

Evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Overcoming Poverty and Hunger Towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Medan City

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Abstract

This study discusses efforts to reduce poverty and hunger in Medan City through the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets as the first step towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The research method used is in the form of a quantitative descriptive approach by utilizing secondary data from various regional development indicators. Analysis was carried out on poverty conditions, employment opportunities, labor productivity, and community nutritional status to see the development of population welfare. The findings of the study show that the poverty rate in Medan City has a tendency to decline in recent years even though the achievement has not been fully in accordance with the set target. On the other hand, indicators of the depth and severity of poverty show an improvement in the economic conditions of the poor. Labor productivity has also increased in line with regional economic growth, although the provision of jobs still needs to be expanded. In addition, the nutritional condition of toddlers shows quite good results with low rates of malnutrition and malnutrition. In general, the implementation of MDGs-based development programs in Medan City has had a positive impact and can be a foothold in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in the future.

1. Introduction

Poverty and hunger are still the main problems faced by many developing countries, including Indonesia (BPS, 2020). This condition is not only related to the low level of income of the community, but also related to limited access to education, health, employment, and a decent quality of life (Todaro & Smith, 2015). This problem encourages the birth of various global development policies that aim to improve people's welfare in a sustainable manner.

One form of international commitment to address this problem is through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which focus on eight global development goals (United Nations, 2015). The first goal of the MDGs focuses on efforts to reduce poverty and hunger as a first step in improving the quality of life of the people. This program is then continued through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have a wider scope and emphasize sustainable development in various sectors (United Nations Development Programme, 2020).

As one of the big cities in Indonesia, the city of Medan faces quite complex development challenges. Population growth, urbanization, and economic inequality are factors that affect the level of community welfare (Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Medan [BPS], 2021). Although economic development continues to increase, there are still groups of people who live below the poverty line and experience limitations in meeting basic needs. Therefore, it is very important to evaluate the achievements of development programs to find out the extent of the success of local governments in reducing poverty and improving community welfare.

In addition to the economic aspect, sanitation conditions are also an important part of supporting the success of human development. Poor sanitation can increase the risk of disease, reduce the quality of public health, and affect population productivity (World Health Organization [WHO] & United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], 2019). The availability of access to clean water, proper sanitation facilities, and a healthy environment

are important indicators in realizing a better quality of life for the community (Tortajada & Biswas, 2018). Thus, sanitation development needs to be a concern in supporting the achievement of sustainable development targets (Arora & Mishra, 2022).

This study was conducted to analyze the achievement of the MDGs goals in the city of Medan, especially in the aspect of poverty and hunger reduction, as a basis for the implementation of the SDGs (Ruslan, 2016). The analysis was carried out through various development indicators, such as poverty levels, labor productivity, employment opportunities, community nutritional conditions, and environmental sanitation support (Thamrin et al., 2023). The results of the research are expected to provide an overview of the effectiveness of regional development programs as well as be evaluation material for the government in formulating development policies that are more targeted and sustainable (Rahma et al., 2019).

2. Literature Review

2.1 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Concept

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are global development agendas agreed upon by various member states of the United Nations (UN) in 2000. This program is designed to improve the welfare of the world community through eight main development goals that must be achieved by 2015 (United Nations, 2015). One of the main goals of the MDGs is to reduce poverty and extreme hunger as part of efforts to improve the overall quality of life of the community.

The implementation of the MDGs is an important basis for social and economic development in developing countries, including Indonesia (Aprilianti, 2022). In its implementation, the MDGs are not only oriented towards economic growth, but also emphasize the equitable distribution of people's welfare through increasing access to education, health, employment, and public services (Ernawati, 2022). The success of the MDGs is measured through various development indicators that

are directly related to the conditions of society (Dewi, 2021).

2.2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

After the end of the MDGs period in 2015, the global development agenda continued through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs have a broader scope than the MDGs because they consist of 17 sustainable development goals that emphasize a balance between economic, social, and environmental aspects (United Nations Development Programme, 2020).

