

## COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT APPROACH IN MAKASSAR (Community Development, Community Empowerment, and Asset-Based Community Development/ABCD)

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### Abstract

Community-based development has become an important approach in addressing various social problems in urban communities, particularly in Makassar City, which has a high level of social heterogeneity. This article aims to analyze the implementation of the Community Development, Community Empowerment, and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approaches in community development in Makassar. This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach using literature review and social observation methods toward community empowerment practices in urban areas. The findings indicate that community-based development is capable of increasing community participation, strengthening social capital, and creating community independence through the utilization of local assets. The ABCD approach is considered more adaptive because it positions the community as the subject of development with internal capacities and resources. In Makassar, the implementation of community-based development can be seen in waste bank programs, tourism alley programs, community-based micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and women's empowerment initiatives in densely populated areas. The main challenges include the lack of program sustainability, inequality in access to resources, and the dominance of top-down approaches in development policies. Therefore, a sustainable participatory development model based on local community potential is needed.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Community development is a social process oriented not only toward economic growth but also toward improving the overall quality of human life. In modern development theory, communities are no longer viewed as passive objects accepting government policies, but rather as active subjects with the capacity to determine the direction of their own social change. This shift in development paradigms has given rise to various participatory approaches that emphasize the importance of community involvement in every development process, from planning and implementation to program evaluation. In conventional development, development was predominantly state-centered.

The government was the primary actor in determining development policies, while communities acted only as beneficiaries. This approach often resulted in development that did not meet the real needs of local communities due to minimal community participation in decision-making. Consequently, many development programs failed to achieve social sustainability because communities lacked a sense of ownership.

In the context of development sociology, criticism of top-down development has grown stronger since the emergence of participatory development theory at the end of the 20th century. This theory emphasizes that development success is strongly influenced by community involvement in the social development process. Community participation is considered capable of increasing program effectiveness while strengthening community social capacity. The participatory development approach has subsequently evolved into various models such as Community Development, Community Empowerment, and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). Community Development is a development approach that positions communities as the primary actors of social change. This approach focuses on increasing community capacity through strengthening social solidarity, cooperation, and citizen participation in solving social problems. Community Development aims not only to improve economic well-being but also to build social cohesion and community independence.

From a sociological perspective, Community Development is closely related to the concept of social capital. Robert Putnam explains that social capital, in the form of social networks, trust, and collective norms, is a crucial factor in the success of community development. Communities with a high level of solidarity tend to more easily build social cooperation to achieve common goals. Therefore, community-based development is not only related to physical development, but also to building social relationships among community members. In addition to Community Development, the concept of Community Empowerment is also an important approach in modern development. Community empowerment aims to increase the ability of individuals and communities to control their own social, economic, and political lives. Paulo Freire defines empowerment as a process of critical consciousness that enables communities to understand the structure of social injustice and develop the ability to implement social change.

Community empowerment is particularly relevant in the context of urban communities facing various social issues such as poverty, unemployment, social inequality, and the marginalization of vulnerable groups. In many cases, urban communities experience dependence on government assistance, thus lacking social and economic independence. The empowerment approach seeks to reduce this dependence by increasing community capacity through education, training, strengthening community organizations, and local economic development. The development of participatory development approaches subsequently gave rise to the concept of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). The ABCD approach was developed by John Kretzmann and John McKnight as a critique of the needs-based development approach.

Conventional approaches often view communities as poor, weak, and in need of external assistance. This perspective is believed to create social dependency and weaken community capacity. In contrast, the ABCD approach emphasizes that every community possesses assets and potential that can be developed to support community development. These assets include not only economic resources but also individual skills, social networks, local culture, community leadership, and social solidarity. Therefore, community development should begin with identifying a community's internal strengths, not solely addressing its shortcomings. The ABCD approach is becoming increasingly important in the context of modern urban development, characterized by social heterogeneity and complex social problems. Large cities in Indonesia face the challenges of urbanization, which has led

to increasing population density, urban poverty, social inequality, and social conflict. In such situations, community-based development is considered more effective because it can harness local potential and strengthen community social resilience.

