



Critical Perspectives on Indonesia Village Development Index

¹ Maria Lusiana Florentin Werang, ² Priscilia Yolandasari ³ Yeni Husnaeni ⁴ Mia Rizki ⁵ Nicolaus Petrus Likuwatan Werang

¹ Department of Public Administration, Universitas Katolik Parahyangan
^{2,3,5} The Indonesian Scientist Association of Public Administration (AsIAN)
⁴ Department of Public Administration, Universitas Diponegoro
¹marialusianafw@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The IDM provides a critical instrument for evaluating rural development in Indonesia, yet its current conceptualization demonstrates significant methodological limitations. This systematic literature review critically examines the structural deficiencies within the IDM framework, focusing on its inadequacies in comprehensively capturing the multifaceted nature of rural transformations. While the IDM traditionally emphasizes infrastructure, social services, and economic dimensions, the research reveals substantial gaps in addressing essential developmental components serving as participatory governance, regional heterogeneity, and socio-economic complexity. The study systematically deconstructs the existing IDM model through a comprehensive analytical approach, identifying critical omissions, including geographic isolation challenges, nuanced human development indicators, and pervasive financial inequalities. The research methodology employed a rigorous, systematic literature review, synthesizing multiple scholarly perspectives to illuminate the model's conceptual constraints. Key findings underscore the imperative for a more sophisticated, context-sensitive developmental framework that integrates localized strategies and collaborative methodological approaches. The implications are profound, suggesting that a recalibrated IDM could significantly enhance policymakers' perception of rural dynamics, ultimately facilitating more effective interventions that authentically reflect communities based on local preferences.

Keywords; Rural Governance, Systematic Literature Approach, IDM.

A. INTRODUCTION

Nationally, the enactment of statute No. 6/2014 on Villages marks a transformative alteration in Indonesia's advancement model, establishing villages as fundamental entities within the framework of national development administration (Antlöv, Wetterberg, & Dharmawan, 2016). The core of this concept is the Village Development Index (IDM), which was initiated by the government in 2015 through the KEMENDES-PDPT as a perceptible model to measure and evaluate development progress in

74,961 rurals in Indonesia (Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation, 2024).

Furthermore, if traced in fact, indicators such as socioeconomics reflect indications of significant development gaps in every rural or urban area in Indonesia. The first point is that the published statistical analysis shows that 23,7% of the rural resident's lives under the poverty line, starkly dissimilar the urban poverty rate of 7,5% (Badan Pusat Statistik Republik Indonesia, 2023). Thus, this finding is necessary for the Indonesian government to reflect village development in Indonesia because the World Bank expresses that 42% of the Indonesian workforce is involved in village-based economic activities. In addition, the characteristics of the Indonesian archipelago, consisting of 17,508 islands, are also an obstacle to applying metrics through a standardised development model (World Bank, 2023).

According (Sutiyo & Maharjan, 2017), the village development model in Indonesia consists of dimensions such as social flexibility; environmental flexibility; and economic flexibility, where each value is given the same weight in the final calculation to determine the results achieved. However, this does not yet meet empirical evidence that problems and development needs must exist at every village level in Indonesia through the existing dimensions.

Surprisingly, Hartojo research (2022) revealed something interesting through a quantitative approach, especially regarding the Economic Resilience Index (Hartojo, Ikhsan, Dartanto, & Sumarto, 2022). Although the existing results have the ideal probable to be developed into an autonomous village category, the index is not much different from other villages in Indonesia. In this regard, there is a scientific perspective that describes how metrics applied to village development can present various theoretical perspectives that are considered to have context and relevance that can encourage development itself. (Chambers, 2014) it argues that models that apply traditional development indices often fail to capture the multidimensional aspects of poverty and rural welfare in general because the portraits in one region and another are undoubtedly different and cannot be the same. This is in line with Sen's capability perspective, which states that measuring the actual function and capability of development only focuses on a region's material resources (Sen, 2017). This is still related to research conducted by Akbar (2020), which suggests that effective rural development metrics should apply the knowledge systems and cultural contexts of

indigenous communities, elements that may be underrepresented in the current Indonesian IDM model (Akbar, Flacke, Martinez, & van Maarseveen, 2020).

In Indonesia, (Antlöv & Wetterberg, 2021) contend that the existing IDM framework may not fully capture the diverse development trajectories of villages across various cultural and geographical contexts. The literature extensively discusses methodological challenges in measuring village development. Although quantitative indicators enable comparative analysis, they often fall short of capturing qualitative dimensions of development, such as community empowerment and social cohesion (Headley, 2007).

