

## **Community Service from the Perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Contributions to Community Welfare and Local Economic Development**

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### **Abstract**

This study aims to analyze community service from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its contribution to community welfare and local economic development. The study employs a literature review method with a qualitative approach and descriptive analysis. Data were obtained from various literature sources indexed in Google Scholar and other credible websites published between 2014 and 2026. In the initial stage, 50 articles were identified, and through a rigorous selection process, 34 main articles relevant to the research objectives were selected. The findings indicate that community service plays an important role in enhancing community capacity, strengthening MSMEs, improving financial literacy, and promoting participatory local economic development. The SDGs perspective positions community service as a strategic instrument in creating inclusive and sustainable development. However, the study also identifies several challenges, including low program sustainability, limited impact evaluation, and suboptimal cross-sector collaboration in the implementation of community service programs.

**Keywords:** Community Service, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Community Welfare, Local Economic Development, Community Empowerment

## **Pengabdian Masyarakat dalam Perspektif Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Kontribusi terhadap Kesejahteraan dan Pembangunan Ekonomi Lokal**

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengabdian masyarakat dalam perspektif *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) serta kontribusinya terhadap kesejahteraan masyarakat dan pembangunan ekonomi lokal. Penelitian menggunakan metode tinjauan pustaka dengan pendekatan kualitatif dan analisis deskriptif. Data diperoleh dari berbagai literatur yang bersumber dari Google Scholar dan website kredibel lainnya pada rentang tahun 2014–2026. Pada tahap awal ditemukan 50 artikel, kemudian melalui proses seleksi ketat diperoleh 34 artikel utama yang relevan dengan tujuan penelitian. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pengabdian masyarakat memiliki peran penting dalam meningkatkan kapasitas masyarakat, penguatan UMKM, literasi keuangan, dan pembangunan ekonomi lokal berbasis partisipatif. Perspektif SDGs menempatkan pengabdian masyarakat sebagai instrumen strategis dalam menciptakan pembangunan yang inklusif dan berkelanjutan. Namun, penelitian juga menemukan tantangan berupa rendahnya keberlanjutan program, keterbatasan evaluasi dampak, dan kurang optimalnya kolaborasi lintas sektor dalam implementasi program pengabdian masyarakat.

**Kata kunci:** Pengabdian Masyarakat, *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), Kesejahteraan Masyarakat, Pembangunan Ekonomi Lokal, Pemberdayaan Masyarakat

## INTRODUCTION

Community service in the context of modern development is no longer merely understood as a voluntary social activity, but has evolved into a strategic component in creating sustainable social and economic transformation. Universities, social institutions, governments, and local communities now view community service as an important instrument for addressing various development challenges, such as poverty, unemployment, economic inequality, low educational quality, and limited access to health services and technology. In global development trends, community service has increasingly been linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiated by the United Nations as a global development framework until 2030. The SDGs emphasize the importance of cross-sector collaboration in creating inclusive, equitable, and long-term development, making community service one of the tangible implementation media for achieving these development goals at both local and national levels (Ahmadi et al., 2026).

The concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduces a new development paradigm that considers social, environmental, and sustainability dimensions of community life (Wang & Zhao, 2025). From this perspective, community service holds a strategic position because it can bridge academic knowledge with the real needs of society. Community empowerment-based service programs are considered capable of improving the social, economic, and institutional capacities of local communities through participatory and collaborative approaches. Various activities such as entrepreneurship training, MSME mentoring, financial literacy education, tourism village development, women empowerment, and the utilization of digital technology represent forms of community service implementation that align with the SDGs objectives. These conditions demonstrate that community service is a strategic medium for supporting sustainable local economic development and improving overall community welfare.

Local economic development has become one of the primary focuses of the SDGs agenda because the success of national development is fundamentally influenced by regional capabilities in managing their economic potential (Scheyvens et al., 2021). In this context, community service plays an essential role in encouraging the strengthening of community economic capacity through a local potential-based approach. Many regions possess natural resources, cultural values, and community skills with high economic value, yet these potentials remain underutilized due to limited knowledge, market access, technology, and business capital. The presence of community service programs can assist communities in understanding business development strategies, digital marketing, product innovation, and strengthening local economic institutions. Community service directly contributes to economic growth and the creation of broader employment opportunities.

