



## Community Empowerment in the Disadvantaged Village of Koto Dalam Barat Through an Integrated KKN Program

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**Abstract:** *This study aims to empower the community in the disadvantaged village of Koto Dalam Barat, Padang Pariaman Regency, through an Integrated Community Service Program (KKN) conducted by students of IAIN Batusangkar. The approach used is Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), which focuses on leveraging local assets and community potential as the foundation for development. The village faces various challenges, such as low education levels and limited access to technology, which are addressed through local asset mapping and active community participation in every phase of the program. This KKN initiative contributes by identifying and utilizing local assets through skill training, digital literacy enhancement, and the development of businesses based on local potential. The students of IAIN Batusangkar serve as facilitators, collaborating with the community to discover, develop, and strengthen existing assets to improve overall welfare. The program is designed in stages, starting with asset mapping, planning activities based on local potential, implementing the program using a participatory approach, and concluding with evaluation and monitoring to ensure sustainability and long-term impact for the community.*

**Keywords:** *Integrated Community Service, Community Empowerment, ABCD, Disadvantaged Village*

## INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, villages such as Nagari Koto Dalam Barat in Tanah Datar District face numerous challenges in development and community empowerment. Issues such as limited resources, low educational levels, and inadequate infrastructure hinder sustainable development in these areas. Research by Abidin, (2024) highlights the need for innovative interventions to optimize local potential and drive economic growth through social entrepreneurship in underdeveloped villages. This study emphasizes the importance of approaches that not only address existing problems but also leverage local assets to foster positive change (Badrudin et al., 2022; Butarbutar et al., 2019; Sulaiman et al., 2024).

Additionally, Sari, (2024) underscore the significance of infrastructure in enhancing community economic activities. Their research on precast bamboo-reinforced concrete bridges illustrates how infrastructure innovation can significantly impact local economies. This is relevant to Nagari Koto Dalam Barat, where infrastructure development can play a crucial role in improving accessibility and promoting local economic growth. Their findings support the importance of collaboration between academia and communities in designing solutions that address local needs.

Moreover, Kabeyi & Olanrewaju, (2022) discuss the role of environmentally friendly technologies, such as biogas from cattle dung, in improving the welfare of underdeveloped communities. Their research demonstrates that alternative energy technologies can reduce dependence on fossil fuels while enhancing community health and well-being. Implementing similar technologies in Nagari Koto Dalam Barat could significantly address energy and environmental challenges in the region.

The importance of participatory approaches in community empowerment is further supported by Tarino & Purnomo, (2024), who highlight that community involvement in planning and executing programs is crucial for success. The Integrated Community Service Program (KKN Terpadu), involving students in empowerment activities, serves as a bridge between educational institutions and communities. Student involvement in such programs can accelerate knowledge and skill transfer that is directly relevant to community needs.

Furthermore, Delgado-Serrano (2016) emphasize the need for capacity building among facilitators to effectively map and utilize local potentials. Their study indicates that enhancing the skills of local facilitators is essential for the successful implementation of empowerment programs. In Nagari Koto Dalam Barat, such training can assist communities in identifying and leveraging their assets for economic and social development.

The integrative and holistic approach to community empowerment, as described by Watini et al. (2023), is also relevant for Nagari Koto Dalam Barat. Collaborative and innovative community service programs can address the various challenges faced by underdeveloped villages. Through the Integrated Community Service Program, students can contribute to designing and implementing programs tailored to the specific needs of the community, fostering long-term success.

Darmana and Hadiwidjoyo (2012) further highlight the role of academic institutions in community development. Their research on the role of research and

community service institutions underscores the importance of educational institutions in providing necessary training and human resource development to enhance community capacities. Collaboration between students and communities can strengthen this process in Nagari Koto Dalam Barat.

Finally, Laing et al. (2022) illustrate the impact of administrative support and technology use in improving the effectiveness of community empowerment programs. Their research on administrative assistance and technology application for village management shows how better administration and access to information can enhance community development efforts. This aligns with the objectives of the Integrated Community Service Program in improving the quality of life through better management and resource access.