Next move, some things almost support the success of village development itself, which are often influenced by several factors that are difficult to measure, such as the quality of leadership and the level of community participation (Prayitno, Dinanti, Wardani, & Sania, 2022). On the other hand, this study utilises a systematic literature review (SLR) approach to severely assess the practice together with extensiveness of Indonesia's Village Development Index. The main equitable is to examine the sequence amid the IDM model and the intricate facets of village development, exacting on whether it accurately resonates with Indonesian villages' development precedence together with exigencies.

Moreover, this study systematically analyses existing research and empirical evidence to uncover potential gaps between the Village Development Index (IDM) measurements and the actual conditions in Indonesian villages. The RQ becomes a gap that we need to examine, and a special focus on: "Does Indonesia's Village Development Index (IDM) measure the reality and needs of local development?".

Finally, we aim to conduct this research considering the Indonesian state's pledge to encourage reasonable rural development as declared in the RPJMN 2020-2024. Then, the hope is that the existing findings can contribute to understanding the concept of measuring rural development and practical improvements through village development strategies in Indonesia. Thus, this study aims to bridge the gap between the conceptual model of development measurement and the needs of rural communities, in fact, by perfecting a more accurate measuring instrument that can reflect the relevance of the portrait of rural development in Indonesia.

B. METHODS

In this section, we adopt the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) methodology to understand and rigorously analyse the credibility and relevance related to the Indonesian Village Development Index (IDM) as a model for measuring key aspects of development at the village level. Furthermore, we strictly select each reference referred to through ten recognised national and international journals through Google Scholar search based on academic credibility and relevance to the research topic.

Therefore, in ensuring accuracy and consistency in data collection, we apply a carefully prepared literature review so that the analysis and results lead to the research context in detail and clearly (Visic, 2022). In addition, the research that we utilise is also supported by software, namely Publish or Perish (PoP). We consider this application very useful for managing references and tracking scientific literature based on its validity and relevance. This application can facilitate efficient reference management; minimise errors; and simplify searching for studies relevant to the research theme.

The process begins with establishing clear criteria for referring to journals, including citation standards and their influence on assessing village development indicators such as IDM. Then, a focused keyword search is conducted through the Google Scholar platform to identify studies that have connotations that lead to the IDM model in measuring essential aspects of development at the village level. The results of this search are refined and validated, resulting in ten journals that are most relevant to the research focus.

Thus, this research yields an in-depth scrutiny of the elements and methodologies that implicate the accuracy of the IDM as a model for assessing development at the village level. Furthermore, this research also critically conceptually examines the research methods used in the selected studies to comprehend the approaches adopted by previous researchers in assessing the development index at the village level. Lastly, these results are synthesised and reviewed comprehensively to recommend an accurate assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the IDM as a model for measuring development at the village level.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this part, we present the results of a systematic literature review, which includes analysis and synthesis of data obtained from several referenced journals. Meanwhile,

the focus here is on the relevance and validity related to the theme of the Indonesian Village Development Index (IDM) as a model for measuring the main aspects of development at the village level. Furthermore, the data has been carefully collected and arranged into tables to facilitate analysis, categorising specific components such as adopting research methods; main findings; and conclusions from the journals reviewed. Thus, through this process, a comprehensive analysis can be presented and an in-depth considerate of the elements that control the practice of IDM as a village development and progress model. For this reason, the summons againts the selected scientific are presented regularly ias follows:

Tabel 1. Overview of the Research on the Village Development Index or IDM

Author & Year	Title	Source/Journal	Findings
(Hartoyo; Haryanto Teuku, 2018)	<i>Towards a new village development paradigm in Lampung Province, Indonesia</i>	Journal of Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Issues	The study emphasises the importance of adopting a comprehensive and long-term strategy to address these fundamental issues, align village governance with the law's objectives, and facilitate measurable progress in rural development and the Village Development Index (IPD).
(Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020)	<i>The Analysis of Determinants of Developing Village Index in Indonesia</i>	The Asian Journal of Technology Management (AJTM)	This nuanced exploration suggests that socio-economic sophistication and demographic complexity serve as critical catalysts for village-level progression, highlighting the intricate interplay between human capital; social infrastructure; and population dynamics in driving rural development.

