



Economic Empowerment of the Scrap Carpenter Community Based on Asset-Based Community Development in Kedunglosari Village, Jombang

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Abstract: *The problem of waste management and the marginal economic conditions of the scrap collector community are the main background of this community service. The program aims to improve the economic welfare of the scrap collector community in Kedunglosari Village, Tembelang District, Jombang Regency through an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. The method used includes five ABCD stages (Discovery, Dreaming, Design, Define, Delivery) with asset identification activities, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), scrap sorting and processing training, and the formation of the Joint Business Group (KUB) "Rosok Sejahtera". The subjects of mentoring were 15–20 heads of scrap collector families. The results showed an increase in average daily income of 30–40% (from Rp40,000–Rp60,000 to Rp60,000–Rp90,000), strengthening social solidarity, reducing negative stigma, and reducing the volume of village waste. The ABCD approach has proven effective in encouraging economic independence of the informal sector based on local assets. Recommendations are directed at sustainable support from the village government.*

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INTRODUCTION

Waste management is one of the most complex environmental and social challenges in Indonesia today. With a growing population and increasingly high consumption patterns, the national waste volume reaches millions of tons every day. Much of it ends up in landfills (TPA) without adequate processing, causing various problems such as environmental pollution, flooding, and public health issues (Asteria & Heruman, 2016; Adi Soesiantoro, 2024). Within the informal waste management ecosystem, the community of scavengers (tukang rosok) or scavengers (pelung) plays a crucial role as "invisible environmental heroes." They collect, sort, and recycle used goods that still have economic value. However, this group is often marginalized economically and socially. Their uncertain incomes, limited access to capital, and negative societal stigma make this profession undervalued (Wibowo & Haryanto, 2020; Saputera, 2019).

In Kedunglosari Village, Tembelang District, Jombang Regency, this situation is particularly acute. Many families rely on collecting scrap for a daily income of Rp 40,000–Rp 60,000. They work from morning to evening, traveling by cart or bicycle, often in

extreme weather conditions and facing health risks. One community member, Mr. S (name changed), a father of three, said: “We used to feel like we were just collecting trash. People looked at us with cynicism, even though we were cleaning up their neighborhood.”

The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach presents a humanistic and transformative alternative. Unlike the deficit-based approach, ABCD emphasizes the strengths, potential, and assets already possessed by the community (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993; Mathie & Cunningham, 2003; Ahmad, 2007). This approach views ragpickers not merely as objects of aid, but as subjects of development with in-depth local knowledge of material types, social networks, and resilience.

This community service program is implemented as part of the Community Service Program (PKM) of the Bani Fatah Islamic Institute in Jombang, a regular program of the Community Service Institute (LP2M). The goal is to empower communities through participatory methods, increase income, strengthen self-identity, and support sustainable waste management at the village level. The program's relevance is further strengthened by Jombang Regency's continued promotion of community-based waste management through programs such as Jombang RESIK and TPS3R (Jombang Regency Government, 2025).

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

Program This approach uses the ABCD approach in its entirety, which includes five main stages: Discovery (discovering assets), Dreaming (creating dreams together), Design (designing), Define (determining), and Delivery (implementation) (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993). This approach is combined with participatory methods to ensure that the community becomes the main actor, not just a beneficiary. Subjects and Sampling Techniques.

Subject The mentoring program was selected through purposive sampling of 15-20 heads of families of scrap dealers who had been active for at least two years, lived in Kedunglosari Village, and demonstrated a high level of commitment. The selection process involved recommendations from the village head and initial observations.

1. Preparation and Discovery (Weeks 1-3): Coordination with village government, participant observation, and mapping of community assets (human, social, physical, natural, and financial).
2. Dreaming and Design (Week 4): FGD to develop a business vision and model.
3. Delivery (Week 5-10): Technical training on sorting & grading, value-added processing, formation of KUB “Rosok Sejahtera”, simple financial management, and work safety.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation (Week 11-12): Impact assessment with a before-after approach.

Technique Data collection included observation, FGDs, in-depth interviews, photo/video documentation, and field notes. Data analysis was descriptive qualitative with source triangulation to enhance validity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation the program resulted in real and humanistic transformation in the community. (1). Economic Impact: Daily income increased significantly by 30-40%. Before the program, the average was Rp. 40,000-Rp. 60,000. After the program, it reached Rp. 60,000–Rp. 90,000. This increase came from more precise sorting (increased selling prices), collective sales, and business diversification.

Table 1. Comparison of Daily Income

Condition	Average Daily Income	Improvement
Before the Program	Rp. 40,000 – Rp. 60,000	-
After the Program	Rp. 60,000 – Rp. 90,000	30-40%

Mrs. R, one of the female members, shared: “I used to only be able to buy enough rice. Now, thank God, my children can eat eggs every day and their school fees are more secure.” (2). Social and Humanitarian Impacts; The program has succeeded in changing self-perception and community perception. The stigma of “scrap collector” has changed to “village recycling manager”. Self-confidence has increased drastically. Solidarity among members has strengthened through regular KUB meetings and a fair profit-sharing system. Many members reported improved family harmony due to more stable income. (3). Environmental Impacts; The volume of waste disposed of carelessly has decreased. Public awareness has increased, and many households now separate waste before handing it over to the community. This is in line with Jombang Regency’s efforts to achieve national waste management targets.

These results reinforce the ABCD theory that asset-based empowerment results in higher sustainability than conventional approaches (Mathie & Cunningham, 2003; Riyanti, 2021). Compared to similar research, this program stands out for its integration of spiritual aspects and Islamic values (as a form of devotion), which strengthens the community’s internal motivation. Policy Implications This program provides a model for replication for other villages in East Java with scavenger communities.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This ABCD-based empowerment program has successfully transformed the scrap dealer community from a marginalized group into an independent and respected economic player. Increased income, social solidarity, and environmental contributions demonstrate the success of this humanistic approach.

1. The Village Government provides permanent land for the sorting center and revolving capital assistance.
2. Advanced training and regular mentoring.
3. Collaboration with universities, the Environmental Agency, and the private sector for program scalability.
4. Documentation and dissemination of the “Rosok Sejahtera” model as best practice.

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