



Inhibiting Factors for Poverty Reduction and Alleviation Strategies: Interpretative Structural Modeling Approach

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Abstract

This research aims at analyzing Inhabiting Factors for the Success of Poverty Handling and Its Alleviation Strategy in Kebumen Regency. This research uses two types of data sources, primary and secondary data. The population in this research is the poor people in Kebumen Regency. The research takes the proportional random sampling technique. This technique is used because of the grouping of the poor in Kebumen Regency. There are 100 poor people as the samples in Kebumen Regency. The first analysis method in this research, which is the analysis of inhibiting factors for poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency, is the Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM) analysis. The second is the Mactor method. The third one is the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP), which is a comprehensive decision-making model that takes into account qualitative and quantitative matters. The results of research indicate that poverty alleviation efforts in Kebumen Regency require the involvement of various parties, either from the government, academics, the community, entrepreneurs, the media and also NGOs. The results of analysis indicate that there are eight actors who play key roles in poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency, including the Kebumen Regency Government, Universities and Educational Institutions, Business Actors and Industries, international organizations and donors, Non-Governmental Organizations, Mass Media, Religious Organizations and also Local Communities. The most prioritized policies in poverty alleviation efforts in Kebumen Regency are as follows. The first is improving education and skills. The second priority is health services. The third one is improving basic infrastructure. While the last priority is local economic empowerment.

Key words: Poverty, Kebumen Regency, Strategy, Education, Health

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INTRODUCTION

Extreme poverty is a government priority program, in which the target is to reduce the poverty to zero percent by 2024. In order to make the program more focused, extreme poverty is measured using a consistent measure of absolute poverty through purchasing power parity (PPP) below US\$1.9 per day so that it can be compared between times. With this terminology, the alleviation of extreme poverty will be more feasible and in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Esariti et al., 2020). The problem of poverty is placed in a multidimensional framework, which is viewing poverty from various dimensions and viewing the causes of poverty from various sides (Sigh et al., 2020; Brucker et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020).

The value of intervention for the elimination of extreme poverty ideally refers to the level of poverty depth. To anticipate churning, interventions are given to the society in decile 1. Related to reducing extreme poverty, currently through the Regional Government, the government has basically implemented programs that are divided into two main groups, a program group to reduce the burden of poor household expenditure, and a program group to increase the productivity of the poor (Syukur et al., 2019). However, the biggest challenge today is how to make these programs convergent and integrated in achieving the same target. This convergence is important to ensure that various programs are integrated from the planning stage to the implementation stage in the field so that they can be ensured to be received by the entitled community (Febriyanti et al., 2022; Syamsuri & Zuhroh, 2020).

As one of the regions in Indonesia, Kebumen Regency is not free from the challenges of poverty alleviation that is a serious concern for the government. Kebumen has abundant natural resource potential, including agriculture, plantations, and the tourism sector, however. the poverty rate in

this area is still a problem that needs to be overcome. Several factors that contribute to the high poverty rate in Kebumen Regency include low access to education, minimal formal employment opportunities, and limited infrastructure and health services. In addition, economic inequality and disparities among regions are also the factors that need to be considered in poverty alleviation efforts.

Poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency still deals with a number of complex problems and requires serious attention. One of the main challenges is the uneven distribution of economic resources in this region, which results in social and economic disparities among the communities. Factors such as minimal formal employment opportunities, especially in the industrial sector, also low levels of education and limited access to skills training are the significant obstacles for improving people's standard of living. Disparities in infrastructure among the regions is also a serious problem, which affects the accessibility to health services, education, and markets. In addition, natural factors such as extreme weather and climate uncertainty may also obstruct the economic growth, especially for farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct an in-depth analysis and holistic strategy to identify the root of problems and to design sustainable development programs to improve the welfare of the Kebumen Regency community as a whole.

