

## **Food Security and Community Economic Strengthening Model Based On the Utilization of Homeland in Lhok Nga Village, Bi- reun, Aceh Indonesia**

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### ***Abstract***

The purpose of this study is to describe and analyze in-depth the economic reality of the people of Lhok Nga Village, Kutabalang District, Bireun Regency, Aceh Province whose economy tends to be stable despite the Covid-19 outbreak. This study used a qualitative research method with snowball sampling techniques that obtained rolling data. This study relies on field data obtained from several informants through interviews, direct observation, and documentation, and literature study related to the research object under study. This research is able to explain that the model of strengthening the rural community's economy and food security by utilizing the house yard can be started from the initiative of the central, regional, and village governments by providing financial and non-financial motivation to encourage groups or villagers to use their yards for agriculture. Agricultural produce in the yard of the house can be used to meet daily needs, both for personal use and for sale. If the results are sold, it will have an impact on the family economy. Increasing the family economy in a village will have an impact on the regional economy. If the house yard is used as agricultural land, it can drive the national economy. The existing model can be improved with serious assistance from the village government by learning from Lhok Nga Village, Kutabalang District, Bireun District, Aceh Province. Indeed, this research still has many weaknesses because it is conducted qualitatively so that the quantitative impact cannot be shown in real terms. The researcher suggests the next researcher be able to do it quantitatively by using multiplier impact analysis. This research contributes to strengthening the community's economy and a model of food security based on land use in home yards.

**Keywords:** *food security, economic strengthening, village government, village community.*

### **Introduction**

Food security is one of the defenses of a country other than the military. A country can be destroyed not only by fighting but also because of damaged food security. Therefore, the rulers in various countries in the world often make food one of the main discussions in every meeting between countries including in every cooperation agreement. One of them is as stated in point

three of the Press Briefing cluster, the visit of the Indonesian Foreign Minister - Indonesian State-Owned Enterprises Minister to the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, on August 22, 2020 [1].

The availability of land that is still wide open in Indonesia, both idle land, unutilized and abandoned land, either formerly cultivated by timber or oil palm forests, is an area that has no limited space. This location has always been the target of the government for any food security-based agricultural program, however, an effective strategy is needed because there are still parties who want the Indonesian nation to be independent of the food side [2].

As a large and developed country, Indonesia has the 4th largest population in the world, which is around 276 million people with an average population growth of around 1.4% per year [21]. Certainly, significant population growth is expected to go hand in hand with the growth of food products as economic support. According to Wijono [3] economic growth will briefly experience a process of increasing per capita output in the long run. This affects three things, namely the process, the per capita output, and the long term. Research conducted by Laksani [4] analyzes Pro-Poor Growth (poverty growth) in Indonesia affects economic growth on income inequality and poverty.

Various formulations and policies are always the government's attention, although sometimes not all policies get a good response from the public. One of them is the government policy through the Ministry of Trade in 2016, Enggartiasto Lukita, which states that gardening or growing chilies in one's garden is very easy and practical. Dried chili seeds can be planted again in a pot filled with loose soil. Thus, the daily needs of red chilies can be fulfilled without having to rely on chili on the market [5].

This argument was also strengthened by the Government through the Minister of Agriculture, Yasin Limpo, who stated that "don't leave the land empty just like that. But planting various plants, the results will be reaped and they can be used for family consumption" [6]. As a step forward for the government's attention, several villages in Indonesia through their creative institutions such as KWT and P2L in Badung, Bali have started to mobilize these government directives. Sudastri, chairman of the Sedana Amerta Sari group, based on a press release from the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, Tuesday 9/3/2021, said that by planting chilies and other vegetables, women in this village do not need to buy chilies to the market, because they can harvest their crops. The government also, through the Head of BKP Agung, stated that the government initiated P2L intending to meet the family's food needs. If each household planted only 5 pots of chilies in each yard, it would not have been difficult to fill the chilies, because they only needed to pick them. Thus, slowly, gradually, driven by a common will, the process of strengthening food security can be carried out.

