

A Self-Reliance Empowerment Strategy to Improve the Well-Being of the Fishing Community in Kranji Village, Paciran, Lamongan

Anggraeni Rahmasari*, Indah Noviandari

Universitas Bhayangkara Surabaya, Indonesia

Email: anggraeni@ubhara.ac.id, indah@ubhara.ac.id

Keywords

self-reliance empowerment,
fishing community, kranji village

Abstract

The welfare of fishing communities in Kranji Village, Paciran, Lamongan, is strongly influenced by seasonal conditions, limited human resources, and dependence on traditional fishing methods. These conditions contribute to low productivity, unstable income, and continued reliance on middlemen for capital, which ultimately hinders community independence. Therefore, a self-reliance empowerment strategy is needed to improve the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community. This study aims to analyze the implementation of self-reliance empowerment strategies and identify the obstacles faced in improving the welfare of the fishing community in Kranji Village. This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive design. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation involving key informants, including fishermen, capital owners, and village officials. The analysis is based on the empowerment framework consisting of enabling, empowering, and protecting aspects. The results show that the empowerment strategy focuses on strengthening human resource capacity, diversifying productive businesses through fish processing, and providing group-based access to capital. These efforts contribute to improving economic independence, optimizing local potential, and expanding market access. However, the implementation still faces several obstacles, including low education levels, limited skills, dependence culture, lack of access to technology and information, and weak institutional support. The findings imply that sustainable empowerment requires not only financial assistance but also continuous mentoring, capacity building, and strengthening of local institutions. This study contributes both practically and academically by providing insights into effective community-based empowerment strategies for coastal areas.

INTRODUCTION

The fisheries and marine sector is one of Indonesia's sources of foreign exchange earnings (Pitaloka et al., 2025; Sulistijowati et al., 2023; Trenggono, Meilano, Latief, Diantara, et al., 2025; Ujianti et al., 2024). Therefore, the sustainability of the fisheries and marine sector is one of the pillars in resource management (Jaya et al., 2022; Maulana & Ratnaningtyas, 2024; Trenggono, Meilano, Latief, Simamora, et al., 2025). Business sustainability is expected to be able to increase the competitiveness of fishery and marine products both domestically and abroad, so as to have an impact on the welfare of stakeholders. One of the indicators of strengthening the competitiveness of Indonesia's fishery and marine products is the increase in export value in 2024 compared to 2023 (Abdillah, 2025; Hidayatulloh et al., 2026; Khaliqi et al., 2024; Pitaloka et al., 2025). The fishery commodity trade balance surplus increased by

9.1% compared to 2023. This condition cannot be separated from the increase in export value during 2024 which reached USD5.95 billion, an increase of 5.7% compared to the previous year, as well as a decrease in import value by 19.8% compared to 2023, (Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), 2024).

Indonesia is the second largest producer of open sea catch fish after the People's Republic of China (PRC), meeting 25% of the world's fisheries demand. In addition to playing a role for the world, the fisheries sector also provides nutrition and a source of income for people in Indonesia, (wri-indonesia, 2024). It is undeniable that East Java is a province that makes a great contribution to the income of the capture fisheries sector in Indonesia. East Java in 2024 will again maintain its position as one of the highest fishery producers in Indonesia. The capture fisheries sector is dominated by large pelagic fish such as kites (25%), skipjacks, cobs, and lemuru. Aquaculture production also showed significant results, especially for catfish, vannamei shrimp, and seaweed commodities (kkp.go.id, 2024).

Based on data from BPS East Java 2024, the largest fishery-producing district in East Java is Lamongan, followed by Banyuwangi, Sidoarjo, and Tuban. Lamongan excels in capture and aquaculture production, while Muncar Port in Banyuwangi is the main marine fisheries center, often dubbed one of the largest in Indonesia. Meanwhile, according to the Communication and Information Service of East Java Province, Lamongan Regency is one of the largest fishery producers in East Java, with capture fisheries production reaching more than 115,000 tons per year and supported by a coastline of 47 km. The main fishery centers are in Brondong and Paciran Districts, with the Nusantara Fisheries Port (PPN) Brondong as the largest fish landing.