The government has made various efforts to address the issues faced by underdeveloped areas through numerous development and community empowerment programs. However, these programs often utilize a top-down approach and lack direct involvement from the local communities in the planning and execution stages. Consequently, many programs fail to achieve their intended outcomes or lack sustainability because they do not align with the actual needs and potentials of the local population. This highlights the need for a more participatory approach that is grounded in local assets to ensure the success and sustainability of empowerment initiatives.

Nagari Koto Dalam Barat, located in Padang Pariaman District, is one such underdeveloped area in Indonesia. Despite its rich natural and cultural resources, this nagari faces significant challenges that hinder its social and economic growth. These challenges include low educational levels, limited access to technology, inadequate infrastructure, and constraints in developing local economic enterprises. These issues create a substantial gap between the potential available and the actual well-being of the community.

Through the Integrated Community Service Program (KKN Terpadu), students from IAIN Batusangkar actively participate in supporting this empowerment process. KKN Terpadu is a program that integrates academic activities with community service, placing students directly within the community to assist in asset mapping, program development, and the execution of activities that meet local needs. Student involvement in this program allows them to apply the knowledge gained in their studies while providing tangible benefits to the community.

The Integrated Community Service Program (KKN Terpadu) aims to tackle the challenges in Nagari Koto Dalam Barat by enhancing educational outcomes, improving access to technology, developing local infrastructure, and stimulating economic growth. The program focuses on providing targeted training, implementing digital literacy initiatives, upgrading facilities, and supporting local enterprises to bridge the gap between potential and actual community well-being, creating a sustainable development model tailored to local needs.

## **METHODS**

The method used in this program is the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, which emphasizes leveraging local assets as the primary foundation for community development. The target of this community service is the residents of Koto Dalam Barat Village, Padang Pariaman Regency, comprising vulnerable groups with limited access to education and technology. Key informants in this program include local community leaders, village officials, and local business practitioners who possess knowledge about the village's potential and assets.

The stages of the community service method begin with asset mapping, where KKN students from IAIN Batusangkar, in collaboration with the community, identify human resources, natural resources, and economic potentials in the village. This activity involves focus group discussions with village leaders and field observations to identify local strengths that can be developed.

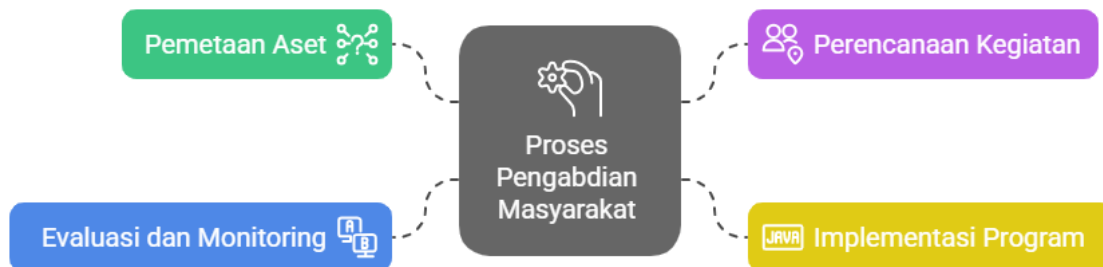
Following asset mapping, the next stage is activity planning based on the identified village potentials. Together with the community, students develop a program plan that includes skill training, digital literacy enhancement, and small business development based on local assets. This planning is conducted through village meetings where all community members are involved in a participatory manner to determine program priorities according to their needs.

The next stage is program implementation, where students act as facilitators in conducting skill training, digital literacy workshops, and micro-business mentoring. These training activities involve active participation from the community, particularly youth and women, with the aim of enhancing their capacity and skills to manage local economic potential.

Finally, evaluation and monitoring are carried out to ensure program sustainability. Evaluation is conducted participatorily with the involvement of the community and key

informants to assess the effectiveness of the implemented activities and their impact on community welfare. Monitoring is performed periodically to ensure that the programs continue to run and provide long-term benefits to the village.

Through these stages of the ABCD method, the community service program aims to empower the community in a sustainable manner based on local strengths.