Makassar, one of the largest metropolitan cities in Eastern Indonesia, is experiencing rapid urbanization. Economic growth and infrastructure development in Makassar have driven increased migration from various regions in Sulawesi and eastern Indonesia. This urbanization has made Makassar a highly heterogeneous city with diverse ethnic groups, cultures, and social classes. While urban development provides economic and social opportunities for the community, it also gives rise to various social problems such as dense settlements, unemployment, poverty, crime, and unequal access to public services. These conditions demand a development model that actively engages the community in resolving urban social issues. Makassar's social life is characterized by strong social capital in the form of a culture of cooperation, community solidarity, and well-maintained kinship ties. This social capital represents a significant potential for community-based development. Various local communities in Makassar have demonstrated the ability to independently manage social programs, such as waste banks, tourism alleys, joint ventures, and environmental communities.

The tourism corridor program, for example, is an example of community-based development implementation in Makassar. This program not only aims to improve the physical urban environment but also fosters community participation in environmental management and the local economy. The community is involved in reforestation activities, environmental cleanliness, MSME development, and community-based tourism management. Resident involvement in the program demonstrates that participatory development can foster a sense of ownership in development programs. Furthermore, various women's communities in Makassar have also developed through community-based economic empowerment programs. Women's groups in coastal areas and densely populated areas are involved in skills training, local product processing, and digital marketing. These programs not only increase family income but also strengthen women's social standing within the community.

The community-based development approach in Makassar is also evident in environmental movements such as waste banks and environmental care communities. These movements leverage citizen participation in community-based waste management. Communities are encouraged to manage household waste independently and turn it into an economic resource. Such programs demonstrate that local asset-based development can create sustainable social change. However, the implementation of community-based development in Makassar still faces various challenges. Many community development programs are not sustainable due to their reliance on government assistance or external donors. When funding ends, community activities often decline. Furthermore, bureaucratic approaches to development sometimes result in community participation being merely formal, lacking substantive involvement in decision-making. Another challenge is the capacity gap between communities. Not all communities have equal access to resources, education, and social networks. Communities with strong social capital tend to develop more easily than marginalized communities with limited social and economic access. Therefore, community-based development requires a sustainable mentoring strategy to strengthen community capacity equitably.

From the perspective of the sociology of education and development, community-based development is not only related to economic aspects, but also the social learning process of the community. Communities learn to organize themselves, build solidarity, and create social innovations in response to urban social change. Thus, community development can be understood as a process of social transformation involving changes in values, interaction patterns, and collective awareness of the community. Talcott Parsons' theory can be used to understand community development as part of the social integration mechanism within the community system. According

to Parsons, society requires social institutions and mechanisms capable of maintaining social balance. In this context, community-based development serves to strengthen social integration through collective community participation and cooperation. Meanwhile, Pierre Bourdieu explained that the success of community development is greatly influenced by the distribution of social capital, cultural capital, and economic capital. Communities with strong social networks and access to cultural resources tend to be more capable of developing community empowerment programs. The ABCD approach in this case can be understood as an effort to utilize various forms of social and cultural capital possessed by the community.

The symbolic interactionism approach is also relevant in understanding community development because every day social interactions shape collective meanings about participation and social solidarity. Community-based development programs are essentially the result of social construction built through communication and interaction between community members. Based on this description, community-based development is an important approach in urban community development, especially in Makassar City. The Community Development, Community Empowerment, and Asset-Based Community Development approaches provide a new perspective that communities are not merely objects of development, but key actors with the capacity and social potential to create change. Therefore, this article aims to analyze the implementation of community-based development in Makassar through the Community Development, Community Empowerment, and ABCD approaches. This study is expected to provide theoretical contributions to the development of sociological studies of development as well as serve as a practical reference for the development of community development policies based on participation and local potential.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach, focusing on analyzing community-based development in Makassar City. A qualitative approach was chosen because this research seeks to understand social phenomena in depth, particularly how communities build social participation, community solidarity, and empowerment based on local assets in the urban development process. This approach allows researchers to understand the social meanings constructed by communities in community development activities and the dynamics of social relations that occur within urban communities.