Author & Year	Title	Source/Journal	Findings
(Naufal, Mulyanto, & Suryanto, 2023)	<i>The Effect of Social Infrastructure on Rural Poverty in Indonesia with The Village Development Index As Moderation Variable</i>	Eko-Regional: Jurnal Pembangunan Ekonomi Wilayah	The empirical analysis demonstrates the educational infrastructure exhibits a statistically significant negative correlation with rural poverty, suggesting that increased schooling facilities serve as a pivotal mechanism for socioeconomic empowerment.
(Fafurida, Purwaningsih, Mulyanto, & Suryanto, 2023)	<i>Tourism Village Development: Measuring the Effectiveness of the Success of Village Development</i>	Economies	The research underscores that while tourism can catalyse rural development, it is not a singular solution for comprehensive village advancement. Village development is multifaceted and requires holistic approaches that extend beyond tourism-centric interventions.
(Mujio, Rahayu, Waskitaningsih, & Mulyadi, 2023)	<i>Village Development Sustainability Analysis: A Case Study in Cijeruk, Bogor Regency</i>	The Journal of Indonesia Sustainable Development Planning (JISDeP)	The research underscores the paramount holistic, multidimensional approaches to village development. It emphasises that sustainability is not determined by a single factor but by the complex interactions between ecological; economic; social; and governance elements. The findings offer valuable insights for policymakers and development practitioners seeking

Author & Year	Title	Source/Journal	Findings
			to enhance rural community welfare and quality of life.
(Hidayat, Prasetya, & Dinanti, 2019)	<i>Village Development Index and ICT Infrastructure in Tourism Region</i>	Journal of Indonesian Tourism and Development Studies	Demonstrating the pivotal role of telecommunications infrastructure in mitigating spatial constraints, the research illuminates strategic interventions for enhancing rural developmental trajectories, explicitly highlighting the transformative potential of robust telephone services in overcoming geographical marginalization and catalyzing socio-economic progression.
(Lobwaer, Anwar, & Suhab, 2024)	<i>Village Development Index Behavior: A Review of Regional Attractiveness</i>	Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Accounting, Management, and Economics (ICAME 2023) , Advances in Economics, Business and Management Research	The empirical analysis reveals a nuanced interplay of developmental determinants, where population scale, healthcare infrastructure, and trade facilities emerge as significant positive contributors to village development, with trade infrastructure emerging as the most substantive catalyst.
(Fitriana, Takarini, Iryanti, & Mahanani, 2022)	<i>The Implementation of Village Financial Management Principles in Escalating Indeks Desa Membangun (IDM) Level for Villages: Learning from The Jati Village, Tuban</i>	International Seminar of Research Month 2021. NST Proceedings	The research demonstrates how such policy constructs are pivotal catalysts for systematically elevating the Integrated Development Model (IDM) metrics, thus empowering rural

Author & Year	Title	Source/Journal	Findings
			communities to strategically navigate their developmental challenges through institutionalized, contextually responsive mechanisms.
(Muhtarom, Kusuma, & Purwanti, 2018)	<i>Village Index Analysis Building to Know the Village Development in Gadingrejo District of Pringsewu District</i>	Inovasi Pembangunan: Jurnal Kelitbangan	The findings show that 87% of villages are classified as developing, with the Social Security Index scoring the highest at 0.71, reflecting advanced social resilience. Community empowerment initiatives have significantly strengthened social resilience, highlighting the critical role of social development in the region's overall progress.
(Anggraini & Sutopo, 2021)	<i>Village Government Efforts in Realizing the Highest National Building Village Index (IDM) in Ngroto Village</i>	Ecoplan: Journal of Economics and Development Studies	Notably, Ngroto Village has become a reference point for other village governments, showcasing how disciplined implementation of legal regulations and genuine community participation can lead to significant developmental achievements without resorting to extraordinary interventions..

(Source: Analyzed by the Authors, 2025)

Confessionally, we underline that the Village Development Index (IDM) plays a crucial role in assessing rural progress in Indonesia while stressing its limitations in

reflecting villages' complex realities and diverse needs. Studies by (Hartoyo; Haryanto Teuku, 2018) and (Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020) show the gap in participatory governance in practice in actuating the concept of development at the village level and interestingly show how (e.i, human development, population size, and financial disparities) affect the results of IDM as a village development model, so pertinent to our RQ strongly suggests that the IDM doesn't capture the local preference adequately.