The great potential of the marine sector should be able to contribute to improving the welfare of the community, especially the fishing community, and can increase equitable development. Development and utilization in the marine and fishery resource management sector are still not able to improve the welfare of coastal communities. Circumstances like this place coastal communities today are still poor people both culturally and structurally, situations like this make them more vulnerable to poverty (Duradin, 2017).

Paciran District, Lamongan Regency is located on the north coast, the northern area is right adjacent to the sea. Many people in Paciran District and its surroundings take advantage of these natural or marine resources, so most of the residents work as fishermen. Likewise, most of the people of Kranji Village, the majority of them are men who work as fishermen, namely as many as 1,124 people out of 6,570 people or existing residents. Kranji Village, Paciran District has a production facility for marine and brackish fish cultivation supported by equipment in the form of a pond with an area of 8 hectares capable of producing 4 tons of fish per year. The majority of residents who live in Kranji village are indigenous residents who have lived for many years. Even starting from a small age. Like most villages in coastal areas. In Kranji village, the majority of people work as fishermen. People who become fishermen are those who are productive between 20 years and 60 years. A fisherman must prepare for Ndogol which starts from noon to morning for traditional fishermen to earn enough income. In fact, many modern fishing groups do miyang and Amen who are willing to leave their families for a few days starting from 15 days to 40 days to other areas such as Kalimantan and stay by the sea to meet the needs of their families, (Setiyanto, 2019).

The condition of the fishing community in Kranji village depends on the season greatly

affecting their level of welfare, sometimes for several weeks the fishermen do not go to sea due to the uncertain season. The low level of human resources (HR) and equipment used by fishermen affects the way to catch fish, limitations in understanding technology, making the quality and quantity of catches not improve. The existence of fishing communities is needed by all sectors because fish is one of the basic needs of the community that is needed at all times.

Serious handling from the local government is needed to empower them so that they can live a decent life and their health can be guaranteed. The problems of poverty of the fishing community in Kranji Village are based on the education of the average people who have graduated from elementary and junior high school and the skills they have are only limited to looking for fish with traditional tools, the capital they get every day when going to sea is from middlemen, and if today they do not get any catch at all, they have to rely on loans from middlemen. And if the next day gets little results, the middlemen do not hesitate to cut their debts. It is a pity if fishermen do not get a lot of fish every day. The local government should prepare business capital for fishermen in each village, so that the fishing community does not depend on middlemen.

In essence, fisheries development is an activity to increase the income and welfare of fishermen through the management of natural resources with production factors in the form of human labor, technology and capital. Therefore, fisheries development is directed to obtain optimal usability and usability in a sustainable manner, which means that it contains technological, economic, ecological and sociocultural content. The technological aspect supports efficiency and productivity, the economic aspect requires added value that is always increasing. Meanwhile, the ecological aspect requires development while maintaining the preservation of environmental functions. Meanwhile, the sociocultural aspect supports equity which emphasizes the development of human resources and institutions that fully accommodate the needs and involvement of fishing communities in the management of fishery resources (Sahri, 2000).

It is very unfortunate that coastal communities, especially fishing communities, are still entangled in the problems of poverty, underdevelopment, and low quality of human resources, difficulties in accessing public services, so that in the ecological, social, and economic aspects of coastal communities in Indonesia are still lagging behind (Maryunani, 2012). As happened in the coastal areas of East Java province. Most of the most fishery-producing areas are pockets of poverty in East Java. Although the potential of marine fisheries resources is increasing, the number of poor fishermen has not decreased significantly. The relatively poor condition of coastal communities with existing capture fisheries potential has not provided optimal benefits for coastal communities, especially fishermen.

Several previous studies have examined community empowerment in coastal and fishing communities. Maryunani et al. (2012) highlighted the importance of partnership-based empowerment models in improving fishermen's welfare, emphasizing collaboration between communities and stakeholders. Noor (2011) and Theresia et al. (2014) also explained that community empowerment must focus on strengthening local capacity, participation, and independence to achieve sustainable development. Furthermore, Adji et al. (2021) emphasized the role of community-based approaches in utilizing local potential to support economic development. However, most previous studies tend to focus on general empowerment concepts

and have not specifically explored self-reliance empowerment strategies in the context of local fishing communities, particularly in Kranji Village, Paciran, Lamongan.