Of the many programs that the government has planned to strengthen food, there is one village where the step of planting in the yard has been established since time immemorial and has been a hereditary tradition since long ago. The village is Lhok Nga Village, Kutablang District, Bireun Regency, Aceh Province. As one of the villages or what is commonly referred to as Gampong in Aceh Language, the existence of Lhok Nga Village is flanked by two villages, namely Kulu Village and Meuse Village. Both villages get PAG (Original income Gampong) from plantations such as rice, coconut, cocoa, and the like. The two villages flanking Lhok Nga village have priority land positions, namely the vast Meuse village with its paddy fields and the large Kulu village with its coconut and areca nuts. Only the remaining land is used for palawija. Unlike Lhok Nga, which is almost evenly distributed, this is the economic value for

Lhok Nga village so that Lhok Nga village is better able to manage its land variedly than the surrounding area even though the seasons change.

This situation is an opportunity for Lhok Nga villagers who currently not only use their yards to supply household needs but can also help and become added value income for their residents in entrepreneurship. Some of the proceeds obtained in Lhok Nga village are partly sold to Toke or Mugee. Some of them are even sold directly to traditional markets. As a social creature created by God Almighty, humans always have more values and abilities in life, including entrepreneurship [12]. Kasmir [13] states that four things are obtained from every entrepreneur, including self-esteem, income, ideas, and the future. This is actually what appears in the village of Lhok Nga, the independence of the village in simplicity.

### ***Problem Formulation***

Based on the above discussion, the aspects studied in this study are, what do the people of Lhok Nga village do in their daily lives so that the community's economy tends to be stable and independent? Besides that, what is the empowerment model that is carried out so that the people's economy can grow evenly effectively? It is of course hoped that in the future Lhok Nga village can become a reflection for other regions in developing food security-based economies.

The presence of quality human resources in Lhok Nga village is also expected to be a motivator in increasing economic strengthening. Basir [7] explains that human resources are the main capital of development. This is because this step is fairly easy, but not many people are willing to do it. President Jokowi at the State Secretariat in 2020 had mentioned that at the last meeting I had said that the FAO warned that the COVID-19 pandemic could cause a world food crisis [8]. With the existence of a model of strengthening the people's economy and food security based on the use of homestead land, it is hoped that it will contribute to strengthening the family, regional, national, and even international economies if it is carried out simultaneously.

### ***Research purposes***

This study aims to analyze and describe what Lhok Nga village is doing in building village economic independence and what is the model of economic strengthening in Lhok Nga Village so that the economy is independent and effective. It is hoped that in the future, this formulation can become an additional reference for other villages in Indonesia as a growth booster and economic strengthening.

### ***Research Methods***

As previously mentioned, this research was conducted using a snowball sampling technique, not random. This is because researchers expect the data obtained to be more structured and systematic. The method is acquiring data through the rolling process from one to the other. Snowball sampling technique is done by first identifying then selecting the sample and taking the sample.

This study prefers a qualitative approach. This is because this study focuses more on what causes the village's economic independence and how the steps are taken in Lhok Nga village in terms of economic independence. The independence in question is independence not in the material results obtained by the village. The study also relies on sources of field data obtained from informants that have been tested classification and meet the measurable requirements. In addition, documentation and direct observation are also a priority in this study [9].

This study was intentionally done to address economic weakness issues that hit Indonesia

evenly throughout the world. The literal approach is carried out by parsing the research descriptively and analytically so that it can be understood in a manner structured and systematic [10]. The observation step in this study becomes a priority scale considering the location of the researcher and the location under study is 3,486 KM away. Observation is a complex process and must be done [11]. In this study, the researcher made two main priorities in the observation step. These two things are observation and memory. This process must be supported by photos as documentation data and recorded data to strengthen the observation process.