Descriptive research methods are used to systematically describe the various forms of community-based development developing in Makassar. Descriptive research not only explains social phenomena but also analyzes the relationships between them that emerge in urban life. In this context, the research seeks to describe the implementation of Community Development, Community Empowerment, and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) in various community social activities.

Research data was obtained through literature studies, social observations, and document analysis. The literature study was conducted by reviewing various scientific journals, academic books, research reports, government documents, and scholarly articles related to community development and community empowerment. The literature used included theories of development sociology, social capital theory, community empowerment theory, and the concept of participatory development.

Social observation was conducted by observing community-based development practices in several areas of Makassar City, such as tourist alleys, waste bank communities, community-based MSME groups, and local community organizations. The observation aimed to understand patterns of

community participation, forms of social interaction, and empowerment mechanisms developing within the community.

The population in this study consisted of members of community-based development groups operating in Makassar City, including waste bank managers, tourism alley (lorong wisata) coordinators, community-based MSME actors, and women's empowerment groups. Using a purposive sampling technique, the researcher selected a sample of 20 informants considered to possess in-depth knowledge of community-based development practices, consisting of 4 program coordinators, 6 community leaders, and 10 active program participants. Observations were carried out at four specific locations representing the diversity of community-based development programs in Makassar, namely the tourism alley (Lorong Wisata) in Kelurahan Lette, the waste bank community in Kelurahan Rappokalling, the community-based MSME group in Kelurahan Panambungan, and the women's empowerment group in the coastal area of Kelurahan Untia. Data collection techniques consisted of semi-structured in-depth interviews with the 20 informants, direct participant observation of ongoing community activities, and documentation studies of program reports and organizational archives.

Data analysis was conducted in three stages: data reduction, data categorization, and data interpretation. Data reduction involved selecting information relevant to the research focus. Next, the data was categorized based on key themes such as social participation, community empowerment, social capital, and community asset development. The final stage was data interpretation using a development sociology perspective and community empowerment theory.

To ensure data validity, the study employed source triangulation by comparing information from various academic references and field observations. This approach aimed to improve the accuracy of the analysis of community-based development phenomena in Makassar.

### **3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

To make the findings easier for readers to follow, the results are summarized into four main themes before being discussed in detail: (1) Community Development, reflected in the tourism alley program and youth community activities that strengthen social participation and cohesion; (2) Community Empowerment, reflected in local economic empowerment programs for women, youth, and MSME actors; (3) Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), reflected in the waste bank and urban farming programs that utilize local community assets; and (4) social capital and structural challenges affecting the sustainability of community-based development in Makassar. Each theme is elaborated further in the following sub-sections.

#### **1. Dynamics of Community-Based Development in Makassar**

The development of Makassar as a metropolitan city in Eastern Indonesia has brought significant social changes to the lives of its residents. Increasing urbanization has led to various social issues such as urban poverty, overpopulation, unemployment, and social inequality. In this situation, community-based development has become a strategy considered capable of addressing community needs in a more participatory manner. Community-based development in Makassar has developed through various local initiatives that involve the community as the main actors in development. This approach differs from conventional development, which tends to be oriented towards bureaucratic and centralized policies. In community-based development, the community is actively involved in the process of problem identification, decision-making, program implementation, and evaluation of social activities.

Community participation is a key element in the success of community development. In Makassar, social participation is evident in various collective community activities such as community service, community-based waste management, community MSME development,

and religious-based social activities. These activities demonstrate that the community still maintains strong social solidarity despite living in a complex urban environment. From a sociological perspective, community participation reflects the existence of social capital within a community. Social capital, in the form of social networks, trust, and collective norms, is a crucial force in supporting community development. Robert Putnam explains that communities with high social capital tend to be more capable of building cooperation than individualistic communities.

In Makassar, the culture of cooperation and kinship remains a vital part of social life. Local cultural values such as sipakatau, sipakainge, and sipakalebbi reflect the importance of respect, solidarity, and social awareness among community members. These values serve as cultural capital that supports community-based development.