On the other hand, global challenges such as economic crises, climate change, technological disruption, and increasing social inequality further reinforce the urgency of implementing sustainability-based community service. Many local communities face difficulties adapting to rapid economic changes and technological developments. These conditions result in limited competitiveness, low business productivity, and minimal

ability to access new economic opportunities. In such situations, community service becomes an important medium for strengthening community social and economic resilience through knowledge transfer, innovation, and sustainable assistance. The SDGs perspective encourages every community service program to create sustainable empowerment systems so that communities can independently develop in the long term (Suriyankietkaew et al., 2025).

Previous studies indicate that community service has a close relationship with improving community welfare and strengthening local economic development. Various studies explain that empowerment-based community service programs can increase community business productivity, expand market access, strengthen human resource capacity, and improve the social quality of life within communities (Harinurdin et al., 2025; Surya et al., 2021). Furthermore, participatory approaches in community service are considered effective in fostering a sense of community ownership toward development programs, thereby making program sustainability easier to achieve (Eelderink et al., 2025; Syamsiyah et al., 2025). Nevertheless, several studies also reveal ongoing challenges in the implementation of community service, such as limited program impact evaluation, low continuity of activities after program completion, and insufficient integration between community needs and sustainable development objectives (Kirchner-Krath et al., 2024). Therefore, a more comprehensive study is needed to understand how community service can be optimized from the SDGs perspective in order to provide tangible contributions to community welfare and local economic development.

In the context of higher education, community service plays an important role as a form of implementing applicable and socially responsive knowledge. Universities are expected to provide tangible solutions to various societal issues. Through community service, research outcomes and academic innovations can be directly applied to improve community quality of life. This approach aligns with the spirit of the SDGs, which emphasize the importance of collaboration among academics, governments, the private sector, and society in achieving sustainable development goals (Bexell et al., 2025). Community service can serve as a means of integrating the academic world with social realities so that knowledge does not remain at a theoretical level but instead creates concrete social and economic impacts for local communities.

In addition to economic aspects, community service from the SDGs perspective is also closely related to inclusive and equitable social development. Community service programs that actively involve communities can enhance social solidarity, strengthen community capacity, and create spaces for public participation in the development process. Empowering women, youth, MSME actors, and rural communities constitutes an important component in creating more equitable and sustainable development (Vujko et al., 2024). Community service also contributes to increasing public awareness regarding the importance of education, health, environmental sustainability, and wise resource management. From the SDGs perspective, successful development is measured by the ability of communities to live decently, productively, healthily, and to have fair access to

various development opportunities (Del-Aguila-Arcentales et al., 2022). Therefore, community service has a strategic dimension in building sustainable social welfare.

Based on the various explanations above, it can be understood that community service from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has a significant contribution to improving community welfare and local economic development. Community service becomes a strategic instrument in creating sustainable community empowerment, enhancing local economic capacity, and strengthening the quality of community social life. However, the dynamics of global and local development challenges demand the development of community service models that are more adaptive, participatory, and oriented toward long-term sustainability. Therefore, a literature review study on community service from the SDGs perspective is important to better understand the development of concepts, forms of implementation, contributions, and challenges of community service in supporting welfare and local economic development across various modern societal contexts.

### **Community Service**

Community service is one form of implementing knowledge, technology, and skills carried out by universities and social institutions to help solve various problems faced by society (Lutfiyah, 2025). In the context of modern development, community service is understood as an empowerment process aimed at improving community capacity, independence, and quality of life in a sustainable manner. Community service activities can take various forms, such as entrepreneurship training, MSME mentoring, financial literacy education, tourism village development, and the utilization of digital technology in community economic activities. Through a participatory approach, communities are actively involved in the planning and implementation processes of programs so that the resulting impacts become more sustainable and relevant to local needs.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global development agenda established by the United Nations to achieve inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development by 2030 (Sorooshian, 2024). The SDGs consist of 17 main goals covering various aspects such as poverty eradication, improving educational quality, health, gender equality, decent work, economic growth, and environmental protection. The SDGs concept emphasizes that development must consider social balance and environmental sustainability. In the context of community service, the SDGs serve as an important foundation for designing programs capable of generating long-term impacts on community welfare and local development. SDG-based community service is directed toward creating sustainable social and economic transformation through collaboration among governments, academics, the private sector, and society.