## **Results and Discussion**

### ***The Meaning of Houses and Yards***

A house building is always synonymous with a place of rest alone. A house can not only function as a bed or rest but can also be used as a mini garden or mini-farm in the yard of the house. Apart from being economically beneficial, the air around the house is also cleaner and healthier. This attitude is not yet familiar in many regions in Indonesia. Such behavior by some Indonesians does not seem ideal and is in line with modernist currents. If you look at the lifestyle of developed countries such as China and Singapore, raising livestock or mini-garden plants in the yard or roof of the house is not an odd thing. This has become commonplace and even the planting program is built with good planning. The lifestyle that does not want to be complicated and everything wants to be instant makes some Indonesian citizens still reluctant. Even though this behavior has become one of the government policies through the Ministry of Trade, Agriculture, and PMK.

The problem lies in the phenomenon where the Indonesian nation has never experienced a serious food crisis. So there is nothing that this nation is afraid of so that its behavior is still not directed at building food security starting from the yard of the house. Agus Salim, Professor of UI in a private television broadcast, once said that the behavior of some of these nations is that there is nothing to fear so that the progress of the nation becomes apparent.

As a tropical area, Indonesia does not lack sunlight or rainfall, so that planting plants in the yard, back, or roof of the house continues to grow well and does not require energy extra. As one of the villages that have long used its homestead as land for cultivation, Lhok Nga Village has experienced deep-rooted economic stability. The low unemployment rate and the absence of a very poor community have made Lhok Nga village quite socially and economically well-established. Even though there is no technology touch in this management except for the rice cutting tools managed by Keujruen Blang.

Keujruen Blang is a customary leader/person who is given the authority to regulate the use of irrigation for farmers to go down to the fields to cultivate crops. The duties and authorities of Keujruen Blang include: (1) Coordinating the implementation of down the fields, (2) Coordinating the implementation of cooperation related to rice fields such as cleaning ditches / Leung and also irrigation channels, (3) Scheduling down to the fields, (4) Completing disputes at the level Blang, (5) Overseeing irrigation in paddy fields in settlements, and (6) Enforcing rules/customs that have been agreed upon and established with the community [12].

Lhok Nga Village is one of the villages where the active role of Keujruen Blang is quite effective. Keujruen Blang management, Fuad said that currently the management of rice fields in Lhok Nga village is fully managed by Keujruen Blang by referring to customary rules and the tradition of deliberation and consensus. In a direct interview, Fuad, as the administrator of Keujruen Blang, Lhok Nga village, told that the tradition of managing yards as a place to cultivate crops was not born without any origins. Fuad said that during the past 30 years of conflict

between Aceh and the Central Government, the Lhok Nga village community was one of the communities that were once crushed by the economy. Various steps are taken to survive at least for everyday life.

The condition of the community during the Military Operation Area (DOM), Civil Emergency (DS) or Military Emergency (DM) made people no longer hope for humans, in this case, the government because for Acehnese people whose Islam is strong, people believe that Allah is the supreme giver, as the word of Allah which means, "O people, you are the one who needs Allah and Allah is the Richest (do not need anything), Most Praiseworthy" [13].

This verse made the people of Lhok Nga village at that time put their trust in Allah. Step by step is carried out and passed so that the absence of work causes the community to carry out erratic activities, including planting the yard and back of the house with secondary crops such as chilies, eggplant, cassava, and several other types of young plants. This activity becomes routine until it becomes a culture. This trip has changed some of the cultures of the people who used to work outside to work at home, including those who used to depend on the market, now people only use the market as support because other needs have been met. This is one of the sweet fruits of the past conflict of the Republic of Indonesia, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), the economic independence of the people of Lhok Nga Village with the presence of various plants around the house that can be consumed (Interview, 27 September 2020).



**Figure 1: Kuta Blang District Market, (joint market of several villages including Lhok Nga) (Photo taken by Junaedi, 2020)**

### ***The reality of Lhok Nga Village, Kuta Blang***

As one of the small villages in Kuta Blang sub-district, Bireun Regency. The livelihoods of the villagers are entirely dependent on secondary crops. Lhok Nga Village is not bordered by the sea and outside the forest area. There are 83 families in the village, there is a village head, there is a village secretary, and 7 government officials. There is a BPD / Community Institution with 5 members. There were 13 village meetings in 2017. Since 2014, Lhok Nga Village has been

included in the category of developing villages. In 2018, Lhok Nga Village achieved the Village Development Index at 66.50812825 [12].

