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## Training on Strengthening Fishery Business Groups in Development in Lambusa Village, Konda District, South Konawe Regency

Muhammad Arsyad<sup>1</sup>, Eka Suaib<sup>1</sup>, Jamaluddin Hos<sup>1</sup>, Bakri Yusuf<sup>1</sup>, Bahtiar<sup>1</sup>, Peribadi<sup>1</sup>, Ratna Supiyah<sup>1</sup>, Suharty Roslan<sup>1</sup>, Sarpin<sup>1</sup>, Harnina Ridwan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Halu Oleo, Indonesia

**Corresponding Author:** Muhammad Arsyad; Email: [arsyad1965@gmail.com](mailto:arsyad1965@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

The Training on Strengthening Fishery Business Groups in Lambusa Village, Konda District, South Konawe Regency, succeeded in improving the skills and knowledge of villagers in the cultivation, processing, and marketing of fishery products. Participatory training methods involving counseling and practice have proven to be effective in building internal group relationships as well as connectivity with governments, financial institutions, and market participants. The training includes fishery resource management, sustainable aquaculture techniques, marketing, and financial management, which supports increasing the productivity and income of fishery business groups. As a result, there has been an increase in solidarity and cooperation between members, as well as village social and economic welfare. The training also strengthens the concept of community empowerment through a participatory and sustainable approach, providing applicative skills to overcome concrete problems and achieve self-reliance. The evaluation showed the high enthusiasm of the participants and the significant application of knowledge, contributing to the sustainable development of the village and the capacity building of the fishery business group.

### INTRODUCTION

Fisheries Business Group Strengthening Training is a program to increase the capacity of fisheries groups through the provision of skills, business management, and access to resources to increase productivity and welfare. Village development is the process of improving the quality of life and welfare of village communities through various programs and policies that focus on economic, social, and environmental aspects. Fisheries Business Group Strengthening Training is an important effort to support sustainable development in the fisheries sector. Through this training, fisheries business groups can improve their skills and knowledge, which in turn will strengthen their capacity to manage businesses efficiently and sustainably. In addition, this training also encourages cooperation between group members, so that positive synergy is created in achieving common goals. Thus, this training not only has an impact on improving economic welfare but also

contributes to better social and environmental development.

Village development is important because it strengthens social cohesion and improves the welfare of the community as a whole, according to a sociological perspective. Art activities in Fuxiyan Village can strengthen social cohesion by improving the quality of the environment, inheriting village culture, and promoting economic development through cultural revitalization and creativity (Ding, 2024). The existence of green spaces and shared activities strengthens social cohesion, despite the desire for anonymity and distance among citizens (Cuff et al., 2024). The Dirundeng Meulaboh Foster Village program in Gampong Pasi Mesjid, Meureubo, from October 28 to November 28, 2022, aims to improve community welfare through education, economy, and community empowerment (Efendi et al., 2023). An innovation program for iodized salt production involving salt farmer groups, improving community

well-being with a better understanding of the quality of salt for consumption (Jalil et al., 2020). Facing major challenges requires collaboration between citizens, health professionals, and policies to build efficient support networks, relevant to village development to improve community well-being (Rutten et al., 2023).

The development of village infrastructure increases access to basic services and reduces social disparities that affect community dynamics. Alternative economies such as the gift and sharing economy, as well as access to the natural environment, social cohesion, cultural identity, and spirituality, can improve subjective well-being if infrastructure and social services are adequate (Otake & Hagenimana, 2021). Economic growth faces serious challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic; The study shows that inclusive digital infrastructure improves access to social services, plays an important role in shaping consumption habits, and supports economic recovery (Wu & Ma, 2023). Cities provide better access to a wide range of resources, infrastructure, and social services, but recent research shows access gaps based on demographic backgrounds, which require better urban design (Zhang et al., 2024). Improving the quality of education and equitable economic growth have a significant effect on poverty reduction in Madura, compared to other variables (Sutikno et al., 2024). The collapse of the Soviet Union led to the deindustrialization of Russia, especially in small cities, which triggered large migration flows and gave rise to the concept of infrastructure development to reduce regional disparities and support more balanced development (Shirokalova, 2023).