### **Community Welfare**

Community welfare is a condition in which people are able to fulfill their living needs properly in terms of economic, social, educational, health, and environmental aspects (Selbin & Cummings, 2015). Welfare includes quality of life, access to public services, security, employment opportunities, and the ability of communities to develop their own potential. From the perspective of sustainable development, community welfare is the main objective that must be achieved through various empowerment and social development programs (Kurniawan et al., 2023). Community service has an important contribution in improving welfare through education, skills training, strengthening economic enterprises, and enhancing community social capacity. When communities possess better knowledge, skills, and access to economic opportunities, their ability to improve their quality of life will also increase sustainably.

### **Local Economic Development**

Local economic development is the process of developing the economic potential of a region or community to increase community income, create employment opportunities, and strengthen regional economic independence (Jamal & Gordon, 2024). This approach emphasizes the utilization of local resources such as natural potential, culture, community skills, and small and medium enterprises as the foundation for sustainable economic development. In practice, local economic development is often implemented through strengthening MSMEs, developing the creative economy, business digitalization, and community-based tourism sector development. Community service plays an important role in supporting local economic development through knowledge transfer, business management training, digital marketing assistance, and strengthening community capacity in managing regional economic potential. Through the strengthening of local economies, communities have greater opportunities to increase income and reduce dependence on external economic sectors.

### **Community Empowerment**

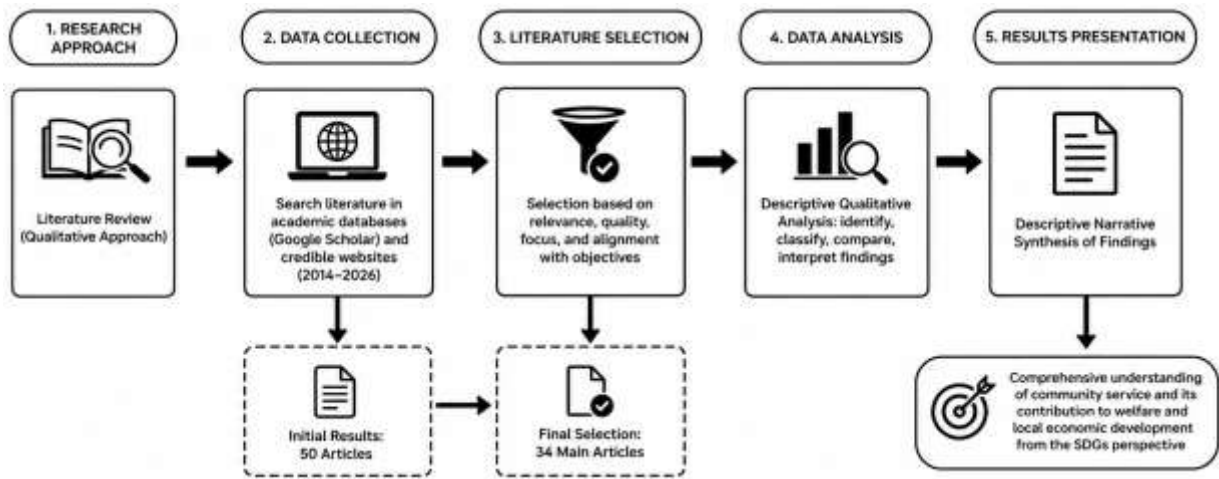
Community empowerment is the process of improving the abilities of individuals and communities so that they are capable of managing potential, making decisions, and solving problems independently (Malta, 2023). The concept of empowerment positions the community as the main subject of development so that they have an active role in determining the direction of desired social and economic changes. Community empowerment places greater emphasis on improving knowledge, skills, self-confidence, and access to development resources. In the context of community service, empowerment is carried out through various activities such as skills training, business mentoring, digital literacy education, strengthening community organizations, and developing the social capacity of local communities. The empowerment approach is considered more effective in creating long-term change because communities are encouraged to become independent and capable of sustaining program success continuously without full dependence on external parties.