After more than a decade of regional decentralization policy, the role of local government (Pemda) in formulating policies to improve the welfare of local communities becomes increasingly significant and important. Therefore, the effectiveness of poverty and vulnerability alleviation efforts currently must be expanded and focused on increasing the capacity of local governments to design and implement various relevant and effective policies and programs. Based on the Bappenas working paper (2008), it was found that SKPDs tended to prepare the development plans only based on the main tasks and functions (tupoksi) rather than on the tasks aimed at overcoming poverty.

Therefore, integration of programs among SKPDs rarely occurred (Bappenas, 2012).

Based on these conditions, regional programs also need to be designed to target the root of causes of poverty and pockets of poverty in a focused and precise manner (Guo & Liu, 2021; Maulu et al., 2021; Tehubijuluw et al., 2021). Thinking and designing 'out of the box' programs are required to be able to unravel the bottleneck in poverty problems to ensure more effective acceleration of poverty reduction and inequality. In this case, the basic information package for poverty alleviation, is commonly referred to as a toolkit, which comprehensively covers poverty issues based on a convergence program.

Research on poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency is very urgent considering the complexity and escalation of the problems faced by the local community. This regency is a reflection of the challenges faced by rural areas in Indonesia. Such research is very important to see in detail the factors that specifically contribute to high levels of poverty, to understand the impact of policies that have been implemented, and to evaluate the effectiveness of programs that have been carried out. The urgency lies not only in understanding the root of problems, but also in the ability to design solutions that are right on target and sustainable. Focusing research on the local context can identify the potential resources that can be optimized, overcome infrastructure barriers, and develop inclusive strategies that involve the local community's active participation. Thus, this research will not only provide in-depth insights into the conditions of poverty in Kebumen Regency, but also will become a basis for more effective and sustainable policy planning in an effort to improve the community welfare.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses primary and secondary data for data sources. Primary data is data that is directly collected by researchers (or their officers) from the first source. The primary

data sources in this research are data on extreme poverty problems in Kebumen Regency and also on the preparation of poverty alleviation strategies in Kebumen Regency obtained from key persons. While secondary data is data that has been collected for purposes other than solving the problem at hand. This data can be found quickly. In this research, the secondary data sources are publications, literature, articles, journals and sites on the internet related to the research being conducted.

The population in this research is the poor people in Kebumen Regency. As stated by Hair (2014), the minimum number of quantitative research samples is 100 respondents, so the number of samples determined in this research is 100 poor people in Kebumen Regency. This research takes the proportional random sampling technique. This technique is used because of the grouping of poor people in Kebumen Regency. This makes sampling of poor people have no levels (stratification) in it, so that sampling is carried out randomly and proportionally in each sub-district.

Meanwhile, for Mactor and AHP analysis, the key persons or informants were selected using purposive sampling techniques. In purposive sampling techniques, considerations are required to select and determine samples, by selecting samples that are considered to know the problems being studied and understand what is expected in the research. The non-probability sampling is a method in which researchers choose the key persons who really know about the variables or problems being studied. The key persons in this research used the Hexa Helix Academics, Business, Government, Community, Media, NGO (ABGCMN) approach as follows:

- a) Academics : Lecturer, expert in poverty alleviation planning
- b) Business : Banking, Entrepreneurs

- c) Government : Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level (Bappeda) and Department of Social Affairs in Kebumen Regency
- d) Community : Poor People and NGOs
- e) Media : Digital Media and Conventional
- f) NGO : Non-Governmental Organization

The observation method in this research was used in order to find primary data on the absolute location and plotting of the distribution of poor people in Kebumen Regency. In addition, observations were conducted to survey the truth of data on the characteristics of poor people obtained from related agencies. The results of observations documented or recorded in the form of images are the supporting data from other data collection results. Three questionnaires were used in this research as follows: the Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM) analysis questionnaire, the Mactor Questionnaire, and the AHP Questionnaire. The questionnaires contained a list of closed questions and were addressed to the key persons being determined based on the sample in the research.

