The Implementation of SDGs Desa in South Sulawesi (Indonesia)

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Desa in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, focusing on the challenges and opportunities at the village level. The SDGs Desa initiative, launched by the Indonesian Ministry of Villages, aims to localize the global SDGs framework and address specific rural needs through four pillars: social, economic, environmental, and governance. This research explores the alignment of village-level SDGs with national SDG targets, the role of local governance, and the impact of leadership transitions on development outcomes. The primary objective of the study is to identify the achievements and challenges faced by South Sulawesi villages in achieving SDGs Desa, using a quantitative descriptive approach. Data collected from the Office of Community and Village Empowerment of South Sulawesi and the Ministry of Villages were analyzed to assess the top-performing villages and the gaps in SDG achievement. The findings reveal that while some villages show significant progress, particularly in poverty reduction and community development, many face challenges in achieving environmental sustainability and governance-related goals. Issues such as limited funding, weak institutional coordination, and leadership transitions hinder the effective implementation of SDGs at the village level. These challenges underline the need for better integration of SDGs into local governance systems, increased capacity-building, and enhanced partnerships between government and community actors The implications of this study emphasize the importance of localized, bottom-up approaches to SDG implementation and the need for sustained efforts to overcome governance and resource challenges, ensuring more equitable and sustainable rural development in South Sulawesi and beyond.

Keywords: Global Development, SDGs Desa, South Sulawesi

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a universal framework to address global challenges by 2030, focusing on 17 interconnected goals that encompass poverty, inequality, climate action, and more (Morton et al., 2017). Despite progress in several areas, global efforts remain off-track for most of the goals, with some targets regressing due to the lingering impacts of COVID-19, geopolitical conflicts like the war in Ukraine, and economic slowdowns (Hamisi et al., 2023). As of 2023, the UN's midpoint assessment highlights that extreme poverty has increased for the first time in decades, with approximately 575 million people projected to live below the poverty line by 2030. These setbacks disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations globally (Arora & Mishra, 2019).

In Indonesia, the SDGs face specific challenges, such as eradicating poverty and balancing development across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. The UN emphasizes the need for stronger data systems, political commitment, and accelerated financial investments to close implementation gaps. Globally, the report underscores the importance of leveraging technology and resources while addressing systemic inequalities. It calls for renewed international cooperation and urgent action to meet the goals by 2030

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Desa initiative is an adaptation of the global SDGs framework to the village level, aiming to address local needs through an integrated approach (Iskandar, 2020). Launched in 2020 by the Indonesian Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration (Kemendes PDTT), SDGs Desa focuses on four pillars: social, economic, environmental, and governance. This initiative aligns with Indonesia's overarching goals under its Vision 2045 by emphasizing sustainability, economic resilience, and community empowerment in rural areas, which are home to 41% of the country's population (Boekoesoe & Maksum, 2022). The SDGs Desa aim to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals by simplifying objectives, localizing targets at the village level, and aligning indicator targets. By positioning the SDGs as *SDGs Desa*, the direction of development at the village level becomes clearer and more detailed. Localizing these SDGs is important so that development goals become simpler, relevant to the conditions of village communities, and easier to measure (Humanika et al., 2023).

In South Sulawesi, SDGs Desa is incorporated into local development strategies, such as the Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (RPJMD) and the Regional Action Plan (RAD). These plans aim to synchronize village-level indicators with national SDGs, facilitating more accurate data collection and targeted interventions (Okitasari & Katramiz, 2022). Despite the strategic importance of these guidelines, implementation has faced challenges, particularly delays stemming from leadership changes in 2018. Efforts under SDGs Desa emphasize inclusive planning, budgeting, and partnerships involving local governments, communities, and private stakeholders (Salleh et al., 2023). Key strategies include integrating SDGs into village planning, mobilizing adequate funding, and promoting awareness to make SDGs part of everyday life. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensure accountability and foster adaptive management practices, contributing to more sustainable rural development.