The SDGs aim to create inclusive and sustainable development by paying attention to the welfare of current and future generations (Ye et al., 2024). In the context of regional development, the SDGs are important guidelines in overcoming various problems such as poverty, hunger, sanitation, health, education, and social inequality (Cheema et al., 2024). Therefore, the achievement of the MDGs can be used as a basis for evaluation in supporting the implementation of the SDGs more effectively (Hickmann et al., 2023).

2.3 Poverty

Poverty is a condition of the inability of individuals or community groups to meet basic needs, both food and non-food needs (BPS, 2020). Poverty is not only influenced by low income, but also by limited access to education, health, employment, and other social services.

Poverty is one of the main obstacles in the development process because it can reduce the quality of human resources and increase social inequality (Todaro & Smith, 2015). The poverty level is usually measured based on the poverty line, which is the minimum limit of expenditure to meet the needs of a decent living.

In regional development, poverty alleviation is carried out through various policies such as increasing employment opportunities, community economic empowerment, social assistance, and improving the quality of public services. The success of poverty alleviation programs can be seen from the reduction in the percentage of the poor population and the improvement of community welfare indicators.

2.4 Hunger and Nutritional Status

Hunger is a condition of not having enough food intake to meet the body's energy needs for a certain period of time. The problem of hunger is often related to poverty because of the low ability of people to obtain nutritious and suitable food for consumption.

The nutritional status of the community, especially the toddlers, is one of the important indicators in measuring the level of community welfare. Toddlers with malnutrition or undernutrition have a higher risk of developing growth and health disorders. Therefore, the government seeks to improve the quality of community nutrition through health programs and the fulfillment of nutritious food. Improving the nutritional status of the community can be carried out by increasing access to healthy food, health services, environmental sanitation, and education on clean and healthy lifestyles (WHO & UNICEF, 2019). Thus, controlling nutritional problems is an important part of supporting quality human development.

2.5 Environmental Sanitation

Sanitation is one of the important factors in improving the quality of public health. Good sanitation includes the availability of clean water, sewage disposal systems, healthy latrine facilities, and a clean environment. Poor sanitation conditions can cause the emergence of various infectious diseases that have an impact on declining people's quality of life. Access to proper sanitation plays a major role in improving public health and reducing environmentally based diseases (WHO & UNICEF, 2019).

In the context of sustainable development, sanitation is one of the important indicators that local governments must pay attention to. Improving sanitation not only has an impact on public health, but also affects economic productivity and social welfare. Therefore, sanitation development is an important part of supporting the achievement of SDGs targets, especially in sustainable health and environmental goals.

2.3 Labor Productivity and Employment Opportunities

Labor productivity shows the ability of labor to produce goods or services in a certain period. High productivity levels are usually influenced by the quality of human resources, education, skills, and regional economic conditions.

Employment opportunities are also an important indicator in economic development because they are directly related to people's income levels. The more jobs available, the greater the opportunity for people to improve their standard of living. Increasing productivity and employment opportunities can encourage economic growth while reducing poverty levels (Sukirno, 2016). Therefore, the government needs to create development policies that are able to expand employment and improve the quality of the workforce so that people's welfare can be achieved optimally.

3. Research Methods

This study uses a quantitative approach with a descriptive type of research. The descriptive approach was chosen because the research aims to describe the conditions for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the city of Medan, especially in the aspect of poverty and hunger reduction towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The descriptive method is used to provide a systematic overview of the development of regional development indicators based on data obtained during the research period.

The data used in this study is in the form of secondary data obtained from various official agencies, such as the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), local government reports, national development documents, and publications of international institutions related to the MDGs and SDGs. The use of secondary data is carried out because the research focuses on evaluating development achievements based on indicators that have been available and officially documented.

The object of the research is focused on achieving the first goal of the MDGs, which is to reduce poverty and hunger rates in the city of

Medan. Some of the indicators analyzed include the percentage of the poor population, the poverty depth index, the poverty severity index, labor productivity, the ratio of job opportunities to the number of working-age population, the prevalence of malnourished toddlers, the prevalence of undernourished toddlers, and community sanitation conditions. These indicators were chosen because they have a direct relationship with the level of community welfare and the quality of regional development.