The first analysis method in this research, the analysis of inhibiting factors for poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency, is the Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM) analysis. ISM as applied by Bhattacharya and Momaya (2009), is a sophisticated interactive planning methodology that allows a group of people, working as a team, to develop a structure that defines the relationships among elements in a set. The ISM process starts from system modeling and ends with model validation. Through the ISM technique, an unclear mental model is transformed into a visible system model. ISM is a method for making decisions from complex situations by connecting and organizing ideas in a visual map. ISM is a modeling that describes specific relationships among variables, an overall structure and has an output in the form of a

graphical model in the form of quadrants and variable levels (Li & Yang, 2014).

The first step in ISM processing is to create a Structural Self Interaction Matrix (SSIM), in which the variables are contextually related by making one variable *i* and variable *j*. The next step is to create a reachability matrix (RM) by changing V, A, X and O with the numbers 1 and 0. The last step is to create a Canonical Matrix to determine the level through iteration. After there are no more intersections, a model produced by ISM for solving problems, in this case the development of a cash *waqaf* model. From this model, a road map for institutional development (level) will be created. For various sub-elements in an element based on RM, Driver Power-Dependence is compiled. The classification of sub-elements is presented in four sectors (Marimin, 2004) as follows:

- a) Sector 1 : Weakdriver-weak dependent variables (AUTONOMOUS). The variables in this sector commonly do not related to the system, and probably have small relationship although it can be strong.
- b) Sector 2 : Weak driver-strongly dependent variables (DEPENDENT). The variables in this sector commonly are not free.
- c) Sector 3 : Strong driver-strongly dependent variables (LINKAGE). The variables in this sector must be studied carefully due to the unstable variable interrelationship. Each action on the variables will bring impact on the others and the feedback of effects may increase the impact.
- d) Sector 4 : Strong drive weak dependent variables (INDEPENDENT). The variables in this sector are the remaining part of the system called free variables.

The second analysis method is the Mactor method. It attempts to provide a global picture of the importance and possible outcomes of various issues, also the expected

actor strategies, power relationships and potential alliances and conflicts. This method aims at obtaining the possibility of the evolution of system being studied in order to build a better and more coherent scenario. The Mactor method is used to see the preferences of each stakeholder and the level of support for the identified objectives (Ahmed et al., 2009). This method also determines the level of support that each stakeholder has for each objective and group. In this research, the Mactor method will identify the actors/stakeholders involved in poverty alleviation efforts in Kebumen Regency. After the actors are identified, they can be grouped based on their respective roles so that it will be known whether the actor is included in the main actor, key actor, or supporting actor. Then the Mactor analysis in this research was also used to explain the relationship/interaction among the actors.

With this concept, the input for MACTOR is through a position matrix (known as 1MAO [Matrix Actor Objective] and 2MAO) that uses the Saliency variable from actor to objective (objective). The third matrix is MID (Matrix of Influence Direct) that uses the influence variable. In the calculation with the software, the input from the user only requires the MID matrix, 1MAO, and 2MAO matrices. Then it will be calculated by the computer through a mathematical algorithm process. Based on the MID matrix, MACTOR then calculates the direct and indirect effects of one actor to another as mentioned in Figure (X.X). This matrix is the MIDI matrix (Matrix of Indirect and Direct Influence). The MIDI matrix from A to B is calculated using the formula:

$$MIDI_{A \rightarrow B} = MID_{A \rightarrow B} + \sum_c [\min(MID_{A \rightarrow C}, MID_{C \rightarrow B})] \dots (1)$$

This matrix is then used in the next stage to determine the “balance of power”. Because of the balance of power, it must first calculate the total direct and indirect influence of the actor. If M_A is interpreted as the total direct influence of actor A on others (for example B), then:

$$M_A = \sum_B (MIDI_{A,B}) - MIDI_{A,A} \dots (2)$$

If D_A is defined as the total direct and indirect influence that A receives from other actors (in other words, the dependency of actor A), then:

$$D_A = \sum_B (MIDI_{B,A}) - MIDI_{A,A} \dots (3)$$

By using both components with the basic power coefficient, it is then calculated using the formula:

$$r_A = \left[\frac{(M_A - MIDI_{A,A})}{\sum_A (M_A)} \right] \times \left[\frac{M_A}{M_A + D_A} \right] \dots (4)$$

On the next step, MACTOR then calculates the matrix 3MAO, which is the basis and important matrix in the discussion of MACTOR. This 3MAO matrix is produced from the previous process or is a product of 2MAO and r_A or

$$3MAO_{A,i} = 2MAO_{A,i} \times r_A \dots (5)$$

By knowing this 3MAO matrix, various furniture can be produced.