## **METHOD**

This study employs a literature review method with a qualitative approach to understand and analyze various studies regarding community service from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its contribution to welfare and local economic development. The qualitative approach was selected because this study focuses on gaining an in-depth understanding of concepts, research findings, and the development of community service implementation in various social and economic contexts. In addition, this study specifically aims to enrich references related to community service in order to strengthen academic studies, broaden theoretical understanding, and serve as a reference source for future research and implementation of community service programs. Therefore, this study is oriented toward developing scientific insights regarding the strategic role of community service in supporting sustainable development.

The data collection technique was conducted through searching various relevant literature sources using academic databases such as Google Scholar and several credible websites containing scientific publications, research reports, and articles related to community service and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The literature used was published between 2014 and 2026 to obtain data relevant to the development of sustainable development issues and the dynamics of contemporary community service. In the initial search stage, 50 articles and literature sources relevant to the research keywords were identified. However, after a rigorous selection process based on thematic relevance, content quality, suitability of discussion focus, and relevance to the research objectives, the number of literature sources used in this study was narrowed down to 34 main articles considered the most appropriate and representative.

Data analysis was conducted using descriptive qualitative analysis techniques by identifying, classifying, comparing, and interpreting various findings from the selected literature. The analysis process was carried out systematically to understand discussion patterns, forms of community service implementation, contributions to community welfare, and their relationship with local economic development from the SDGs perspective. Furthermore, the results of the analysis were presented in descriptive narrative form to provide a comprehensive overview of the development of community service studies and their contributions to supporting sustainable development. Through this approach, the study is expected to provide broader academic references related to community service while also serving as a foundation for further research development in the fields of community empowerment and sustainable economic development.



**Figure 1.** Research Methodology Flowchart

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Community service from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demonstrates that modern development can no longer rely solely on macroeconomic growth, but must also involve direct community empowerment through participatory and sustainable approaches. In this context, community service becomes a strategic medium for connecting academic knowledge with the real needs of society, thereby creating more inclusive social and economic transformation. The SDGs perspective emphasizes the importance of balancing economic development, social welfare, and environmental sustainability (Naseer et al., 2025). Therefore, community service is viewed as a development instrument with multidimensional impacts on improving the quality of life of society. This approach is aligned with SDGs objectives such as poverty eradication, quality education, decent work, economic growth, and the reduction of social inequality, which remain major challenges in many developing regions.

From a theoretical perspective, discussions regarding community service can be analyzed using community empowerment theory, which emphasizes the importance of increasing the capacity of individuals and communities so that they are able to manage their potential and solve problems independently. This theory explains that society is an active subject that has the ability to develop when provided with access to education, information, technology, and adequate assistance (Harinurdin et al., 2025). Empowerment-based community service is capable of creating more sustainable social change compared to temporary aid approaches because communities are involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation processes of programs (Ataöv et al., 2022). In the context of SDGs, the empowerment approach becomes highly relevant because sustainable development requires active community participation in creating economic and social change. The success of community service is measured by the extent to which communities experience improvements in capacity, independence, and quality of life sustainably.

In addition to empowerment theory, sustainable development theory also serves as an important foundation for understanding the relationship between community service and local economic development. This theory asserts that development must be able to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Holden et al., 2014). In its implementation, SDG-based community service is directed toward creating a balance between economic growth, environmental sustainability, and community social stability. Community service programs that focus solely on increasing income without considering environmental aspects and long-term sustainability tend to produce impacts that are not long-lasting (Winston, 2022). Therefore, various community empowerment programs are now directed toward the development of the creative economy, local resource management, MSME digitalization, sustainable tourism village development, and financial literacy education that can strengthen long-term community economic resilience. This perspective shows that community service has a strategic role in building a development ecosystem that is more sustainable and adaptive to global changes.

Previous research findings indicate that community service has a significant contribution to improving the social and economic welfare of local communities. Community service programs based on skills training and business mentoring are able to increase community productivity significantly (Hidayat et al., 2026; Widyastuti et al., 2025). Previous studies also found that communities receiving intensive assistance in business management and digital marketing experienced improved adaptability to changes in modern markets (Verhoef et al., 2021). Furthermore, community service is considered effective in strengthening social capital because activities are carried out through collaboration, mutual cooperation, and strengthening local communities. Several studies even show that the success of community service programs is strongly influenced by community involvement in decision-making processes, so participatory programs have a higher level of sustainability compared to top-down programs (Muda, 2025; Sattayapanich et al., 2022). These findings demonstrate that community service is a process of social transformation capable of gradually building community independence.