Based on these gaps, the urgency of this study lies in the need to develop a more contextual and sustainable empowerment strategy that is rooted in local conditions and community potential. The novelty of this research is its focus on self-reliance empowerment strategies that emphasize independence, community participation, and the utilization of local resources as key drivers of welfare improvement. This study not only examines empowerment as a concept but also analyzes its practical implementation and the obstacles faced in real community settings.

Based on the background described above, this study focuses on examining the self-reliance empowerment strategy to improve the welfare of the fishing community in Kranji Village, Paciran, Lamongan, as well as identifying the obstacles faced in its implementation. Specifically, this research seeks to analyze how empowerment strategies are formulated and applied in strengthening the economic independence of fishermen, and to explore various internal and external barriers that hinder the success of these strategies. Accordingly, the objectives of this study are to understand the implementation of self-reliance empowerment strategies in improving the welfare of fishing communities and to identify the constraints that arise during the empowerment process in Kranji Village. The benefits of this study are expected to be both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this research contributes to the development of knowledge in the field of community empowerment, particularly in the context of coastal and fishing communities. Practically, the findings of this study are expected to provide useful insights for local governments, policymakers, and related stakeholders in designing more effective and sustainable empowerment programs. In addition, this research can serve as a reference for future studies related to community-based economic development and empowerment strategies. Furthermore, the study has implications for improving the welfare of fishing communities by encouraging more participatory, independent, and sustainable approaches to empowerment that are adapted to local conditions.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive type of research. The focus of research in this study using Kartasmita quoted from Friedman (Mulyawan, 2016) mentions 3 (three) aspects of empowerment, namely enabling, empowering, and protecting.

The enabling aspect is an aspect that aims to create and build an atmosphere or climate that allows the development of the potentials of the community. In this aspect, it is explained that every human being has characteristics or advantages of abilities that can be developed. The empowering aspect aims to strengthen the potential that has been mentioned in the enabling aspect, by making efforts to provide input in the form of financial assistance and infrastructure, as well as opening opportunities so that the community has higher opportunities to be empowered. The protecting aspect aims to protect so that the planned efforts in empowering can ensure the sustainability of empowerment programs. Efforts to select groups that are the target of empowerment. This means that the protecting aspect exists to protect the community.

Primary data was obtained through an in-depth interview with one of the labor fishermen, namely Mr. Ahmad Septi Asyhari, Juragan or the owner of capital, namely Mr. Haji Samuji and the related Kranji Paciran Lamongan village apparatus: namely Mr. Husnul.. The sample technique used in this study is using the Purposive Sampling Technique. The data analysis

technique used in this study follows an interactive model consisting of three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction involves selecting and simplifying relevant information obtained from the field. Data display is conducted by organizing the data into a structured form to facilitate interpretation. Finally, conclusions are drawn by identifying patterns, relationships, and meanings from the data. To ensure the validity and credibility of the findings, this study applies data triangulation by comparing information obtained from different sources and methods, including interviews, observations, and documentation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Self-Reliance Empowerment Strategy to Improve the Welfare of the Fishing Community in Kranji Village, Paciran Lamongan

The direction of the village development policy is an activity plan that covers the field of community empowerment and in order to prosper the community and be able to be independent with the business it has. Planning in the implementation of conducting discussions between village officials on what empowerment is able to prosper the village community. Discussions conducted by village officials have determined empowerment in the field of processed seafood. The self-reliance empowerment strategy in Kranji Village, Paciran, Lamongan, focuses on strengthening human resource capacity, diversifying productive businesses (fish processing), and access to group-based capital. This approach aims to overcome technology, capital, and marketing constraints so that women and men fishermen can be economically independent, utilize local wisdom, and expand market networks through technology. The program implemented for fishermen in Kranji village is to develop a business of processed seafood products such as: salted fish, pindang fish, smoked fish, fish crackers and others. As a village located in a coastal area and inhabited by many fishermen, it certainly has efforts and formulations to develop fishermen. Through the Kranji Fishermen's Rukun forum consisting of thousands of fishermen, Kranji Village accommodates fishermen empowerment programs from districts, provinces and centers for the development of Kranji fishermen.