Village economic empowerment helps create local jobs, which supports social stability and community sustainability. The Raharjo Village-Owned Business Bank plays an important role in empowering the village economy in Pandanrejo Village by utilizing the potential of strawberry plants, creating local jobs, and improving community welfare through Strawberry Barn Tourism (Asnah et al., 2022). The tourism sector has an important role in the global economy through job creation and economic growth; the development of tourist villages in Kebon Ayu increases local economic empowerment despite facing capital constraints, community awareness, and promotion

(Kurniati Fitri et al., 2023). Housing support for orphans in Saudi Arabia, involving all relevant parties can empower their economy and social stability in line with Saudi Vision 2030 (Alzamil, 2023). The reality of women in Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the obstacles in their roles, shows that economic empowerment and political support are important for social stability and women's integration (Hussein, 2023). In the face of modern agricultural challenges such as unpredictable weather and market fluctuations, our innovative solutions combine advanced technology with traditional knowledge for economic empowerment and sustainability of farming communities (Gadakh, 2024).

Education and training in villages enrich knowledge, improve skills, and strengthen social bonds in the community. That collaboration between university lecturers and Physical Education teachers in Project Oriented Learning enriches professional knowledge and skills and increases teachers' personal motivation (Boza et al., 2024). The experience of social practitioners regarding the preparation of the bachelor's program of social work in dealing with adolescent care settings requires practical training and renewal of the educational curriculum to improve readiness in the field (Verhage et al., 2023). Community-based civic education programs, such as those implemented in the Qarryah Tayyibah Community, have proven to be effective in improving the civic skills of the younger generation through appropriate learning strategies and skills training support (Lestiyawati et al., 2024). Education is defined as a series of planned efforts aimed at improving behavior according to a specific goal, while training is more specific to improving focused skills and knowledge (Zebaloğlu, 2024). Improving education and training of health workers on the impacts of loneliness and social isolation, and strengthening links between health systems and community networks through coordination and retention of the latest evidence (Lustig, 2020).

Community participation in village development strengthens a sense of belonging and shared responsibility for socio-economic progress. Community participation strengthens shared responsibility in disaster preparedness by supporting action in seven areas: information, networking, communication, resources, decision-

making, self-organizing, and inclusion (Rawsthorne et al., 2023). Increasing environmental awareness in watersheds through integrated environmental education and community participation strengthens shared responsibility for the sustainability of river ecosystems and community well-being (Wibowo et al., 2024). Socio-economic factors influencing youth participation in community-based projects in Wajir, have supported universal education and accelerated the issuance of Identity Cards for socio-economic progress (Hassan & Abuga, 2023).

If rural development is neglected, social inequality will increase, creating sharper inequalities between rural and urban communities. The neglect of rural development in the Republic of Serbia leads to social disparities that include depopulation, fragmentation, deterioration of infrastructure, as well as socioeconomic inequality between rural and urban areas (Kostadinovic & Stankovic, 2020). Evangelical Christian cosmology addresses modern issues such as climate change and crime, reflecting the neglect of rural development that creates social disparities (Lynch, 2021). The importance of a new perspective in addressing social inequalities complicated by regional differences is closely linked to the importance of non-monetary access to social benefits (Basova, 2022). The digital divide creates territorial inequalities in the information society, where digital inclusion policies are needed to address IT skills differences and ensure tangible social outcomes (Plotichkina et al., 2020).

If poverty in villages gets worse, it will increase crime rates and social instability. Successful village revitalization requires a harmonious and stable social environment, as a solution to overcome the increase in crime due to poverty, as seen in the case of the homestead dispute in Fujian (Cai & Liu, 2023). That inequality, not poverty, has a significant effect on criminal behavior, with consumption inequality between rich and poor and between cities and villages as the main factor (Song et al., 2020). Persistent poverty and inequality are hampering sustainable growth in Nigeria, and although social cash transfer (SCT) programs can reduce poverty, macroeconomic instability is increasing (Ajisafe et al., 2024). The Healthy Men Healthy Communities program is designed to improve the physical and mental health of men in refugee camps, address the

impact of poverty and social instability, and improve healthy relationships and communication (Zielinski et al., 2024).