The third analysis method is the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP), which is a comprehensive decision-making model that takes into account qualitative and quantitative matters. The AHP method can help to compile a priority or objective from various choices using several criteria. To determine the priority of elements in a decision problem is by making pairwise comparisons, in which each element is compared in pairs with a specified criterion. The form of pairwise comparison is a matrix. Filling in the pairwise comparison matrix uses numbers that describe the relative importance of one element over another. The scale defines and explains the values 1 to 9 that are set as considerations in comparing pairs of similar elements at each level of the hierarchy with a criterion that is one level above it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of classification of inhibiting factors for poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency consisting of 8 criteria, it produces 8 policy levels as follows:



Figure 1. Inhibiting Factors for Poverty Alleviation in Kebumen Regency

Based on the hierarchical structure presented in Figure 1, it can be explained that the elements of poverty inhibiting factors in Kebumen Regency at the first level are Economic Inequality (A1) and Lack of Access to Health Services (A3). Furthermore, at the second level there are four elements consisting of Lack of Education and Skills (A2), Lack of Economic Infrastructure (A4), Lack of Employment Opportunities (A5), and Lack of Access to Capital and Credit (A8). Then the element of factors at the third level is Natural Disasters and Climate Change (A6). While the element of factors at the sixth level is Political and Social Instability (A7). Based on this, it can be explained that the inhibiting factors for poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency are complex and interrelated. Therefore, efforts to alleviate poverty in Kebumen Regency require a holistic approach that involves various parties, including the government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the community itself.

Classification of elements of inhibiting factors for poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency can be classified into 4 (four) sectors as presented in Figure 2 as follows:

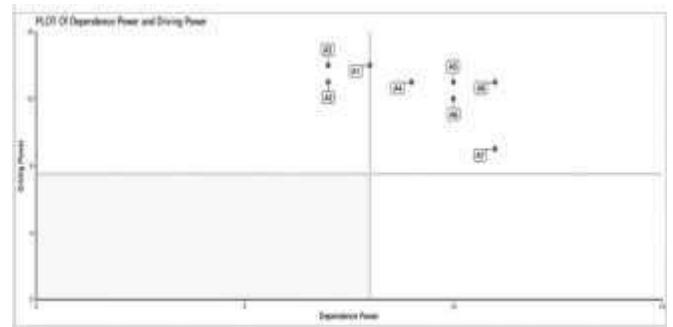


Figure 2. Power-Dependence Driver Matrix of Inhibiting Factors for Poverty Alleviation in Kebumen Regency

Based on Figure 2, the elements of inhibiting factors for poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency can be classified based on the coordinate points obtained from the Level Partitioning results. These results produced a classification of three sectors in the power-dependence driver matrix. Based on the power-dependence driver matrix, Economic Inequality (A1), Lack of Education and Skills (A2), Lack of Access to Health Services (A3) are included in sector IV (independent). These three elements have significant driving power, but only have little dependence on other policy elements.

Meanwhile, the elements of Lack of Economic Infrastructure (A4), Lack of Employment Opportunities (A5), Natural Disasters and Climate Change (A6), Political and Social Instability (A7), Lack of Access to Capital and Credit (A8), are in sector III (Linkage). The elements in this sector have significant driving power but also have significant dependence on other elements. Elements in this sector must be studied carefully because the relationship among the variables was unstable. Each action on the variable will have an impact on the others and the feedback effect can increase the impact.