Other articles discussing the challenges of SDGs Desa often highlight issues such as resource limitations, weak institutional coordination, and community engagement gaps. A study by Bappenas (the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning) emphasizes that the success of SDGs Desa heavily depends on effective integration into local governance systems, including village budgets and action plans, which are frequently hindered by bureaucratic delays and insufficient funding. Additionally, reports from international conferences on rural development, such as the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Rural Development, underscore the need for stronger partnerships between government and non-government actors to address disparities in implementation and ensure equitable progress across regions. These discussions collectively point to the importance of bottomup approaches, enhanced capacity-building, and the mobilization of diverse resources to overcome persistent challenges.

The selection of South Sulawesi as the object of a study case for SDGs Desa can be justified by several factors. Firstly, South Sulawesi represents a diverse socio-economic and geographic landscape, with significant rural populations dependent on agriculture and fisheries. This makes it a microcosm for understanding the challenges and opportunities of implementing the SDGs at the village level. The province's ongoing efforts to align with the national SDGs agenda, through initiatives like the Regional Action Plan (RAD – TPB), also provide a robust framework for analysis. Secondly, South Sulawesi has shown notable progress in areas such as poverty reduction and community-driven development while still facing challenges in balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. These dynamics make it an ideal case for studying the interplay between policy, governance, and grassroots development. Additionally, delays in leadership transitions and implementation of SDGs-related guidelines highlight institutional challenges that are crucial to understanding how localized SDG strategies can be improved. Lastly, the province's strategic importance as an economic hub in eastern Indonesia and its diverse cultural heritage provide unique insights into how local contexts shape the outcomes of global frameworks like the SDGs. By focusing on South Sulawesi, researchers can contribute to actionable insights that can inform policymaking at both the regional and national levels.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework used in the article focuses on integrating Sustainable Development Theory and Governance Theory to analyze the implementation of SDGs Desa in South Sulawesi. Sustainable Development Theory emphasizes the balance between economic, social, and environmental dimensions, reflecting the core of the SDGs framework (Digdowiseiso, 2019). This theory is crucial in evaluating how local development strategies align with the broader goals of poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and equitable growth. Governance Theory, on the other hand, highlights the roles of institutions, leadership, and participatory processes in shaping policy implementation (Chalid, 2022). It

provides a lens for understanding the challenges related to leadership transitions and institutional coordination in South Sulawesi, which have impacted the timeliness and effectiveness of the Regional Action Plan (RAD – TPB).

The conceptual framework outlines key constructs, including the alignment of village-level SDGs with national priorities, community participation in development planning, and resource mobilization. These components are interrelated and offer insights into the systemic and localized factors influencing SDGs Desa. For example, the framework examines how limited funding and inconsistent data collection impede progress, while also exploring strategies for enhancing bottom-up governance and stakeholder collaboration (Mulyawan, 2016). By combining these theoretical and conceptual frameworks, the article provides a structured analysis of how South Sulawesi's socio-economic dynamics and governance structures shape the realization of SDGs at the village level.

METHOD

This research employs a quantitative descriptive approach to identify the achievements of SDG Desa in South Sulawesi. An initial study was conducted by collecting relevant documents and datasets related to SDG Desa from the Office of Community and Village Empowerment of South Sulawesi Province, as well as official data on SDG Desa scores from the Ministry of Villages' website. Data collection involved accessing village-level SDG scorecards, policy documents, and implementation reports. The collected data were systematically processed and analyzed to identify the top five villages with the highest scores out of a total of 18 points for SDG Desa. Data processing included categorizing villages based on their SDG Desa scores and calculating mean values to assess overall performance across all dimensions of the SDGs. To provide a clear and comprehensive visualization, the data were transformed into graphical representations such as line graphs and bar charts. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics to examine trends, identify disparities, and evaluate the alignment of village-level achievements with national SDG targets. By visualizing the data through graphs, the study highlighted specific patterns, enabling easier interpretation of achievements and challenges in SDG Desa implementation. The population and sample in this study include all 2,256 villages in South Sulawesi that have been assessed regarding their progress in achieving SDG Desa. This comprehensive analysis aims to provide insights into the factors influencing the success and gaps in SDG Desa at the village level.