Lack of access to education triggers the low quality of human resources in rural areas. To increase the competitiveness of women entrepreneurs in Medan and Deli Serdang through human resource transformation, because the lack of education triggers low quality of human resources and innovation (Siregar et al., 2024). The lack of Hindu religious and cultural education in formal schools results in the low quality of young Hindu human resources so that a need for pasraman-based education in traditional villages (Suardana et al., 2023). To overcome the problem of low quality of human resources due to lack of education, the university began to integrate job education in its student training program, taking advantage of the university's logistical advantages (Sheng et al., 2023). The phenomenon of school closure or merger that seems to be accepted by the public actually reflects managerial failures that cause low quality of education and human resources, so it requires comprehensive improvement (Soedjono, 2023).

Inadequate health facilities cause the health of village communities to deteriorate and life expectancy decreases. Tracking medical equipment during and after the COVID-19 pandemic helps address shortages in healthcare facilities and improve life expectancy (Eneh et al., 2022). Longer-lived hopefuls due to advances in antiretroviral therapy face the risk of hypertension and diabetes, exacerbated by a lack of health facilities and support for comorbid care (Godongwana et al., 2021). Tanzania, a coastal country in East Africa with high agricultural potential, faces declining life expectancy due to poor health facilities, malnutrition, and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS (Controller Auditor General (CAG), 2020).

Ignorance of village development creates social isolation, hindering integration and social cohesion between regions. The impact of modern information warfare on the spirituality of Russian society highlights the indifference to development that creates social isolation and weakens traditional cultural values (Medyanik et al., 2019). The Utrecht Refugee Launchpad is an experiment to improve the social integration of refugees through co-housing,

but the indifference in the national system limits the success of this initiative in creating sustainable relationships (Oliver et al., 2020). Under national consciousness, national integration aims to unite different races, religions, cultures, and language groups into a single nation, while development indifference hinders social integration and exacerbates inequality (Sharma, 2021). Job satisfaction of basic education managers, shows satisfaction with work relevance but dissatisfaction related to salary and work-life balance, hindering social integration and school management (Santana et al., 2012).

The solution is that the Fisheries Business Group Strengthening training is very important to improve the skills and knowledge of villagers. The community service activities aim to provide training for fishery business groups in North Lombok Regency to recover the post-earthquake economy, including entrepreneurship training, business management, and marketing of processed fish products (Sulaimiah et al., 2020). The role and obstacles of the Fisheries Service in the economic empowerment of coastal communities in Deli Serdang highlight the importance of training fisheries business groups to increase competence and participation (Nainggolan et al., 2023). Optimal management of coffee husk waste through training of fishery business groups can increase the use of waste as quality compost, which is beneficial for agriculture and animal feed (Rini Devijanti Ridwan et al., 2022).

Strengthening fisheries business groups can increase income from the fisheries sector can be more optimal and sustainable, helping to reduce poverty. Village autonomy allows for flexible financial management, but it entails great responsibility; Strengthening business groups and innovations can increase village income and strengthen village autonomy (Wijaya & Purnawan, 2023). Economics studies resource management to improve welfare, and strengthening business groups in the tourism sector has proven to be effective in increasing people's income, such as in the case study of Ghanjaran Park (Febriansyah & Nuraini, 2022). Most of the fishermen in the Sunda Strait Fisheries Port are in poor status, so the efforts of fisheries groups need to be strengthened to achieve the poverty reduction target gradually (Yonvitner et al., 2021). The Mantra Coin Chest Program

implemented in Malang Regency shows success in reducing poverty in the fisheries sector by significantly increasing the productivity and income of beneficiary groups (Rohmah et al., 2023).

Group strengthening training can strengthen solidarity and cooperation between group members, improving the social welfare of the village. The benefits of solidarity promoted by volunteers in family education in Spain schools belonging to the Learning Community, show that group-strengthening training strengthens solidarity, improves the learning environment, and motivates families (Yeste et al., 2019). The Moldova 2030 Strategy and the Association Agreement with the EU emphasize social inclusion and poverty reduction; 2020 research shows that group strengthening training can improve low social solidarity (Victor et al., 2021). The integrated welfare data management policy by the Ministry of Social Affairs of Indonesia still contains inaccuracies, which affects the beneficiary groups, that strengthening the integration of local information systems in Gunungkidul can improve data accuracy and village social welfare through participation and transparency (Wijoyono, 2021). Developing a conceptual model to improve women's economic empowerment through community-based education in Nglanggeran Tourism Village, Gunungkidul, with a focus on strengthening groups and village social welfare (Trisanti et al., 2024).