Efforts to alleviate the poverty in Kebumen Regency require collaboration and synergy among the related stakeholders.

Several stakeholders who have important roles in poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency are as follows:

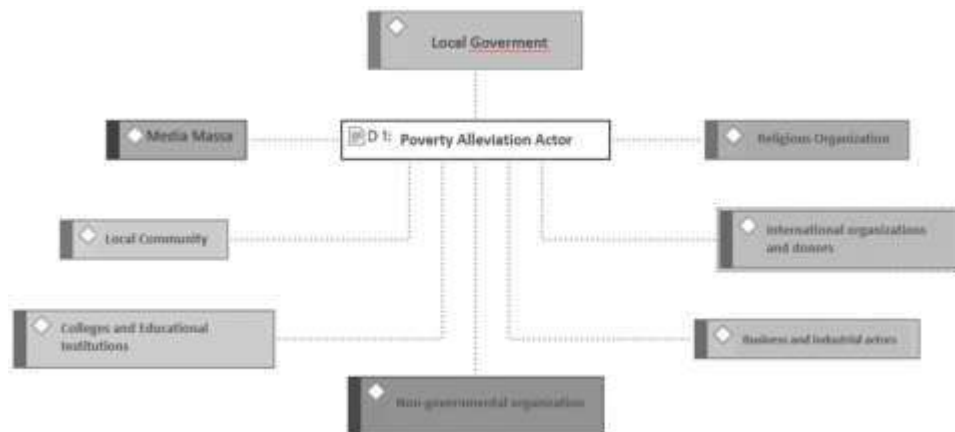


Figure 3. Actors/Stakeholders of Poverty Alleviation in Kebumen Regency

Figure 3 indicates that poverty alleviation efforts in Kebumen Regency require the involvement of various parties from government, academics, society, entrepreneurs, media, and also NGO institutions. The results of analysis indicate that there are eight actors who play a key role in poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency, including the Kebumen Regency Government,

Universities and Educational Institutions, Business and Industry Actors, International Organizations and Donors, Non-Governmental Organizations, Mass Media, Religious Organizations and also Local Communities.

The role of each actor/stakeholder in poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency is as follows:

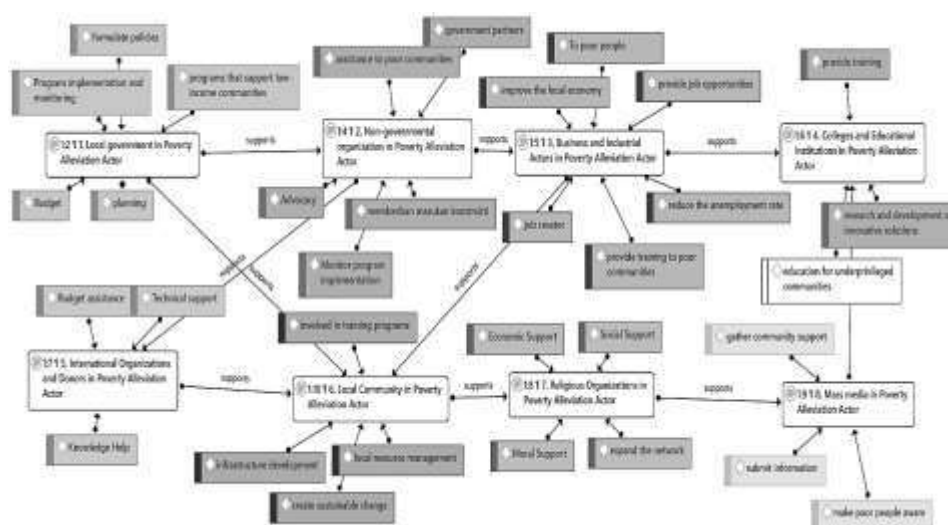


Figure 4. The Role of Each Actor/Stakeholder in Poverty Alleviation in Kebumen Regency

Figure 4 indicates that poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency involves various parties or stakeholders who have important roles in the efforts. Several stakeholders can take the role in poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency. The local government has the main responsibility in planning, implementing, and monitoring poverty alleviation programs. They can formulate policies, budgets, and programs that support the low-income communities. NGOs can act as government partners in providing assistance, advocacy, and assistance to the poor. They can also monitor the implementation of poverty alleviation programs and provide constructive input.

Poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency, like in other places, requires an integrated and sustainable strategy. The following are the results of analysis of priority strategies for poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency:

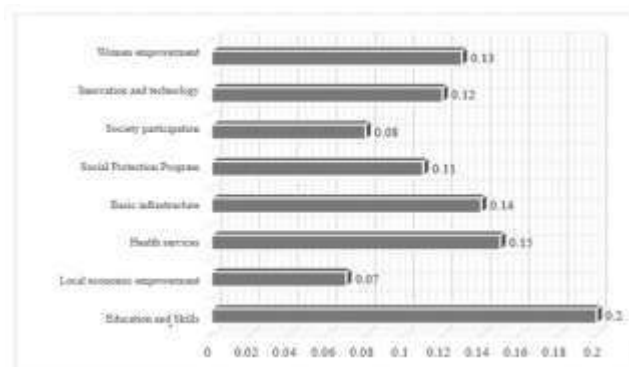


Figure 5. Priority Strategy for Poverty Alleviation in Kebumen Regency

The results of the AHP analysis have produced the most prioritized policy in poverty alleviation efforts in Kebumen Regency. The first is to improve education and skills with a weight value of 0.20. The second priority is health services with a weight value of 0.15. The third one is to improve basic infrastructure with a weight value of 0.14.

While the last priority is to empower the local economy with a weight value of 0.07.

As job creators, business and industry actors have the important role in reducing unemployment and improving the local economy. Partnership programs between the government and the private sector can provide employment and training opportunities for the poor people. Universities may contribute in the form of research and development of innovative solutions to overcome poverty (Iswardi & Suhardi, 2020). They can also provide training and education for underprivileged people so that they have the skills required in the job market.

Assistance from international organizations and donors can support the poverty alleviation programs in Kebumen Regency. This assistance can be in the form of funds, knowledge, or technical assistance. Active participation of local communities is very important in creating sustainable change. Communities can be involved in training programs, infrastructure development, and local resource management (Nindatu, 2019). Religious organizations have extensive networks in the community and can provide moral, social, and economic support to individuals or groups in need. The mass media has a role in conveying information and raising public awareness about poverty issues. They can become a tool to disseminate information about poverty alleviation programs and to mobilize community support. Good collaboration among these stakeholders may increase the effectiveness of poverty alleviation efforts in Kebumen Regency.

Alleviating the poverty in Kebumen Regency, as conducted in many other places, involves a comprehensive and sustainable approach. Education and skills play a key role in overcoming the poverty, as they open the

door to access to better economic opportunities. Improving the quality of education is one of the most important strategies in efforts to reduce poverty. Kebumen Regency requires significant investment in educational infrastructure, including the construction of adequate schools and the provision of adequate resources such as books, software, and learning facilities. Furthermore, it is necessary to improve the quality of teaching by recruiting, training, and retaining high-quality teachers, and introducing innovative and relevant learning methods to current needs (Roidah, 2018; Yang & Liu, 2021; Zhou et al, 2019). In addition, scholarship and financial assistance programs should be expanded to ensure wider access to education for low-income communities. It is also important to raise awareness of the importance of education and strengthen the relationship among schools, families, and communities to create a supportive learning environment (Wahyuni & Shaliza, 2021; Shutter et al., 2023). By implementing this strategy comprehensively, it is expected that a more educated and competitive society can be formed in Kebumen Regency, which will ultimately help overcome poverty sustainably.