## 2. Community Development in an Urban Context

Community Development is a development approach aimed at enhancing community capacity through social participation and cooperation. In the Makassar context, Community Development has evolved through various forms of community social activities oriented towards improving the quality of life of residents. One example of Community Development implementation in Makassar is the tourism alley program. This program was developed as an effort to revitalize urban environments based on community participation. Previously, slum alleys were transformed into productive social spaces through greening, murals, cleanliness management, and the development of small community businesses. The success of the tourism alley lies not only in the physical changes to the environment, but also in the social changes in the community. The program encourages community collaboration, builds social communication, and increases a sense of ownership of their environment. Thus, development not only produces physical infrastructure but also strengthens the community's social cohesion.

Community development is also evident in the activities of youth groups and local community organizations in Makassar. Many youth communities are involved in educational, environmental, arts and cultural, and economic empowerment activities. These activities create a space for social participation for the younger generation while strengthening social networks among residents. From Talcott Parsons' perspective, community development activities function as a mechanism for social integration that maintains community stability. When people engage in collective activities, social solidarity is strengthened, thereby reducing social conflict and social disorganization in urban communities. However, community development in Makassar also faces challenges. One major challenge is the low sustainability of community participation. In some cases, community participation is high only in the initial stages of the program, but declines as the program progresses. This demonstrates that community development requires a sustainable mentoring strategy to maintain active community involvement.

## 3. Community Empowerment and Local Economic Empowerment

Community empowerment is a crucial part of community development in Makassar. The Community Empowerment approach aims to improve community capacity to manage resources independently and reduce dependence on external assistance. Local economic empowerment is a key focus of community programs in Makassar. Various community groups, such as women, youth, and marginalized communities, are involved in skills training, MSME development, and local product marketing.

Women's groups in coastal areas of Makassar, for example, are empowered through training in processing seafood into high-value products. Furthermore, women are provided with

digital marketing training to enable them to utilize technology in developing their businesses. Women's empowerment programs not only increase family income but also strengthen women's social position within the community. From a feminist perspective, women's economic empowerment is a crucial part of efforts to reduce gender inequality in society. In addition to women's groups, youth communities are also targeted by empowerment programs. Many youth communities in Makassar are developing creative businesses based on technology, arts and culture, and the digital economy. These activities demonstrate that community-based development can create social innovations relevant to modern society.

From Pierre Bourdieu's perspective, the success of community empowerment is influenced by a community's ability to leverage its social, cultural, and economic capital. Communities with strong social networks and access to education tend to be more successful in developing community empowerment programs. However, community empowerment in Makassar still faces various obstacles, such as limited business capital, limited market access, and minimal ongoing mentoring. Many training programs are temporary in nature, thus failing to create long-term social change.

#### 4. Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) as an Alternative Approach

The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach developed as an alternative to the problem-based development approach. In conventional approaches, communities are often viewed as groups with numerous shortcomings and thus in need of external assistance. In contrast, ABCD emphasizes that every community possesses assets and potential that can be developed.

In Makassar, the ABCD approach is evident in the development of environmental communities such as waste banks and urban farming. The waste bank program leverages community participation in household waste management while simultaneously creating economic value from these activities. The waste bank community shifts the public's perspective on waste. Waste is no longer viewed as mere waste but as an economic asset that can be managed productively. Through this approach, communities learn to build environmental awareness while simultaneously increasing family income. The ABCD approach is also evident in the development of urban farming in several densely populated areas of Makassar. Communities utilize limited land to grow vegetables and other productive crops. This activity not only helps meet family food needs but also strengthens social interactions among residents.

In the ABCD approach, the process of identifying community assets is a critical step. Community assets include:

- individual skills,
- local organizations,
- social networks,
- local culture,
- natural resources,
- and social institutions of society.

By leveraging these assets, communities can build social and economic independence more sustainably. The ABCD approach is considered more effective because it increases community self-confidence. When communities recognize their potential and capabilities, social participation increases. This approach also reduces dependence on external assistance, which often weakens community capacity.