## **METHODS**

The method of implementing the training is the basis for increasing the capacity and independence of fishery business groups so that they can contribute positively to local economic development. One effective method is participatory training, where active group members are involved in the learning process through counseling accompanied by practice. The training covers various aspects, such as building internal relationships with the group, the government, financial institutions, and market players, fishery resource management, sustainable fish farming techniques, marketing of fishery products, and financial management to improve their knowledge and skills, enabling them to optimize their fisheries potential.

Training strengthens connectivity between groups, builds cooperation networks, and supports the exchange of useful resources, understanding social and cultural aspects, accommodating local values, and involving participatory activities from local communities will be more successful in achieving the strengthening of fisheries business groups. To find out the achievement of the training objectives, the team assessed the conditions and atmosphere that took place, starting from the training to the discussion and question-and-answer events. The success rate of this training is assessed from the extent of public acceptance/response and attention to the material delivered during the training. Therefore, this training can be considered a good success, on the evaluation of the following materials: (a) Understanding of the material on the strengthening of fisheries business groups. (b) Material understanding of the importance of village development. (c) Understanding of material on business group problems and village development. (d) Understanding of the material about the elements and processes of sustainable village development. Training to strengthen fisheries business groups has a diverse target audience, especially in the context of fisheries sector development. The main target audience is fishery business actors, such as fishermen, boat owners, and producers of fishery products, the target audience of the training is 17 participants.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **General State of the Location**

Lambusa Village is located in Konda District, South Konawe Regency, which is known for its natural beauty and abundant natural resource potential. Surrounded by mountains and fast-flowing rivers, this village is an ideal place to develop a freshwater aquaculture fishery business. Village communities rely on livelihoods from the agricultural sector, including freshwater fish farming, processing, and marketing of fishery products as the main source of income. The local government has paid special attention to strengthening the freshwater aquaculture business in

Lambusa Village. Training programs and technical assistance are organized to improve the skills of fish farmers in the management of cultivation ponds and fish rearing. In addition, infrastructure facilities such as the construction of cultivation ponds and irrigation are also improved to support the growth of the fisheries sector.

Processing and marketing of fishery products is an important focus in local economic development. With the help of the government and non-governmental organizations, training in fish processing is carried out to add added value to fishery products. In addition, effective marketing strategies are also implemented, both locally and through a wider distribution network, to expand the market and increase people's income. With this effort, Lambusa Village is increasingly developing as a sustainable fishery production center and making a significant contribution to the local economy and the welfare of its community.

### **Implementation of Service Activities**

Community service activities include training on strengthening Fisheries Business Groups. The types of fishery businesses include freshwater aquaculture, fishery product processing, and marketing of fishery products. The fishery business group in Lambusa Village, Konda District is the most important part of rural community empowerment. The implementation of community service activities in the form of training has taken place in three stages as follows:

#### 1. Lectures and Dialogues

The lecture was the first activity as a way to provide initial understanding and open a joint insight between trainers and participants which was attended by representatives from each member of the fisheries business group and four field fisheries extension officers. The material presented in the lecture included strengthening fisheries business groups in rural development, division of labor and specialization, access to technology and capital, cost and risk reduction, negotiation capacity building, sustainability and resource management, social and economic benefits, and the role of the government in supporting fisheries businesses.



Figure 1. Providing Materials in the Form of Lectures and Dialogues

The results of the dialogue show that the community's desire to progress has been very visible accompanied by the support of natural resources, this is evidenced by the success of the community in forming a fishery business group, even though each member of the group has focused on doing the business as the main source of livelihood, the members have felt the benefits as a source of income to finance the needs of their families. The fisheries business group has been formed since 2020 which includes the freshwater pond aquaculture business group, the fishery product processing industry business group, and the fishery product marketing business group. The trainees acknowledged that their business has grown rapidly, and the existence of the business is increasingly recognized and known not only to the people of Lambusa village and Konda District but also to be known and recognized by the people of Kendari city. This is evidenced by the increasing number of Kendari residents coming to freshwater fisheries cultivation sites for fishing, recreation, and eating grilled fish, and there have been many fish processors and marketers who have consumer subscriptions in the city of Kendari.