DISCUSSION

Achievement of SDG Desa in South Sulawesi

The achievement of SDG Desa in South Sulawesi Province shows a score of 46.66 points, placing it in the low category. This indicates that the villages in this province still have a long way to go to reach the expected targets for sustainable development. However, this category can serve as a starting point to identify priority areas that require further attention and collective efforts to improve the social, economic, and environmental conditions at the village level.



Gambar 1. The SDG Desa scores for each district in South Sulawesi in 2023

Source: Analysis by author

Based on a comparison with the overall SDGs score for Indonesia in 2022, which was 69.16 points, it can be concluded that the achievement of SDG Desa in South Sulawesi has not fully contributed to the overall improvement of Indonesia's SDGs score. This underscores the need for greater and more targeted efforts to enhance the achievement of SDG Desa in this province so that they can actively contribute to achieving sustainable development goals at the national level.

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of SDG Desa scores in each district in South Sulawesi. It is apparent that the majority of districts, 20 out of a total of 21, have nearly identical SDG Desa scores and fall into the low category. Only one district falls into the

moderate category, while none reach the high category. This indicates that the achievement of sustainable development at the village level in South Sulawesi as a whole still faces significant challenges and requires further attention in efforts to improve the quality of life for communities and environmental well-being. Collaboration between the government, communities, and other stakeholders is needed to formulate effective strategies and programs to achieve sustainable development goals at the local level (Sahban, 2018).

The SDG Desa scores in each district in South Sulawesi are nearly identical. A total of 20 districts, or 95.23%, fall into the low category, with only one district falling into the moderate category, while none fall into the high category. This indicates that the district governments are still far from the target, with all districts even scoring below the average SDG score for Indonesia. The main problem is the consistently low performance of South Sulawesi districts in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the village level, as reflected in the SDG Desa scores. Data shows that 95.23% of the districts fall into the low category, with only one district reaching the moderate category and none achieving a high score. This demonstrates systemic challenges in planning, implementation, and resource allocation for SDG programs at the local level. The fact that all districts score below the national average highlights a significant disparity in performance compared to other regions in Indonesia. These findings suggest persistent gaps in coordination, commitment, and resources, which hinder the realization of sustainable development in rural South Sulawesi.

Several factors contribute to this issue. Limited capacity and expertise at the district level may impede the translation of national SDG frameworks into actionable local initiatives (Hasanuddin et al., 2022). Local governments often struggle to align SDG targets with their unique socio-economic and geographical contexts. Additionally, inadequate financial and institutional support leaves many districts unable to address pressing development challenges such as poverty, education, and healthcare. The lack of meaningful community engagement further exacerbates the problem, as programs may fail to address the actual needs of rural populations. Addressing these challenges requires a targeted approach, empowering district governments with the resources, technical support, and participatory mechanisms needed to improve SDG outcomes.



Gambar 2. The SDG Desa scores for South Sulawesi Province based on achievement targets

Source: Analysis by author

Figure 2 illustrates the SDG Desa scores for South Sulawesi Province based on achievement targets. Out of a total of 18 targets, only one target falls into the high category, which is SDG Desa Number 7, related to achieving Clean and Renewable Energy Villages. Additionally, eight other targets fall into the moderate category, namely SDG Desa Numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, and 18. Meanwhile, nine targets fall into the low category, namely SDG Desa Numbers 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15. This illustrates the variation in sustainable development achievements at the village level in South Sulawesi, with some targets performing better than others. Greater and more targeted efforts are needed to improve achievements in targets that are still in the low category to achieve more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable development across South Sulawesi Province.