Obstacles to the implementation of the Self-Reliance empowerment strategy to improve the welfare of the fishing community in Kranji Village, Paciran, Lamongan.

Obstacles to the implementation of the Self-Reliance empowerment strategy include the low quality of human resources in terms of knowledge, a culture of community dependence, and a lack of active participation. Accompanying factors such as limited access to information/technology, inoptimal facilitators, and weak commitment and internal conflicts also hinder the success of the program.

In addition, based on the results of an interview with Husnul's father, fishermen in Kranji have a gelamor lifestyle. If they get catches and abundant pond produce, they will splurge on it. However, when the seafood and ponds are quiet, all their valuables are sold, even to the point of looking for loans to loan sharks. The negative activities of the traditional fishing community in Kranji Village, Paciran District, Lamongan Regency have a tradition or bad habits that are carried out for generations, namely the habit of extravagant living, spending, and or just relaxing in a coffee shop after going to sea. This bad habit is very evident at the time of the sea party or sea picking, and when they are not going to sea. These habits cause fishermen to be entangled in debt and it is increasingly difficult to get out of poverty. On the

other hand, the culture of the traditional fishing community in Kranji Village, Paciran District, Lamongan Regency has unpleasant habits or socio-culture, where they have a lifestyle that does not take into account future needs, meaning that every time they get an abundant catch or more, at that time they will also spend or spend it. Conditions like this have always happened and have become their culture.

Lack of awareness of the fishing community towards external and internal stimulation. Awareness of the fishing community is very much needed so that the existing empowerment strategy runs properly. when the government has protected the fishermen by providing capital and all kinds of assistance. So the fishing community must also have the desire to be better. Because the government can only help from outside, the rest goes back to the fishing community itself.

Traditional fishermen in Kranji Village, Paciran District, Lamongan Regency do not have capital for business development, so they cannot increase production in terms of quantity and quality. Not being able to increase production results in low productivity, which has implications for the low income of traditional fishermen. Obtaining business capital or daily needs, traditional fishermen borrow from relatives or closest neighbors, so that the relationship between fishermen and capital owners is not in the form of Client Patrons, but rather horizontal relationships, namely family relationships, relatives that do not reflect a sharp difference in status between the rich and the poor.

The Institutional Role of Traditional Fishing Communities to form Joint Business Groups (KUB) aims to get assistance from the government. This assistance is given to traditional fishermen by applying in groups. However, the joint business group they established is only a shelter, not aimed at the welfare of its members. Traditional fishermen who are superior in the economy invite other traditional fishermen to cooperate in forming KUB, so that the ones who enjoy the results are traditional fishermen who apply for KUB. Meanwhile, its members are obliged to sell their catch to the KUB.

The low level of education of traditional fishermen in Kranji Village, Paciran District, Lamongan Regency is a trigger for the low quality of human resources. The survey results showed that only 14.6 percent of respondents graduated from high school (SMA) equivalent, 11.5 percent of respondents graduated from junior high school (SMP) equivalent, 44.4 percent of respondents graduated from elementary school (SD) equivalent, and the remaining 29.5 percent of respondents did not graduate from elementary school or equivalent.

CONCLUSION

The successful implementation of self-reliance empowerment in improving the welfare of the fishing community in Kranji Village, Paciran, Lamongan is reflected in several key aspects. The community demonstrates active and participatory involvement in all stages of the program, starting from planning, implementation, to evaluation. In addition, the utilization of local potential, including available natural resources, skills, and local wisdom, plays an important role in supporting community independence. The strengthening of local institutions, such as BUMDes and cooperatives, also contributes to collective economic management and sustainability. Efforts to improve community capacity through training and education have enhanced individual competencies, enabling fishermen to become more productive and self-reliant. Furthermore, access to resources such as capital, technology, information, and market

networks has supported economic sustainability, while continuous mentoring has helped the community gradually overcome challenges and build independence.