#### 5. Social Capital and Community Solidarity

The success of community-based development in Makassar is heavily influenced by the presence of social capital within the community. Social capital encompasses social networks, trust, collective norms, and social solidarity, enabling communities to work together to achieve common goals. Kinship ties and the culture of cooperation (gotong royong) remain powerful influences in Makassar society. Social solidarity is evident in various community activities such as community service, religious activities, and community-based social assistance. According to Putnam, social capital plays a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of community development. Communities with high levels of trust tend to build cooperation more easily than communities experiencing social fragmentation.

In Makassar, social capital also develops through community organizations and local communities. Many communities are formed based on shared territory, profession, religion, or specific social interests. These communities serve as important spaces for building social participation and collective solidarity. However, urbanization and modernization also pose challenges to the sustainability of social capital. Urban communities tend to experience increased individualism and social competition. Therefore, community development is crucial for maintaining social cohesion in urban communities.

#### 6. Challenges of Community-Based Development

Despite its numerous benefits, community-based development in Makassar faces various structural and social challenges. One major challenge is the program's dependence on government assistance and external donors. Many communities struggle to sustain their activities when funding ends. Furthermore, the bureaucratic approach to development often results in community participation being merely a formality. In some development programs, communities are involved only as technical implementers without sufficient agency in the decision-making process.

Social inequality also poses a significant challenge. Not all communities have equal access to education, technology, and economic resources. Marginalized communities, such as the urban poor, often face limitations in developing their social capacity. Another challenge is the low capacity of community organizations. Many communities lack effective organizational management systems, making it difficult to develop sustainable programs. Therefore, community mentoring and strengthening organizational capacity are crucial for community development.

### **SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

Community-based development is a social development approach that positions communities as the primary actors in the process of social change. In the context of an urban society like Makassar, community-based development is crucial because communities face various social issues resulting from urbanization, modernization, and social inequality. This approach focuses not only on economic and physical development but also on strengthening social relations, community solidarity, and community empowerment in the face of urban social change.

In sociological studies, community-based development can be analyzed through various theoretical perspectives that provide different understandings of the relationship between society, power, social participation, and social change. Functionalist perspectives, Pierre Bourdieu's social capital theory, symbolic interactionism, and social conflict theory provide important analytical foundations for understanding the dynamics of community-based development in Makassar.

#### 1. Talcott Parsons' Functionalism Perspective

From the perspective of Talcott Parsons' structural functionalism, society is understood as a social system consisting of various interrelated parts that have specific functions to maintain social stability. Each social institution within society plays a role in maintaining social order and social integration. In this context, community-based development can be understood as a social mechanism that helps communities maintain social balance amidst urban social change.

According to Parsons, a society will remain stable if it is able to carry out four main functions known as the AGIL scheme: Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration, and Latency. In community-based development, these four functions can be found in various community social activities. The adaptation function is seen when communities in Makassar are able to adjust to social changes resulting from urbanization and modernization. Urban communities face various challenges such as increasing population density, economic competition, changing patterns of social interaction, and the emergence of environmental issues. In this situation, local communities develop various social strategies to maintain their survival, such as forming joint business groups, environmental communities, and citizen-based social organizations.

The waste bank program, for example, demonstrates how communities adapt to urban environmental issues. Waste, previously viewed as a social problem, is transformed into an economic resource through community-based management. This process demonstrates the community's ability to adapt to social and environmental challenges through cooperation. The goal attainment function is evident in the community's ability to define shared objectives and organize resources to achieve them. In community-based development, communities are not merely the object of government policy but also can determine their own development needs and priorities. The tourism corridor program in Makassar demonstrates how communities collectively develop shared goals to improve the environment and enhance social welfare through the development of local potential. The integration function is one of the most crucial aspects of community development. Parsons explains that social integration is necessary for maintaining solidarity and social order in communities. Community participation in development creates closer social ties among community members. Cooperation activities, community service, youth groups, and local social organizations provide important spaces for communities to build social solidarity amidst the tendency towards individualism in urban life.