Similarly, (Naufal et al., 2023), it was found that the IDM fails to capture complex socio-economic acts, usually the links between social infrastructure or poverty at the rural level. This reinforces the detention that the IDM would benefit from applying more comprehensive metrics sensitive to the local context of Indonesia's highly diverse villages. This analysis strongly assists our RQ that the foundations of the development model should better reflect village communities that can directly feel local development conditions and the results to revamp what the local preferences need.

Further comments, counting those by (Hidayat et al., 2019) together with (Lobwaer et al., 2024), it was firmly revealed that the IDM's shortcomings are minimal in overcoming disparities at the regional (village) level. This is based on considering the conditions of each region, which are very complex. The portion of competitiveness is different, so it will be tough to measure the progress of villages that are not supported by good infrastructure, serving as a geographical desolation, and uneven access to infrastructure, linked with our RQ, also endorses this analysis, the complex region of development in village level still doesn't manage actively and collectively.

For the moment, research by (Fitriana et al., 2022) along with (Muhtarom et al., 2018) demonstrates the index's potential, when united with strong financial board or community permission initiatives, will greatly support development. Likewise, these studies also caution against the oversimplified classifications of village development levels, which do not fully capture rural communities' dynamic and multifaceted challenges, so their findings also connect with our RQ, most of the village governments don't collect their potential with their authorities and community initiatives as a benchmark to lifting their potential.

To address the problems of the needs of villages in Indonesia that continue to grow more effectively, we recommend that IDM needs be developed into a multidimensional framework that prioritises inclusivity, adaptability, and local solutions to things that are fundamental to village development itself. Then the second point is combining participatory governance, addressing regional disparities, and integrating

context-sensitive indicators in village development itself, because this is very important to provide a more accurate and holistic assessment of rural development.

Finally, although IDM remains a development model that will be very necessary to be adopted to evaluate the progress of rural development, what needs to be corrected here is that its current framework does not represent the reality of the complexity of villages in Indonesia. Meanwhile, there needs to be a more comprehensive path that prioritises local context; socio-economic diversity, along with inclusive development formalities, to escalate the effectiveness of IDM and ensure equitable and sustainable rural development in every village in Indonesia.

D. CONCLUSION

The research demonstrates that the effectiveness of Indonesia's Village Development Index (IDM) is fundamentally tied to local governance quality, community participation, and socio-economic conditions. When local stakeholders have greater autonomy and engagement in development processes, villages show marked improvements in their development outcomes. This relationship underscores the critical importance of participatory governance and context-specific approaches in rural development assessment and concretisation, suggesting that the IDM's utility is maximised when it accounts for local dynamics and community engagement. This study makes significant scientific contributions by revealing the limitations of standardised development metrics in capturing rural complexity. The findings expand our recognition of how socio-economic factors, infrastructure accessibility, and regional disparities influence development trajectories in rural Indonesia.

Furthermore, the research establishes a clear connection between local governance mechanisms and development outcomes, contributing to the broader academic discourse on rural development assessment methodologies and highlighting the need for more sophisticated, multidimensional evaluation tools. Lastly, we provide several key limitations that warrant consideration in interpreting these findings. The IDM's current framework notably relies on oversimplified categorisations that fail to capture village-specific challenges and regional variations.

The index's inability to adequately address geographic isolation and infrastructure disparities represents a significant constraint in its assessment capabilities. These limitations suggest that future research should develop more nuanced metrics to better account for local contexts and regional differences, potentially incorporating qualitative

assessments alongside quantitative measures to comprehensively comprehend rural development dynamics based on local preferences.

REFERENCES

- Akbar, A., Flacke, J., Martinez, J., & van Maarseveen, M. F. A. M. (2020). Participatory planning practice in rural Indonesia: A sustainable development goals-based evaluation. *Community Development*, 51(3), 243–260. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15575330.2020.1765822>
- Anggraini, N. W., & Sutopo, D. S. (2021). Village Government Efforts in Realizing the Highest National Building Village Index (IDM) in Ngroto Village. *Ecoplan*, 4(2), 142–150. <https://doi.org/10.20527/ecoplan.v4i2.388>
- Antlöv, H., & Wetterberg, A. (2021). Indonesia. In *Deliberative Democracy in Asia* (pp. 38–53). London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003102441-3>
- Antlöv, H., Wetterberg, A., & Dharmawan, L. (2016). Village Governance, Community Life, and the 2014 Village Law in Indonesia. *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*, 52(2), 161–183. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00074918.2015.1129047>
- Badan Pusat Statistik Republik Indonesia. (2023). Indonesia Poverty Profile in March 2023. Jakarta. Retrieved from <https://www.bps.go.id/en/pressrelease/2023/07/17/2016/indonesia-poverty-profile-in-march-2023.html>
- Chambers, R. (2014). *Rural Development*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315835815>
- Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation. (2024, March 6). Gov't Rolls Out Village Index to Gauge Village Development Achievements. Retrieved January 4, 2025, from Cabinet Secretary of Republic of Indonesia website: <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-rolls-out-village-index-to-gauge-village-development-achievements/>
- Fafurida, F., Purwaningsih, Y., Mulyanto, M., & Suryanto, S. (2023). Tourism Village Development: Measuring the Effectiveness of the Success of Village Development. *Economies*, 11(5), 133. <https://doi.org/10.3390/economies11050133>
- Fitriana, Z. M., Takarini, N., Iryanti, E., & Mahanani, A. E. E. (2022). The Implementation of Village Financial Management Principles in Escalating Indeks