As a small village, Lhok Nga also does not have an industry except for only 2 locations for slaughtering chickens. The majority of the population consists of the elderly, the elderly, and widows. The number of youth is less than the elderly. Of the 83 heads of families who live in Lhok Nga village. Almost all come from the local area. Generally, the people there own more land than just a place to live (Interview with Rahmi Maulidati, a resident of Lhok Nga village in Perantau, Bali, 30 September 2019).

Mr. Muchtar Ali, in an interview on 21 October 2019, stated that almost all Lhok Nga villagers work as farmers or cultivators. On average, the surrounding community owns a garden and a place to grow their crops, some of which are even near their homes. Large land and employment from the government or small private sector, make the community self-reliant with their garden products. Community food availability tends to be fulfilled by their gardens without having to depend on other people. Almost none of the Lhok Nga villagers have been unemployed for a long time. In fact, for the last few years, the youth of Lhok Nga village have opened new land in plantations, namely pepper, nutmeg, and red ginger. Apart from the trend current, the price is currently very warm in the market. This has become a trigger for young people to compete in planting them. This appreciation received a positive response from the Lhok Nga village government so that the village government formed a non-structural group consisting of young people to foster and support each other in farming. Almost all of the plants mentioned earlier are planted in the yard, either in front of the house or behind the house.



**Figure 2: Pepper plant in Mr. Fuad's house yard in Lhok Nga village (Photo taken by Junaedi, 2020)**

Mulyana [20] states, basically community Food needs that are in the hands of their people are a very strategic effort in food management so that its management can be managed. controlled completely and periodically without experiencing a collision. On the other hand, productivity by using land that is not owned by themselves or loans will result in lower productivity [14].

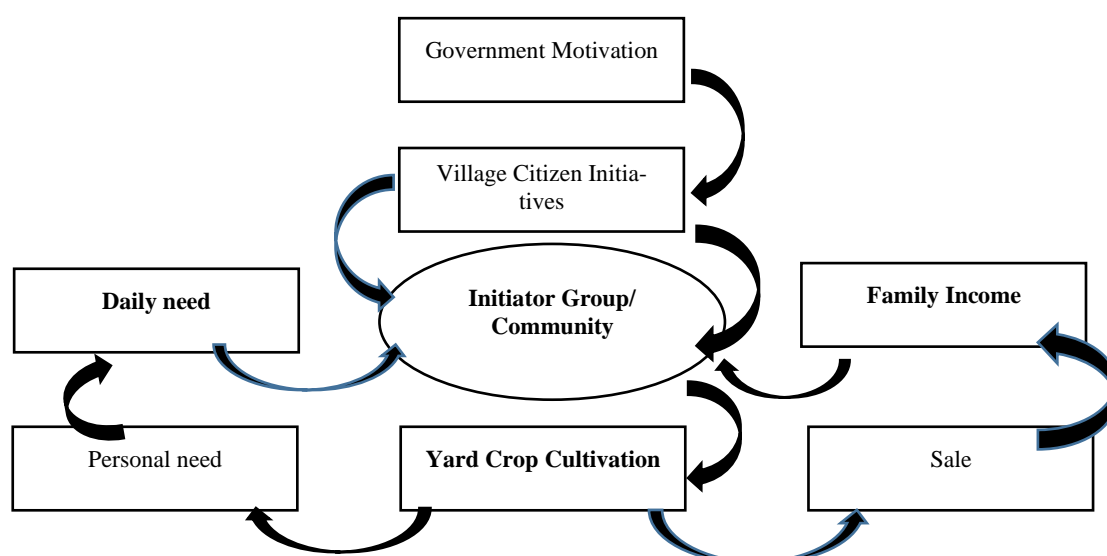


### ***Model of Economic Strengthening for the Village Community in Lhok Nga as Strengthening National Food Security***

The strategic plan of the Food Security Agency for 2010-2014 includes 4 (four) activities, namely: (1) developing the availability and handling of food insecurity; (2) development of food price distribution and stabilization; (3) development of diversification of consumption and enhancement of fresh food security; and (4) other management and technical support to the Food Security Agency [15]. Of the four points, the fourth point tends to be rarely touched.