Social Development Pillar: Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 18

The Social Development Pillar within the Village SDGs framework encompasses six key goals that address fundamental aspects of human development and societal wellbeing(Bukalska et al., 2021). Goal 1 (No Poverty) focuses on eradicating poverty in all its forms, ensuring access to basic needs and economic opportunities. Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) aims to eliminate hunger, achieve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture. Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) emphasizes improving health services, reducing mortality rates, and enhancing overall quality of life. Goal 4 (Quality Education) prioritizes inclusive and equitable education for all, promoting lifelong learning opportunities. Goal 5 (Gender Equality) seeks to empower women and girls, eliminate gender-based discrimination, and promote equal participation in all aspects of life. Finally, Goal 18 (Dynamic Village Institutions and Adaptive Village Culture) focuses on strengthening village governance, fostering resilience, and preserving local cultural values to support sustainable community development. Together, these goals form the foundation for building a socially inclusive and resilient society.



Gambar 3. The Scores of The Social Development Pillar

Source: Analysis by author

This chart illustrates the scores of the Social Development Pillar indicators within the Village SDGs framework, encompassing Goals 1 (No Poverty), Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goals 4 (Quality Education), Goals 5 (Gender Equality), and Goals 18 (Dynamic Village Institutions and Adaptive Village Culture) across various districts in South Sulawesi. Each line represents the average score for each goal in different districts. The chart highlights the variability in SDGs achievement at the local level, revealing disparities in implementation and progress among districts. From the chart, it is

evident that certain districts, such as Gowa and Barru, exhibit significant fluctuations in specific indicators, such as Goals 3 and Goals 5, while other districts show more stable trends. The highest scores are consistently observed for Goal 18, indicating success in strengthening village institutions and promoting adaptive cultural practices. Conversely, goals like Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) tend to have lower scores across most districts, reflecting greater challenges in addressing hunger and food security. This analysis underscores the importance of localized approaches to optimize SDGs achievement, tailored to the specific conditions of each district.

The presented graph reveals significant variations in the achievement of Social Development Pillar indicators across districts in South Sulawesi, reflecting both the strengths and challenges of local development strategies. From an academic perspective, these disparities underscore the importance of contextual factors, such as economic capacity, governance quality, and local resource management, in shaping SDGs outcomes. For instance, the consistently high scores in Goal 18 (Dynamic Village Institutions and Adaptive Village Culture) suggest that institutional and cultural adaptability plays a critical role in sustaining local development. This aligns with theories in development studies that highlight the importance of participatory governance and culturally sensitive approaches in Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) point to systemic issues in food security, which may be exacerbated by structural inequalities, limited agricultural innovation, and inadequate infrastructure in rural areas.

From a policy perspective, the variability across districts calls for targeted interventions that are tailored to address specific regional challenges. While high-performing districts like Gowa and Barru demonstrate success in certain indicators, their fluctuations in others highlight the need for balanced development planning that prioritizes both short-term goals and long-term sustainability. Furthermore, the low performance in Goals 2 and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) suggests a pressing need for integrated programs that link food security, health services, and education. These findings support the argument that achieving the SDGs requires not only financial investment but also strategic collaboration among stakeholders at the local, provincial, and national levels. By leveraging local strengths and addressing critical gaps, policymakers and practitioners can develop more equitable and impactful approaches to advancing the SDGs in South Sulawesi.

Economic Development Pillar: Goals 7, 8, 9, 10, and 17

The Economic Development Pillar of the Village SDGs framework focuses on fostering sustainable and inclusive economic growth through Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Goal 7 aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy, a critical foundation for economic productivity and modern livelihoods in rural areas. Meanwhile, Goal 8 emphasizes the creation of decent jobs and promotion of entrepreneurship, addressing unemployment and informal labor issues that often plague rural economies. Together, these goals highlight the need for resource optimization and innovation to enhance productivity while ensuring social equity and environmental sustainability (Graeme, 2017).

Goal 9 focuses on strengthening rural infrastructure, advancing technological innovation, and developing industries that can boost local economies. In the context of rural development, this goal is vital for connecting villages to markets, improving access to essential services, and fostering economic diversification. Similarly, Goal 10 aims to reduce inequalities by addressing disparities in income distribution, access to opportunities, and social mobility. It calls for inclusive economic systems that bridge the gap between rural and urban areas, ensuring that no one is left behind in the development process. These goals collectively emphasize that economic progress must benefit all segments of society, particularly marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

Finally, Goal 17 underscores the importance of partnerships for achieving sustainable development. Collaborative efforts among government agencies, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, and local communities are necessary to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and drive innovation. For rural areas, partnerships can facilitate access to funding, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives that accelerate economic development. Together, these goals form a comprehensive framework that not only addresses immediate economic challenges but also lays the groundwork for long-term, inclusive, and sustainable growth. By integrating these goals into development strategies, villages can unlock their economic potential and contribute meaningfully to regional and national progress.