The data collection technique is carried out through documentation studies by collecting various statistical reports, scientific journals, research articles, and government policy documents relevant to the research theme. The data that has been obtained is then compiled and classified based on the development indicators to be analyzed. The data analysis technique uses quantitative descriptive analysis. The data obtained is presented in the form of tables, graphs, and narrative descriptions to facilitate the interpretation of research results. The analysis is carried out by comparing the development of development indicators from year to year and adjusting them to the MDGs targets that have been set.

In addition, this study also uses an evaluative approach to see the success rate of regional development programs in reducing poverty and hunger. The evaluative approach is carried out by identifying indicators that have reached the target and indicators that still need improvement. Thus, the results of the research are expected to provide an overview of the effectiveness of regional development policies in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In supporting the validity of the research, the data used comes from official and reliable sources so that it can objectively describe regional development conditions. The use of valid data and appropriate analytical techniques is essential for producing scientifically accountable research (Sugiyono, 2019). Therefore, this study prioritizes the use of official statistical data so that the results of

the analysis have a good level of accuracy. This research method is expected to be able to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the conditions of social and economic development of the community in Medan City, especially in the aspects of poverty reduction, improvement of community nutritional status, increase labor productivity, and support for environmental sanitation as part of sustainable development.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Poverty Rate in Medan City

The results of the study show that the poverty rate in Medan City has experienced a decreasing trend in recent years. This decline shows the positive impact of various development programs and government policies in improving people's welfare. However, the poverty rate still fluctuates so that the poverty reduction target has not been fully achieved optimally. The decrease in the percentage of poor people indicates that some people are beginning to experience improved economic conditions, especially through increased access to jobs and public services. Economic growth followed by equitable development can significantly reduce poverty rates (Todaro & Smith, 2015). In addition, social assistance and community empowerment programs implemented by local governments also contribute to improving the economic capabilities of low-income communities. However, income inequality and limited employment are still the main challenges in the poverty alleviation process in Medan City.

4.2 Poverty Depth and Severity Index

Based on the results of data analysis, the poverty depth index and poverty severity index in Medan City show a downward trend. The decline in the poverty depth index shows that the average expenditure of the poor population is getting closer to the poverty line. Meanwhile, the decline in the poverty severity index indicates that the level of the expenditure gap between the poor is also decreasing.

This condition shows an improvement in the quality of life of the poor compared to the

previous period. The poverty depth and severity indices are important indicators for examining community welfare more comprehensively, rather than relying solely on the number of poor people (BPS, 2020). Despite the improvements, local governments still need to increase the effectiveness of economic development policies so that poverty reduction can take place evenly. Community economic empowerment programs and increasing access to productive businesses are important steps in accelerating poverty reduction.

4.3 Labor Productivity and Employment Opportunities

The results of the study show that labor productivity in Medan City has increased from year to year. The increase in productivity is influenced by regional economic growth, the development of the trade and service sectors, and the increase in community economic activity.

Increased labor productivity shows that the workforce is able to produce better economic output than before. Increasing labor productivity can encourage economic growth and increase community income (Sukirno, 2016). However, the ratio of job opportunities to the number of working-age population still shows that conditions are not completely stable. The high number of productive age population is not always balanced by the availability of adequate jobs. This condition causes some people to still face the risk of unemployment and informal work.

Local governments need to increase investment, expand the industrial sector and small and medium enterprises, and improve the quality of human resources through education and job training. Thus, job opportunities can increase and people's welfare can be more evenly distributed.