Vini and Wulandari [16] added that four components are needed in maintaining food security, among others, availability, accessibility, security, and sustainability. As a village that has long had a culturally established model of economic strengthening, accessibility is needed to increase more established sustainability. When viewed from the perspective of strengthening the village economy, Lhok Nga is very well established. However, this model is certainly expected, not only in Lhok Nga village. Space is needed to explore this step in a further direction, even if necessary, facilitated by the government as a national program to increase active economic independence.

Development that ignores self-sufficiency in the basic needs of its population will become very dependent on other countries, and that means becoming a country that is not sovereign [17]. This is what is expected from the model of economic strengthening in Lhok Nga village. The more basic sectors in a region will increase the flow of income in the region, increasing demand for goods and services in it and generate a volume of non-base sectors. In other words, the base sector is directly related to external demand, while the non-base sector is related indirectly, namely through the base sector first [18]. The LQ (analysis, it is location Quotient) intended to see which sectors are the basis and non-base sectors so that the regions see the advantages of the sectors that can be sold and developed to encourage the economy in other villages [19]. The model offered in this study is as Figure 1 below:



**Figure 1. Model of Strengthening Community Economy and Food Security Based on Utilization of Home Yard in the Village**

This role is the role of the Government in determining the price of goods taken by Toke (collectors) of foodstuffs purchased from the community. Indeed, not all of the residents of Lhok Nga village, out of 83 heads of families, sell the results of their use of their yards to collectors. The majority of people dominate using the yield of their yards as a staple at home. If idealism is the desired achievement, then the role of the government and the formation of a monitoring

and assistance team at an early stage must of course be created. Analysis in achieving the target of increasing the productivity of home yard land use must be correct. One sharp analysis that can be used in mentoring in achieving more productive results is a SWOT analysis. SWOT analysis is a systematic identification of factors based on the logic that maximizes the strengths and opportunities but simultaneously can minimize your weaknesses and threats. SWOT analysis or also known as situation analysis is an analysis to identify various factors systematically to formulate a strategy or policy in an economic sector. This analysis is based on the logic that maximizes the strengths and opportunities but simultaneously minimizes weaknesses and threats. In carrying out the process of increasing economic strengthening, of course, this theory is very appropriate to be used [22].

As the highest central power holder, every price of basic commodities must be determined by the government. If the price of basic commodities cannot be determined by the government, then the yard land use program can only be enjoyed by the owner of the yard. This means that the strengthening of the increase will not be achieved. This achievement can only be obtained if all stakeholders take part in developing it.

There are four reasons why strengthening the food-based national populist economy (utilization of homestead) can be used as a new paradigm and strategy in Indonesia's economic development. The four reasons are the characteristics of Indonesia, the demands of the constitution, empirical facts, and the failure of economic development.

### **Conclusion and Future Direction**

The model for strengthening the economy of rural communities and food security by utilizing house yards is as follows: The central, regional, and village governments can provide financial and non-financial motivation to encourage groups or villagers to use their yards for agriculture. Agricultural produce in the yard of the house can be used to fulfill daily needs for personal use or sale. If the produce of the homestead is sold, it will have an impact on the family economy. Increasing the family economy in a village will have an impact on the regional economy. If the house yard is used as agricultural land, then it can drive the national economy.

The existing patterns and models can of course be boosted with serious assistance from the village government by helping it with the village budget. This culture of economic independence has greatly made the community financial independent by learning from Lhok Nga village, Kutablang sub-district, Bireun district, province Aceh.

Indeed, this research still has many weaknesses because it is done qualitatively so that the quantitative impact cannot be shown in real terms. The researcher suggests the next researchers be able to do it quantitatively by using multiplier impact analysis.

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