In practice, community service also plays an important role in strengthening local economic development through the development of MSMEs and community-based economies. Many local communities actually possess significant economic potential but face obstacles such as limited access to technology, lack of business management knowledge, and weak marketing strategies. Through community service programs, these barriers can be minimized through training, mentoring, and applicable knowledge transfer. Community-based local economic development also has substantial social impacts because it can create new employment opportunities and reduce community dependence on certain economic sectors. From the SDGs perspective, strengthening local economies is a strategic step in creating inclusive and equitable economic growth (Moallemi et al., 2020). Community service creates a multiplier effect on the broader community economy (Nabila & Irawan, 2026).

One case study of community service relevant to the SDGs perspective can be seen in the MSME digitalization training program in the Greater Bandung area. This program involved collaboration between local governments, technology companies, and MSME communities in providing training on digital marketing, product branding, and the use of marketplaces for small business actors. One documented program is MAREMA (Maju Sareng Digital Marketing Utama), implemented by the Bandung City Government together with private partners to encourage MSMEs to adapt to developments in the digital economy (Suryani, 2025). In addition, Telkom also organized digital marketing training for MSMEs in West Bandung Regency to improve technology-based marketing capabilities. These programs demonstrate that technology-based community service can help MSMEs improve business competitiveness, expand market reach, and strengthen local economic growth. These activities are aligned with SDGs objectives, particularly in aspects of decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), as well as reducing economic inequality within society.

Another case study can be observed in the development of tourism villages and community-based tourism sectors in Banyuwangi Regency. The local government, together with communities and local business actors, continues to develop tourism destinations based on culture, environment, and the creative economy. Data from the Banyuwangi Tourism Office indicate that the number of tourist visits continues to increase significantly. In 2025, the number of tourists reached approximately 3.67 million people, or an increase of around 7.25% compared to the previous year (Rimawati, 2025). The growth of the tourism sector has provided direct economic impacts for communities, especially culinary business actors, homestay providers, local transportation services, and regional handicraft producers. In addition to increasing community income, the development of local-based tourism also encourages cultural and environmental preservation as part of sustainable development. This condition demonstrates that community service can become an effective instrument for integrating economic development with social and environmental sustainability in accordance with SDGs objectives, especially SDG 8 (economic growth), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).

The third case study can be found in women empowerment programs through financial literacy and strengthening MSME capacity in Central Java. This program was implemented by various financial institutions and community empowerment organizations, such as the collaboration between Amarthia and OJK, as well as SeaBank's financial literacy program for women MSME actors in Surakarta (SeaBank, 2026). The program aims to improve women's abilities in managing business finances, understanding financial services, and strengthening the sustainability of micro-enterprises. Based on OJK data used in the program, the level of financial literacy among women in Indonesia was previously still relatively low compared to financial inclusion levels, making financial education an important necessity for women MSME actors. The training provided not only helped improve business management capabilities but also strengthened women's positions in family and community economic decision-making. This program

demonstrates that women empowerment-based community service has substantial contributions to achieving the SDGs, particularly in aspects of gender equality (SDG 5), poverty reduction (SDG 1), and improving community economic welfare.

Although various community service programs show positive impacts, their implementation still faces various challenges affecting program effectiveness and sustainability. One of the main problems is the low continuity of programs after formal activities have been completed. Many community service programs only operate actively while mentoring is ongoing but experience declining effectiveness after implementing teams are no longer directly present within the community. This condition causes some communities to return to old patterns due to the lack of monitoring and long-term support. In addition, budget limitations and minimal cross-sector collaboration also become obstacles in developing broader and more sustainable community service programs. In some cases, community service programs also pay insufficient attention to the real needs of society, resulting in activities that are not fully aligned with local social and economic conditions. These problems indicate that the success of community service requires implementation strategies that are more adaptive, participatory, and long-term oriented.