In the Makassar context, local cultural values such as *sipakatau*, *sipakainge*, and *sipakalebbi* serve as mechanisms for social integration that strengthen community social relations. These values foster a collective awareness that social life must be built through mutual respect, mutual reminders, and appreciation. Therefore, community-based development is not only concerned with material development but also with the development of social values within the community. The latent function, or maintenance of social patterns, is evident in the process of transmitting values, norms, and culture through community activities. Various community activities in Makassar not only generate economic benefits but also serve as a means of social education for the community. The younger generation learns about social solidarity, social responsibility, and the importance of collective participation through involvement in community activities. From a functionalist perspective, community-

based development serves to maintain social stability in urban communities. When communities are able to build social solidarity and collective participation, the potential for social conflict resulting from social inequality and social change can be minimized. Thus, community development is a crucial mechanism for maintaining social integration amidst the dynamics of modern urban society.

## 2. Pierre Bourdieu's Perspective: Social Capital, Cultural Capital, and Habitus

Pierre Bourdieu provides a more critical perspective on community development through the concepts of social capital, cultural capital, economic capital, and habitus. According to Bourdieu, social life is influenced by the distribution of capital held by individuals and social groups. Community-based development, in this context, can be understood as the process of acquiring and developing social capital within a community. Social capital is a network of social relationships that enables individuals or groups to gain social support and access to certain resources. In community development in Makassar, social capital is evident in kinship relationships, civic solidarity, social organizations, and community networks that support community development activities.

Communities with strong social capital tend to be more capable of developing community empowerment programs than communities experiencing social isolation. For example, the locally based MSME community in Makassar thrives due to strong social ties among community members. These social networks facilitate the sharing of information, market access, and economic support in developing their businesses. In addition to social capital, cultural capital also plays a significant role in community development. Cultural capital encompasses education, skills, knowledge, and cultural values held by the community. Communities with higher levels of education and skills tend to be more likely to develop social innovations in community development. In the Makassar context, the community's cultural capital is evident in the community's ability to utilize local culture as part of social and economic development. The tourism corridor program, for example, not only improves the physical environment but also utilizes local arts and culture, murals, and the community's cultural identity as social and economic attractions. This demonstrates that local culture can be a significant asset in community development.

Bourdieu also explained the concept of habitus as a pattern of thought and action formed through a community's social experiences. Habitus influences how people understand development and participate in social life. In Makassar society, the culture of cooperation and social solidarity is part of the community habitus that supports community-based development. However, Bourdieu also emphasized that the distribution of capital within society is not always equal. Inequality in social, cultural, and economic capital means that not all communities have the same ability to develop community-based development. Marginalized communities with limited education, economic access, and social networks often experience difficulties in developing their community capacity. In this context, community-based development can be understood as an effort to strengthen community capacity through the development of social and cultural capital. Community empowerment programs are crucial to help marginalized groups gain access to education, skills, and social networks that can improve their social position within the urban community structure.

### 3. Perspective of Symbolic Interactionism

The symbolic interactionism approach provides an understanding that social life is shaped through social interaction and the process of meaning-making. From this perspective, community-based development is understood not only as an economic activity or development policy, but also as a social process that generates collective identity and new social meanings within society. George Herbert Mead and Herbert Blumer explained that humans act based on the meanings they assign to social situations. These meanings are formed through everyday social interactions. In community development, community participation creates a social communication process that builds collective awareness of the importance of solidarity and social cooperation.

Community-based development programs in Makassar have become spaces for social interaction that shape the community's social identity. For example, people involved in the waste bank community see themselves not only as waste managers but also as part of a social movement that cares about the environment. This social identity is formed through interactions between community members who share common goals and values. Similarly, the tourist alley community creates a new social identity for urban communities. Alleys, previously viewed as slums and unproductive spaces, are transformed into symbols of creativity and social solidarity. Through social interaction, communities construct new meanings for their environment as a social space with economic and cultural value.

The symbolic interactionism approach also explains that community participation in development is related to the need for social recognition. When communities are involved in development, they feel they have an important role and social identity within the community. This increases community self-confidence and strengthens social participation in community life. In modern urban societies that tend to be individualistic, community-based development becomes an important space for communities to rebuild social relationships and collective identity. Community activities enable communities to build more intensive social communication, thereby reducing social alienation in urban life. Furthermore, symbolic interactionism also helps explain how community development shapes changes in social behavior. For example, community-based environmental movements not only change the way communities manage waste but also change their perspectives on the importance of environmental protection. These behavioral changes occur through the process of social interaction and the formation of collective meaning within the community.

