

Education and Health Care in Seram Bagian Barat, Maluku Province: Key Challenges and Proposed Interventions

Educación y cuidado a la salud en Seram Bagian Barat, provincia de Maluku: desafíos clave e intervenciones propuestas

Muhammad Taufan Umasugi, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia.
Email: Umasugi53@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3958-0239>

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Overview

As a member of the Seram Bagian Barat (SBB) community in Maluku Province, I can attest that education and health are two sectors in which sustainable development remains lacking. In addition, as in many other island regions of Indonesia, access to basic public services is complex and often limited. Therefore, several issues must be addressed to advance community welfare, particularly in education and health. This paper discusses the current state of education and health in SBB and presents my thoughts on potential interventions to improve these sectors.

One of the main problems in the education sector in SBB is the disparity in access between urban and rural areas. In some remote villages, primary schools have only one or two teachers, which greatly affects the quality of learning. In addition, higher levels of education are still very difficult to access. Students who want to continue their education to a higher level, such as high school or college, often have to move, which is not financially possible for the majority who work as farmers or fishermen.

From my experience, I believe that this educational inequality illustrates the need for community-driven solutions. Online schools and ‘mobile teachers’ can help reduce the problem of teacher shortages. In addition, the participation of non-educators in the educational process can make learning more relevant to the local socioeconomic environment. However, the lack of facilities and medical personnel is still a major obstacle in the

health sector. Although some sub-districts have community health centers, those living on remote islands still find it difficult to obtain proper health services. Some villages do not even have qualified medical personnel, forcing local residents to travel long distances by boat just to obtain inadequate health services. During my travels, I found that many people have limited access to medical personnel, so they use traditional medicine. Providing better access to health services can be achieved through telemedicine and training of village health workers. In addition, incorporating local plants into health programs can improve the nutritional status of the local population without having to rely on food from outside the community.

As in many other parts of the world, the success of holistic education reform in SBB depends not only on building more schools, but also on the implementation of new pedagogical strategies and techniques. In this case, educational radio channels, audio-based learning modules, and other technologies make it possible to expand learning opportunities even to areas with unreliable internet connectivity. In addition, the ‘travelling teacher’ arrangement will help fill the gaps caused by a lack of teachers in remote areas. The integration of information and communication technology (ICT) in health checks and consultations, known as m-health, and remote health services, known as telemedicine, can also be widely utilized in the SBB. The increasing prevalence of mobile phones in rural areas allows people to access medical consultations without having to travel long distances. In addition, maternal and child health



education aimed at midwives or nurses working in the community can reduce the maternal and infant mortality rates that are still high in some remote areas.

Strategies for the economic, cultural, and social development of the community are equally important in improving education and health in West Seram. Teaching maritime and agricultural skills along with other subjects can foster greater economic independence among young people. In the nutrition sector, educating the community about nutrition using local foods can help change

towards healthier eating habits that are affordable and more accessible than foreign foods. Health and education in West Seram Regency face challenges that can be overcome through innovative and community-based solutions. I believe that the application of technology combined with community development and the integration of local culture will provide positive results in changing the lives of people in this area. With the combined efforts of the government, academics, and civil society organizations, the SBB region is expected to undergo transformation and development in the next few years.



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