## 2. Conceptual and Practical Training

To strengthen the fishery business group in Lambusa Village, Konda District, South Konawe Regency, a conceptual and practical training approach has been carried out. Conceptual training is focused on understanding basic concepts in fisheries business management, including understanding freshwater aquaculture, processing, and fisheries marketing. Trainees need to understand the principles of efficient and

environmentally friendly cultivation, processing techniques that increase the added value of products, and targeted marketing strategies.

Then, practical training has been carried out through demonstration sessions and direct practice in the field. For example, participants can be invited to practice cultivation techniques that have been learned in ponds or ponds in the village, as well as learn about the process of processing and storing fish directly. In this practical training, fisheries experts or practitioners (field fisheries extension workers) who have direct experience in the fisheries business have been involved, so that the participants get a more in-depth and applicable view.

In addition, to increase the effectiveness of the training, the implementation of the training takes into account the participatory and sustainable aspects of business and the natural environment (supervision and control of the sustainability of environmental support). Fisheries business groups have been actively involved in the planning and implementation of training. In addition, after the training is completed, follow-up will be carried out in the form of regular mentoring and monitoring to ensure that the knowledge and skills gained can be applied effectively in their fisheries business. With a holistic and integrated approach between conceptual and practical training, and until now the fishery business group in Lambusa Village has become an independent and advanced community so that it can overcome various problems faced in the aquaculture business, processing, and marketing.

Conceptual and practical training techniques are very important in strengthening fisheries

business groups in Lambusa Village, Konda District, South Konawe Regency. Through a conceptual approach, training can provide an in-depth understanding of the basic principles underlying fisheries business management. It includes knowledge of fish resource management, sustainable maintenance and harvesting techniques, and an understanding of fisheries regulations. With this understanding, business groups can make more informed decisions in their day-to-day operations, as well as plan sustainable long-term strategies.

In addition, the practical aspects of the training have provided hands-on skills to members of the business group. This includes training in effective fish farming, hygienic fish processing, and marketing of fishery products. With these practical skills, business groups can increase their productivity, improve product quality, and reach a wider market. Practical training can also help address concrete issues faced by groups, such as inefficient fish farming techniques or lack of market access.

The development of fishery business groups through conceptual and practical training is not only economically beneficial for its members but also has a positive impact on the overall development of the village. With the increase in productivity and quality of fishery products, Lambusa Village can earn higher income from the fisheries sector. The increased income can be used to improve village infrastructure, provide better access to basic services such as education and health, and stimulate local economic growth through greater spending by the local population. Thus, the training of fishery business groups is not only an investment in improving the economic welfare of the group but also an integral part of sustainable village development efforts.

### 3. Discussion and Alternative Problem Solving

Strengthening fishery business groups in Lambusa Village, Konda District, South Konawe Regency is the key to overcoming various problems faced by the local community. The discussion of problems in the fisheries business group needs to be carried out comprehensively by involving various related parties, both local governments, non-governmental institutions, and the community itself. One alternative solution to the problem is to increase the capacity of fishery business groups through training, technical assistance, and the

provision of business capital. Thus, fisheries business groups can increase their productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness in facing market challenges.

In addition, the development of infrastructure and infrastructure facilities in Lambusa Village also needs to be considered as part of a long-term solution. Investments in the construction of ports, fish processing centers, and distribution networks will help improve accessibility and efficiency in the fisheries supply chain. This will have a positive impact not only on fisheries business groups but also on all village communities by opening up job opportunities and increasing income.

Moreover, the active participation of the community in the decision-making process is also very important to ensure the sustainability of efforts to strengthen fisheries business groups. Through dialogue and deliberation forums, the community can jointly determine development priorities that are in accordance with local needs and potential. Thus, village development can become more inclusive, sustainable, and competitive, with fisheries business groups being one of its main pillars.