### 4. Social Conflict Perspective

In contrast to the functionalist perspective, which emphasizes social stability, conflict theory views society as an arena for conflicting interests between social groups with differing access to resources. From a social conflict perspective, community-based development can be understood as an effort by marginalized communities to gain access to social, economic, and political resources within urban structures.

Karl Marx explained that social inequality arises from the unequal distribution of resources within society. In urban contexts, development often favors certain economic and political groups, while marginalized communities experience limited access to education, employment, and public services. From this perspective, community-based development

becomes a strategy for communities to strengthen their social position through cooperation. Community empowerment programs help marginalized groups gain access to economic resources and increase their social capacity.

In Makassar, various women's communities, youth communities, and local business groups demonstrate how communities are building collective power to address urban social inequality. Women's empowerment, for example, is not only about increasing economic income but also about improving women's social standing within a patriarchal societal structure. Conflict theory also helps explain why community-based development often faces structural barriers. The dominance of top-down policies and development bureaucracy means communities don't always have sufficient space in decision-making. In some cases, participatory development serves as a mere formality, without granting real power to communities. Furthermore, unequal access to social and economic capital means that not all communities have the same ability to advance community development. Communities with access to political and economic networks tend to have an easier time obtaining development support than marginalized communities with limited resources. From a conflict perspective, community empowerment is part of the process of redistributing power in urban society. When communities gain access to education, information, and economic resources, their bargaining position within the social structure improves. Therefore, community-based development is not only related to economic development but also to social struggles for social justice and a more equitable distribution of resources.

#### 5. Community-Based Development as Social Transformation

Overall, community-based development in Makassar can be understood as a social transformation process involving changes in social relationship patterns, collective awareness, and community capacity to manage their social lives. The Community Development, Community Empowerment, and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach demonstrates that communities have the ability to create social change through collective participation and the utilization of local assets. In modern urban societies, community development is crucial for maintaining social cohesion and strengthening community solidarity. Urbanization and modernization often lead to increased individualism and the weakening of traditional social relationships. Community-based development helps communities rebuild social relationships through collective activities that create a sense of belonging and a shared social identity. Furthermore, community development also serves as a social learning space for communities. Communities learn about cooperation, leadership, social responsibility, and resource management through involvement in community activities. Thus, community-based development not only produces material changes but also cultural and social changes within the community. In the Makassar context, the success of community-based development is strongly influenced by the community's ability to utilize its local social and cultural capital. The values of cooperation, social solidarity, and kinship are important forces in supporting community participation. Therefore, community development needs to continue to be directed at strengthening community capacity and developing more inclusive and sustainable social participation.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Community-based development in Makassar demonstrates the crucial role of community participation in creating sustainable development. The Community Development, Community Empowerment, and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approaches strengthen community capacity through the development of social capital and the utilization of local assets. The ABCD approach is the most adaptive model because it positions communities as development entities with internal potential. Various programs such as tourist corridors, waste banks, women's empowerment, and MSME communities demonstrate that communities are capable of creating social change through collaboration. However, community-based development still faces challenges such as dependence on external assistance, low program sustainability, and unequal access to resources. Therefore, more participatory development policies are needed that sustainably strengthen community capacity.

Community development is ultimately not only related to physical and economic development, but also the development of social solidarity, collective awareness, and the community's ability to manage social change independently. This study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. First, the descriptive qualitative design relies primarily on literature review and social observation with a relatively small number of informants (20 people) drawn from four locations, so the findings cannot be statistically generalized to all community-based development programs in Makassar. Second, the relatively short observation period limits the extent to which the long-term sustainability of the programs studied could be assessed. Third, the study did not include a comparative analysis with community-based development practices in other cities, which restricts the extent to which the conclusions can be generalized beyond the Makassar context. Future research is therefore recommended to employ a mixed-methods design with a larger and more geographically diverse sample, as well as a longitudinal approach, to strengthen the generalizability and depth of findings on community-based development.

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