**Figure 1. ABCD Procedur**

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the community service program in Koto Dalam Barat Village, utilizing the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, reveal significant achievements in harnessing and developing local assets. During the asset mapping phase, KKN students from IAIN Batusangkar identified several key potentials within the village, including valuable traditional skills in handicrafts and agriculture, as well as natural resources like fertile agricultural land. This mapping also highlighted the presence of existing small businesses, such as local handicrafts and agricultural products, with substantial potential for further expansion. Through focus group discussions and field observations involving community leaders, village officials, and local entrepreneurs, valuable insights were gained into the village's strengths and opportunities.

Based on the findings from the asset mapping phase, the planning phase of the program was strategically designed to harness the village's key potentials. The program included skill training aimed at enhancing community capabilities in processing coconut products, such as coconut oil, copra, and desiccated coconut, which have significant export potential. Additionally, training focused on improving digital literacy to enable effective marketing of these products online. The

development of micro-businesses leveraging local assets was also planned, incorporating business mentoring and initial capital support. Village deliberations ensured that all community members participated in prioritizing program activities according to local needs.



**Figure 1. Stages of the ABCD Community Empowerment Model**

During the implementation phase, KKN students from IAIN Batusangkar acted as primary facilitators, leading skill training sessions, digital literacy workshops, and providing micro-business mentoring. Key findings during this phase revealed strong community engagement, particularly from youth and women. The program also addressed technical challenges related to digital materials by adapting teaching methods. Despite these challenges, the training significantly improved participants' abilities to manage and market coconut products and other local goods, resulting in increased sales and product diversification. Furthermore, the program identified additional village potentials in livestock farming and natural tourism, further contributing to the community's economic development.



**Figure 2. Integrated KKN Program Workflow Based on Local Asset Mappin**

Evaluation and monitoring were conducted to assess the program's effectiveness and sustainability. Participatory evaluation, involving community members and key informants, indicated that the program successfully enhanced community skills and capacities but underscored the need for continued support. Regular monitoring ensured that activities continued as planned and delivered long-term benefits. The findings showed that while most activities were effectively executed, some micro-businesses required additional support, particularly concerning marketing and accessing broader markets.



**Figure 3. Collaborative Framework for Rural Empowerment Through ABCD Approach**

Further analysis revealed that the village possessed valuable traditional skills in handcrafts and agriculture, such as weaving and traditional textile products, which emerged as major strengths. Field observations indicated that these products had significant potential for wider development and marketing. Additionally, agricultural produce, including vegetables and fruits from the village's fertile land, demonstrated high quality and could become flagship products with proper training and support in processing and marketing. Despite the village's considerable potential, challenges in market access and technology remained significant hurdles.

The planning phase highlighted the necessity of tailoring skill training to local conditions and community capacities. For instance, training in agricultural processing was designed considering the limited facilities and technology available in the village. Therefore, the program was developed with practical, easy-to-

implement approaches, utilizing simple equipment and techniques suited to local capabilities. Digital literacy training was designed for beginners, focusing on existing devices and providing repeated sessions to ensure all community members could effectively use information technology.

Implementation findings also revealed shifts in attitudes and motivations among training participants. Most participants showed high enthusiasm for skill and digital literacy training, with a strong desire to apply the acquired knowledge to their ventures. However, some participants initially experienced anxiety about using new technology and required more time to adapt. To address this, KKN students employed a personalized approach, offering additional support to ensure participants felt comfortable and confident in utilizing technology and applying their new skills.

In the evaluation and monitoring phase, it became evident that the program's sustainability heavily relied on ongoing support beyond the program's conclusion. Although the program significantly enhanced community skills and capacities, some micro-businesses faced challenges in marketing and accessing broader markets. Therefore, it was recommended to develop partnerships with external organizations or institutions to provide additional support in marketing, business development, and access to financial resources. The evaluation suggested that with such support, the program could be more effective in delivering long-term benefits and improving the community's well-being sustainably.

## **CONCLUSION**

The community service program in Koto Dalam Barat Village, leveraging the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, effectively capitalized on the village's key assets, particularly its coconut agriculture, which yields valuable products suitable for export, alongside its livestock farming and natural tourism opportunities. Significant findings included the community's active participation and responsiveness to tailored skill and digital literacy training, which enhanced their ability to manage and market these products. Challenges with technology



and market access were addressed through the program, but for sustained success, ongoing support and partnerships are essential to fully exploit the village's potential and ensure long-term development.

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