Providing opportunities for group members to express their hopes and alternative solutions that have been discussed together with the training organizing team. The expectations of the trainees include that to meet the need for fish seeds, the freshwater fish farming business group needs a fish seed provider who can prepare seeds at any time according to the needs of the aquaculture business group. Business groups of processors and marketers of fishery products need tools and containers that can store processed and fish production so that they remain fresh, with guaranteed nutritional content so that they are attractive to consumers.

The expectations conveyed by the trainees have been discussed together as alternative solutions to solve problems. To meet all the expectations conveyed by the business group, the trainer team together with the field fisheries extension officer provided a solution, that to meet it depends on the creativity of the members of the business group concerned, the team, and the field agricultural extension officer are only able to facilitate it. Therefore, business groups that have these expectations should make activity proposals accompanied by fisheries extension officers to be submitted to each relevant agency.

In addition to the solution to the expectations of the participants, the solution to the group's institutional problems discussed in the training is the need to create a system of rules including village regulations that can anticipate the occurrence of internal and external conflicts of the group, accompanied by the provision of heavy sanctions for members of the business group who commit violations. In supporting the achievement of the goals of the business group, the group leader needs to improve the group's business management and always provide understanding to its members so that they work in accordance with the agreed mechanism and division of tasks.

#### 4. Activity Evaluation

Evaluation of activities to strengthen fishery business groups in Lambusa Village, Konda District, South Konawe Regency is an important part of overall village development. With the evaluation, it can be ensured that the effectiveness and sustainability of the program to solve problems faced by the community at the local level can be ascertained. This evaluation not only includes the financial aspect, but also involves measuring the social, economic, and environmental impacts generated by the activity.

The evaluation will provide an overview of the progress that has been made by the fisheries business group in solving problems in Lambusa Village. For example, whether fish production is increasing, whether people's incomes are increasing and whether there is an increase in welfare in local communities. By assessing this achievement, the village government and related stakeholders can find out whether the activity is in accordance with the overall village development goals.

The evaluation can also identify obstacles or challenges faced by fisheries business groups in achieving their goals. This can range from technical issues such as inadequate infrastructure, to management issues such as a lack of skills in business management. By knowing these constraints, village governments can take the necessary corrective measures, such as providing additional training or allocating greater resources to support fisheries business groups.

Evaluation can also help in planning future activities for village development. By studying the results of the evaluation, village governments can make better and more targeted strategies to

strengthen fisheries business groups and address remaining problems. These measures can include greater budget allocations, cooperation with external parties such as donor agencies or private companies, or the development of more sophisticated training programs to improve the skills and knowledge of members of fisheries business groups. Thus, evaluation is an important instrument in ensuring sustainable and inclusive village development.

The evaluation process is carried out in conjunction with the implementation of training activities. The results of the evaluation showed that the behavior and attitude shown by the trainees were very enthusiastic about the information conveyed as well as assessing the level of willingness of participants to apply the knowledge provided. The enthusiasm of the participants was also seen from the great desire to get more in-depth information about the material provided by asking several questions and criticisms about the material on strengthening fisheries business groups.

The evaluation process is also carried out through the skills of the trainees in demonstrating the results of the training taught, whether the participants can master and apply the techniques for making business group planning programs, group problem-solving techniques, and techniques and mechanisms in making proposals for the activities taught. It is hoped that the knowledge and skills provided can be developed to develop fisheries business groups so that they can increase the income of all members of the joint business group and promote the welfare of the community.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The Training on Strengthening Fisheries Business Groups in Lambusa Village, Konda District, South Konawe Regency, has succeeded in improving the skills and knowledge of villagers in cultivating, processing, and marketing fishery products. As a result, the fisheries business group showed an increase in productivity and income, as well as strengthening solidarity and cooperation between group members. This success has an impact on improving the social and economic welfare of the village. From a theoretical perspective, this training strengthens the concept of community empowerment through a participatory and sustainable approach. Practically, this training

provides hands-on applicable skills, enabling members of the fisheries business group to address concrete problems and achieve self-reliance. The evaluation showed the high enthusiasm of the participants and a significant improvement in the application of the knowledge provided. Thus, this program makes an important contribution both to sustainable village development and to the literature on capacity building of fishery business groups.

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