material is a material that does not have judicial power and legally binding to the parties such as books, magazines, newspapers, literature, and research relating to the concept of rural resources and economic development.
3. Materials tertiary research, the material provides explanations of primary research materials and secondary research materials in the form of Dictionary of Indonesian Language and Encyclopedia.

Data Collection

This research uses data collection technique through library research method which consisting of books, scientific journals, mass media, internet and other relevant reference.

Research Analysis

The research analysis is matched by the existing regulation and analyze the issue to simplify the data into narrative which is aimed to ease the paper to be understood. The qualitative description technique used to get an overview of material to support the research in order to answer the problem statement of the paper.

Research System

The systematic research of this paper is divided into six parts which relates each other systematically. Part 1, this part consists of research background, problem formulation,

research objective, and output of study. Part 2, significance of study. This part explains the importance of this research. Part 3, this part consists of conceptual framework in this research. Part 4, methodology explain how the research is done. Its part consists of research method, data collection, research analysis, and research system. Part 5, result and discussion. This part explains about strategy which is proposed based on research analysis to respond the issue in this paper. Part 6, conclusion and recommendation. This part gives conclusion of research that have be done by authors and gives recommendation for better research in the future.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Rural Resources and Economic Management Program

United Nation Development Program (UNDP) introduced a development concept called human development. This concept prioritizes the achievement of development goals that make people as the focus of development Achievement of these goals can be measured by the Human Development Index (Statistik, 2006). UNDP initiates economic and education sectors to be one indicator of measurement of social development (Mardiasmo, 2004). Based on the concept, so we formulate the concept which is implemented by three program, namely the education, training, and assistance.

Education

In education program, author propose three program to develop knowledge and skill of community as follow:

1. "Rural Community Scholarship". a financial support for low-middle family living in rural area is to continue their education in university level. Through this program, government obligate to facilitate poor family a continuing education for rural youth. They are given chance to develop their ability and knowledge in university. Then, after they have completed their study, they have to be back and develop their region by their capacity and capability.
2. "Universal Rural Education". This program is not only rural youth given education but also all people in the rural area. It is important to educate people to help them managing their natural resources. The education encompasses education on health life, management of rural resources and irrigation, and management of clean water and sanitation. The education is given to community seeking habitual action of rural community and lack of community knowledge and skill to optimize their potency both natural resources and human resources. This program is aimed to create educated, skilled, competent, and high competitiveness rural human resources.

Training

Through this program, author propose 3 main program as follow:

1. Job training program: The program establish which purposed to provide several training that can increase the creativity of the community. The target of this program is the community which has the ability and/or skill. The program generally functioned to accomodate the public interest as the form of community empowerment, job training initiated the peoples who want to looking a job but the peoples have no capacity or special skill about how to work properly, the people could join in this program to exercise special skill in certain field of work. However, the target of this program to empower the community with gaining their skill and competence. The objective of program purposed to decrease the number of unemployment and reduce the urbanization in Southeast Asia.

2. Entrepreneurship program: Entrepreneurship generally refers to self-employment. The program is to train community to be entrepreneur. Poverty has strict relation to entrepreneurship. Poverty comes usually because of no entrepreneurship. It proposed because entrepreneurship is important in economic development. The program helps rural economy so that it is will not lag far from urban economy. Community will be helped and trained to find business opportunities based on potency of their origin region. The entrepreneurship of each region is different with others because if rural resources diversity. Entrepreneurship is essential as buffer of rural economic stability. If the program can be run well, it will be greatly affected to economy and poverty eradication of Southeast Asia.

3. Bussiness protection program: The program aimed to empower and protect the people who already have a micro or macro businesses in the village, the government has an obligation to protect the business and help them to be developed and sustainable. The program is become the continuance argumentation about entrepreneurship program which initiated before, when the community has several skill to entrepreneur, the government have to protect them through the existence of global competition.

Community Assistance

After rural community is given education and entrepreneurship program, they are not released but they should be given assistance. The program is aimed to give assist to rural community consisting of maintaining economic-social life, mobilizing rural resources, problem handling, creating or opening access for need fulfillment, and establishing cooperation with various parties. People

can consult about their problem encountered well so that they will feel more appreciated and confident to achieve their life target. This program determines the success of two program before in rural resources and economic management to eradicate poverty. Community assistance has four roles: facilitator, educator, community agency, and technical role. Facilitator is a role related to give motivation, opportunity, and support to community. A few tasks of this role are to be role model, mediation, and organizing and optimizing rural resource. Educator is active as positive agent based on knowledge and experience. This role consists of giving information and raising public awareness. Community agency is to establish cooperation with external institution for the benefit of society. Technical role refers to agent of change analyzing social problem, group dynamic, establishing relation, negotiation, communication, consultation, and financial support.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The corellation between the concept of rural empowerment and rural resources and economic management in the eradication of poverty program become positive, constructive, and prospective response to reduce high rate of poverty in Southeast Asia. We can manage rural resources both natural resource and human resource through rural empowerment. The resource is managed systematically. To implement the program is needed cooperation from all stakeholders. This program can be coordinated by governments of each country of Southeast Asia involved all elements of society. They must synergize each other to realize sovereign and prosperous of the region.

In the concept of community empowerment, the author initiated strategy: Education, training, and community assistance program. The education program is divided to two program: rural community scholarship and universal rural education which is aimed to create educated and well-informed human resources. Community assistance program The program is aimed to give assist to rural community consisting of maintaining economic-social life, mobilizing rural resources, problem handling, creating and opening access for need fulfillment, and establishing cooperation with various parties so that rural community will feel more appreciated and more confident to reach their life target. Based on three programs of rural empowerment above expected can create educated, skilled, competent, and high competitiveness rural human resources so that the poverty can be eradicated and millennium development goals can be attained.

Recommendations

Based on the results of research and discussion, there are several suggestions as follows:

1. ASEAN Government should be more pay attention and pro-active establishing communication with rural community. They should be more active in organizing program of rural resources management to develop rural economy and

empower rural community because the failure or success of rural empowerment is determined by all involved stakeholders to understand the social reality.

2. The rural community should be more enthusiastic in following the program of government, the community also have to be active by getting involved in the program.

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