The first solution that can be implemented to overcome these challenges is strengthening sustainable mentoring models based on local communities. Assistance should not stop after the program ends but needs to continue through the establishment of independent community groups capable of becoming local driving forces. These groups can function as centers for education, coordination, and sustainable community business development. In addition, the use of digital technology such as online communication platforms and program monitoring applications can help maintain interaction between mentors and communities even after formal activities have ended. This approach is important to ensure that the transfer of knowledge and skills is consistently applied by communities. Community service programs will have greater opportunities to create long-lasting social and economic impacts through sustainable mentoring.

The second solution is strengthening collaboration among universities, governments, the private sector, and local communities in implementing community service programs. A collaborative approach is highly important because community development challenges cannot be solved by only one party. Universities can provide research and innovation, governments can offer regulatory and policy support, the private sector can assist with funding and market access, while communities become the main implementers of programs at the local level. Such collaboration also enables the creation of more effective program integration so that community service does not operate partially or separately. From the SDGs perspective, cross-sector partnerships are one of the main principles of sustainable development because development success largely depends on the ability of various parties to work together synergistically (Eelager et al., 2025; Payumo et al., 2021). Strengthening collaboration becomes a strategic step in improving the effectiveness of community service in supporting local economic development.

The third solution is improving the quality of evaluation and impact measurement of community service programs in a more systematic and data-based manner. So far, many

community service programs only measure success based on the number of participants or the number of activities conducted without deeply measuring social and economic changes within communities after the program implementation. In fact, comprehensive evaluation is very important for determining program effectiveness and identifying future development strategies. The use of measurable indicators such as increases in community income, business growth, social participation levels, and changes in quality of life can help produce more objective evaluations. Furthermore, data-based evaluations can also serve as the basis for developing community service policies that are more targeted and oriented toward real community needs. Through this approach, community service can continue to develop as a development instrument that is adaptive to global social and economic changes.

Overall, the discussion regarding community service from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) shows that community service activities have a highly important contribution to improving community welfare and local economic development. Community service becomes a social development strategy capable of creating empowerment, independence, and sustainable community economic transformation. Various theories, previous research findings, and case studies demonstrate that the success of community service is strongly influenced by participatory approaches, program sustainability, technology utilization, and cross-sector collaboration. Amid global challenges such as social inequality, technological disruption, and economic instability, SDG-based community service is becoming increasingly relevant as a means of strengthening community capacity in facing change. Therefore, the development of innovative, adaptive, and sustainability-oriented community service models has become an important necessity in supporting local economic development and community welfare in the future.

**Table 1.** Main Findings of Community Service from the Perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

No	Main Aspect	Key Findings
1	Role of Community Service	Community service serves as a strategic instrument in supporting sustainable social and economic transformation through participatory and empowerment-based approaches.
2	SDGs Perspective	Community service aligns with SDGs objectives, particularly poverty reduction, quality education, decent work, economic growth, and social inequality reduction.
3	Community Empowerment Theory	Community empowerment-based approaches increase community capacity, independence, participation, and sustainable quality of life.
4	Sustainable Development Theory	Community service supports the balance between economic growth, social welfare, and environmental sustainability.
5	Contribution to Welfare	Community service programs improve productivity, skills, financial literacy, social participation, and overall community welfare.
6	Local Economic Development	Community service strengthens MSMEs, creative economy, tourism villages, and community-based economic development.
7	Technology Utilization	Digitalization and digital marketing training improve MSME competitiveness, market access, and adaptation to modern economic

			changes.
8	Participatory Approach		Programs involving active community participation show higher sustainability compared to top-down approaches.
9	Bandung Case Study	MSME	MSME digitalization programs such as MAREMA and Telkom training improved business competitiveness and supported SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
10	Banyuwangi Tourism Case Study		Community-based tourism development increased local income, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability, supporting SDGs 8, 11, and 12.
11	Women Empowerment Case Study		Financial literacy and MSME empowerment programs strengthened women's economic roles, supporting SDGs 1, 5, and community welfare improvement.
12	Main Challenges		Challenges include low program sustainability, limited funding, weak cross-sector collaboration, and lack of impact evaluation.
13	Sustainable Mentoring Solution		Continuous mentoring through local community groups and digital monitoring platforms can improve long-term program sustainability.
14	Cross-Sector Collaboration Solution		Collaboration among universities, governments, private sectors, and communities increases program effectiveness and sustainability.
15	Evaluation Improvement Solution		Systematic and data-based evaluation using measurable indicators is important for improving program effectiveness and policy development.
16	Overall Conclusion		SDG-based community service is highly relevant for strengthening community resilience, local economic development, and sustainable welfare in the modern era.

## CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that community service from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has a highly strategic role in supporting the improvement of community welfare and sustainable local economic development. Community service serves as an instrument of social and economic empowerment capable of enhancing community capacity through education, training, mentoring, and the strengthening of local potential. Various studies and case analyses examined in this research show that SDG-based community service programs are able to provide tangible impacts on increasing community income, strengthening MSMEs, developing tourism villages, improving financial literacy, and enhancing community social participation. Furthermore, participatory and collaborative approaches have proven to be important factors in creating program sustainability, allowing communities to become the main actors in the development process. The findings also indicate that community service has a close relationship with sustainable development objectives, particularly in aspects of poverty reduction, improving educational quality, creating decent work opportunities, strengthening local economies, and reducing social inequality. However, the implementation of community service programs still faces various challenges such as limited program sustainability, suboptimal impact evaluation, funding constraints, and low cross-sector integration. Therefore, it is necessary to develop more adaptive community service models that are community needs-based, utilize digital technology, and are supported by collaboration among universities, governments, the private sector,

and local communities. In this way, community service can continue to develop as a strategic instrument in supporting sustainable local economic development and community welfare in the modern era.

This study has important theoretical and practical implications for the development of SDG-based community service studies. Theoretically, this research strengthens the understanding that community service should no longer be viewed merely as a formal social activity, but rather as an integral part of sustainable development involving economic, social, and environmental dimensions simultaneously. This study also provides additional academic references related to community service that can serve as the basis for future research development regarding community empowerment, local economic development, and SDG implementation in various social contexts. In addition, this study demonstrates that community empowerment theory and sustainable development theory have strong relevance in explaining the success of modern community service programs. Practically, this study provides implications for universities, governments, and social institutions to further develop community service programs that are community needs-based and oriented toward long-term sustainability. Universities are expected to integrate research findings and academic innovations into applicable community service programs that generate tangible impacts on society. Governments can use the findings of this study as considerations in designing local economic empowerment policies and SDG-based community strengthening initiatives. Meanwhile, communities and local business actors can utilize community service programs as a means of improving capacity, business development, and strengthening economic resilience amid the increasingly complex dynamics of global change.

This study has several limitations that should be considered in understanding the research findings more proportionally. First, this study employed a literature review method with a qualitative approach, so the research findings are highly dependent on the quality, relevance, and completeness of the literature sources used. Although rigorous selection was conducted on the analyzed articles, there may still be other relevant studies that were not accommodated in this review. Second, this study only utilized data sources from Google Scholar and several specific credible websites within the 2015–2026 period, so the discussion may not fully reflect the entire dynamics of community service across broader global regions and contexts. Third, this study focused more on conceptual and descriptive discussions regarding the contribution of community service to welfare and local economic development, and therefore did not directly conduct empirical measurements of the effectiveness of specific community service programs in the field. Fourth, the case studies used in this research were limited to several examples of community service programs with strong relevance to the SDGs perspective, meaning that the findings cannot yet be generalized to all forms of existing community service programs. Therefore, the results of this study should be understood as an academic review providing a general overview of the relationship between community service, social welfare, and local economic development from the perspective of sustainable development.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that universities and institutions implementing community service programs further develop sustainable community empowerment-based programs rather than focusing solely on short-term activities. Community service programs need to be designed by considering the real needs of society, local potential, and developments in digital technology and the digital economy so that the resulting impacts become more relevant and sustainable. In addition, it is important to increase active community participation throughout all stages of the program, from planning to evaluation, in order to create a stronger sense of ownership and program sustainability at the local community level. Future research is recommended to employ empirical approaches through field studies, surveys, or mixed methods in order to measure more specifically the impact of community service on improving welfare and local economic development. Future studies may also expand the scope of analysis by comparing the implementation of community service programs across different regions or countries to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of SDG-based programs. Furthermore, additional research is needed regarding the utilization of digital technology, cross-sector collaboration models, and evaluation strategies for community service programs so that future program development becomes more innovative, adaptive, and capable of addressing global development challenges sustainably.

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