However, the implementation of self-reliance empowerment also faces various obstacles. One of the main challenges is the low quality of human resources, particularly in terms of knowledge, skills, and technical experience in managing independent programs. In addition, a culture of dependence still persists among some members of the community, who tend to rely on external assistance rather than taking initiative. The performance of facilitators or companions is also considered less optimal, which affects the effectiveness of program implementation. Limited access to information and technology further hinders the development of community potential. Moreover, low levels of participation and commitment in program activities, internal social conflicts, and resistance to change in traditional values also pose significant challenges. These issues are compounded by limitations in policy support and operational funding, where assistance is often focused more on physical support rather than sustainable human empowerment.

REFERENCES

- Abdillah, M. M. (2025). Competitiveness of Indonesian fishery products in the global market: A literature review of determinants and improvement strategies. *International Journal of Economic Literature*, 3(6), 734–743.
- Adji, T. N., Haryono, E., Fatchurohman, H., & Widyastuti, M. (2021). Geotourism and community empowerment in the development of geoparks. *Journal of Applied Tourism*, 5(2), 89–98.
- Duradin, D. (2017). Government policy in the fisheries sector for environmental conservation and fishermen's welfare. *Syntax Literacy; Indonesian Scientific Journal*, 2(12), 22–34.
- Hidayatulloh, Y., Yustiana, D., & Uripin, K. I. (2026). Strategy to increase the competitiveness of Indonesian processed food products to Thailand through the role of human resources competence: Analysis of revealed comparative advantage (RCA) and dynamic export competitiveness index (ECI). *International Journal of Humanity Advance, Business & Sciences (IJHABS)*, 3(3), 397–408.
- Jaya, I., Satria, F., Nugroho, D., Sadiyah, L., Buchary, E. A., White, A. T., Franklin, E. C., Courtney, C. A., Green, G., & Green, S. J. (2022). Are the working principles of fisheries management at work in Indonesia? *Marine Policy*, 140, 105047.
- Khaliliq, M., Novianti, T., & Purnomo, R. W. (2024). Unleashing the efficiency and potential of Indonesian fishery exports to the European Union market. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences, Belgrade*, 69(3), 313–332.
- Maryunani, Bakar, S. A., Muhammad, S., & Hanani, N. (2012). A study on empowerment partner model in fishing community in city of Bengkulu, Sumatra, Indonesia. *Atbas Journal*, 4.
- Mulyawan, R. (2016). *Society, region, and development*. UNPAD Press.
- Noor, M. (2011). *Community empowerment*. CV Rajawali.
- Pitaloka, D. A. D., Herlina, D., Suci, S. C., & Harahap, M. N. (2025). Response of Indonesia's fisheries GDP to interest rates, inflation, exchange rates, and fisheries sector performance: A blue economy perspective. *Jurnal Ilmu Manajemen dan Ekonomika*, 17(2), 203–218.
- Sahri, M., & Soemarno. (2000). Natural resources and environment of the coastal and marine regions of East Java. Retrieved from https://www.academia.edu/28032558/konsep_pengembangan_sumberdaya_wilayah_pantai_jawa_timur_1
- Sulistijowati, R., Yuliati, L., & Komariyah, S. (2023). Analysis of investment and international

trade on the gross domestic product of the fisheries sector in Indonesia: Evidence from the panel vector autoregressive (P-VAR) model. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 1207(1), 012014.

Theresia, A., et al. (2014). *Community-based development*. Alfabeta.

Trenggono, S. W., Meilano, I., Latief, H., Diantara, S. D., Sakti, W. I., Ketaren, D. G. K., Winata, I. N. P., Yuwono, T., Arthatiani, F. Y., & Kasim, K. (2025). Innovation in the blue economy and environmental sustainability in marine and fisheries strategy. *Global Journal of Environmental Science and Management*, 11(2), 497–518.

Trenggono, S. W., Meilano, I., Latief, H., Simamora, D. C., Sabina, A., Arthatiani, F. Y., & Radiarta, I. N. (2025). Developing a marine and fisheries blue economy index for Indonesia: A comprehensive assessment framework. *Sustainable Futures*, 10, 101440.

Ujianti, R. M. D., Burhanuddin, A., & Novita, M. (2024). Blue economic analysis in coastal areas of the Indonesian Java Sea based on fisheries. *Advances in Agriculture*, 2024, 5550622.