- Desa Membangun (IDM) Level for Villages: Learning from The Jati Village, Tuban. Nusantara Science and Technology Proceedings, 80–84.
- Hartojo, N., Ikhsan, M., Dartanto, T., & Sumarto, S. (2022). A Growing Light in the Lagging Region in Indonesia: The Impact of Village Fund on Rural Economic Growth. *Economies*, 10(9), 217. <https://doi.org/10.3390/economies10090217>
- Hartoyo; Haryanto Teuku, S. F. (2018). Towards a new village development paradigm in Lampung Province, Indonesia. *J. Legal Ethical & Regul. Isses*, 21, 1.
- Headley, S. C. (2007). The Revival of Tradition in Indonesian Politics. The Deployment of Adat from Colonialism to Indigenism, Jamie S. Davidson & David Henley (eds). *Moussons*, (11), 234–237. <https://doi.org/10.4000/moussons.1861>
- Hidayat, A. R. R. T., Prasetya, Y. E., & Dinanti, D. (2019). Village Development Index and ICT Infrastructure in Tourism Region. *Journal of Indonesian Tourism and Development Studies*, 7(3), 166.
- Lobwaer, A. K. R., Anwar, A. I., & Suhab, S. (2024). Village Development Index Behavior: A Review of Regional Attractiveness. 8th International Conference on Accounting, Management, and Economics (ICAME 2023), 356–366. Atlantis Press.
- Muhtarom, S., Kusuma, N., & Purwanti, E. (2018). Village Index Analysis Building to Know the Village Development in Gadingrejo District of Pringsewu District. *Inovasi Pembangunan: Jurnal Kelitbangan*, 6(02), 179–190.
- Mujio, Rahayu, R. A., Waskitaningsih, N., & Mulyadi, E. (2023). Village Development Sustainability Analysis: A Case Study in Cijeruk, Bogor Regency. *The Journal of Indonesia Sustainable Development Planning*, 4(1), 57–68. <https://doi.org/10.46456/jisdep.v4i1.413>
- Naufal, H. A., Mulyanto, M., & Suryanto, S. (2023). The Effect of Social Infrastructure on Rural Poverty in Indonesia with The Village Development Index As Moderation Variable. *Eko-Regional: Jurnal Pembangunan Ekonomi Wilayah*, 18(1).
- Prasetyo, A. D., & Sonny, E. (2020). The Analysis of Determinants of Developing Village Index in Indonesia. *The Asian Journal of Technology Management*, 13(2), 158–172.
- Prayitno, G., Dinanti, D., Wardani, L. E., & Sania, D. P. (2022). The Levels of Community Readiness and Community Characteristics in the Development of Tourism Village (Bangelan Village, Malang Regency, Indonesia). *International*

Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning, 17(4), 1181–1188.

<https://doi.org/10.18280/ijstdp.170416>

Sen, A. (2017). *Collective Choice and Social Welfare*. Harvard University Press.

<https://doi.org/10.4159/9780674974616>

Sutiyo, & Maharjan, K. L. (2017). Institutional Capacity of Village Government. In *Decentralization and Rural Development in Indonesia* (pp. 111–123). Singapore: Springer Singapore.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-3208-0_9

Visic, M. (2022). Connecting puzzle pieces: Systematic literature review method in the social sciences. *Sociologija*, 64(4), 543–562.

<https://doi.org/10.2298/SOC2204543V>

World Bank. (2023, October 20). *Indonesia Overview: Development news, research, .* Retrieved January 10, 2025, from World Bank website:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/indonesia/overview>