4.4 Nutritional Conditions and Hunger Control

In the aspect of hunger control, the results of the study show that the prevalence of toddlers with malnutrition and malnutrition in Medan City is at a relatively low level. This condition shows an improvement in the quality

of health services and the fulfillment of people's nutritional needs. Public health programs, supplementary feeding, nutrition counseling, and improved maternal and child health services make important contributions to improving the nutritional status of toddlers. Improvements in community nutrition are strongly influenced by access to healthy food, health services, sanitation, and clean lifestyles (WHO & UNICEF, 2019). Although the nutritional condition of the community shows positive developments, the government still needs to increase supervision of vulnerable groups, especially families with low economic levels. This is important to prevent stunting, malnutrition, and other health problems that can affect the quality of human resources in the future.

4.5 Environmental Sanitation and Public Health

Environmental sanitation is one of the important factors in supporting the quality of public health in the city of Medan. The results of the study show that increasing access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities has a positive impact on public health. A clean and healthy environment can lower the risk of infectious diseases such as diarrhea, gastrointestinal infections, and other environment-based diseases. Good sanitation is closely related to improvements in community quality of life and productivity (WHO & UNICEF, 2019).

However, there are still some areas that need to improve sanitation facilities and better environmental management. Therefore, local governments need to strengthen the development of sanitation infrastructure and increase public awareness about the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness.

4.6 Evaluation of the Achievement of the MDGs Towards the SDGs

Overall, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Medan City shows quite good development, especially in terms of poverty reduction and improving the quality of public health (Ruslan,

2016). The majority of development indicators have improved, although some targets still require further attention (Ruslan, 2016).

The success of regional development programs in supporting the achievement of the MDGs can be an important capital in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Ruslan, 2016; Sari et al., 2022). The SDGs have a wider scope of development and emphasize sustainable development in economic, social, and environmental aspects (Rahma et al., 2019). In supporting the achievement of the SDGs, local governments need to strengthen development policies that are oriented towards improving community welfare, economic equity, reducing social inequality, improving the quality of sanitation, and sustainable human resource development (Putra et al., 2024; Sari et al., 2022). Thus, regional development can run more effectively and provide long-term benefits to the community (Putra et al., 2024; Rahma et al., 2019).

The study directly concludes that most of the MDG indicators in Medan City have been achieved; however, the poverty rate and several employment indicators have not yet met the established targets (Ruslan, 2016). The article also recommends strengthening and sustaining MDG-based development programs to support the implementation of the SDGs in Medan City (Ruslan, 2016). Other studies support the measurement of sustainable development based on economic, social, and environmental dimensions, as well as the importance of integrating the SDGs into regional development planning, economic policy, and governance (Hasrini, 2021; Putra et al., 2024; Rahma et al., 2019).

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the city of Medan in the aspect of poverty and hunger alleviation shows quite good development. This can be seen from the decrease in poverty rates, the improvement in the depth and severity of poverty index, the

increase in labor productivity, and the nutritional condition of the community which is relatively better than the previous period.

Improving the quality of public health is also supported by the availability of better sanitation access, such as the provision of clean water and proper sanitation facilities. These conditions have a positive impact on the quality of life of the community and support the improvement of social welfare in a sustainable manner. Although most development indicators show positive results, there are still some challenges that need to be considered, such as economic inequality, limited employment, and equitable distribution of sanitation development in several regions. Therefore, local governments need to increase the effectiveness of development policies so that sustainable development targets can be achieved optimally.

In general, the results of the study show that the implementation of MDGs-based development programs in Medan City can be a strong basis in supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The success of development is expected to be oriented not only to economic growth, but also to improving the quality of life of the community, equitable distribution of welfare, and environmental sustainability.

The local government is expected to improve community economic empowerment programs through job expansion, small and medium business development, and improving the quality of human resources through education and job training. In addition, strengthening social assistance programs and controlling the price of basic necessities also needs to be done to reduce poverty levels.

In the health sector, the government needs to improve public health services and strengthen nutrition improvement programs, especially for toddlers and vulnerable groups. Improving access to proper sanitation and healthy environmental management must also be a priority in supporting the quality of public health.

In addition, cooperation between the government, the community, and the private sector is needed to support the achievement of

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Synergy between various parties is very important so that development can run sustainably and provide equal benefits for the entire community.

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