In addition to qualified education, entrepreneurship development is also required to alleviate the poverty in Kebumen Regency. Entrepreneurship development plays a crucial role in efforts to reduce the poverty in Kebumen Regency. Forming environment that supports entrepreneurship is required, including efforts to facilitate business establishment, provide access to capital and credit for micro-enterprises, and provide entrepreneurship coaching and training to the community. Furthermore, the cooperation among the government, educational institutions, and the private sector to create

jobs and develop business networks is significant (Widayanti & Hidayatulloh, 2015). The next step is to promote a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation through training programs, seminars, and workshops that provide practical knowledge in starting and managing a business. In addition, support and incentives from the local government, such as tax reductions or other incentives for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), are crucial in encouraging the growth of this sector (Setiawan & Choirunnisa, 2023; Hou et al., 2019).

Improving health services can play an important role in alleviating the poverty in Kebumen Regency. Improving health services is the main foundation in efforts to reduce the poverty levels in Kebumen Regency. It is necessary to expand access to qualified health services by establishing more affordable and easily accessible health facilities for all levels of society. In addition, increasing the number and standards of health workers, including doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel, and providing continuous training to improve their skills are also required. The next action is to strengthen the referral system and coordination among the community health centers, hospitals, and advanced health services to ensure holistic and coordinated care for the patients. Preventive health programs, such as immunization, health advocacy, and healthy lifestyle education must also be strengthened to prevent disease and reduce the burden of disease on the population (Alawiyah & Setiawan, 2021).

The next poverty alleviation strategy in Kebumen Regency is to increase the development of basic infrastructure. Improving basic infrastructure can contribute significantly to poverty alleviation in Kebumen

Regency. Improvement and development of transportation infrastructure are required, including highways, bridges, and railways to facilitate accessibility to various regions. Furthermore, clean water and sanitation infrastructure needs to be improved by building a clean water supply system that can be reached by the entire population, and an efficient waste management system to prevent the spread of disease (Darmitani, 2022). The development of energy infrastructure is also a priority by expanding the electricity network and adopting renewable energy sources to ensure a stable and affordable energy supply for the community. In addition, investment in digital infrastructure such as broadband internet networks will open up opportunities for wider access to information and education for the community (Dewantoro et al., 2023). Thus, through holistic infrastructure development, it is expected that an inclusive environment can be created and the people of Kebumen Regency can be empowered to improve their quality of life and to reduce poverty levels substantially.

This improvement in basic infrastructure should be accompanied by efforts to empower the community, education, and training to ensure that the community can take full advantage of this development. In addition, collaboration among the government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations can be the key to success in alleviating the poverty in Kebumen Regency.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, it can be concluded that the results of the power-dependence driver matrix, Economic Inequality, Lack of Education and Skills, Lack of Access to Health Services are included in

sector IV (independent). These three elements have significant driving force, but have little dependence on other policy elements. While the elements of Lack of Economic Infrastructure, Lack of Employment Opportunities, Natural Disasters and Climate Change, Political and Social Instability, Lack of Access to Capital and Credit, are in sector III (Linkage).

Efforts to alleviate the poverty in Kebumen Regency require the involvement of various parties either from government, academics, communities, entrepreneurs, media and also NGOs. The results of analysis indicate that there are eight actors who play a key role in poverty alleviation in Kebumen Regency as follows: the Kebumen Regency Government, Universities and Educational Institutions, Business and Industry Actors, International Organizations and donors, Non-Governmental Organizations, Mass Media, Religious Organizations and also Local Communities.

The most prioritized policies in poverty alleviation efforts in Kebumen Regency are as follows. The first is to improve education and skills. The second priority is health services. The third one is to improve basic infrastructure. While the last priority is to empower the local economy. This research highlights the importance of an integrated approach involving various sectors, such as education, health, and infrastructure, to achieve the optimal results. The implementation of skill training and economic empowerment programs has been effective in increasing the income and independence of the poor people. In addition, institutional strengthening and collaboration among local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector play an important role in creating a conducive environment for poverty alleviation. Thus, the

policies resulting from this research can be a strategic reference for the stakeholders in designing and implementing more effective and sustainable poverty alleviation programs in Kebumen Regency.

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