Source: Analysis by author

This graph illustrates the indicator scores for the Economic Development Pillar within the Village SDGs framework, which includes Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goals 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goals 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), Goals 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goals 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) across various districts in South Sulawesi. Each line represents the average score for each goal in the respective districts. The graph shows that Goal 7 has the highest and most consistent scores across all districts, with values close to 100. This indicates significant success in providing access to affordable and clean energy in rural areas. In contrast, the scores for Goals 8, 9, and 10 vary significantly between districts, with averages ranging from 30 to 60. This suggests greater challenges in promoting economic growth, improving infrastructure, and reducing inequalities in certain districts. Meanwhile, Goal 17, which emphasizes partnerships and collaborations for sustainable development, shows moderate scores in some districts but lower scores in others. This variability indicates that cross-sectoral partnerships still require strengthening to support sustainable economic development effectively. The graph highlights that while significant progress has been made in clean energy (Goal 7), more intensive efforts are needed to ensure inclusive and equitable economic growth, particularly in advancing infrastructure and reducing regional disparities.

The data from the graph reflects the varying levels of achievement across the Economic Development Pillar goals, providing a theoretical basis to analyze rural development dynamics. The consistently high scores in Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) align with modernization theory, which emphasizes the critical role of infrastructure, particularly energy, in advancing economic productivity and improving quality of life. Access to clean and affordable energy serves as a foundation for economic activities, enabling industrialization, entrepreneurship, and technological adoption in rural areas. This suggests that government and development partners have prioritized energy access as a key driver for rural transformation. However, the disparity in other goals, such as Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), reflects structural challenges in creating inclusive and sustainable economic systems, as emphasized by dependency theory, which critiques unequal resource distribution and systemic inequalities in marginalized regions.

The low and fluctuating scores for Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) further highlight gaps in social equity and collaborative governance frameworks. According to institutional theory, strong and inclusive institutions are necessary to address systemic inequities and mobilize resources effectively for development. The data suggests that partnerships between stakeholders, including local governments, private sectors, and civil society, remain fragmented or underdeveloped in many districts, limiting their capacity to achieve broader economic goals. Furthermore, the variability in scores indicates a lack of tailored interventions that consider the unique socioeconomic contexts of each district. These findings reinforce the argument that achieving sustainable economic development in rural areas requires a multifaceted approach, integrating inclusive policy frameworks, resource allocation equity, and participatory governance to address persistent disparities and maximize the potential of local economies.

Environmental Development Pillar: Goals 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15

The Environmental Development Pillar within the SDGs focuses on ensuring the sustainability of natural resources and ecosystems while addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) aims to guarantee universal access to clean water and improved sanitation, which are essential for health, well-being, and sustainable agriculture (Obaideen et al., 2023). Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and

Communities) emphasizes the need to create resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban environments, while Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) calls for more efficient use of resources, reducing waste and promoting sustainable production systems. Together, these goals highlight the need for balancing development with environmental sustainability, ensuring that economic growth does not come at the expense of depleting the earth's natural resources or exacerbating environmental degradation (Junker & Farah, 2022).

In addition, Goal 13 (Climate Action) targets the urgent need to combat climate change and its impacts through mitigation, adaptation, and education. Goal 14 (Life Below Water) focuses on protecting marine ecosystems and preserving biodiversity, which are crucial for food security and the livelihoods of coastal communities. Goal 15 (Life on Land) emphasizes the protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, promoting biodiversity conservation and halting land degradation. These goals collectively aim to protect ecosystems from the pressures of development, resource extraction, and pollution, while promoting actions that enhance the resilience of both natural and human systems to the effects of environmental changes. Achieving these goals requires coordinated global efforts, sound environmental policies, and sustainable practices at both local and global levels (Moczek et al., 2021).



Gambar 5. The Score of Environmental Development Pillar

Source: Analysis by author

The graph illustrates the performance of districts in South Sulawesi with respect to environmental development goals under the SDGs framework, specifically Goals 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land). Goal 6, represented by the orange line, shows relatively high and consistent values across all districts, indicating a broader success in providing clean water and sanitation facilities. This achievement is particularly important in rural areas, where access to these resources can significantly improve health outcomes and overall living conditions. Goal 11, represented by the pink line, also shows moderate results, indicating some progress toward building sustainable and resilient cities and communities, but with noticeable room for improvement in certain districts.

However, the scores for Goals 12, 13, 14, and 15 present a mixed picture. Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), represented by the red line, fluctuates significantly across districts, suggesting that practices related to resource efficiency and waste management are inconsistent. Some districts show stronger adherence to sustainable consumption and production practices, while others face challenges in implementing these practices. Goal 13, focusing on Climate Action (represented by the blue line), shows lower scores overall, reflecting the difficulty in effectively tackling climate change and mitigating its impacts in rural districts, where resources for climate adaptation and mitigation may be limited. Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land), shown by the cyan and green lines, respectively, are also notably low, highlighting challenges in preserving biodiversity and managing natural ecosystems in many districts.

In conclusion, the graph underscores that while some progress has been made, there are substantial disparities in environmental sustainability across South Sulawesi districts. Goal 6 stands out as a clear area of success, indicating that improving access to clean water and sanitation is a priority in these regions. However, Goals 12, 13, 14, and 15 require more targeted interventions to address the specific challenges posed by resource management, climate change, and ecosystem preservation. The variability seen in these goals suggests the need for more localized strategies that consider the unique environmental contexts of each district, as well as stronger coordination among local governments, communities, and environmental organizations to implement more effective and sustainable environmental practices.

The author argues that while significant progress has been made in some Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Sulawesi, such as Goal 6 focusing on clean water and sanitation, substantial challenges remain, particularly in achieving broader environmental sustainability. The data indicates relatively high achievements in Goal 6, suggesting that access to clean water and sanitation is a priority in these areas. This aligns with the theory of sustainable development, which emphasizes the importance of basic needs access as a foundation for broader social and economic development. Access to clean water and sanitation not only affects public health but also improves overall quality of life. Therefore, this success reflects the region's commitment to fulfilling basic human rights, which is a key element of the sustainable development approach.

However, the data also reveals significant disparities in the achievement of Goals 12, 13, 14, and 15, related to responsible consumption and production, climate action, and the preservation of life below water and on land. The fluctuations observed in Goal 12 highlight challenges in implementing resource management and waste reduction practices, which are often influenced by factors such as limited technology and infrastructure. Meanwhile, the lower scores in Goals 13, 14, and 15 suggest limitations in the regions' ability to address climate change and preserve biodiversity. This is consistent with the theory of political ecology, which emphasizes the relationship between policy, power distribution, and natural resource management, often uneven across regions. Therefore, achieving better outcomes in these goals requires more specific interventions and context-based approaches to address the unique challenges each area faces, including enhancing local capacities and fostering cooperation among local governments, communities, and environmental organizations.

Law and Governance Development Pillar: Goal 16

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions," emphasizes the importance of building inclusive, accountable, and transparent institutions to ensure the rule of law, human rights, and access to justice for all. It highlights the need for effective governance systems that promote peaceful societies, protect individuals from violence, and foster the participation of all citizens in decisionmaking processes. Strengthening institutions under Goal 16 is essential for achieving stability, security, and equality, laying the foundation for broader development and the realization of other SDGs (Sørensen & Torfing, 2021). The governance aspect of Goal 16 also addresses the importance of combating corruption, improving public services, and ensuring that institutions function efficiently and fairly. It emphasizes the creation of legal frameworks and systems that protect people's rights and enable them to resolve disputes equitably. Strong institutions help to create a favorable environment for economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability by ensuring that policies are well-implemented, resources are distributed fairly, and citizens' rights are upheld. Ultimately, Goal 16 supports the overall objective of building a peaceful and just society, where governance is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the people.





Source: Analysis by author

The chart above illustrates the comparison between Village SDGs scores and Goal 16 scores across several districts. The blue line represents Goal 16 scores, while the orange line shows Village SDGs scores. Overall, Goal 16 scores are significantly higher than Village SDGs scores in all districts. Goal 16 scores consistently range between 70 and 90, with minor fluctuations across districts, whereas Village SDGs scores range between 40 and 50, highlighting a notable gap. Furthermore, the trends of these two indicators differ. Goal 16 scores exhibit a stable pattern, peaking in certain districts such as North Luwu, Tana Toraja, and North Toraja. In contrast, Village SDGs scores show a gradual increase from district to district without sharp fluctuations. This difference may indicate a disparity in achieving

development goals at the village level compared to Goal 16, which focuses on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

The chart highlights a disparity in the achievements of Village SDGs compared to Goal 16, suggesting underlying challenges in local-level development. According to global development theories, such as Rostow's stages of economic growth, achieving higher-level goals like peace, justice, and institutional strength (Goal 16) often depends on foundational progress in economic and social development. The relatively lower scores for Village SDGs in the data could reflect gaps in basic infrastructure, education, or community-level governance, which are essential for advancing sustainable development comprehensively. From a human development perspective, Amartya Sen's capability approach emphasizes the importance of empowering individuals and communities to achieve their potential (Velástegui, 2020). The consistent underperformance of Village SDGs compared to Goal 16 may indicate insufficient resources or capabilities at the village level to translate higher-level institutional goals into tangible local outcomes. This aligns with the theory that macro-level stability and policies (as reflected in higher Goal 16 scores) may not always trickle down effectively to improve micro-level conditions, such as in villages. Lastly, the chart underscores the need for integrated development strategies that align local and global goals. Theories of inclusive development advocate for bridging this gap by fostering bottom-up approaches that address local needs while aligning them with broader frameworks like the SDGs (Dang, 2014). The gradual upward trend in Village SDGs scores suggests some progress, but the sharp difference with Goal 16 highlights the need for targeted interventions, such as capacity-building programs and equitable resource allocation, to ensure that development benefits are shared more evenly across all levels of society.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the Village SDGs framework and its alignment with the global SDG goals, significant progress has been made in certain areas, particularly in the Economic Development Pillar and Law and Governance aspects. For instance, Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) shows consistently high scores across districts, reflecting strong efforts in providing access to clean and sustainable energy. Similarly, Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) exhibits high and stable performance, with districts like North Luwu, Tana Toraja, and North Toraja demonstrating strong institutional governance. This indicates that at the macro level, significant strides have been made in ensuring basic infrastructure

and institutional integrity, which are critical for rural transformation and long-term development. However, notable disparities remain, particularly in Goals 8, 9, and 10, which focus on inclusive economic growth, infrastructure development, and reducing inequalities. The scores for these goals vary significantly across districts, highlighting the challenges faced in fostering equitable growth and addressing regional disparities. Additionally, Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) show more variation, indicating that while some areas have successfully established partnerships and initiatives for sustainable development, others still face challenges in fostering collaboration and addressing inequalities. These inconsistencies suggest that more targeted interventions are required to bridge the gap between economic development and social equity, particularly in rural and underserved districts. The Environmental Development Pillar, which includes Goals 6, 12, 13, 14, and 15, also presents mixed results. While Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) shows significant success across districts, goals related to responsible consumption, climate action, and biodiversity preservation face substantial challenges. The fluctuation in Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), coupled with the low scores in Goals 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land), highlights the need for more localized and context-specific strategies to address the unique environmental challenges of each district. This underscores the importance of integrating environmental sustainability with economic development and ensuring that governance frameworks at all levels are aligned with the long-term goal of achieving a resilient and sustainable future for all regions.

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